

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Sociology, Department of Social Work & Social Administration

**FOSS0015 Sexing Culture & Identity: When the Supergirl Meets the
Metrosexual**

Core and elective for Culture and Media Studies/
Cross listed with **SOWK 6029 Human Sexuality**

Second Semester 2006 (Jan. to April)

Dr. Travis, Shiu Ki Kong (江紹祺) TRAVISK@umac.mo

Dr. Petula, Sik Ying Ho (何式凝) psyho@hkucc.hku.hk

Lecture: Monday 2 pm to – 4 pm

***** Please make sure that you can attend 2 tutorials and 1 art education workshop
before you enrol for the course*****

Course description

This course, co-taught by lecturers from the Department of Sociology and Department of Social Work & Social Administration, is designed to introduce students to concepts and theoretical approaches to the study of gender and sexuality. We use a variety of multi-media texts including films, documentaries, fictions, popular psychology, and scholarly journal articles to examine sex, body, gender in relation to mass culture, family and nation. Students are required to work with media artists in workshops to explore themselves as sexual and gendered beings. By exposing students to diverse practices, issues, and representations at the personal and social levels, the course aims to help students develop critical thinking, a respect for diversity and the ability to envision new possibilities of intimacy.

Main Topics:

Part 1: Introduction

**Lecture 1 Un-doing Gender and Un-doing sex : Super Girls' Voice of China
李宇春 & 《超級女聲》 2005 (23/1/2006)**

Concepts: Sex/gender, doing gender, making gender, gender as performance, “women are not born, but made”; essentialism/constructionism; nature/nurture; androgyny

Personalities: 李宇春, Simone De Beauvoir, Judith Butler, C. West & D. H. Zimmerman, the queer couple, 有耳非文 & HK artists

Film/MTV:

- **Paris is Burning, Jennie Livingston, 1999.**
- **Kwan, Stanley (1995) *Yang ± Yin: Gender and Sexuality in Chinese Cinema***
- **《男生女相》“Yang ± Yin: Gender in Chinese Cinema”, 關錦鵬, 1996.**
- **“Iron Ladies” 《人妖打排球》, Youngyooth Thongkonthun, 2000.**
- **We are queer ! from Village Voice, ‘The Queer Issue : Don’ t call us gay’**
- **Rain’s MTV**

Part II: Gendered selves – learning and doing gender

Lecture 2 One Woman, One movement: Choi Fung vs. Erinyes (6/2/2006)

Concepts: Discipline, punish, charmed circle, outer limits, feminist history, ‘the personal is political’, social movement, gender trouble, sexual politics

Personalities: 秋瑾 (Qui Jin), 彩鳳, 甄妮, 吳綺俐, 狄娜, 馬天如, Annabel Chong, 周宗華

Film/documentary:

- **《卵子體慾》 Choi Fung, 2004**
- **《女人那話兒》“Women’s Private Parts”, 黃真真, 2000。**
- **《男女字典》”20/30 Dictionary“, 夏永康, 2003。**
- **《性女傳奇》“Sex: The Annabel Chong Story”, Gough Lewis, 1999。**

Workshop 1: Meet the artists (with the tutor) – the use of art for self expression (11/2/2005 pm & 12/2/2005 pm)

Lecture 3 Hard or Soft; Straight or Gay: Metrosexual Men in Hong Kong
(13/2/2006)

Concepts: Discipline, punish, masculinity, femininity, patriarchy; men's movement, metrosexual, queer

Personalities: David Beckham, 吳彥祖, 金城武, 長毛 黃仁龍, 曾蔭權

Film:

- **Katz, Jackson (1999). *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*. Northampton, Mass.: Media Education Foundation. [VHS]**
- **《男人那話兒》“Men's Private Parts”, 黃真真, 200x。**

Part III: Gendered and sexualized institutions and processes

Lecture 4 Consuming love & marriage (20/2/2006)

Concepts: Capitalism, consumerism, modernity, romantic utopia, commodification of romance; intimacy, leisure and luxury

Personalities: Madonna & Guy Ritchie, Elton John & David Furnish, Roddy Shaw & Nelson Ng, Tommyja & Ken, Wei Wei & TVB, Mr. & Mrs. Chan

Film:

- **《十二夜》”Twelve Nights”**，林愛華，2000。
- **《心動》“Tempting Heart”**，張艾嘉，1999。
- **Recent TV advertisements**

Lecture 5 Extra-curricular Activities, Extra-marital relationships & Recreational sex (27/2/2006)

Concepts: monogamy, polygamy, open relationships, polyamory sex work, pure relationships, ethical slut, post-modern intimacies

Personalities: Prince Charles, Clinton, Mr. X (Male sex worker), Miss Y (female sex worker), Brenda (Six Feet Under)

Film/TV series:

- 《花樣年華》“In the Mood for Love”，王家衛，2000。
- 《金雞》”Golden Chicken”，趙良駿，2002。
- Desperate housewives
- Sex and the City

Tutorial Day (4/3/2006)

Lecture 6 In the Name of the Parents: Constructions of fatherhood & motherhood (6/3/2006)

Concepts: Surrogate mothers, absent fathers, gay parenthood, heterosexism, multiple mothering, parental fitness, families we choose

Personalities: Christine Loh, Woody Allen, the queer couple, Keth Weston

Film/music:

- 《墮落天使》“Fallen Angels”，王家衛，1995。
- Ideal family game
- 黃耀明 - 甜美生活

Lecture 7 Desire that dared not speak its name & “deviant” sexual practices (13/3/2006)

Concepts: eroticism; sexual diversity; ‘perversion’; penetrative sex; oral sex; solo sex, AIDS and sexual diseases

Personalities: Decima, S&Mers, HK 師奶

Film:

- “Crash” 《慾望號快車》，David Cronenberg, 1996.
- “Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex, But Were Afraid To Ask” 《愛慾奇譚》，Woody Allen, 1991.
- “In the Realm of Senses” 《超感官世界》，Nagisa Oshima, 1976.
- “Sick” Kirby Dick, 1997.

Part IV: Gender & sex politics

Lecture 8 'I Am What I Am': Gay Liberation Movement and Beyond (20/3/2006)

Concepts: essentialism/constructionism; 'homosexual'/'gay'/'queer', identity politics, homophobia, desire, MSM, TB/TBG/pure/les, tung-ji

Personalities: Roddy and Nelson, Chung To; HK Rainbow

Film:

- 《喜宴》 “The Wedding Banquet”, 李安, 1993。
- **Happy Together, Wong Ka Wai, 1997**
- “The Celluloid Closet” 《邊個係？邊個唔係？》， Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, 1996.
- **Space of Desire, David Chow, 2005**

Lecture 9 Meeting with the artists to present project proposals (27/3/2006)

Lecture 10 Meeting with the artists to review project proposals (3/4/2006)

Tutorial Day (10/4/2006)

Lecture 11 Project presentations (Public performance) 17/4/2006

Assessment

Research project

Part One: Individual assignment: (Total: 50%)

- Conduct 1 interview of an interesting man or woman whose life you consider interesting or atypical with reference to the interview guide provided. Give a summary or the transcripts of the interview to your tutor. (15%).
- Tutorial participation (10%) (TWO times to review concepts)
- A reflective journal (1000 words) (25%): Topic: **“One person, One movement?”**

Themes:

1. What have you learnt from your informant? In what ways has he or she helped you understand your own sexuality and identity?
2. Identify at least 5 concepts from the glossary list provided. Define those concepts & discuss in what ways they have been useful in helping you understand this person and his or her experience.
3. With reference to the lecturer's analysis of the cases of Lee Yu Chun and Choi Fung in Lecture 1 and 2, discuss in what ways you think your informants has started a social movement with his or her life.

Part Two: Group project: (Total 50%)

- The group has to select a topic from the course outline, research on the topic (e.g. interview, survey, document analysis, participant observations, etc.) and share with your group members what you have learnt from the process. (10%)
- Preparation of project and attendance of group meetings. Your peers in the group will be responsible for rating your participation in the group project (10%)
- You are expected to participate in **Art Education Workshops** and work with an artist who will give you some suggestions as to how you can express your feelings and ideas in an art form (e.g. video, installation, dance, drama, music, painting or a combination of these). (10%)
- The final product will be a 20 minutes' presentation. Attendance compulsory (20%)

Art Education Workshops: You can choose from at least ONE of the following workshops conducted by **active artists and practitioners in the creative industries** on *Feb. 12, 2006*. Tentative arrangements (to be confirmed):

- Video: Ellen Pao & Savio Woo
- Photography: Savio Woo & Luke Leung
- Drama: 有耳非文 & friends
- Dance: 有耳非文 & friends
- Music: Jason Choi, Gaybird, Anita Hui, Anthony Wong

Project Consultation: The group can make appointment with these artists to seek guidance as to how you can present your ideas in an art form.

**** For post-graduates and rpgs who are enrolled with SOWK 6029 or FOSS 0015 as an elective, a special seminar group will be organized for you by Dr. Sik Ying Ho.**