

GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN MODERN GREEK CULTURE

Professor: Aimee J. Placas

Course Description and Goals.

This course takes a look at modern Greek culture (cultures?) through a discussion of gender and sexuality. The majority of the readings will be from anthropology, with some sociology and film included.

We will have three interwoven concerns:

First, the study of gender and sexuality. What exactly do these two words mean, and how can we approach them from an anthropological point of view? We'll be discussing gender and sexuality in their intersections with kinship, religion, economy, national and international politics, technology, medicine, modernity, ethnicity, and more. Thus our focus will give us a particular insight into important aspects of change (and continuity) in Greece during the last century.

Second, the study of modern Greek culture. Our readings and lectures will survey how gender and sexuality have been studied in Modern Greece by social scientists over the last 60 years, giving us the chance to both analyze the construction of gender and sexuality in Greek society, and to consider how the representations of these subjects by academics, and by the West in general, are linked with representations of Greek and Mediterranean "culture." In this survey, we will cover immigration, urbanization, Europeanization (and other -ations), tourism, and other forces that have affected the meanings of gender and sexuality in Greece.

Third, ethnographic research. We'll be working to gain an understanding of what ethnography consists of, both as a type of text, and as a way of doing research. Hopefully this will provide you with tools to enrich your experience in Greece through a sustained, focused, curious, and systematic engagement with the cultures you're immersed in here (and with your own position here as student/tourist/traveler/foreigner/gendered person).

Students need to be prepared to do a lot of work: reading and writing, observing and participating. This work is designed to add an additional layer of meaning and experience to your time here in Greece; it will be relevant, and it will be worth it.

Office Hours.

Because of students' varied schedules, I won't keep set office hours, but will happily make time for you when you request it. You can send me an email or call (or text and I'll call you back), or just ask me after class. It's often easiest to arrange to meet before class, and I try to keep my schedule free for that purpose.

Participation.

Although I'll give some lectures in this class, much of our time will be devoted to directed discussion. Students are expected to be prepared for class, having read the assignment and prepared to discuss it. Students are expected to actively participate in *every* class period with comments and questions. Absences negatively affect your grade. Participation is worth 10% of your grade.

Projects.

There are going to be four participant/observation projects that you must complete over the course of the semester. Detailed descriptions, maps, and supplemental materials for each project will be posted to

Moodle and distributed in class. Each project will require its paper to be submitted upon completion. Collectively the papers are worth 50% of your total grade. The due dates are listed in the syllabus calendar.

Exams.

Instead of a midterm and final exam, we will have four short exams over the course of the semester. Collectively the exams are worth 40% of your total grade.

Schedule.

A detailed calendar of reading dates and assignment dates will be distributed. Some of the readings listed below will be addressed in detail, some will be optional, and others will be specifically assigned for students taking the course at the 400 level.

SECTION ONE: First discussions of gender in Greek ethnography -- “honor and shame” and more

- Avdela, Efi. 2005. “Between Duties and Rights: Gender and Citizenship in Greece, 1864-1952.” In *Citizenship and the Nation State: Greece and Turkey*, ed. Faruk Birtek and Thalia Dragonas. London and New York: Routledge, 117-143.
- Avdela, Efi. 1991. “The History of Women in Greece.” In *Writing Women’s History: International Perspectives*, ed. Karen Offen, Ruth Roach Pierson, and Jane Rendall. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 423-428.
- Campbell, John Kennedy. 1964. *Honour, Family, and Patronage: a Study of Institutions and Moral Values in a Greek Mountain Community*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Du Boulay, Juliet. 1974. *Portrait of a Greek Mountain Village*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Dubisch, Jill, 1986. “Culture Enters through the Kitchen: Women, Food and Social Boundaries in Rural Greece.” In *Gender & Power in Rural Greece*, ed. Jill Dubisch. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 195–214.
- Friedl, Ernestine. 1962. *Vasilika: A Village in Modern Greece*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.
- Friedl, Ernestine. 1967. “The Position of Women: Appearance and Reality.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 40(3): 97.
- Herzfeld, Michael. 1985. *The Poetics of Manhood: Contest and Identity in a Cretan Mountain Village*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.
- Hirschon, Renee. 1989. *Heirs of the Greek Catastrophe: The Social Life of Asia Minor Refugees in Piraeus*. Oxford: Clarendon.
- Hoffman, Susanna M., Richard A. Cowan, Paul Aratow, and Ruth Silveira. 2006. *Kypseli: Women and Men Apart: A Divided Reality*. Berkeley Media LLC.
- Papataxiarchis, Evthymios. 1991. “Friends of the Heart: Male Commensal Solidarity, Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece.” In *Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece*, ed. Peter Loizos and Evthymios Papataxiarchis. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 156–79.
- Stefatos, Katherine. 2011. “The Psyche and the Body: Political Persecution and Gender Violence Against Women in the Greek Civil War.” *Journal of Modern Greek Studies* 29(2): 251-277.
- Sutton, David E. 1998. *Memories Cast in Stone: The Relevance of the Past in Everyday Life*. Mediterranean Series. Oxford: Berg.
- Varikas, Eleni. 1993. “Gender and National Identity in fin de siècle Greece.” *Gender & History* 5(2): 269-283.

SECTION TWO: Gender, kinship, and religion -- three interlocking systems

- Caraveli, Anna. 1986. “The Bitter Wounding: The Lament as Social Protest in Rural Greece.” In *Gender and Power in Rural Greece*, ed. Jill Dubisch. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 169–94.
- Danforth, Loring. 1982. *The Death Rituals of Rural Greece*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.
- Danforth, Loring. 1989. *Firewalking and Religious Healing: The Anastenaria of Greece and the American Firewalking Movement*. Princeton Modern Greek Studies. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.
- Dubisch, Jill. 1995. *In a Different Place: Pilgrimage, Gender, and Politics at a Greek Island Shrine*. Princeton Modern Greek Studies. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.
- Seremetakis, Nadia. 1991. *The Last Word: Women, Death, and Divination in Inner Mani*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

SECTION THREE: Social change in Greece seen through gender

- Cowan, Jane K. 1990. *Dance and the Body Politic in Northern Greece*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press.

- Davaki, Konstantina. 2013. "Report: The Policy on Gender Equality in Greece." Monograph PE 493.028. Brussels, Belgium: European Parliament.
- Georges, Eugenia. 1996. "Abortion Policy and Practice in Greece." *Social Science & Medicine* 42 (4): 509–19.
- Georges, Eugenia. 2008. *Bodies of Knowledge: The Medicalization of Reproduction in Greece*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.
- Lazaridis, Gabriella. 1994. "The feminist movement in Greece: An overview." *Journal of Gender Studies* 3(2): 205-209.
- Paxson, Heather. 2004. *Making Modern Mothers: Ethics and Family Planning in Urban Greece*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Stamiris, Eleni. 1986. "The Women's Movement in Greece." *New Left Review*, 58: 98-101.
- Stratigaki, Maria and Dina Vaiou. 1994. "Women's Work and Informal Activities in Southern Europe." *Environment and Planning, Special issue on "Gender in Europe"* A 26(8): 1221-1234.

SECTION FOUR: Let's add sexuality to our conversation!

- Abatzi, Liopi. 2010. "The Language of Heterosexual Desire in Hostess Bars." In *Language and Sexuality (through And) beyond Gender*, ed. Costas Canakis, Venetia Kantsa, and Kostas Yannakopoulos. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 189–203.
- Canakis, Costas. 2015. "The desire for identity and the identity of desire: language, gender and sexuality in the Greek context." *Gender & Language* 9(1): 59-81.
- Halkias, Alexandra. 2004. *The Empty Cradle of Democracy: Sex, Abortion, and Nationalism in Modern Greece*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Kantsa, Venetia. 2002. "'Certain Places Have Different Energy': Spatial Transformations in Eresos, Lesbos." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 8 (1): 35–55.
- Kantsa, Venetia. 2010. "'Lesvia: (i) A Same-Sex Desiring Woman (ii) A Woman Inhabitant of Lesbos Island': The Re-Introduction of a Word of Greek Origin into Modern Greece." In *Language and Sexuality (through And) beyond Gender*, ed. Costas Canakis, Venetia Kantsa, and Kostas Yannakopoulos. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 25–42.
- Kantsa, Venetia. 2014. "The price of marriage: Same-sex sexualities and citizenship in Greece." *Sexualities* 17(7): 818–836.
- Kirtsoglou, Elisabeth. 2004. *For the Love of Women: Gender, Identity and Same-Sex Relations in a Greek Provincial Town*. London ; New York: Routledge.
- Lazaridis, Gabriella. 2012. *Women's Work and Lives in Rural Greece: Appearances and Realities*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing.
- Loizos, Peter. 1994. "A Broken Mirror: Masculine Sexuality in Greek Ethnography." In *Dislocating Masculinity: Comparative Ethnographies*, ed. Andrea Cornwall and Nancy Lindisfarne. London: Routledge, 66-81.
- Papagaroufali, Eleni. 1992. "Uses of Alcohol among Women: Games of Resistance, Power and Pleasure." in *Alcohol, Gender and Culture*, ed. Dimitra Gefou-Madianou. New York: Routledge, 48-70.
- Pavlou, Miltos. 2009. "Homophobia in Greece: Love for Equality." Athens: Institute for Rights Equality & Diversity.
- Polyzou, Alexandra. 2010. "Desire, Sexualities, and 'Lifestyle': Masculinity Constructs in Three Greek Men's Lifestyle Magazines." In *Language and Sexuality (through And) beyond Gender*, ed. Costas Canakis, Venetia Kantsa, and Kostas Yannakopoulos. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 113–41.
- Simati, Andrianni. 2014. "Imagining trans masculinities in the greek mainstream media. Introducing trans feminism in the greek lgbt communities." presented at the Initiative for Critical Studies of Masculinities, 11–13 September 2014, Izmir, Turkey
- Yannakopoulos, Kostas. 2010. "Cultural Meanings of Loneliness: Kinship, Sexuality and (homo) Sexual Identity in Contemporary Greece." *Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 18 (2): 265–82.
- Yannakopoulos, Kostas. 2010. "Suspicious bodies': Erotic desire and self beyond 'language'." In *Language and Sexuality (Through and) Beyond Gender*, ed. Costas Canakis, Venetia Kantsa, and Kostas Yannakopoulos. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 171–188.
- Yannakopoulos, Kostas. 2016. "'Naked Piazza': Male (Homo)sexualities, Masculinities and Consumer Cultures in Greece Since the 1960s." In *Consumption and Gender in Southern Greece since the 1960s*, ed. Kostis Kornetis, Eirini Kotsovili, and Nikolaos Papadogiannis. London: Bloomsbury, 173-191.
- Zestanakis, Panagiotis. 2017. "Gender and sexuality in three late-1980s Greek lifestyle magazines: Playboy, Status and Click." *Journal of Greek Media & Culture* 3(1): 95-115.

- Zestanakis, Panagiotis. 2015. "The 'curvy years' and their aftermath: Film, media and representations of femininity in 1980s and 1990s Greece." *Film, Fashion & Consumption* 4(1): 25-42.
- Zinovieff, Sofka. 1991. "Hunters and Hunted: Kamaki and the Ambiguities of Sexual Predation in a Greek Town." In *Contested Identities: Gender and Kinship in Modern Greece*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 203–20.

SECTION FIVE: Economic austerity + gender + sexuality = ?

- Carastathis, Anna. 2015. "The Politics of Austerity and the Affective Economy of Hostility: Racialised Gendered Violence and Crises of Belonging in Greece." *Feminist Review* 109(1): 73–95.
- Eleftheriadis, Konstantinos. 2015. "Queer Responses to Austerity: Insights from the Greece of Crisis." *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 14(4): 1032–57.
- Karamessini, Maria. 2014. "Structural Crisis and Adjustment in Greece." In *Women and Austerity: The Economic Crisis and the Future for Gender Equality*, ed. Maria Karamessini and Jill Rubery. Oxon: Routledge.
- Vaiou, Dina. 2016. "Tracing aspects of the Greek crisis in Athens: Putting women in the picture." *European Urban and Regional Studies* 23(3): 220-230.
- Zavos, Alexandra. 2018. "Gendering the Crisis: Claiming New Values and Agencies Beyond Destitution." In *Living Under Austerity: Greek Society in Crisis*, ed. Evdoxios Doxidis and Aimee Placas. New York: Berghahn.

SECTION SIX: Intersectionality -- let's complicate our discussion by adding race, ethnicity, and class

- Carastathis, Anna. 2014. "The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory." *Philosophy Compass* 9(5): 304–314.
- Kambouri, Nelli, and Alexandra Zavos. 2010. "On the Frontiers of Citizenship: Considering the Case of Konstantina Kuneva and the Intersections between Gender, Migration and Labour in Greece." *Feminist Review* 94: 148–55.
- Kosetzi, Konstantia. 2010. "Power and Ethnicity in Construals of Greek Women's Heterosexualities." In *Language and Sexuality (through And) beyond Gender*, ed. Costas Canakis, Venetia Kantsa, and Kostas Yannakopoulos, 87–112. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars.
- Petronoti, Marina. 2010. "Weaving Threads between the Ethnic and the Global: African Women's Entrepreneurial Ventures in Athens." *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures* 19(2): 129–48.
- Psimmenos, Iordanis. 2000. "The Making of Periphractic Spaces: The Case of Albanian Undocumented Female Migrants in the Sex Industry of Athens." In *Gender and Migration in Southern Europe: Women on the Move*, ed. Floya Anthias and Gabriella Lazaridis, 81–101. Oxford: Berg.
- Papailias, Penelope. 2003. "'Money of Kurbet Is Money of Blood': The Making of a 'hero' of Migration at the Greek-Albanian Border." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 29(6): 1059–78.
- Vomvyla, Eleni. 2012. "Constructing Identity and Heritage at the Cross-roads: Albanian Families' Cross-Border Connections and Homemaking Projects in Athens." *Present Pasts* 4(1): 1-21.