



Gender and Architecture

Columbia University GSAPP

History/Theory Seminar, Spring 2020

Tuesdays, 11am-1pm

Professor: Bryony Roberts

While issues of gender equity have gained greater public attention in recent years, the language and discourses around gender are rapidly transforming, leading to shifts in both the goals and methods of activism. Expanding awareness of the fluidity of gender expression and sexuality, as well as intersectional understandings of the interconnectedness of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ableness demand nuanced approaches to discourse and action. In this moment of cultural upheaval, this seminar takes stock of past and present approaches to gender and discusses different modes of practice for architecture in pursuit of inclusion and equity.

Contextualizing past discourses on gender and sexuality, the course reconsiders Second Wave feminism and examines how gender theory expanded with work on gender performativity, intersectionality, and decolonialization. Exploring the implications for architectural discourse and practice, students examine architectural theorists, historians, and practitioners who have addressed gender through planning cities and buildings, introducing alternative material practices, and restructuring the architectural design process. Every discussion of these undertakings in historiography, planning, materiality, and process addresses the specific contexts in which these projects emerged. The goal of the course is for students to develop critical views of existing discourses and to gain exposure to the wide range of available discursive, projective, and material tools of engagement.

While primarily focused on texts, the course addresses modes of practice in architecture and therefore involves discussion of theoretical positions relative to design methods and projects.

SCHEDULE

January 21 - Introduction

General introduction to course topic, assignments, and expectations

January 28 - Terminology

> select dates for presentations by end of class

Required Reading:

Rendell, Jane. "Gender" and "Gender, Space, Architecture." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 15-25, 225-239. London: Routledge, 2000.

Brod, Harry. Excerpts from 'The Case for Men's Studies.' In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 88-93. London: Routledge, 2000.

Stryker, Susan. "An Introduction to Transgender Terms and Concepts." In *Transgender History* (Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2008): vii-29.

https://books.google.com/books?id=XcQ_BAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

February 4 - Historical Feminisms

Guest presentation by Andrea Merrett

Required Reading:

Simone de Beauvoir. "Introduction." In *The Second Sex*. xv- xxix. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949.

Friedan, Betty. "The Problem That Has No Name." In *The Feminine Mystique*, 15-32. New York: Norton, 1963.

Thompson, Becky. "Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism," *Feminist Studies* 28:2 (2002), 337-360.

Optional Reading:

Combahee River Collective. "A Black Feminist Statement " (1974)
<http://circuitous.org/scraps/combahee.html>

"National Organization of Women (NOW) Statement of Purpose" (1966)
www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/gna/Quellensammlung/10/10_nowstatementofpurpose_1966.htm

Offen, Karen. "Defining Feminism: A Comparative Historical Approach." *Signs* 14:1 (1989): 119-157.

Scott, Joan Wallach. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *American Historical Review* 91:5 (1986): 1053-1075.

Syfers, Judy. "I Want a Wife," (1971)
<http://www.columbia.edu/~sss31/rainbow/wife.html>

February 11 - Intersectionality: Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality, Ableness

Required Reading:

Brah, Avtar and Ann Phoenix, "Ain't I A woman? Revisiting Intersectionality," *Journal of International Women's Studies* Vol. 5, No. 3 (2004), 75-86.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43:6 (1991): 1241-1282, 1296-1299

Lorde, Audre. "The Masters Tools will Never Dismantle the Master's House." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 53-55. London: Routledge, 2000.

Optional Reading:

Cho, Sumi, Crenshaw, Kimberlé Williams, & McCall, Leslie. "Toward a Field of Intersectionality Studies: Theory, Applications, and Praxis," *Signs*, 2013; 38(4): 785-810.

Choo, Hae Yeon & Ferree, Myra Marx. "Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions, and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities," *Sociological Theory*, 2010; 28(2): 129-149.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics," *University of Chicago Legal Forum*: Vol. 1989: Iss. 1, Article 8.

Hamraie, Aimi. "Designing Collective Access: A Feminist Disability Theory of Universal Design." *Disability Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 33, No. 4 (2003).
<http://www.dsqsds.org/article/view/3871/3411>

Hartsock, Nancy. *The Feminist Standpoint: Toward a Specific Feminist Historical Materialism*. 1983.

hooks, bell. *Feminism Is For Everybody*. Cambridge: South End Press, 2000.

hooks, bell. "Future Feminist Movements." *Off Our Backs*, Vol. 20, No. 2, (February 1990), p. 9

Rankine, Claudia. *Citizen: An American Lyric*. 21-55. Minneapolis: Graywolf Press, 2014.

Prado de O. Martins, L. "Privilege and oppression: towards a feminist speculative Design." <http://www.dr2014.org/media/654480/0350-file1.pdf>

February 18 - Gender Trouble: Naturalism, Performativity, and Gender Abolitionism

Required Reading:

Butler, Judith. "Chapter 1: Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire," in *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. 3-44. New York: Routledge, 1999 [1990].

Optional Reading:

Ahmed, Sara. *Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006.

Butler, Judith. *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex*. London: Routledge, 2011.

Butler, Judith. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory" *Theatre Journal* 40(4): 1998, pp. 519-531.

Firestone, Shulamith. *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution*. London: Women's Press, 1979.

Martin, Emily. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science and Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." *Signs* 16(3): 485-501, 1991.

Sedgwick, Eve. *Epistemology of the Closet*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Bey, Marquis. "Enough of this TERF war, it's time to debunk some transphobic arguments," *Fembot Magazine* 8. October 2015
<http://fembotmag.com/2015/10/08/enough-of-this-terf-war-its-time-to-debunk-some-transphobic-arguments/>.

West, Candace, Zimmerman, Don H. Doing Gender, *Gender and Society*, 1987; 1(2): 125- 151.

February 25 – Decolonizing Gender Discourse

Guest presentation by Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi

Required Reading:

Lugones, Maria. "Toward a Decolonial Feminism." *Hypatia* 25, no. 4 (2010): 742-51.

Siddiqi, Anooradha Iyer. "Writing With: Togethering, Difference, and Feminist Architectural Histories of Migration," *e-flux*:
<https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/structural-instability/208707/writing-with/>

Optional Reading:

Feminist Art and Architecture Collaborative, "Counterplanning from the Classroom," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 76 No. 3, September 2017; (pp. 277-280)

Haraway, Donna, "Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective" *Feminist Studies* 14(3): 575–599, 1998.

hooks, bell, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Lugones, Maria. "Heterosexualism and the Colonial / Modern Gender System," *Hypatia* 22, no. 1 (November 29, 2006): 186–209.

McLeod, Mary. "Everyday and 'Other' Spaces." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 182-202. London: Routledge, 2000.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." *Boundary 2* 12/13, no. 3 (1984): 333-358.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. *Feminism without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*. London: Duke University Press, 2003.

March 3 – Rethinking Architecture: Domesticity

Required Reading:

Hayden, Dolores. "What Would A Non-Sexist City Be Like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 266-281. London: Routledge, 2000.

Wigley, Mark. "Untitled, the housing of gender." In *Sexuality & Space*, edited by Beatriz Colomina, 327-389. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997.

Optional Reading:

Colomina, Beatriz. "Excerpts from 'The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism.'" In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 314-320. London: Routledge, 2000.

Dolores Hayden, *The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1981).

Dolores Hayden, *Redesigning the American Dream: The Future of Housing, Work, and Family Life* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1984).

Ethel Baraona Pohl, Anna Puigjaner, César Reyes Nájera, "Blurring the Kitchen Work Triangle" in Volume 33 Interiors.

Torre, Susana. "Claiming the Public Space: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 140-145. London: Routledge, 2000.

March 10 - Rethinking Architecture: Materiality

Required Reading:

Bryan-Wilson, Julia. "Queer Handmaking." In *Fray: Art and Textile Politics*, 39-105. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009

Jack Halberstam. "Unbuilding Gender." *Places Journal*. (October 2018), pp. 1-4.

Auther, Elissa. "The Feminist Politicization of the Art/Craft Divide." *String Felt Thread*. 93-103. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009

Optional Reading:

Bloomer, Jennifer. "Big Jugs." In *Gender, Space, Architecture*, edited by Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner and Iain Borden, 371-384. London: Routledge, 2000.

Bryan-Wilson, Julia. *Fray: Art and Textile Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017

Parker, Rozsika. *Subversive Stitch*. London: I.B. Taurus, 2010

Holliday, Kate. "Unraveling the Textile in Modern Architecture." *Studies in the Decorative Arts*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Spring-Summer 2009), pp. 2-6

March 17 >>Spring Break<<

March 24 - Rethinking Architecture: Maintenance

Required Reading:

Federici, Silvia. *Wages Against Housework*. Bristol: Falling Wall Press Ltd., 1975

Feminist Architectural Collaborative. "The Incubator Incubator." *Harvard Design Magazine* Winter 2018

Marche, Stephen. "The Case for Filth," *The New York Times, Sunday Review*, December 7, 2013.

Optional Reading:

Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2001.

Sample, Hilary. *Maintenance Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2016.

Ukeles, Merle. "Maintenance Art Manifesto" (1969)
https://www.queensmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Ukeles_MANIFESTO.pdf

March 31 - New Waves: Care

Required Reading:

O'Brien, Ruth. "Other Voices at the Workplace: Gender, Disability, and an Alternative Ethic of Care." *Signs*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 1533-1538 (note excerpt page numbers)

Krasny, Elke. "Architecture and Care." In *Critical Care: Architecture for a Broken Planet*, edited by Angelika Fitz and Elke Krasny, 33-41. Cambridge, Mass: the MIT Press, 2019.

Baker, Rachel. "Towards a Politics of Accountability." *Radical Housing Journal* (April 2019), pp. 69-83

Optional Reading:

Fitz, Angela and Elke Krasny, ed. *Critical Care: Architecture for a Broken Planet*. Cambridge, Mass: the MIT Press, 2019.

Sharpe, Christina. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.

Tronto, Joan. "Beyond Gender Difference to a Theory of Care." *Signs*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Within and Without: Women, Gender, and Theory (Summer, 1987), pp. 644-663.

Tronto, Joan C. *Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care*, New York: Routledge, 1993, 61-156.

April 7 - New Waves: Posthumanism, Xenofeminism

Required Reading:

Haraway, Donna. "Introduction," in *Staying With The Trouble*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.

Hester, Helen. "What is Xenofeminism?" in *Xenofeminism*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018.

Optional Reading:

Haraway, Donna. "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century," in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature* (New York: Routledge, 1991), pp.149-181

April 14 - New Waves: Process

Guest presentation by Lori Brown

Required Reading:

Rendell, Jane. "Feminist Architecture from A to Z." Accessed August 5, 2018, <https://www.readingdesign.org/feminist-architecture-a-z/>

Optional Reading:

Brown, Lori, ed. *Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture*. London: Routledge, 2011.

Rendell, Jane. "Architecture and Interdisciplinarity." *Building Material*, No. 19, Art and Architecture (Autumn 2009), pp. 10-17

"Precarity Pilot - making space for socially- and Politically- engaged Design Practice". Modes of Criticism 1 - Critical, Uncritical, Post-critical [online] february 2015. <http://modesofcriticism.org/precarity-pilot/> [accessed march 26th 2017]

April 21 - Conclusions

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference Texts:

Reference texts are available on reserve at Avery Library.

- Agrest, Diana, Patricia Conway, and Leslie Kanés Weisman, ed. *The Sex of Architecture*. New York : Harry N. Abrams, 1996
- Auther, Elissa. *String Felt Thread*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009
- Butler, Judith. *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex*. London: Routledge, 2011.
- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge, 1999 [1990].
- Brown, Lori, ed. *Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture*. London: Routledge, 2011.
- Bryan-Wilson, Julia. *Fray: Art and Textile Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017
- Colomina, Beatriz. ed. *Sexuality & Space*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997.
- Coleman, Deborah, et al., ed. *Architecture and Feminism*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996.
- Haraway, Donna. *Staying With The Trouble*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.
- Hooks, Bell. *Feminism Is For Everybody*. Cambridge: South End Press, 2000.
- Parker, Rozsika. *Subversive Stitch*. London: I.B. Taurus, 2010
- Rendell, Jane, et al., ed. *Gender, Space, Architecture*. London: Routledge, 2000.

Contemporary collectives, practices, and online platforms:

Architexx
Atelier d'architecture autogérée
Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation
Bulletin Broads
Crunk Feminist Collective
Equity by Design
FATALE
Feminist architecture collective
Feminist Art and Architecture Collaborative
Girl Uninterrupted
Madame Architect
Muf Architecture / Art
Mycket
Parlour
Precarity Pilot
Rebel Architette
Jane Rendell's Situated Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture
WdKA makes a Difference
Women's Center for Creative Work
Women In Architecture
XYX Lab at Monash University

COURSE INFORMATION

Contact

Bryony Roberts - bryony@bryonyroberts.com

Course Meetings

Tuesdays, 11am-1pm

Course Structure

Weekly seminars will include close textual analysis of the reading assignments and discussions. Students are expected to complete weekly reading assignments, to participate actively in weekly discussions, and to complete all assignments.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students should gain a critical understanding of historical and contemporary feminisms. Through discussions and assignments, students are expected to improve their abilities to analyze texts, articulate their ideas and construct compelling arguments.

Grading

Students are graded using the standard GSAPP metric:

HP (high pass)	= a superior level of work
P (pass)	= an acceptable level of work
LP (low pass)	= work that meets minimal standards
F (fail)	= work that is unsatisfactory

Grading rubric:

- Attendance and active participation in reading discussions - 30%
- Position paper - 1000-word paper presented verbally in class - 30%
- Final project - 2000-word paper - 40%

Deadlines

Students must attend all class sessions and deliver all assignments on time. Deadlines are not negotiable. If a student is ill and unable to attend class or deliver an assignment, they must email the instructor ahead of time and include a doctor's note.

Reading Assignments and Discussions

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the syllabus as "required reading." Other optional reading material is included for those seeking further information on each topic. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments and to participate actively in class discussions. Students should not only absorb information from the readings, but also develop the ability to critical reflect on and develop arguments about the texts.

Articles are available as scanned pdfs on Dropbox and books listed in the optional readings are available in Avery Library.

ASSIGNMENTS

Position paper

Each student writes one position paper in response to one of the required readings during a week of their choice. Selections of weeks and topics are made at the beginning of the semester. Position papers are presented verbally in class during class discussion when the reading is addressed. They are also due as word documents at the beginning of the same class discussion, emailed to: bryony@bryonyroberts.com

The position paper is 1000 words long (approx 6 minute verbal presentation). The paper takes a position in relation to the reading, and constructs an argument in favor or against the central thesis of the given text. The paper is not a summary of the article, or a biographical description of the author. Instead it presents a critical, thoughtful response to the text, using specific examples and quotations from the text to make an argument. Presented verbally, the paper is intended as a prompt for further discussion and debate among the classmates.

Final paper

Students select two texts discussed in class that outline opposing positions on a theme. For example, whether gender is natural or performative, whether decorative arts are empowering or confining to women, whether the ethics of care is liberating or essentializing, etc.

Students respond to the debates outlined in the texts, and develop their own position on the topic. The paper is not a summary of the two texts. Instead the paper begins with a strong thesis position, which states the student's position, and supports that thesis through specific examples from the text and from research.

The final paper is 2000 words and must include specific references and quotations from at least two texts on the syllabus.

Final papers are due on at the end of day on May 7.