GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
Cultures of Gender and Sexuality in 20th Century Scandinavia

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sexuality and gender is more than biology. They are cultures and they have histories which make them worth of scholarly exploration. Scandinavia has a reputation for being liberal, or indeed emancipated, when it comes to sex and gender. A history some applauds and others criticize for having gone off the edge, leading some anti-prostitution activists to dub Denmark ‘Brothel of the North’.

In this course we will explore gender and sexuality in Scandinavia and internationally through historical investigations of contemporary questions. Issues around homosexuality, pornography, transgender, children’s sexuality, prostitution, STDs, masculinity, and women’s liberation have flourished throughout last century. We will discuss these and others, aiming to understand the historical and cultural roots of contemporary debates.

We will aim to understand scholarly debates around questions such as essentialism versus constructionism, queer theory, political uses of scholarly research, and censorship.

NB. We will deal with pornography in a scholarly manner, and no one will be shown offensive pornographic images. Nude pictures do occasionally occur in the teaching material.
Location:  University of Copenhagen, Amager, Karen Blixens Plads 8, room 15A-2-11.
Optional movie screening: Monday February 25th 12-2 p.m. in room 22.0.11.
Optional movie screening: Monday April 1st 12-2 p.m. in room 23.0.49.
Optional movie screening: Monday May 6th 12-1 p.m. in room 23.0.49.

Time:  Monday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.
First lecture is February 11th and last lecture is May 6th.
Furthermore, there will be two excursions and three optional movie screenings after lecture 3, lecture 7 and lecture 10.
A total of 10 lectures, 2 excursions and 3 movie screenings.

Coordinator:  The course is organised by The Saxo Institute.
The coordinator is Peter Edelberg, The Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen.

Lecturer:  Peter Edelberg, The Saxo Institute.

Assistants:  There will be a teaching assistant from Danish Culture Courses, who will assist with practical matters.

Website:  www.danishculturecourses.ku.dk
Facebook:  www.facebook.com/danishculturecourses
E-mail:  dcc@hum.ku.dk

Registration:  Find the registration form on our website, fill it in electronically and send it to dcc@hum.ku.dk from your KU-mail. The deadline is March 7th 2019. The course is only offered to international students enrolled at the University of Copenhagen through IUS (International Education & Grants) or through Open University: www.aabentuniversitet.hum.ku.dk.

We can only admit 60 students at this course. Students will be admitted according to the date, they hand in the registration form.

Exchange students can sign up for a maximum of 35 ECTS points at the UCPH per semester. If you wish to join this course but your enrollment in it will make your total amount of ECTS exceed the 35 ECTS limit, please contact the department(s) of the course(s) you’re registered for, and ask to be withdrawn in order to make room for it. Once you have room for the 15 ECTS, please fill in the registration form and send it to dcc@hum.ku.dk from your KU-mail, and we will. The registration deadline is March 7th 2019.
Examination: When you register for the course you are automatically registered for the exam.

The Formation of Modern Denmark – HDCB01081E:

Form of exam: Written take-home assignment, optional subject, following active student participation (see special provisions). The subject of the assignment is agreed between the student and the teacher.

Assessment: Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale.

Exam language: English.

Extent: Max. 20 standard pages.

Group exam: The exam can only be taken individually.

Special provisions: Active student participation consists of a synopsis of 2-3 standard pages.

Make-up exam/re-exam/if not fulfilling requirement for active student participation: Written take-home assignment, optional subject. The subject of the assignment is agreed between the student and the teacher.

Assessment: Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale.

Exam language: English.


Group exam: The exam can only be taken individually

The assignment must be uploaded in Digital Exam no later than June 6th at 12 p.m. (noon).

After evaluation of the exam, the grade or result is automatically added to your transcript and reported to your home university by IUS (International Education & Grants). The grade will be published on KU-net Self Service four weeks after deadline for submission of exam paper.

Literature: Your personal syllabus is the textbook: Dagmar Herzog, Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History (Cambridge University Press 2011), the binder, and required readings uploaded in Absalon unless otherwise arranged. The binder will be sold at Publi@kom in room 11A-0-02 at KUA2.

A collection of pertinent books is available in the reference library. These books are only to be studied in the library, cf. list of books, which you can find in the Absalon room. The location is Saxo Knowledge Center 13B, 2nd floor at KUA2.
IMPORTANT DATES:

Mar. 7th: Deadline for registration and change of exams.

May 6th: Deadline for uploading approved synopsis on Absalon.

May 16th: End-of-term celebration.

Jun. 6th: Deadline for submission of exam papers at 12 p.m. (noon) in Digital Exam.
SCHEDULE

Feb. 11th  Lecture 1:  Introduction – Studying Gender and Sexuality
Feb. 18th  Lecture 2:  Is Heterosexuality an Invention?
Feb. 25th  Lecture 3:  The History of Homosexuality
Mar. 4th   Lecture 4:  Children, Education, and Sexuality
Mar. 11th  Excursion 1:  Normstormers @ AIDS-Foundation
Mar. 18th  Lecture 5:  Women’s Liberation and Beyond
Mar. 25th  Lecture 6:  Prostitution - Is Denmark the Brothel of the North?
Mar. 31st  Excursion 2:  Objects of History @ The National Museum
Apr. 1th   Lecture 7:  The Quiet Revolution of Late-Modern Masculinity
Apr. 8th   Lecture 8:  Culture Wars and Pornography
Apr. 29th  Lecture 9:  Globalization and Sexual Nationalism
May 6th   Lecture 10:  The Legacy of Christine Jorgensen - Transgender in Denmark

The programme is subject to alteration.
PROGRAMME

Lecture 1: (Feb. 11th)  
**Introduction – Studying Gender and Sexuality**  
In the introductory lecture we will discuss how to approach gender and sexuality in an academic manner. Feminists in the 1970s said that ‘the private is political’ and issues around gender and sexuality have since been studied by historians. We will talk about key concepts in the scholarly study of gender and sexuality, such as the debate of nature vs. nurture, queer theory, and the so-called ‘Scandinavian liberal-mindedness’.


Lecture 2: (Feb. 18th) 
**Is Heterosexuality an Invention?**  
Heterosexuality has usually been thought of as ‘as old as Adam and Eve’ or built into the very nature of evolution. Recently historians have begun to discuss heterosexuality as a phenomenon with a history, i.e. something with a beginning and an end. Regarding heterosexuality as a historical phenomenon allows us to see change, conflict, and future perspectives instead of unchanging natural laws. We will try to grasp the concepts of ‘essentialism’ and ‘constructionism’.


*Suggested reading:* Herzog, *Sexuality in Europe*, p. 6-44.

Lecture 3: (Feb. 25th)  
**The History of Homosexuality**  
Homosexuals in Denmark have recently acquired the right to church marriages, finally securing gays and lesbians the same rights as everyone else. Denmark has been a pioneer in the modern struggle for homosexual rights. In this lecture we will study the road to recognition, and look at homosexuality as a modern invention. We will discuss issues of evolution vs. discontinuity in history of sexuality, and wonder if the modern homosexual could disappear again.


Movie Screening #1, 12–2 p.m. *The Celluloid Closet* (1995) (room 22.0.11)

**Lecture 4: Children, Education, and Sexuality** (Mar. 4th)

Ever since the time of Sigmund Freud the subject of children and sexuality has been a controversial one. Since the late 1970s social panics over paedophiles have swept the Western World. The relationship between adults and children has changed dramatically over the last 100 years, and the changes in the understanding of children and sexuality happened in that context. We will study the Danish system for sexual education in schools, and discuss the relationships between children, education, and sexuality.


**Excursion 1: Normstormers @ The AIDS-Foundation** (Mar. 11th)

Sexual education in Denmark partly relies on the work of NGOs. We will continue our exploration of sexual education by studying norm-critical pedagogy. We will visit the AIDS-foundation in Copenhagen where activists will tell us about the Normstormers and their ideas about sexual education and activism.

*Expected reading: RFSL Ungdom: 'Break the Norm! Methods for studying norms in general and the heteronorm in particular’, p. 4-48*

**Lecture 5: Women’s Liberation and Beyond** (Mar. 18th)

Women’s liberation has come in waves during the last 200 years or so. We will introduce the so-called three waves of liberation, and look at similarities and differences. In the post-modern era the question of discrete categories of men and women, and indeed the possibility of ‘liberation’, have come under scrutiny. We will discuss the use of post-modernism, queer theory, and performativity.


*Suggested reading: Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, p. 133-175.*
Lecture 6: Prostitution – Is Denmark the Brothel of the North?
(Mar. 25th)
Prostitution is usually discussed purely as a ‘women’s issue’. However, for much of the 20th century male prostitution was much more reviled than female prostitution. Prostitution cannot be understood apart from the society and culture it takes place in, and we will look at the different cultures of prostitution in 20th and 21st century Denmark. Not surprisingly, in a society such as Denmark, where women’s rights and social equality are high on the agenda, today the customers are the ‘bad guys’ when prostitution is discussed. Are sex-customers the new sex-monsters of the welfare society? Is Denmark ‘the Brothel of the North’ as some feminists have claimed?


Excursion 2: Objects of History @ The National Museum
(Mar. 31st)
History can be defined as the study of change over time in context. During this excursion we will study the context of cultures of gender and sexuality in Denmark from 1660-2000. How has gender been expressed in styles of dress, work life, and public affairs? What does material artefacts tell us about hierarchy and equality, individualism and collectivity, freedom and oppression? Where do sexual stories fit into the larger loom of cultural history? And what would our great-grandparents have said, if they could see us today?


Lecture 7: The Quiet Revolution of Late-Modern Masculinity
(Apr. 1st)
Since the Second World War we have had women’s emancipation, children’s rights, gay and lesbian liberation, and the anti-racist movement. Apparently the adult, white, straight male is the only one left to liberate. How have men reacted to sexual emancipation? We will discuss the relationships between late-modern men, performativity, and whether there is a quiet revolution going on among young men right under our noses.

**Movie Screening #2, 12-2 p.m.: Venner for Altid / Friends Forever (1987) (room 27.0.09)**

**Lecture 8: (Apr. 8th)**

**Culture Wars and Pornography**

Immorality, disease, patriarchy or pleasure? What is behind the urge to look at pornography? During the 20th century pornography has transformed from a niche product to a cornucopia available with a click on the mouse. Denmark was one of the first countries to legalize pornography in 1967/69. Why did that happen and what has happened since then?


*Suggested reading: Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, p. 96-132.*

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**Lecture 9: (Apr. 29th)**

**Globalization and Sexual Nationalism**

In an increasingly diverse society and in a globalized world, questions of gender and sexuality are not what they used to be. During the 20th century Denmark has gone from a relatively homogenous society to a multi-ethnic one. While some criticize ethnic minorities for oppressing women and not tolerating homosexuals, others decry what they see as ‘sexual nationalism’, i.e. the use of women’s rights and gay liberation for racist purposes.


*Suggested reading: Herzog, Sexuality in Europe, p. 176-217.*

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**Lecture 10: (May 6th)**

**The Legacy of Christine Jorgensen – Transgender in Denmark**

While homosexuality is no longer regarded as a disease in Denmark, and gays and lesbians have been secured all rights that heterosexuals have got, transgender persons are still listed as ‘ill’ and have to ask a doctor’s permission to live the life they want. Also, Denmark was the place where the American G.I. George William Jorgensen became Christine Jorgensen already in 1951. We will study what it is like to be transgender in Denmark today. How did the term transsexual become transgender, and what does that mean in a postmodern world?


**Movie Screening #3, 12-1 p.m.: Nobody Passes Perfectly (2009) (room 27.0.09)**
ADDRESSES

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