

LCC3304: Science, Technology and Gender - Fall 2010

Professor Anne Pollock, apollock@gatech.edu

Course Meets: Skiles 311, Tuesday and Thursday 12:05-1:25

Office Hours: Skiles 360, Wednesday 1-4, or by appointment

Overview of the Course

This course explores intersections of gender, science and technology. It draws on anthropology, history, sociology, and media studies to introduce students to analysis of science and technology through a gender lens. The class begins by introducing foundational texts and ideas from feminist science studies, and then explores one topical technology in depth: preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD). The course then has two units that break down gendered analysis into bits: first digital, then biological. This topical range is designed to help students learn to apply gender analysis to a range of technologies. Students will use the topical familiarity and analytical skills gained to create a final project that analyzes some bit of gendered body or technology in depth. This course will provide a foundation for further study in STAC, as well as analytical tools for students from all majors interested in investigating gender, science, and technology in/and culture.

Required Readings:

Required books are available at the bookstore and on reserve at the library:

Lerman, Nina E., Ruth Oldenziel, and Arwen P. Mohun. *Gender & Technology: A Reader*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.

Smelik, Anneke and Nina Lykke. *Bits of Life: Feminism at the Intersections of Media, Bioscience and Technology*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008.

Franklin, Sarah, and Celia Roberts. *Born and Made: An Ethnography of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006.

All other readings are available on T-Square.

Requirements for the course:

A little over half of the assessment is based on keeping up on the readings and participating in class:

- ❖ Class attendance and participation: 15 points. Engagement with the readings is the focus of this class, and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss them. Engagement with peers' presentations and participation in peer critique of final projects are key as well.
- ❖ Blog Entries: 15 points. *Before class* on each day for which readings are assigned, write an entry on your response to the readings on the blog section of T-Square. Your short comments (100-300 words) should be posted by 10AM, demonstrate that you have done the reading, and note comments and questions that you would like to raise in class.
- ❖ In-class exam on Unit 1: 15 points.
- ❖ Individual presentation: 10 points. Each student signs up for a particular day to bring in a newspaper article, advertisement, or other current cultural source. The student will take 10-15 minutes to present the material to the class and describe how it can be related to the readings for that day. The presentation should (1) present the outside source clearly; (2) describe concept(s) from the day's course reading(s); and (3) show connections between the course concept(s) and the outside source.

The rest of the assessment is based on a project on a particular gendered technology of your choosing, which is built up from the following components:

- ❖ Annotated bibliography (10 points): Due September 30
- ❖ Concept Pitch (10 points): Due October 28
- ❖ Final project of whatever genre (25 points): Due December 14

Late assignments will be penalized 1 point per day. Refer to university policies on accommodation of students with disabilities, as well as guidelines on academic integrity.

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS		
Wk 1	Tues Aug 24	Thurs Aug 26
	<p>Intro to Class</p> <p>Go over syllabus</p> <p>In-Class film: "Gender and Science"</p> <p>Discussion</p>	<p>CLASS CANCELED [4S]</p>
Wk 2	Tues Aug 31	Thurs Sep 2
	<p>Gender and Science</p> <p>Schiebinger, Londa. (1993). "Theories of Gender and Race." In <i>Nature's Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science</i>. Boston: Beacon Press. 143-183.</p> <p>Fox Keller, Evelyn. (1985). "Gender and Science," in <i>Reflections on Gender and Science</i> (pp. 76-94). New Haven: Yale University Press.</p> <p>Haraway, Donna. (1988). "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective," <i>Feminist Studies</i>, 14(3), 575-599.</p>	<p>Making Sex and Gender</p> <p>De Lauretis, Teresa. (1987). "The Technology of Gender," in <i>Technologies of Gender: Essays on Theory, Film, and Fiction</i> (pp. 1-30). Bloomington: Indiana University Press 1987.</p> <p>Fausto-Sterling, Anne. (2000). "Dueling Dualisms," from <i>Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality</i> (pp. 1-29). Boston: Basic Books.</p>
Wk 3	Tues Sep 7	Thurs Sep 9
	<p>Feminism and Technoscience</p> <p>Haraway, Donna. (1991). "Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late 20th Century," in <i>Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature</i> (pp. 147-181). New York: Routledge.</p> <p>From <i>Bits of Life</i>: Introduction (Smelik, Anneke, and Nina Lykke, pp. ix-xix), Chapter 3 (Lykke, Nina, Randi Markussen, and Finn Olesen "There Are Always More Things Going On Than You Thought!" Methodologies as Thinking Technologies: Interview with Donna Haraway," pp. 32-44).</p>	<p>Feminist Science Studies</p> <p>Subramaniam, Banu. (2009). "Moored Metamorphoses: A Retrospective Essay on Feminist Science Studies," <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i>, 34 (4), 951-980.</p> <p>From <i>Bits of Life</i>: Chapter 1 (Lykke, Nina, "Feminist Cultural Studies of Technoscience: Portrait of an Implosion," pp. 3-15). Chapter 2 (McNeil, Maureen, "Roots and Routes: The Making of Feminist Cultural Studies of Technoscience," pp. 16-31).</p>

Wk 4	Tues Sep 14	Thurs Sep 16
	Gendered Technologies	In-Class Exam
	From: <i>Gender and Technology</i> Chapter 1: McGraw, Judith, "Why Feminine Technologies Matter," pp. 14-36. Chapter 2: Oldenziel, Ruth, "Why Masculine Technologies Matter," pp. 37-71.	
UNIT 2: EXPLORING A TECHNOLOGY IN DETAIL: PGD		
Wk 5	Tues Sep 21	Thurs Sep 23
	PGD	PGD
	From <i>Born and Made</i> Introduction ("Babies by Design?" pp. 1-24) Chapter 1 ("What is PGD?" pp. 25-74)	From <i>Born and Made</i> Chapter 2 ("Studying PGD" pp. 75-94) Chapter 3 ("Getting to PGD" pp. 94-132)
Wk 6	Tues Sep 28	Thurs Sep 30
	PGD	PGD
	From <i>Born and Made</i> Chapter 4 ("Going Through PGD" pp. 132-163) Chapter 5 ("Moving on from PGD" pp. 163-195)	From <i>Born and Made</i> Chapter 6 ("Accounting for PGD" 196-217) Conclusion ("PGD Futures?" 218-230)
UNIT 3: GENDER IN BITS: DIGITAL		
Wk 7	Tues Oct 5	Thurs Oct 7
	Computers	Using ICTs
	From <i>Gender and Technology</i> : Chapter 11: Light, Jennifer. "Programming," pp. 295-328. Chapter 7: Edwards, Paul. "Industrial Genders: Soft/Hard," pp. 177-203. Hossfeld, Karen. (2001). "'Their Logic Against Them:' Contradictions of Sex, Race and Class in Silicon Valley," in Alondra Nelson and Thuy Linh N. Tu, eds. (pp. 34-63). <i>Technicolor: Race, Technology, and Everyday Life</i> , New York: NYU Press.	Wajcman, Judy, Michael Bittman, and Judith E. Brown. (2008). "Families without Borders: Mobile Phones, Connectedness and Work-Home Divisions," <i>Sociology</i> 42(4): 635-652. From <i>Bits of Life</i> : van Dijck, Jose, "MyLifeBits: The Computer as Memory Machine," pp. 113-128. Kotamraju, N.P. (2003). Art versus code: The gendered evolution of web design skills. In P. Howard & S. Jones (Eds.), <i>Society Online: The Internet in Context</i> (pp. 189-200). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Wk 8	<p style="text-align: right;">Tues Oct 12</p> <p>Internet Cultures</p> <p>Wakeford, Nina. (2002). 'New Technologies and "Cyberqueer" Research', pp. 115–44 in Diane Richardson and Steven Seidman (eds) <i>Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies</i>. London: Sage.</p> <p>Karl, Irmi. (2007). "On-/Offline: Gender, Sexuality, and the Techno-Politics of Everyday Life," in Kate O'Riordan, David J. Phillips, eds., <i>Queer online: media technology & sexuality</i> (pp. 45-64). New York: Peter Lang.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thurs Oct 14</p> <p>Web 2.0</p> <p>Doring, Nicola. (2009). "The Internet's impact on sexuality: A critical review of 15 years of research," <i>Computers in Human Behavior</i> 25, 1089-1101.</p> <p>Paasonen, Susanna. (2010). "Labors of Love: Netporn, Web 2.0, and the Meanings of Amateurism," <i>New Media and Society</i>, 12(5), 1-16.</p> <p>Magnet, Shoshana. (2007). "Feminist sexualities, race and the internet: an investigation of suicidegirls.com," <i>New Media & Society</i> 9: 577-602.</p>
Wk 9	<p style="text-align: right;">Tues Oct 19</p> <p>FALL BREAK: NO CLASS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thurs Oct 21</p> <p>Video Games</p> <p>Magnet, Shoshana. (2006). "Playing at Colonization: Interpreting Imaginary Landscapes in the Video Game <i>Tropico</i>," <i>Journal of Communication Inquiry</i> 30(2): 142-162.</p> <p>Fullerton, Tracy, Jacqueline Ford Morie, and Celia Pearce. (2008). "A Game of One's Own: Towards a New Gendered Poetics of Digital Space" <i>The Fibreculture Journal</i> Issue 11 http://eleven.fibreculturejournal.org.</p>
Wk 10	<p style="text-align: right;">Tues Oct 26</p> <p>Robots</p> <p>Turkle, Sherry. (2006). "Robot as Rorschach: New Complicities for Companionship," AAAI Technical Report Series, http://www.aaai.org/Papers/Workshops/2006/WS-06-09/WS06-09-010.pdf</p> <p>Robertson, Jennifer. (2010). "Gendering Humanoid Robots: Robo-Sexism in Japan," <i>Body and Society</i> 16(1), 1-36.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thurs Oct 28</p> <p>CLASS CANCELED [SLSA]</p> <p>Final Project Concept Pitch Due at Midnight</p>

UNIT 4: GENDER IN BITS: BODIES		
Wk 11	Tues Nov 2 Hearts Ehrenreich, Barbara. (1983). "Reasons of the Heart: Cardiology Rewrites the Masculine Script," In <i>The Hearts of Men: American Dreams and the Flight from Commitment</i> (pp. 68-87). New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday. Emslie, Carol, Kate Hunt, and Graham Watt. (2001). "Invisible Women?: The importance of gender in lay beliefs about heart problems." <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i> 23(2), 203-233.	Thurs Nov 4 Hormones From <i>Bits of Life</i> : Roberts, Celia. "Fluid Ecologies: Changing Hormonal Systems of Embodied Difference," pp. 45-60. Coupland, Justine, and Angie Williams. (2002). "Conflicting discourses, shifting ideologies: pharmaceutical, 'alternative' and feminist emancipator texts on the menopause," <i>Discourse and Society</i> 13(4): 419-445.
Wk 12	Tues Nov 9 Breasts Hassan, Narin. (Forthcoming). "Milk Markets: Feminism and the Global Politics of Breastfeeding and Milk Sharing," <i>Women's Studies Quarterly</i> . Lorde, Audre. (1980). "Breast Cancer: Power Versus Prosthesis," in <i>The Cancer Journals</i> (pp. 55-77). San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.	Thurs Nov 11 Bones Fausto-Sterling, Anne. (2005). "Bare Bones of Sex Part 1: Sex and Gender," <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 30(2), 1491-1527. Schiebinger, Londa. (1991). "More than Skin Deep: The Scientific Search for Sexual Difference," in <i>The Mind Has no Sex?: Women and the Origins of Modern Science</i> , pp. 189-213. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Wk 13	Tues Nov 16 Brains Wilson, Elizabeth A. (2006). "The Work of Antidepressants: Preliminary Notes on How to Build an Alliance Between Feminism and Psychopharmacology," <i>Biosocieties</i> 1, 125-131. Metzl, Jonathan. (2003). "The Gendered Psychodynamics of Pharmaceutical Advertising, 1964-97," in <i>Prozac on the Couch: Prescribing Gender in the Era of Wonder Drugs</i> (pp. 127-163). Durham, NC: Duke University Press. Asburg, Cecilia, and Jennifer Lum. (2009). "PharmaAD-ventures: A Feminist Analysis of the Pharmacological Imaginary of Alzheimer's Disease," <i>Body and Society</i> 15(4), 95-117.	Thurs Nov 18 Orgasm From <i>Gender and Technology</i> : Chapter 4: Maines, Rachel P. "Situated Technology: Camouflage," pp. 98-122. Mamo, Laura, and Jennifer Fishman. (2001). "Potency in All the Right Places: Viagra as Technology of the Gendered Body," <i>Body and Society</i> 7(4), 13-35.
Wk 14	Tues Nov 23 Peer Critique of Final Projects <i>No readings</i>	Thurs Nov 25 THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

<p>Wk 15</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Tues Nov 30</p> <p>Gametes</p> <p>Martin, Emily. (1991). "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles," <i>Signs</i> 16(3), 485-501.</p> <p>Waldby, Catherine, and Melinda Cooper. (2010). "From Reproductive Work to Regenerative Labour: The Female Body and the Stem Cell Industries," <i>Feminist Theory</i> 11(1), 3-22.</p> <p>From <i>Bits of Life</i>: Bryld, Mette, and Nina Lykke. "From Rambo Sperm to Egg Queens: Two Versions of Lennart Nilsson's Film on Human Reproduction," pp. 79-93.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thurs Dec 2</p> <p>Genes</p> <p>Haraway, Donna. (1997). "Gene: Maps and Portraits of Life Itself," in <i>Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium</i>, Routledge, pp. 131-172, New York: Routledge.</p> <p>From <i>Bits of Life</i>: Stacey, Jackie, "Screening the Gene: Hollywood Cinema and the Genetic Imaginary," pp. 94-109.</p>
<p>Wk 16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Tues Dec 7</p> <p>Hair</p> <p>From <i>Gender and Technology</i>: Herzig, Rebecca. "Situated Technologies: Meanings," in pp. 72-97.</p> <p>Harvey, Adia. (2005). "Becoming Entrepreneurs: Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender at the Black Beauty Salon," <i>Gender and Society</i> 19(6), 789-808.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Thurs Dec 9</p> <p>LAST DAY OF CLASS: Wrap Up</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Final Project is due during the exam period for this class: Tuesday Dec 14, 2:20pm</p>		