**Department of Cultural & Religious Studies**

**CURE 4022 Critical Approaches to Pornography**

**Spring 2021**

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**Prof. Katrien Jacobs**

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**Tuesdays**

**1:30pm-3:15pm**

**LECTURE**

**3:30-4:15**

**TUTORIAL**

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| The course will offer an introduction to pornography, which is defined as sexually explicit media within different cinematic traditions and digital screen cultures. The aim of the course is to show that pornography is a not a unified screen culture but consists of varied representations within cultural contexts. The course will teach students how to analyze these representations and how to take into account their cultural histories.  The course will take a Cultural Studies approach and examine pornography within specific cultural environments and include the positions of anti-porn and pro-porn activists. Therefore students will get an overview of diverging perspectives while being encouraged to consider their own values and critical responses. Students will be asked to respond to theories and audio-visual examples, while actively partaking in debates about pornography and its impact on religeon, gender, sexuality, health, labor and the economy. Finally, the course will pay special importance to how contemporary sexually explicit media are impacting new user groups such young adult netizens, female consumers, disabled people, as well as ethnic and sexual minorities.  Students will carry out a major assignment while learning how to apply ethnographic research methods to analyze representations of the body and sexuality within screen cultures. In this assignment, they will focus on a media environment/platform and a sexual culture of their choice to find out how culture is being redefined and visualized by media users. Two workshops will be organized in the media lab in order to train the students in different methods and perspectives on digital ethnography  Language of instruction: Classes and assignments will be carried out in the English language and students’ active participation in both lectures and tutorials will be required. Students can carry out ethnographic fieldwork in Cantonese or any language of your choice, but need to present the results in English.  Learning Activities: Students are required to attend a 3-hour class each week. The course combines theoretical lectures with the viewing of films and media examples. There will also be tutorial sessions each week based on the lectures and on the weekly readings. All students are required to post weekly reflections on Blackboard and to participate in discussions. In addition to the weekly readings and reflections, students will conduct research and planning for their assessments and oral presentations independently and in groups.  *Please be advised that this course will involve some screenings and discussions of sexually explicit materials. You are not required to watch these materials if it would make you uncomfortable and please talk to your teachers if this would be the case.*  *Learning Outcomes:*  On successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:  1.Analyze representations of sexuality within film aesthetics and screen cultures.  2. Understand the diversity of screen cultures in how they represent sexuality and sexually explicit media.  3. Understand contemporary debates about pornography and take a critical position.  4. Understand the unique position and cultural heritage of Hong Kong within East-Asian screen cultures.  5. Understand the relationship between sexual representations and social, religious or political tensions within cultural environments.  6. Apply ethnographic methods to analyze urban sexualities and online screen cultures.  *Assessment:*  *Assessment Type Weighting Date Due*   * Assessment 1 Attendance and Participation 10% * Assessment 2 Weekly Reflections and Tutorial Presentations 40% * Assessment 3 Final Project and Paper 50%   Chinese:  本課程將切入傳統觀影經驗以及在電子媒介文化中被介定為露骨的色情文本，對它們進行批判性的分析和介紹。課程旨在打破傳統於電子螢幕下色情文本「再現」所呈現的一致性，從而凸顯出其在文化脈絡充滿多變的可能。學生將會學習到如何分析這些再現以及它們的文化背景歷史。  本科將採用文化研究的方法，在包括反色情與支持色情的活躍者在内的特定文化环境中进行检视。因此，在鼓勵學生反思自己的價值觀與批判性回應的同時，學生們將得到不同視角的概括性闡述。學生將會被要求對理論與視聽事例做出回應，亦應積極參與有關色情對宗教、性別、性向、健康、勞動與經濟的影響的討論。最後，本科將特別關注當代色情媒體如何影響諸如年輕的成年網民、女性消費者、殘障人士、少數族裔和性少數群體等新用戶群。  學生需完成一份主要的作業，並學習如何應用民族誌研究方法分析影視文化中身體及「性」的再現。在這作業中，學生需關注某一媒體環境/平台及其中的性文化，且看文化是如何被媒體用戶重新定義及視覺化。本科目亦會安排兩場研討會，培訓學生多種數位民族誌的方法及角度。  授課語言：課堂及作業均以英文進行，學生亦需積極參與課堂及導修。學生能以廣東話或其他語言進行民族誌考察，惟需以英語報告其成果。  學習活動：同學每週應上課三小時。本課程的理論講座將結合電影和媒體實例的觀看。每週也會有基於講座和閱讀材料的導修課。所有同學每週都需要將其學習反思上傳Blackboard，並積極參與討論。除了每週的閱讀材料和反思之外，同學還將獨立地或與小組一起進行研究並準備他們的課程考評和口頭報告。  請注意，本課程將涉及一些色情材料的放映和討論。如果這些內容會讓你感到不舒服，你可以選擇不看。如果同學有這樣的情況，請向老師反映。  Week 1. Jan 12 Introduction to Course  Introducing the course  Signing up for oral presentations  Week 2. Jan 19 What is pornography today?  Write a 300-word reflection about Tibbals by Monday Jan 18 (midnight)  Chantaulle Anne Tibbals (2014) Gonzo, trannys, and teens – current trends in US adult content production, distribution, and consumption, Porn Studies, 1:1-2, 127-135,  Week 3. Jan 26 Pornography and Gender in Cross-Cultural Contexts  Write a 300-word reflection about Dodson by Monday Jan 25 (midnight)  Betty Dodson, ‘Porn Wars,’ Taormino et al eds. *The Feminist Porn Book: The Politics of Producing Pleasure,* (The Feminist Press, 2013)  <https://www.dodsonandross.com/articles/porn-wars>READ  Alexandra Hambleton (2016) When women watch: the subversive potential of female-friendly pornography in Japan, Porn Studies, 3:4, 427-442, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2015.1065203  Thomas Baudinette (2020) Aspirations for ‘Japanese gay masculinity’: comparing Chinese and Japanese men’s consumption of porn star Koh Masaki, Porn Studies, 7:3, 258-268, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2020.1715239  Week 4. Feb 2 Cultural Models of Creativity and Censorship  Write a 300-word reflection about Jacobs by Monday feb 1 (midnight)  Reading:  Katrien Jacobs (2020): Smouldering pornographies on the Chinese internet,  Porn Studies, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2020.1776151 \  Week 5. Feb 9 Hong Kong *Softcore* Cinema  Write a 300-word reflection about Yau Ching by Monday feb 8 (midnight)  Yau, Ching (2010) “Porn Power: Sexual and Gender Politics in Li Han-Hsiang’s *Fengyue* Films,” in Yau Ching (ed) *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong,* Hong Kong University Press.  Week 6: Feb 16 CNY holiday  Week 7. Feb 23 Boys’ Love Media in East Asia  Reading:  Write a 300-word reflection about Meyer by Monday feb 22 (midnight)  Uli Meyer, ‘Hidden in Straight Sight’ in Levi, McHarry and Pagliassotti eds, *Boys’ Love Manga* (McFarland, 2010)  Week 8. March 2 Workshop I on Final Projects  Selecting groups and topics for final projects.  Selecting a topic: East-Asian Pornographies and Online Porn Cultures  Homework: Students check out the articles of the PS issue and bring to class 2 ideas for their own research.  At the end of the workshop, each group presents 2 topics to the class and the class votes on the best topic.  Week 9. March 9. Is it Art or Is It Porn?  Write a 300-word reflection about Chow by Monday march 8 midnight  Reading:  Rey Chow, “Rey Chow, ‘Framing the Original: Toward a New Visibility of the Orient’ In *Entanglements, Or Transmedial Thinking about a Capture*, pp. 168-183.  Screening, Ang Lee “Lust, Caution” (2007)  Week 10. March 16. Race and Ethnicity on the Porn Screen  Readings:  Write a 300-word reflection about Miller-Young by Monday march 22 (midnight)  Miller-Young Mireille, “Interventions: The Deviant and DeFiant Art of Black Women Porn Directors” *In The Feminist Porn Book.*  Week 11. March 23 Final Project Workshop II: Media Analysis, Online Ethnography and Interviewing people about your topic  Week 12. March 30 Reading Week  Week 13 April 6 Guest lecture and/or fieldtrip  Week 14. April 13 Final Project presentations and papers drafts due  Week 15. April 20 Final Class and presentation by EAC  Week 16 April 27 Final Papers Due  **Required Readings:**  Boelstroff Tom et al eds, (2012) *Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method*, [Princeton University Press](https://www.jstor.org/publisher/princetonup)  Dodson, Betty ‘Porn Wars,’ Taormino et al eds. *The Feminist Porn Book: The Politics of Producing Pleasure,* The Feminist Press, (2013)  Hambleton Alexandra (2016) When women watch: the subversive potential of female-friendly pornography in Japan, Porn Studies, 3:4, 427-442, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2015.1065203  Jacobs, Katrien (2020): Smouldering pornographies on the Chinese internet, Porn Studies, Porn Studies, DOI: 10.1080/23268743.2020.1776151  Jones, Amelia, *Body Art. Performing the Subject,* intro, ch. 1 “Postmodernism, Subjectivity, and Body Art: A Trajectory.” (University of Minnesota Press, 1998)  Nakamura, Lisa, *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet.* New York, Routledge, 2002.  Miller-Young Mireille, *A Taste of Brown Sugar*, Duke University Press, 2014  Pei, Yuxin and Sik Ying Ho, ‘Gender, Self and Pleasure; Young Women’s Discourses on Masturbation in Contemporary Shanghai,” *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*, 1:.5 ( 2009),pp. 515-528  Meyer, Uli ‘Hidden in Straight Sight’ in Levi, McHarry and Pagliassotti eds, *Boys’ Love Manga* (McFarland, 2010)  Yau, Ching (2010) “Porn Power: Sexual and Gender Politics in Li Han-hsiang’s *Fengyue* Films,” in Yau Ching (ed) *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong,* Hong Kong University Press.  Rhodes, John David ‘This Was Not Cinema: Judgment, Action, and Barbara Hammer,’  Film Criticism Vol. 39, No. 2, in *Film Criticism* (Winter, 2014-15), pp. 115-136  Recommended reading list/references  Arnold, Emily and Bailey, Marlon (2009) “Constructing Home and Family: How the Ballroom Community Supports African American GLBTQ Youth in the Face of HIV/ AIDS,” *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services,* 21:2, pp. 171–88  Farrer, James (2007) “China’s Women Sex Bloggers and Dialogic Sexual Politics on the Chinese Internet,” *China Aktuell,* 36:4, pp. 9–45.  Farrer, James *Opening Up: Youth Sex Culture and Market Reform in Shanghai*, 2002 University of Chicago Press.  Goddard, Michael (2007) ”BBW: Techno-archaism, Excessive Corporeality and Network Sexuality,” in Katrien Jacobs, Marije Janssen and Matteo Pasquinelli (eds) *Click Me, A Netporn Studies Reader,* Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures.  Jacobs Katrien, *People’s Pornography: Sex and Surveillance on the Chinese Internet*, Intellect Books, 2011.  Jones Amelia, *Body Art: Performing the Subject,* Univ of Minnesota Press, 1989  Miller-Young Mireille, *A Taste of Brown Sugar*, Duke University Press, 2014  Mowlabocus, Sharif, ‘Porn 2.0? Technology, Social Practice, and the New Online Porn Industry’ In Feona Attwod ed. *Porn.com. Making Sense of Online Pornography,* New York, Peter Lang, 2010, pp. 69-88.  Nakamura, Lisa, *Cybertypes: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity on the Internet.* New York, Routledge, 2002.  Pei, Yuxin and Sik Ying Ho, ‘Gender, Self and Pleasure; Young Women’s Discourses on Masturbation in Contemporary Shanghai,” *Culture, Health, and Sexuality*, 1:.5 ( 2009),pp. 515-528.  Pink, Sarah et al.ed. *Digital Ethnography: Principles and Practice* (London: Sage Publications, 2016)  Plummer, Ken, *Telling Sexual Stories: Power, Change, and Social Worlds*. New York and London, Routledge, 1995.  Reed-Danahay, Deborah, ed *Auto/Ethnography: Rewriting the Self and the Social.* UK Oxford, Berg, 1997.  Rofel, Lisa, *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality, and Public Culture*.Durham, Duke University Press, 2007.  Saito, Tamaki, ‘Otaku Sexuality,’ in Christopher Bolton, Istvan Csicsery-Ronay jr. and Takyuki Tatsumi eds. *Robot Ghosts and Wired Dreams. Japanese Science Fictions from Origins to Anime* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2007). p.222-250  Nagaike, Kazumi *Fantasies of Cross-dressing: Japanese Women Write Male-Male Erotica*,Brill, 2012.  Yau, Ching (2010) “Porn Power: Sexual and Gender Politics in Li Han-hsiang’s *Fengyue* Films,” in Yau Ching (ed) *As Normal as Possible: Negotiating Sexuality and Gender in Mainland China and Hong Kong,* Hong Kong University Press.  Williams Linda, *Hard Core*, U of California Press, 1989.  Attwood Feona, *Sexmedia*, Polity Press, 2017.  Berg Heather, “‘A scene is just a marketing tool’: alternative income streams in porn’s gig economy”, *Porn Studies*, vol. 3, n° 2, p. 160-174.  Berlant Lauren, Warner Michael, “Sex in Public”, *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 24, no. 2, 1998, p. 547–566.  Kendrick Walter M, *The secret museum : pornography in modern culture*, New York, Viking, 1987.  Hunt Lynn (ed.) in *The Invention of Pornography: Obscenity and the Origins of Modernity, 1500-1800*, New York, Zone Books, 1993.  Mendes Kaitlynn, Ringrose Jessica, Keller Jessalyn, *Digital Feminist Activism. Girls and Women Fighting Back Against Rape Culture*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2019.  Miller-Young Mireille, *A Taste for Brown Sugar: Black Women in Pornography*, Duke University Press Books, 2014.  Mowlabocus Sharif, « Porn 2.0? Technology, Social Practice and the New Online Porn Industry », in Feona Attwood (ed.) *Porn.com: Making Sense of Online Pornography*, London, Peter Lang, 2010, p. 69–87.  Paasonen Susanna, Jarrett Kylie, Light Ben, *Not safe for work. Sex, humor and risk in social media*, MIT Press, Cambridge Mass., 2019. |