

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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Queering Social Science: Categorizations, politics, power (2SC2123)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M ScS - anthropologie	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - géographie humaine	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - migration et citoyenneté (EuMIGS)	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier principal M ScS - sociologie	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - anthropologie	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - géographie humaine	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - migration et citoyenneté	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - sociologie	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Prof. Philip Balsiger, Prof. Janine Dahinden

Contenu

Queer theory critically examines the way power works to institutionalize and hence legitimate certain forms and expressions of sexuality and gender while excluding others. In line with other theories that critique power, privilege, and normativity (including CRT, feminist theory, post-colonial theory, intersectional approaches, etc.), queer theory refuses the idea that sexuality and gender are essentialist categories (determined by biology) that can thus be empirically judged by fixed standards. The theorists we will discuss tackle to challenge "regimes of sexuality" in terms of a system of knowledge, embedded in particular power relations.

This seminar aims at giving insights into approaches analyzing the institutional practices and discourses producing sexual knowledge and how those categorizations regulate social life by 'sexualising' bodies, desires, acts, social relations, institutions, politics and power. We will begin developing a critical understanding of Queer Theory by reading some foundational texts (from authors such as Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, etc). Afterwards, we will immerse into two specific thematic fields, 'queering' them: The session on migration studies will analyse the intersectional nexus of mobility and queerness by critically asking what the queer perspective can contribute to the understanding of this complex field. A second session takes a closer look at the queer critique of the lesbian and gay movements and its politics. Discussing the "normalization" of specific, socially situated gay, and lesbian lifestyles, and the ensuing marginalizations and exclusions this creates for categories such as queers of colour or transgender persons, the session will examine contemporary LGBTQIA+ politics and categories through a queer lens. In these two thematic sessions, the seminar will focus on empirical studies, analyzing the ways these fields are fundamentally shaped by regimes of sexualities.

Based on the readings and in-class discussions, students will write a conference paper that brings a queer perspective into the analysis of an empirical phenomenon of their own choosing within these two fields. These papers will be presented and discussed in a student conference, which is part of the seminar.

Forme de l'évaluation

Evaluation interne notée.

The grading is composed as follows:

- Response papers for compulsory texts (20%)
- Writing of a Conference paper (2'000-30'000 words): This paper needs to be submitted 1 week ahead of the student conference (50%)

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- Presentations of the papers will take place in a conference setting (December 7 and 8, 2023), including 20 minutes talks and 5-7 minutes discussion of a colleague's paper (discussant) (30%)

The results will be communicated at the latest on January 31, 2024.

2nd tentative: Revision of the conference paper, deadline to submit: End of February 2024, results in March 2024.

In case we have to go back to online teaching, the conference will take place online. This will induce no changes in the way the course will be evaluated.

Documentation

Compulsory texts will be available on moodle

Pré-requis

To enrol, students need to have followed at least one introductory course to gender and/or feminist studies.

The number of students is limited to 25. Spots are attributed on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please register here : philip.balsiger@unine.ch.

Forme de l'enseignement

The seminar is organized as a bloc-seminar :

- September 25, 14:15-16:30: Introduction
- October 16 and October 30: 10:15-17:00, working on compulsory text
- December 7-8: Student conference
- 7.12.2023: 9:15-17:00 Presentation papers. 17:00 Key note 1, 18:00 onwards: Apéro and (invited) conference diner
- 8.12.2023: 9:15-16:00: Presentation papers, 16:00 Key note 2

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Employ concepts relevant for queer studies
- Discuss academic texts and conference papers of their peers
- Write and present a research paper in a conference setting
- Develop research questions for a conference paper

Compétences transférables

- Conceptualise complex and contested knowledge