This graduate colloquium has several agendas. First, to provoke questions, and suggest a few answers, about how gender is implicated in modern colonial, imperial, anti-colonial and postcolonial processes. In every case we will examine closely how gender—an analytic but by no means necessarily a subjectively descriptive concept—is imbricated with other analytic categories such as class, race, generation, nation, tribe, religion. We will look at motives, practices and contradictions among the imperial powers—Europe and the US. We will spend most of our time, however, on the stories of colonized peoples—the way gender works through and affects their social, economic and political structures; and, not less important, how gender works in anti-colonial, nationalist movements. We will examine historical scholarship of the subaltern studies and postcolonial approaches and pay particularly close attention to the methods scholars employ to develop evidence of the experiences of non-dominant peoples.

A second agenda is to develop the intellectual capacity to bring gendered questions to bear on historical narratives and analyses that are not typically conceptualized in gendered terms. At least one paper will require students to do just that: offer a gendered analysis of some non-gendered historical literature.

A third agenda is to develop concepts and questions that promote rigorous critical historical thinking. Doing this requires also interrogating concepts and vocabulary used by scholars past and present, always with an empirical test: do they help us to understand and explain the evidence? At the same time we must be always alert to possibilities that the descriptions of the empirical evidence available to us are themselves shaped by the word, concepts, and categories with which they have been apprehended.

This colloquium cannot serve to introduce you to gender or imperialism if you have no previous understanding of them. If you have no background in either, I suggest you read some introductory material, especially related to the part of the world that you study. On imperialism, I suggest Robert J. C. Young, *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*, chapters 6-8, as much more as you can. On gender, I suggest as a start the classic, Joan Scott, “Is Gender a Useful Category?” in Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, or in *American Historical Review* Vol. 91, No. 5 (Dec., 1986), pp. 1053-1075, Jstor.

This is a reading, not a research course. The required writing—very short weekly responses and two somewhat longer essays—will be based on secondary sources. The weekly response papers are limited to 500 words and are due, by email, 24 hours before the class, i.e. Tuesdays 1:30 PM.

Since I anticipate, and hope, that students focused on various parts of the world will be members
of this colloquium, the syllabus may change to reflect students’ interests.

**Books ordered or on reserve:**

*Gail Bederman, *Manliness and Civilization*

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science and US Imperialism in Puerto Rico*

#Timothy Burke, *Lifebuoy Men, Lux Women: Commodification, Civilization and Cleanliness in Modern Zimbabwe*

*Antoinette Burton, *Burdens of History: British Feminists, Indian Women, and Imperial Culture, 1865-1915*

#Fred Cooper, *Beyond Slavery*

*Janet Davis, *The Circus Age: Culture and Society under the American Big Top*


Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*

#Linda Gordon, *The Moral Property of Women*

Kristin Hoganson, *Consumers’ Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity*

#Kumari Jayawardena, *The White Woman’s Other Burden*

Lisa A. Lindsay, *Working with Gender: Wage Labor and Social Change in Southwestern Nigeria*

Arlene Elowe MacLeod, *Accommodating Protest: Working Women, the New Veiling, and Change in Cairo*

*Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather*

*Shula Marks, ed., "Not Either An Experimental Doll." The Separate Worlds of Three South African Women*

#Mary A. Procida, *Married to the Empire: Gender, Politics and Imperialism in India 1883-1947*

*Edward Said, *Orientalism*

#Jane Simonsen, *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation*

Mrinalini Sinha, *Colonial Masculinity: The ‘Manly’ Englishman and the ‘Effeminate’ Bengali in the Late 19th Century*

#Mrinalini Sinha, *Specters of Mother India*
#Ann Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power*

#Cherryl Walker, *Women and Gender in South Africa*

#Cherryl Walker, *Women and Resistance in South Africa*

*Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of US Imperialism*

Luise White, *The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi*

Lora Wildenthal, *German Women for Empire, 1884-1945*

*Robert J. C. Young, *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*

key:
* = recommended or only parts assigned, fewer books ordered
# = on reserve only, ordered
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 23. Introduction: explanation of course requirements, schedule; discussion – what is theory?

Read in advance if you can: Robert J. C. Young, Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction, chapters 1-5.

January 30. Transformations of Work and Gender:

Lisa A. Lindsay, Working with Gender: Wage Labor and Social Change in Southwestern Nigeria


RECOMMENDED:

Fred Cooper, “Conditions Analogous to Slavery,” in his Beyond Slavery.

February 6. Sex and Reproductive Labor

Luise White, The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi


RECOMMENDED:

Karen Hansen, “Body Politics: Sexuality, Gender, and Domestic Service in Zambia,” in Expanding the Boundaries of Women’s History.


**Recommended:**


Valentine Moghadam, "Women’s Livelihood and Entitlements in the Middle East: What Difference has the Neoliberal Policy Turn Made?” *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies* 1 #1, winter 2005.

Video: “Divorce Iranian Style” (76 minutes)

Shula Marks, ed., "*Not Either An Experimental Doll.* The Separate Worlds of Three South African Women* (a fascinating primary source)

Arlene Elowe MacLeod, *Accommodating Protest: Working Women, the New Veiling, and Change in Cairo*

February 20. Masculinity, imperialism, and militarism:
Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics Provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*


**RECOMMENDED:**


**PAPER #1 DUE FEB. 27: A GENDERED ANALYSIS OF A NON-GENDERED BOOK OR ARTICLE.** One possibility is Hylton White, “The Dwelling of Culture,” available on line.

**Feb. 27. European Women, Feminism and Imperialism**

Lora Wildenthal, *German Women for Empire, 1884-1945*


**RECOMMENDED:**


Kumari Jayawardena, *The White Woman’s Other Burden*
March 5. Gender and Orientalism


Janet Davis, *The Circus Age: Culture and Society under the American Big Top*, chapters 4 and 6, and as much else as you can.


Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather*, chapter 2.


**RECOMMENDED:**


March 12. Masculinity of the colonial subject:

Mrinalini Sinha, *Colonial Masculinity: The ’Manly’ Englishman and the ’Effeminate’ Bengali in the Late 19th Century*.


**RECOMMENDED:**


March 19--vacation week.

**March 26. Controlling the body:**


RECOMMENDED:

Anand Yang, “Whose Sati?” in Expanding the Boundaries of Women’s History.


April 2. Intermarriage and Sexuality

Anne McClintock, Imperial Leather, chapter 3.


Wildenthal, chapters 3-4.

RECOMMENDED:


April 9. Reproduction and children:

Linda Gordon, The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction

Anna Davin, “Imperial Motherhood,” in Tensions of Empire, ed. Cooper and Stoler.


Fiona Paisley, “‘Unnecessary Crimes and Tragedies:’ Race, Gender and Sexuality in Australian
Policies of Aboriginal Child Removal,” in *Gender, Sexuality and colonial Modernities*, ed. Antoinette Burton

**RECOMMENDED (OR READ THIS IF YOU’VE ALREADY READ Arizona Orphan Abduction):**
Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science and US Imperialism in Puerto Rico*

**April 16. Internal colonialism:**

Two articles on American Indians:


Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 5

Linda Gordon, "Internal Colonialism," in *Haunted by Empire* or a shorter version at http://www.unb.br/ih/his/gefem/labrys8/perspectivas/linda.htm


**RECOMMENDED:**

- Jane Simonsen, *Making Home Work*

**April 23. Overflow.**

**April 30. Wrap-up**