

Research seminar with Dr. Maisha Wester

"The Use of the Black Body as a Marker of Non-normative Sexuality and Gender"

This seminar will interrogate constructions of race, particularly blackness, as they intersect with gender, sexuality, and class to define the (non)normative in American culture. We will explore the ramifications of such constructions for the individual and the black community to consider how trying to become "normal" results in perpetuating oppression intra-racially. In the course of our discussion, we will examine the representations of Sojourner Truth, the Hottentot Venus, and Black queer subjects.

Reading materials:

"The Nightmares of the Heteronormative" (2000) Roderick Ferguson "Corn silk" (1992) Randall Kenan

"Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images" (1999) Patricia Hill Collins

"The Nightmares of the Heteronormative" (2000) Roderick Ferguson

"Ain't I a Woman?" (1851) Sojourner Truth

"The Glass Bottle Trick" (2000) Nalo Hopkinson

"The Oppositional Gaze: Black Female Spectators" (1992) bell hooks (background reading)

"Black (W)holes and the Geometry of Black Female Sexuality" (1994) Evelyynn Hammonds (background reading)

Registration and reading materials: a.kotwasinska@uw.edu.pl

Please state in your message your affiliation and year of study. Limit: 15 places.