

# The History, Impact, and Representation of LGBTQ Sexual Identity in Modern America

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**Course Description:** Over the last fifty years there has been a dramatic change in the role and understanding of sexuality and sexual identity in our society. This course provides an overview of those changes and a discussion of the issues involved using the concept of generational change, historical contexts and media representations. Powerpoint presentations, brief media viewings and discussion will be the main components of the class.

## Eight Week Outline

Week One: Coming to terms. An introduction to the course and an overview of the concepts, terms and language used in this class.

Week Two: An overview of pre-modern and non-Western sexualities. A discussion and overview of Western sexualities in the 17<sup>t</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Week Three: Discovering sex: An overview and discussion of the emergence of the study of sexuality from the mid 19th-mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. American sexual cultures pre-1945.

Week Four: Sexual Generations: the post-war sexual generation.

Week Five: The Stonewall Generation.

Week Six: AIDS and Sexuality

Week Seven: The Post-AIDS Generation; the mainstreaming of LGBT Identity.

Week Eight: Sexuality and the Queer Digital Generation. Wrap up.

Suggested class viewings: Each week there will be suggested optional on-line material (e.g. films, documentaries, etc) for at-home viewing

**Biographical description:** Fred Fejes has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Michigan and a PhD in Communication from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Since 1986 he taught communication, media studies, and LGBTQ studies at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton Florida where he is Professor Emeritus. In 2018-2019 he was a Fulbright Scholar in the Czech Republic. He has taught and done research in the area of sexuality and media studies and has written numerous articles and several books.

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#### **EDUCATION**

--PhD, 1982 University of Illinois,- Institute of Communication Research: Media Studies

--Bachelor of Arts, 1974, University of Michigan. Major: Political Science

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

--Professor, Fulbright-Palacky University Distinguished Chair, Department of Communication and Culture, Palacky University, Czech Republic 2018-2019

--Professor, School of Communication and Multi-Media Studies, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida . January 1986-present. Tenured 1988. Promoted to Professor 2000. Granted Emeritus Status March 2019.

-Associate Faculty, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

-Fellow, Peace, Justice and Human Rights Initiative

#### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Books** (Single Author and Edited)

--*Gay Rights and Moral Panic: The Origins of America's Debate on Homosexuality*. Palgrave/Macmillan: New York, 2008. (Trade paperback edition 2011)

--*Imperialism, Media and the Good Neighbor: New Deal Foreign Policy and United States Shortwave Broadcasting to Latin America* (Single Author). Ablex: Norwood New Jersey, 1986.

--*The Ideology of the Information Age* (Co-edited with Jennifer Daryl Slack). Ablex: Norwood, New Jersey, 1987. (Japanese edition - Tokyo:Nihon Hyoron Sha, 1990).

### **Selected Chapters (LGBT) in Books**

--"Market Niche at Last, Market Niche at Last, Thank God Almighty, We're a Market Niche at Last: The Political Economy of Lesbian/Gay Identity," in *Sex and Money*, edited by Eileen Meehan and Ellen Marie Riordan, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001.

--"Masculinity and Empirical Mass Communication Research: A Review," in *Men, Masculinity and the Media*, edited by Steve Craig. Beverly Hills California: Sage, 1991.

### **Selected LGBTQ Articles, Encyclopedia Entries, Funded Research**

--Florida, *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History in America*, Marc Stein, editor. Charles Scribner's and Sons, 2005.

--"The September 2002 Campaign to Repeal the Miami-Dade Human Rights Ordinance"- Funded Research Report. Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD), New York. 2003.

--"Bent Passions: Heterosexual Masculinity, Pornography and Gay Male Identity," *Sexuality & Culture* 6(3) (Summer 2002).

--"Murder, Perversion and Moral Panic: The 1954 Media Campaign Against Miami's Homosexuals and the Discourse of Civic Betterment," *The Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 9(3) (July, 2000)

--"Making a Gay Masculinity," *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*, 17(1)(March 2000) (published as part of the Review and Criticism Section "Mediated Masculinities" edited by Fred Fejes and Thomas Nakayama. )

--"Invisibility, Homophobia, Heterosexism: Lesbians, Gays and the Media," by Fred Fejes and Kevin Petrich, *Critical Studies in Mass Communication*, 10:4 (December 1993). Received the 1994 Outstanding Published Article Award from the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender.)

### **Selected LGBT Presentations**

--"Generational Change in the American LGBT Community and Movement," Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, November 11, 2018.

--"'Normalizing' Lesbian/Gay Identity Through Consumption: The American Experience in the 1990s," paper presented at the International Conference "Sexuality and Consumption 18-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries," University of Vienna, November 23/24, 2018. To be published 2020 in conference proceedings.

--"Media and LGBT Athletes", presentation given at the 4th Global LGBTQI Human Rights Conference, May 26-28 2017, Miami Beach Florida

--"Transgender Media Representations," presentation given at the National Lesbian and Transgender Media Gay Journalist Association 16th Annual Convention, Miami Beach Florida, September 8-11, 2016.

--"It Can't Happen: Homosexuality and American Public Opinion?" a multi-media presentation given in conjunction with the exhibition "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945" circulated by the United States Holocaust Museum and showing at the Broward County Library, April 22, 2005.

--"Anita Bryant, Gay Rights and the 1977 Repeal Campaign," paper presented at the 1996 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association Convention, September 5-8, 1996, Miami, Florida.

--"Viewing the Body Erotic: Gay Male Identity and Pornography," paper and video presentation given at the 1996 South Florida Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Film Festival, June 7-9, 1996, Miami Beach Florida.

### **Selected LGBTQ Grants/ Funded Research Projects**

--Florida Atlantic University, Morrow Fund Research Grant, \$1,300, Summer 2011. Archival research at Florida State Archives on Project. "The Fort Lauderdale LGBT Community: Imagined and Real"

--"Archive Research in South Florida LGBT History" Grant Application to the Dade Human Rights Foundation, Miami Florida. \$2,000 Applied through Stonewall Library and Archives. January 2002

--"The September 2002 Campaign to Repeal the Miami-Dade Human Rights Ordinance" Research report prepared for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination (GLAAD), a national advocacy group. \$1,500 grant and the report was published by GLAAD. January 2002

--"Archive Research in South Florida LGBT History" Grant Application to the Dade Human Rights Foundation, Miami Florida. \$2,000 Applied through Stonewall Library and Archives. January 2002

--Archival Research and Book Manuscript Preparation: "Moral Panic and Gay Rights in Miami." \$7,500. Research Enhancement Program, Office of Research and Graduate Studies, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton Florida. October 2003.

### **LGBT Media Appearances**

--Advised, contributed research and provided on screen interview for documentary "The Day It Snowed in Miami" a documentary and gay rights in South Florida 1977-2002. Aired on WPBT on March 6, 2014 and aired nationally on PBS station in 2015.

--Commentator, "The Committee" - 2016 American Public Television Documentary on the Charley Johns Florida State Legislative Investigatory Committee.

--Interviewee, "Witnessing Great" - Podcast on LGBTQ figures in Sports.(#30-June 7, 2017)