

QUEER 20TH CENTURY: LGBTIQ* HISTORY IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Übung, Wintersemester 2023
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Course description

For sexual minorities, the 20th century was a period of constant change and frequent contradiction: it witnessed the formation of queer identities, struggles for rights and recognition, but also violent repression, pathologization, and social exclusion. At the same time, countless people who came to identify as “lesbian,” “gay,” “transgender,” or otherwise queer went about their daily lives in myriad constellations, whether under the radar or out in the open, in urban centers or rural areas, as members of privileged groups or people facing complex challenges at different intersections of gender, race, and class. This course will explore queer history in Europe and North America, focusing on change over time in the organization and identities of sexual minorities as well as on the activities and everyday lives of different kinds of queer people.

Class participation and preparation

This course is a seminar, structured around group and class discussions. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material.

All students must come to class having done the reading. For some seminars, this may include a choice of several texts. Having multiple options does not mean that the reading is optional: you will need to come to class prepared to discuss whichever text(s) you have chosen.

Always come to class with a copy of the reading in some form – printed or on computer/tablet. **Do not rely on your mobile phone** to look back at course texts or your own notes!

Assessment

As an *Übung*, this course is worth TWO (2) credits/*Leistungspunkte* (LP). You will receive 1 LP for each of the following:

- a. **TWO short responses** to the assigned materials for class. Each response (approx. 500 words or 3000-3750 characters) should be a considered reflection of all the material assigned for a particular class, written in paragraph form in either English or German. Do not merely summarize the material – your response should show how you interpret the material and especially how you bring different texts together. Each response must conclude with two discussion questions. These should not be simple yes/no questions or ask your fellow students to simply recall information from the readings. In order to receive full credit, your response must be submitted **by 9.00 pm the night before class**. Responses that are not submitted before class will not receive any credit. You may choose to write a response to the material for any lesson, but one response must be submitted before the winter break, by **18 December 2023**; the other response must be submitted after the winter break, by **12 February 2024**.
- b. A **book review** of a full-length academic monograph on a topic in queer history (max. 7.500 characters in length). You must obtain approval from me in advance for the book you wish to review. Try to write in the style of a review that could be published in an academic journal (you may find examples in journals like the *American History Review*,

Feminist Review, or the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*). This will typically include a summary of the book's main arguments and structure, your interpretation/critique of the work, and an evaluation of its merits.

Plagiarism

When you write something for class, you should develop and show your own original thinking. In order to do so, you will probably want to borrow ideas, arguments, or even phrases from other authors. Building on the work of others is a normal and necessary part of how our knowledge of history advances. However, you should not simply repeat or summarize the work of others: the point of any written work is to show what *you* think.

In any written work that you submit (whether it is assessed or not), you should be careful to indicate quotes and their sources properly (with footnotes in most cases). Citations should always be specific, including the author and title as well as a page number or page range wherever possible. The most important thing is that you always make it clear where you are getting quotes, ideas, and arguments from.

Many students run into problems with plagiarism not because they intend to cheat, but because they are careless when writing or taking notes (i.e. they fail to distinguish between direct quotes and their own summaries). Unfortunately, this is not an excuse. Your work will be judged by what it is, not by what you intended it to be. **There is no excuse for plagiarism.**

Course outline

Session	Date	Topic
1	23 October 2023	Introduction
2	30 October 2023	Defining queer natures
3	6 November 2023	The queer space of the big city
4	13 November 2023	National Socialism: Queer victims and queer perpetrators
5	20 November 2023	Queer spaces beyond the big city
6	27 November 2023	Everyday queer lives after WWII
7	4 December 2023	Homophile movements in Europe and the US
8	11 December 2023	Feminism and gay liberation
9	18 December 2023	Stonewall was a riot
10	8 January 2024	Intersections of queerness and race
11	15 January 2024	Problems of liberation
12	22 January 2024	Queer spaces in Eastern Europe
13	29 January 2024	HIV/AIDS
14	5 February 2024	Mainstreaming queerness: Pinkwashing, Homonationalism, etc.
15	12 February 2024	Memory: Archives, oral history, pink triangles

LESSON OUTLINE

Week 1 – 23 October 2023 – Introduction

Week 2 – 30 October 2023 – Defining queer natures

For this lesson, we will consider how homosexuality and transgenderism have been conceived (and conflated) by sexologists and researchers as well as how this has changed over time.

The purpose is, on the one hand, to illustrate some of the assumptions embedded in early studies of sexuality and to show how these have carried forward through time, often even buffeted by popular understandings and published opinion.

Required preparation

1. Laurie Marhoefer, *Racism and the making of gay rights: A sexologist, his student, and the empire of queer love* (Toronto, Buffalo, London: University of Toronto Press, 2022). Ch. 1 (“Einstein of Sex”), pp. 22-40, **esp. pp. 30-40** and Ch 5 (“Was the Homosexual White?”), **pp. 79-87**
2. Joanne Meyerowitz, ‘Sex Research at the Borders of Gender. Transvestites, Transsexuals, and Alfred C. Kinsey’, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 75, 1 (2001), 72–90.
3. Radiolab, *Born This Way?* (2023), available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUwMjsAikmQ>.

Week 3 – 6 November 2023 – The queer space of the big city

Required preparation

Read any TWO of the following:

- a. **Amsterdam:** Gert Hekma, ‘Amsterdam’, in David Higgs, ed., *Queer sites: Gay urban histories since 1600* (London, New York: Routledge, 1999), 61–88.
- b. **Berlin:** Clayton J. Whisnant, *Queer identities and politics in Germany: A history, 1880-1945* (New York, NY: Harrington Park Press, 2016). Ch. 3 (“The Growth of Urban Gay Scenes”), pp. 80-121
- c. **Budapest:** Judit Takács, ‘Queering Budapest’, in Matt Cook and Jennifer V. Evans, eds., *Queer cities, queer cultures: Europe since 1945* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014), 191–210.
- d. **Lisbon:** David Higgs, ‘Lisbon’, in David Higgs, ed., *Queer sites: Gay urban histories since 1600* (London, New York: Routledge, 1999).
- e. **London:** Matt Houlbrook, *Queer London: Perils and pleasures in the sexual metropolis, 1918-57* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2005). Ch. 2 (“Geographies of Public Sex”), pp. 43-67
- f. **Moscow:** David Higgs, ed., *Queer sites: Gay urban histories since 1600* (London, New York: Routledge, 1999).
- g. **New York City:** George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, urban culture, and the making of the gay male world, 1890 - 1940* (New York, NY: BasicBooks, 1994). Ch. 9 (The Village and Harlem), pp. 227-267
- h. **San Francisco (lesbian):** Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide open town: A history of queer San Francisco to 1965* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2004). Ch. 2: Lesbian Space, Lesbian Territory.
- i. **San Francisco (trans/vestite):** Clare Sears, *Arresting dress: Cross-dressing, law, and fascination in nineteenth-century San Francisco* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015). Ch. 4 (“A Sight Well Worth Gazing Upon”), pp. 78-96.

Week 4 – 13 November 2023 – National Socialism’s queer victims and queer perpetrators

Required preparation

1. Read any TWO of the following
 - a. Jane Caplan, ‘The administration of gender identity in Nazi Germany’, *History Workshop Journal*, 72 (2011), 171–180.
 - b. Jennifer Evans and Elissa Mailänder, ‘Cross-dressing, Male Intimacy and the Violence of Transgression in Third Reich Photography’, *German History*, 39, 1 (2021), 54–77.
 - c. Samuel Clowes Huneke, ‘Heterogeneous persecution. Lesbianism and the Nazi State’, *Central European History*, 54, 2 (2021), 297–325.
2. In addition, read ONE of the following:
 - a. Lorenzo Benadusi, ‘Private life and public morals. Fascism and the ‘problem’ of homosexuality’, *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, 5, 2 (2004), 171–204.

- b. Jason Crouthamel, 'Homosexuality and Comradeship. Destabilizing the Hegemonic Masculine Ideal in Nazi Germany', *Central European History*, 51, 3 (2018), 419–439.
- c. Laurie Marhoefer, *Sex and the Weimar Republic: German homosexual emancipation and the rise of the Nazis* (Toronto, Buffalo, London: University of Toronto Press, 2015), 23, 146–73. Ch. 5 (The Röhm Scandal)

Week 5 – 20 November 2023 – Queer spaces beyond the big city

Required preparation

- Read any TWO of the following:
 - a. Roderick A. Ferguson, 'Sissies at the Picnic. The Subjugated Knowledges of a Black Rural Queer', in Hokulani K. Aikau, Karla A. Erickson and Jennifer L. Pierce, eds., *Feminist waves, feminist generations: Life stories from the academy* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007).
 - b. Benno Gammerl, 'Jenseits der Metronormativität? Westdeutsche Lesben und Schwule zwischen Land und Stadt', in Franz-Werner Kersting, ed., *Stadt-Land-Beziehungen im 20. Jahrhundert: Geschichts- und kulturwissenschaftliche Perspektiven*, vol. 77: Forschungen zur Regionalgeschichte (Paderborn, München: Schöningh, 2015), 155–175.
 - c. John Howard, *Men like that: A southern queer history* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 34–77. Ch. 2 ("Sites")
 - d. Colin R. Johnson, *Just queer folks: Gender and sexuality in rural America* (Philadelphia, Pa.: Temple Univ. Press, 2013), 158–80. Ch. 6 ("Hard Women")

Week 6 – 27 November 2023 – Everyday queer lives after WWII

Required preparation

1. Lauren Jae Gutterman, *Her neighbor's wife: A history of lesbian desire within marriage* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020). Ch. 1 ("A Normal Life")
2. Margot Canaday, *Queer career: Sexuality and work in modern America* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2023). Ch. 2 (Days and Nights in the Queer Work World), pp. 69-103

Week 7 – 4 December 2023 – Homophile movements in Europe and the US

Required preparation

1. Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide open town: A history of queer San Francisco to 1965* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2004). Oral history interview with Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.
2. Read/watch any TWO of the following
 - a. Julian Jackson, *Living in Arcadia: Homosexuality, politics, and morality in France from the liberation to AIDS* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009). Ch. 5 ("Homosexuality and Ethics"), pp. 111-133
 - b. Clayton John Whisnant, *Male homosexuality in West Germany: Between persecution and freedom, 1945-69* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). Ch. 3 ("The Homophile Movement"), pp. 64-111
 - c. Greta Schiller and Robert Rosenberg, *Before Stonewall* (1984). (via Kanopy)

Week 8 – 11 December 2023 – Feminism and gay liberation

Required preparation

1. Frédéric Martel, *The Pink and the Black: Homosexuals in France since 1968* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1999), 32–47 (Skim for background)
2. Kelly Oliver, ed., *French Feminism Reader* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2002), 119–123, 128-135 (excerpts about/by Monique Wittig)
3. Claire Duchon, ed., *French Connections: Voices from the Women's Movement in France* (London: Hutchinson, 1987), 84–90

4. Guy Hocquenghem, *Gay liberation after May '68* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2022). Ch. 7 (“MLF/FHAR”), pp. 107-117

Week 9 – 18 December 2023 – Stonewall was a riot

Required preparation

1. Florence Ashley and Sam Sanchinel, ‘The Saint of Christopher Street: Marsha P. Johnson and the Social Life of a Heroine’, *Feminist Review*, 134, 1 (2023), 39–55.
2. Jessi Gan, “Still at the back of the bus”: Sylvia Rivera’s struggle’, *Centro Journal*, 19, 1 (2007), 125–139.
3. Marc Stein, *The Stonewall Riots: A documentary history* (New York: New York University Press, 2019). Documents 69, 71, 75, 76, 77, 78, 81, 82, 87, 89.
Note: Several documents (notably 78, 87 and 89) contain offensive racist language.

Week 10 – 8 January 2024 – Intersections of queerness and race

Required preparation

1. Mark Blasius and Shane Phelan, eds., *We are everywhere: A historical sourcebook of gay and lesbian politics* (London: Routledge, 2009), 400-408, 549-555.
2. Combahee River Collective, ‘Combahee River Collective Statement’, available at <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/combahee-river-collective-statement-1977/>.
3. Cathy J. Cohen, ‘Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens. The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?’, *GLQ*, 3 (1997), 437–465.
4. Cathy J. Cohen, ‘The Radical Potential of Queer? Twenty Years Later’, *GLQ*, 25, 1 (2019), 137–140

Week 11 – 15 January 2024 – Problems of liberation

Required preparation

1. Rachel Hope Cleves, ‘From pederasty to pedophilia. Sex between children or youth and adults in U.S. history’, *History Compass*, 16, 1 (2018)
2. David Paternotte, ‘The International (Lesbian and) Gay Association and the question of pedophilia. Tracking the demise of gay liberation ideals’, *Sexualities*, 17, 1-2 (2014), 121–138.

Week 12 – 22 January 2024 – Queer spaces in Eastern Europe

Required preparation

1. Łukasz Szulc, *Transnational Homosexuals in Communist Poland: Cross-Border Flows in Gay and Lesbian Magazines* (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2017), 61–90.
 - You may skim pp. 63-72 (sections 3.1 and 3.2)
2. **One article of your choice** from: Judit Takács and Roman Kuhar, eds., *Beyond the Pink Curtain: Everyday Life of LGBT People in Eastern Europe* (2007). Online: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/publications/beyond-the-pink-curtain-everyday-life-of-lgbt-people-in-eastern-europe/>

Week 13 – 29 January 2024 – HIV/AIDS

Required preparation

1. Sarah Schulman, *Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993* (New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2021), 5–33.

Week 14 – 5 February 2024 – Mainstreaming queerness (Pinkwashing, Homonationalism, etc.)

Required preparation

1. Naomi Klein, *No Logo: No Space, No Choice, No Jobs* (London: Flamingo, 2000). Ch. 5 (“Patriarchy Gets Funky: The Triumph of Identity Marketing”), pp. 106-124
2. *Pride Denied: Homonationalism and the Future of Queer Politics* (2016) – via Kanopy

Week 15 – 12 February 2024 – Memory: Archives, oral history, pink triangles

Required preparation

- Jennifer V. Evans, ‘Harmless Kisses and Infinite Loops. Making Space for Queer Place in Twenty-First Century Berlin’, in Jennifer V. Evans and Matt Cook, eds., *Queer Cities, Queer Cultures: Europe since 1945* (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2014), 75–94.
- **One article of your choice** from: *Oral History Review*, 43 (1), 2016, Special issue on queer history. Online at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uohr20/43/1?nav=toCList>