Anti-Colonial Approaches to Sexuality and Gender
Summer 2021
Online
SCHEDULE TBD

Instructor: Adria Kurchina-Tyson
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Course description:

“Anti-Colonial Approaches to Sexuality and Gender” addresses de/colonial and anti/imperialist thinking and approaches to sexuality and gender, approaching sexuality and kinship through an anti-racist lens. Participants in this seminar will learn about the epistemic roots of contemporary Western studies of sexuality and gender in colonial violence, anti-Indigeneity, and anti-Blackness. Participants from Psychology and Sexuality Studies backgrounds will learn to challenge colonial doctrines of sexuality and gender, and to re-think sexual categories, gender, and kinship practices. Students with prior knowledge in Indigenous Studies, anti-racism, sexuality, and/or decolonization will leave the course equipped to identify and challenge how colonial structures of sexuality and gender inform studies of colonialism and anti-racist politics. We will begin by reviewing preliminary critiques of colonialism and epistemic imperialism, including Indigenous and 2Spirit critiques of the colonial structuring of gender. Then, we will examine the relationships between sexual pathologies and racism. Finally we review critically anti-racist and sex-positive theories of kinship and desire that challenge prescriptive approaches to consent and decolonization.

Learning Outcomes:

Participants will learn to distinguish—and to challenge—colonial and imperialist conceptions of gender and sexuality. Participants will grasp colonial politics of sexuality and gender as a structure of violence. In so doing, participants will also gain some literacy of Indigenous kinship vis a vis the colonial categories of sexuality and gender.

Participant expectations:

While reading course materials is foundational and necessary, most of our learning in this course will be done in the seminar/discussion setting. Having reviewed course materials prior to each session, participants will have the opportunity to share their varying interpretations of the reading materials, as well as to critique and contextualize said texts, in seminars. As such, it is expected that participants do their best to attend each session.
Participants are expected to demonstrate their engagement throughout the course through the sharing of thoughtful reflections. A minimum of two reflections should be brought to discussion by each participant, and may take the form of written prose, video, audio, etc. Participants may offer alternatives to conventional reflection exercises based on access and ability. Reflections should show engagement with reading materials, including their connections to each other and the broader themes of the course.

Schedule/Sections:

Section 1: preliminary critiques—colonialism, anti-Blackness

Section 2: colonial systems of sex and gender

Section 3: 2Spirit critiques

Section 4A: sexual pathologies and white supremacy


Section 4B: sexual pathologies and white supremacy


Section 5A: kinship, desire

Section 5B: kinship, desire


Recommended:
Royal, Dorothée Sophie. “SERVE: Lyla June Johnston on Reciprocity with Nature.” *Moonwise Podcast.* Guest speaker: Johnston, Lyla June. Ep. 34. Google Podcasts, 2020 05 05. <https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cDovL3d3dy5tb29udGVudC5jby9tb29ud2lzZT9mb3JtYXQ9cnNz/episode/NTMwMmU0YTFlNGIwOWQzMDU0YjRjZWRlOjU5NzhlMzJlZTU4YzYyYjBIeGJINzRIZjo1ZWIwN2M3MWEzZjkyMjdiYjlmYTczMGI>