

Transgender Methods for the History of Art and Performance

ARAH 9565-001

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Spring 2023

Thursdays, 3.30 to 6.00pm
Fayerweather Hall 206
office hours by appointment (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION

This seminar will introduce methods from transgender studies, asking how histories of art and performance can be re-viewed through gender's multiplicity and mutability. Topics include the recovery of histories of transgender subjects, the capacity of nonbinary or transformational genders to change how we view all archives, and the methods and impact of historians (both trans and non-trans) who center gender's transformability and variability.

COURSE READINGS

Required readings will be uploaded to Canvas and should be completed by the day on which they are listed. On occasion, further reading is suggested, but this is optional. All readings should be done thoroughly; some will require more than one attempt at reading. I have included my own writings among the assigned readings. This has been done purposefully so that our group discussions might talk about how ideas evolve into their final written form. Students should feel free to criticize or disagree with these texts just as they would with other assigned readings. This course encourages self-reflexivity about writing for all its members, the seminar leader included.

For additional bibliography and further reading, see:

David J. Getsy and Che Gossett, "A Syllabus on Transgender Methods for Art and Art History," *Art Journal* 80.4 (Winter 2021): 100–15. [PDF link here](#) or open access version at <https://artjournal.collegeart.org/?p=16500>

and

[Susan Stryker and Paisley Currah, eds., "Postposttranssexual: Keywords for a 21st-Century Transgender Studies," *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 1.1-2 \(2014\) \[complete double issue\]](#)

REQUIRED EXTERNAL LECTURES

This seminar is held in conjunction with the lecture series co-organized by the seminar leader for the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures at UVA. Three seminar sessions will be held in Wilson Hall 142 on days with visiting scholars. Those seminars that meet in Wilson Hall will begin later than normally scheduled time, and they will be followed by a 30-minute break before the 6.30pm lectures.

February 20, 2023

“Where Do My Hips Go Now? Non-binary Partnerings On and Off the Ice”

[Erica Rand](#), Bates College

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

March 2nd, 2023

“A Global History of Trans Panic”

[Jules Gill-Peterson](#), Johns Hopkins University

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

March 23, 2023

"Representing Ourselves into Existence: Tracing the History of Trans Filmmaking in the United States and Canada"

[Laura Horak](#), Carleton University (*hosted by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures*)

5.00pm via **Zoom only** [note different time; lecture only; no seminar]

March 30, 2023

[Marcia Ochoa](#), University of California at Santa Cruz

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

April 6, 2023

"Trans Studies for Grim Times"

[Toby Beauchamp](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

In addition, there is a visiting seminar on February 2nd by [Roland Betancourt](#) (University of California at Irvine) held at normal seminar time and in the seminar's normal Fayerweather Hall classroom.

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

In order to receive credit for the course, all assignments (including all annotations) must be completed by the end of the semester. Students should use Chicago Manual of Style endnote format for all assignments.

1. Participation and attendance

Students are expected to attend all sessions and external lectures. More than one unexcused absence will be grounds for a grade reduction, and further absences are grounds for no credit for the course. Students may be excused for religious and athletic obligations providing they make a request in writing well in advance of the day missed (i.e., at the beginning of the semester for regularly scheduled events/observances and at least a week in advance for newly-scheduled events).

This is a discussion-based class, and active participation in a majority of course sessions is both expected and factored into the final grade for the course.

2. Weekly reading and discussion questions

All assigned readings must be completed before class. To each class, students must bring a hard copy text with three discussion questions based on the readings. These questions should not be fact-

based or background questions. Rather, they should inquire about connections between readings, methodological concerns, or broader implications of the arguments we have read. Questions should be no more than three sentences in length. The hard copies will be submitted to the seminar leader at the end of class.

3. **Visiting scholar preparation texts**

On the days in which there is a visiting scholar in the seminar (marked with an asterisk*), students should prepare a 3 to 5-page summary and analysis of that scholar's assigned texts. These writing assignments are *in addition to* the three discussion questions prepared for that session. These texts must also be completed in advance of class and be submitted (hard copy) at the end of class.

4. **Research presentations**

Students will present 20-minute versions of their research paper topics on either the 20th or the 27th of April. Paper presentations should average about 2000 to 2500 words of text, and they may take the form of either (a) a shortened version of your research paper or (b) one segment of your research paper. All presentations should be accompanied by a powerpoint presentation with relevant images and captions.

5. **Research paper**

A research essay on a topic directly related to the course is required. **Topic proposals** are due **February 23rd** in class and consist of a 250-word abstract and a preliminary bibliography.

Final papers should be a minimum of 5000 words, exclusive of bibliography, endnotes, and captions. All papers should include illustrations with captions. Papers and drafts should be standard, double-spaced typed pages in standard fonts at 11 or 12 pt. Final papers are due **May 10th at noon** via email as a Word document.

Bibliographies and reading lists must be from valid research sources. Acceptable sources are books, exhibition catalogues, and articles from scholarly journals only. Online scholarly journals are accepted. Websites, blogs, or encyclopedias (online or otherwise) are not acceptable sources (though they may be objects of interpretation).

Each research paper is expected to be original, unaided writing by the student submitting it. Any borrowed or cited sentences or passages should be clearly indicated as quotations and fully referenced in the text. A preponderance of borrowed writing, even if cited, is grounds for the paper being rejected. Unreferenced passages, sentences, or paraphrases borrowed from another writer (published or not) is considered plagiarism and a violation of the Honor Code. Students with questions on how to appropriately cite or engage with another author's writings are encouraged to make an appointment during office hours to discuss acceptable strategies.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requiring accommodations for class discussions or assignments should be in touch with the professor at the start of term.

The University of Virginia complies with the American with Disabilities Act and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. All students with special needs requiring accommodations should present the appropriate paperwork from the Student Disability Access Center (SDAC). It is the student's responsibility to present this paperwork in a timely fashion and follow up with the professor about the accommodations being offered. Accommodations for test-taking (e.g., extended time) should be arranged the week prior to the exam. Accommodations are not retroactive, so students are advised to contact SDAC and to inform the professor of the accommodations the first week of class. The SDAC is located in the Department of Student Health and can be contacted at 243-5180/5181 or via the SDAC Online Services Portal at <http://yukon.accessiblelearning.com/virginia/applicationstudent.aspx>

COURSE CALENDAR

Assignments are subject to change, with notice.

19 January 2023

Introduction

26 January 2023

What trans studies does for/to the humanities?

Required reading

- Stryker, Susan. "Transgender Studies: Queer Theory's Evil Twin." *GLQ*: 10.2 (2004): 212-15.
- Keegan, Cael M. "Transgender Studies, or How to Do Things with Trans*." In *The Cambridge Companion to Queer Studies*, edited by Siobhan B. Somerville, 66–78. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Bey, Marquis. "Trouble Genders: 'LGBT' Collapse and Trans Fundamentality." *Hypatia* (2021): 1-16
- Getsy, David J. "How to Teach Manet's *Olympia* after Transgender Studies." *Art History* 45.2 (April 2022): 342-69.

Further reference

- Stryker, Susan. "Institutionalizing Trans* Studies at the University of Arizona." *TSQ* 7.3 (August 2020): 354-66.
- Aizura, Aren Z., Marquis Bey, Toby Beauchamp, Treva Ellison, Jules Gill-Peterson, and Eliza Steinbock. "Thinking with Trans Now." *Social Text* 145 (December 2020): 125–47.

2 February 2023

*Historical expansiveness / Visiting scholar: Roland Betancourt, University of California at Irvine

Required reading:

- Betancourt, Roland. "Transgender Lives." In *Byzantine Intersectionality: Sexuality, Gender, and Race in the Middle Ages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020. 89-120.
- DeVun, Leah. "Modern Scholarship and Premodern Perspectives" and "The Monstrous Races: Mapping the Borders of Sex." In *The Shape of Sex: Nonbinary Gender from Genesis to the Renaissance*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2021. 7-11, 40-69.
- Getsy, David J. "Capacity." *TSQ* 11.2 (May 2014): 47-49.

Further reading:

- Mesch, Rachel. "Trans Rachilde: A Roadmap for Recovering the Gender Creative Past and Rehumanizing the Nineteenth Century." *Dix-Neuf* (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14787318.2021.2017562>

EVENING LECTURE

Roland Betancourt (University of California at Irvine)

"Between Wonder and Omen: Conjoined Twins from Constantinople to Norman Sicily"

6.30pm, Campbell Hall 160

9 February 2023

Intersections and interconnections

Required reading

- C. Riley Snorton and Jin Haritaworn, “Trans Necropolitics: Transnational Reflections on Violence, Death and the Trans of Color Afterlife.” In *The Transgender Studies Reader*, 2nd Edition, edited by Susan Stryker and Aren Aizura. New York: Routledge, 2013. 66-76.
- Enke, A. Finn. “[The Education of Little Cis: Cisgender and the Discipline of Opposing Bodies.](#)” In *Transfeminist Perspectives in and beyond Transgender and Gender Studies*, edited by A. Finn Enke, 60–77. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2012.
- Amin, Kadji. “We Are All Nonbinary: A Brief History of Accidents.” *Representations* 158 (2022): 106-19.
- Awkward-Rich, Cameron. “‘She of the Pants and No Voice’: Jack Bee Garland’s Disability Drag.” *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 7, no. 1 (February 2020): 20–36.

Further reference:

- Puar, Jasbir K. “Bodies with New Organs: Becoming Trans, Becoming Disabled.” *Social Text* 33, no. 3 (September 2015): 45–73.
- Detournay, Diane. “The Racial Life of ‘Cisgender’: Reflections on Sex, Gender, and the Body.” *Parallax* 25, no. 1 (2019): 58–74.
- Amin, Kadji. “Taxonomically Queer?: Sexology and New Queer, Trans, and Asexual Identities.” *GLQ* 29.1 (January 2023): 91-107.

16 February 2023

NO CLASS: Substitute Screening

Required viewing:

1. Susan Stryker, *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton’s Cafeteria* (2010)
<https://www.kanopy.com/en/virginia/video/132475>
<https://www.pbs.org/video/truly-ca-screaming-queens-truly-ca/>

Further viewing:

- Annalise Ophelian, *Major!* (2016)
http://www.missmajorfilm.com/uploads/1/1/6/8/116874/major_epk.pdf
<https://www.amazon.com/Major-Miss-Griffin-Gracy/dp/B079H7TSVN>
- Zackary Drucker, *At Least You Know You Exist* (2011) <https://vimeo.com/410733522>

23 February 2023

Photography and evidence

Required reading

- Malatino, Hil. “Black Bar, Queer Gaze: Medical Photography and the Re-visioning of Queer Corporealities.” In *Queer Embodiment: Monstrosity, Medical Violence, and Intersex Experience*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2019. 129-57.
- Reznick, Jordan. “Through the Guillotine Mirror: Claude Cahun’s Theory of Trans against the Void.” *Art Journal* 81.3 (Fall 2022): 53-69.
- Snorton, C. Riley. “A Nightmarish Silhouette: Racialization and the Long Exposure of Tradition.” In *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*, 139–75, 232–38. Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2017.
- Steinbock, Eliza. “Collecting Creative Trancestors: Trans* Portrait Hirstory, from Snapshots to Sculpture.” In *A Companion to Feminist Art*, ed. Hilary Robinson and Maria Elena Buszek. Newark: Wiley & Sons, 2019. 225-42.

Further reference:

- Johnson, Dominic. "Transition Pieces: The Photography of Del LaGrace Volcano." In *Otherwise: Imagining Queer Feminist Art Histories*, edited by Amelia Jones and Erin Silver, 340–55. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016.
- Johnson, Dominic. "'Sitting. With a Candle? Up My Ass!': A Portrait of Harmodius in Exile." *TSQ* 2.4 (November 2015): 695-700.
- Rand, Erica. "Getting Dressed Up: The Displays of Frank Woodhull and the Policing of Gender." In *The Ellis Island Snow Globe*, 67–106. Durham, NC, and London: Duke University Press, 2005.

2 March 2023

***Visiting scholar: Jules Gill-Peterson, Johns Hopkins University**

SEMINAR MEETS IN WILSON 142

Required reading:

- Gill-Peterson, J. "Racial Plasticity of Gender and the Child" and "How to Bring Your Kids Up Trans." In *Histories of the Transgender Child*, 35–58, 195–208. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2018.
- Gill-Peterson, Jules. "Trans of Color Critique before Transsexuality." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 5, no. 4 (November 2018): 606–20.
- Gill-Peterson, Jules. "My Undead Name." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, 21 September 2020. <https://legacywomenwriters.org/2020/10/05/my-undead-name/>

REQUIRED EVENING LECTURE:

Jules Gill-Peterson (Johns Hopkins University)

"A Global History of Trans Panic"

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

9 March 2023

Spring Break: NO CLASS

16 March 2023

Figures and Grounds*Required reading:*

- Hayward, Eva. "[Painted Camera, 'Her.'](#)" *e-flux* no. 117, April 2021.
- Metzger, Cyle. "Envisioning Nonbinary Gender: The Art of Forrest Bess." *Archives of American Art Journal* 61.1 (Spring 2022): 24–43.
- Vaccaro, Jeanne. "Felt Matters." *Women and Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* 20, no. 3 (November 2010): 253–66.
- Hall, Gordon. "[Reading Things: On Gender, Sculpture and Relearning How to See.](#)" *Walker Art Center Blog*, August 8, 2016.
- Halberstam, Jack. "[Unbuilding Gender: Trans* Anarchitectures in and beyond the Work of Gordon Matta-Clark.](#)" *Places Journal*, October 2018.
- Preciado, Paul B. "My Trans Body Is an Empty House." In *An Apartment on Uranus: Chronicles of the Crossing*, translated by Charlotte Mandell, 184–86. South Pasadena, CA: Semiotext(e), 2019.

Further reference:

- Hernández, Robb. “Chasing Papi: A Study in Virulence and Virtuality.” *TSQ* 8.1 (February 2021): 4-23.
- David, Emmanuel. “The Transgender Touch: On the Handmade Sculptures of Frankie Toan.” *ASAP/Journal* 7.1 (January 2022): 171-98.

23 March 2023

Moving Bodies

Required reading:

- Samer, Rox. “Trans Chaplin.” *JCMS* 61.2 (Winter 2022): 175-80.
- Muñoz, José Esteban. “The White to Be Angry: Vaginal Crème Davis’s Terrorist Drag.” In *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Politics of Performance*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. 93-117.
- La Fountain-Stokes, Lawrence. “Diasporic Welfare Queens and the Transloca Drag of Poverty.” In *Translocas: The Politics of Puerto Rican Drag and Trans Performance*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2021. 70-101.
- cárdenas, micha. “Poetics of Trans Ecologies.” *JCMS* 61.2 (Winter 2022): 206-12.
- discussion of Cassils performance in Getsy, David J. “Abstraction and the Unforeclosed.” In *Abstract Bodies: Sixties Sculpture in the Expanded Field of Gender*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015. 266-80.
- Horak, Laura. “Tracing the History of Trans and Gender Variant Filmmakers.” *Spectator* 37.2 (Fall 2017): 9-20.

Further reference:

- Steinbock, Eliza. “Reparative Practices of Cut and Suture: Resequencing Trans Hirstories.” In *Shimmering Images: Trans Cinema, Embodiment, and the Aesthetics of Change*, 53–60, 172–73. Durham, NC, and London: Duke University Press, 2019.

EVENING LECTURE

Laura Horak (Carleton University)

"Representing Ourselves into Existence: Tracing the History of Trans Filmmaking in the United States and Canada"

5.30pm, via ZOOM

30 March 2023

***Visiting scholar: Marcia Ochoa, University of California at Santa Cruz**

SEMINAR MEETS IN WILSON 142

Required reading:

- TBA
- Tang, Jeannine. “Contemporary Art and Critical Transgender Infrastructures.” In *Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility*, edited by Tourmaline, Eric A. Stanley, and Johanna Burton, 363–92. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017.

EVENING LECTURE:

Marcia Ochoa (University of California at Santa Cruz)

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

6 April 2023

***Visiting scholar: Toby Beauchamp, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

SEMINAR MEETS IN WILSON 142

- Beauchamp, Toby. “Flying Under the Radar” and “Bathrooms, Borders, and Biometrics.” In *Going Stealth: Transgender Politics and U.S. Surveillance Practices*, 50–106. Durham, NC, and London: Duke University Press, 2019.
- Adair, Cassius. “Licensing Citizenship: Anti-Blackness, Identification Documents, and Transgender Studies.” *American Quarterly* 71, no. 2 (June 2019): 569–94.
- Sanders, Joel, and Susan Stryker, “Stalled: Gender-Neutral Public Bathrooms.” *SAQ: South Atlantic Quarterly* 115, no. 4 (October 2016): 779–88. See also <https://www.stalled.online>

Further reference:

- Stanley, Eric A. “Anti-Trans Optics: Recognition, Opacity, and the Image of Force.” *SAQ: South Atlantic Quarterly* 116, no. 3 (July 2017): 612–20.
- Stryker, Susan. “On Stalling and Turning: A Wayward Genealogy for a Binary-Abolitionist Public Toilet Project.” *Social Text* 39.3 (September 2021): 37–54.

EVENING LECTURE:

Toby Beauchamp (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

“Trans Studies for Grim Times”

6.30pm, Wilson Hall 142

13 April 2023

NO CLASS

20 April 2023

PRESENTATIONS

27 April 2023

PRESENTATIONS