

**AST 522**  
**Seminar in Urbanism**

*Gender, Sex,  
and the City*



Spring 2006  
T, 4:00-6:30p.m.  
Kolmer Seminar Room

Prof: Joseph Heathcott  
Office: Humanities 113  
Phone: 314.977.3516  
Email: [heathcje@slu.edu](mailto:heathcje@slu.edu)

**Orientation**

Gender is a category of experience written onto the spaces and places of the city. As such, gender relations shape our cities as surely as do capital, technology, aesthetics, and governance. In turn, these gendered spaces shape our modes of living and habits of heart.

This course will examine the gendered dimensions of cities, suburbs, and metropolitan landscapes. Our main focus will be the varied ways in which urban institutions, behaviors, relations, and spaces come to be encoded with and in turn circulate gendered meanings. We will pay close attention to the shifting mechanisms, techniques, and discourses that describe power relationships between women and men in the city, and the ruptures and resistance that arise in response. Of particular concern are the ways in which the gendered city reflects, shapes, and refracts the complex intersections of race, class, and sexual orientation.

Like cities, gender relations are porous, unfinished, multifaceted, and contested--a constant work in progress. Students will become familiar with the literature on gender and the city as it emerges from disciplines such as history, geography, architecture, literary criticism, public policy, planning, and anthropology. The concept of gender as a system of meaning will provide the rubric for organizing these diverse perspectives into a common analytic framework. Students will develop visual literacy for "reading" urban space, and for understanding the ways in which landscapes organize and reflect gendered meaning. The course will challenge students to construct analytic and interpretive frameworks for future research.

## Coursework

This course is designed to be a colloquium. It is chiefly devoted to the collaborative examination of the topic, and to the development of critical reading and writing skills necessary for successful research at the intersection of gender and urban history.

**Readings:** In addition to a raft of articles available on e-reserve, required texts include:

- Sarah Deutsch, *Women and the City: Gender, Space, and Power in Boston, 1870-1940*
- Susan Porter Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*
- Daphne Spain, *How Women Saved the City*
- Victoria Wolcott, *Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit*
- Lauren Rabinovitz, *For the Love of Pleasure: Women, Movies, and Culture in Turn-of-Century Chicago*
- Madelon Powers, *Faces Along the Bar: Lore and Order in the Working Man's Saloon*
- Kevin Mumford, *Interzones: Black and White Sex Districts in New York and Chicago*
- Sharon Wood, *The Freedom of the Streets: Work, Citizenship, Sexuality in a Gilded Age City*
- Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco*
- Dolores Hayden, *The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities*
- Rhonda Williams, *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*

**Class Discussions:** I take your participation in the life of the classroom very seriously. This means much more than simply reading the assigned materials. It also means coming to class prepared to share your insights and observations, and to engage your fellow students on a civil basis, in the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect. (10% of the final grade).

**Facilitation:** Each of you will be responsible for facilitating two class sessions, usually in groups of 2-3. Facilitators will introduce the material, summarize the main arguments, and provide a framework for discussion. Groups should coordinate efforts in advance. Each group will submit a one page document with a list of five summary points and five discussion questions. The group will provide a hard copy of this document for everyone. (10% x 2 = 20% of final grade).

**Primary Source Report:** Every student will give two short presentations on a primary source. These presenters will NOT be the same people that facilitate that week's meeting. The presentation should: describe the source; analyze its components; discuss the nature, contexts, and time period of its production; and assess its significance for research into the course topic. Each reviewer will write a short summary (one double-spaced page), attach a photocopied sample, and make a copy for every student. (10% x 2 = 20% of final grade).

**Mini Studio:** In a course on gender and the city, we cannot let the one hundredth anniversary of Josephine Baker's birth in St. Louis pass by without due attention. In conjunction with The Sheldon Galleries, the Missouri Historical Society, and the St. Louis Public Library, the class will devise a small exhibit to accompany the range of larger installations at venues throughout the city. We will arrive at the nature, format, and design of the exhibit collaboratively. (20% of final grade).

**Term Project:** Each of you will select both the format and topic for your final project. Examples include broad synthetic essays, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant applications, and detailed project proposals. The research project may be geared to an academic or public audience. In any case, the project must cover a topic germane to the course, and should analyze or propose to analyze an aspect of the American urban landscape (30% of final grade).

## Class schedule

PART ONE: THEORIES OF THE GENDERED CITY
---

### **W1 || 01.17: The Spaces and Places of Gender**

Linda McDowell, "In and Out of Place: Bodies and Embodiment" in *Gender, Identity, and Place*

Linda McDowell, "Community, City, and Locality" in *Gender, Identity, Place*

Elizabet Grosz, "Bodies-Cities," in Beatriz Colomina, ed. *Sexuality and Space*

Lawrence Knopp, "Sexuality and Urban Space: A Framework for Analysis," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. *Mapping Desire*

Joan Landes, "The Public and the Private Sphere: A Feminist Reconsideration," in Johanna Meehan, ed., *Feminists Read Habermas*

Anne Enke, "Smuggling Sex Through the Gates: Race, Sexuality, and the Politics of Space in Second Wave Feminism," *AQ* 55. 4 (2003)

### **W2 || 01.24: Gender, Modernity, and the Walker in the City**

Walter Benjamin / The Paris Arcades / The Flâneur  
*Other Voices: The (e)Journal of Cultural Criticism*  
<http://www.othervoices.org/gpeaker/Passagenwerk.html#Arcade>

Elizabeth Wilson, "The Invisible Flâneur," *New Left Review* 195 (1992)

Anke Gleber, "Female Flanerie and the *Symphony of the City*," in Katharina Van Ankum, ed. *Women in the Metropolis*

Sally Munt, "The Lesbian Flâneur," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. *Mapping Desire*

Mary Ryan, "Everyday Space: Gender and the Geography of the Public," in *Women in Public: Between Banners and Ballots, 1825-1880*

PART TWO: PUBLICS, PRIVATES, MEN AND WOMEN

**W3 || 01.31: Modes of Control**

Sarah Deutsch, *Women and the City: Gender, Space, and Power in Boston, 1870-1940*

Hazel Carby, "Policing the Black Woman's Body in an Urban Context," *Critical Inquiry* 18 (Summer 1992)

Judith Walkowitz, "Jack the Ripper," in *City of Dreadful Delight*

**W4 || 02.07: Capital, Class, and City Life**

Susan Porter Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*

Christopher Breward, "Fashion and the Man: From Suburb to City Street. The Spaces of Masculine Consumption 1870-1914" in *Sexual Geographies*

Amy G. Richter, "A Ladies' Place: The Railroad and the Regendering of Victorian Public Life," *Home on the Rails*

Joanne Meyerowitz, "Sexual Geography and Gender Economy: The Furnished Room Districts of Chicago," *Gender and History* 2 (Autumn 1990)

PART THREE: MORAL PANIC AND ANXIOUS FREEDOM

**W5 || 02.14: The Condition of Urban Liberties**

Sharon Wood, *The Freedom of the Streets: Work, Citizenship, and Sexuality in a Gilded Age City*

Georgina Hickey, "Physical and Moral Health," in *Hope and Danger in the New South City*

Galen Cranz, "Women in Urban Parks," in Catharine R. Stimpson et al eds. *Women and the American City*

**W6 || 02.21: Zones of Urban Indiscipline**

Kevin Mumford, *Interzones*

Timothy Gilfoyle, "Strumpets and Misogynists: Brothel 'Riots' and the Transformation of Prostitution in Antebellum New York City," *New York History* 68 (1987)

Julia Costello, "The Archaeology of Prostitution in Los Angeles," in Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman, eds., *Restoring Women's History Through Preservation*

<p><b>PART FOUR: URBAN REDEMPTION AS A GENDERED PROJECT</b></p>
---

**W7 || 02.28: Domesticating the City**

Daphne Spain, *How Women Saved the City*

Maureen Flanagan, "The Expansion of Women's Municipal Work, 1910-1916," in *Seeing With their Hearts*

Susan Wirka, "The City Social Movement" in Mary Sies and Chris Silver, eds., *Planning the Twentieth Century American City*

Lizabeth Cohen, "Embellishing a Life of Labor," *J of Am Cult* 3 (Winter 1980)

**W8 || 03.07: Race, Gender, and Civic Culture**

Victoria Wolcott, *Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit*

Faith Ruffins, "Four African-American Women on the National Landscape," in Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman, eds., *Restoring Women's History Through Preservation*

PART FIVE: LEISURING THE METROPOLIS

**W9 || 03.14: Haunting Pleasures of the Industrial City [Spring break]**

Lauren Ravinovitz, *For the Love of Pleasure: Women, Movies, and Culture in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago*

Christine Boyer, "Crimes in and of the City: The Femme Fatale as Urban Allegory," in Diana Agrest et al, eds., *The Sex of Architecture*

Nancy Nenno, "Femininity, the Primitive, and Modern Urban Space: Josephine Baker in Berlin" in Katharina Van Ankum, ed. *Women in the Metropolis*

Margaret Crawford, "Investigating the City: Detective Fiction as Urban Interpretation," in Diana Agrest et al, eds., *The Sex of Architecture*

**W10 || 03.21: Gender, Commerce, and the Changing Metropolis**

Madelon Powers, *Faces Along the Bar: Lore+Order in the Working Man's Saloon*

Amanda Littauer, "The B-Girl Evil: Bureaucracy, Sexuality, and the Menace of Barroom Vice in Postwar California," *Journal History of Sexuality* 12, 3 (2003)

Alison Isenberg, "'Mrs. Consumer,' 'Mrs. Brown America,' and 'Mr. Chain Store Man,' Economic Woman and the Laws of Retail" in *Downtown America*

PART SIX: LOVE AND TRADE IN SPACE: QUEERING THE CITY

**W11 || 03.28: Sex, Identity, and Urbanism**

Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco*

Steven Maynard, "Without Working?" Capitalism, Urban Culture, and Gay History," *Journal of Urban History* 30, 3 (2004)

Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, "To Cover Up the Truth Would be a Waste of Time," *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*

Peter Boag, "Gay Identity and Community in Early Portland" in *Same Sex Affairs*

Lillian Faderman, "Lesbian Chic: Experimentation and Repression in the 1920s," *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

## **W12 || 04.04: Placing Queer Subjects in City Places**

James Polchin, "Having Something to Wear: The Landscape of Identity on Christopher Street," in George Ingram et al, eds., *Queers in Space*

Bryant Simon, "New York Avenue: The Life and Death of Gay Spaces in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1920-1990," *Journal of Urban History* 28, 3 (2002)

Yolanda Retter, "Lesbian Space in Los Angeles," in George Ingram et al, eds., *Queers in Space*

Lillian Faderman, "Naked Amazons and Queer Damozels: World War II and Its Aftermath," *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

Tamar Rothenberg, "And She Told Two Friends: Lesbians Creating Urban Social Space," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. *Mapping Desire*

PART SEVEN: ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM, AND GENDER
--

## **W13 || 04.11: Women / Design**

Beatriz Colomina, "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism," in Beatriz Colomina, ed. *Sexuality and Space*

Wiebe Bijker and Karin Bijsterveld, "Women Walking through Plans: Technology, Democracy, and Gender Identity," *Technology and Culture* 41, 3 (2000)

Joan Ockman, "Mirror Images: Technology, Consumption, and the Representation of Gender in American Architecture since World War II," in Diana Agrest et al, eds., *The Sex of Architecture*

Ann Markusen, "City Spatial Structure, Women's Household Work, and National Urban Policy," in Catharine R. Stimpson et al eds. *Women and the American City*

Leslie Kanes Weisman, "The Private Use of Public Space" in *Discrimination by Design*

**W14 || 04.18: Feminism and the Built Environment**

Dolores Hayden, *The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities*

Karen Franck, "A Feminist Approach to Architecture," in Jane Rendell et al, *Gender, Space, Architecture*

Matrix Collective, "Introduction," in Matrix, eds, *Making Space*

Frances Bradshaw, "Working With Women," in Matrix, eds, *Making Space*

Sue Francis, "Private Kitchens, Public Cooking," in Matrix, eds, *Making Space*

PART SEVEN: THE PERIL AND PROMISE OF THE CITY
---

**W15 || 04.25: Gender Politics in the Inner City**

Jacqueline Leavitt, "Through Their Eyes: Young Girls Look at Their Los Angeles Neighborhood," in Rose Ainley, *New Frontiers of Space, Bodies, and Gender*

Margaret Rose, "Gender and Civic Activism in Mexican-American Barrios in California: The Community Service Organizations, 1947-1962" in Joanne Meyerowitz, ed., *Not June Cleaver*

Philippe Bourgois, "Redrawing the Gender Line on the Streets," *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*

**W16 || 05.02: Women Within and Against American Apartheid**

Rhonda Williams, *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*