Anthropology of the Self
The seminar will focus on how gender, sexuality, and violence implicate each other at different points in history and in different societies. Using foundational works by Michel Foucault and Norbert Elias as touchstones, we will look at discourse surrounding sexuality—and its restraint, in asceticism—in the Western classical tradition, in South Asia, in East Asia, and in Buddhist traditions. We will then look at historical instances of violence as moments at which social patterns, and perhaps idealized masculinity especially, are at once intensified and contravened. The Nazi killings and violence in South Asia and Southeast Asia will provide historical examples in which to consider the themes of gender and sexuality and their relevance to incidents of massive social upheaval.

Requirements:
Each student is expected to complete the assigned reading every week and to write a brief, one-paragraph or half-page comment or question on the reading. Those comments are to be submitted on Blackboard by Tuesday evening at 9. Class on Wednesday will begin with a discussion of those submissions.

Students must submit two additional written assignments. The first, due mid-way through the semester, is a consideration of at least four of the readings we have discussed, with reference to each other. This can be a review of the most pertinent or interesting issues that arise, or that touch on projects you are working on. The second is either of the following: 1) a paper of ten to twenty pages on a topic of your choosing, but with evidence in the paper that the readings and discussion for this course have had some impact on your thinking; or 2) an annotated syllabus for a course in your field that draws on ideas we have discussed. Were you to teach a course on the anthropology of the self at the upper-division undergraduate level, what topics would you address and what readings would you assign? You are expected to develop a syllabus that goes beyond the readings in this course, emphasizing whatever perspectives and areas most directly concern your own interests or work. The syllabus must be extensively annotated. For every reading assigned, you need to provide a brief synopsis of its contents and then an explanation of what purpose it serves in the course and why it comes at that point.

During the last several sessions of the seminar, students will present their term projects as works in progress, to solicit reactions and suggestions from members of the seminar.

Regular attendance is required. All absences must be explained, and following any absence, a two-page discussion of the reading must be submitted at the next meeting of the seminar.

I have placed book orders at the Co-op Bookstore. The readings will also be available on reserve at the PCL Reserve Room.

Reading Schedule:

Week 2, January 24 -- 28
Title: The History of Sexuality: The Use of Pleasure, Vol. 2
Author: Michel Foucault
New York: Knopf, HQ 12 F6813 1978 V.2
Week 3. January 31 – February 4
Title: The History of Sexuality: The Care of the Self, Vol. 3
Author: Michel Foucault
New York: Knopf,
HQ 12 F6813 1978 V.3

Week 4. February 7 –11
Title: Rethinking Sexuality: Foucault and Classical Antiquity
Contributor: David H. Larmour
HQ 12 F683 R47 1998

Week 5. February 14 – 18
Title: A Bull of a Man: Images of Masculinity, Sex, and the Body in Indian Buddhism
Author: John Powers
BQ 4570 M365 P68 2009

Week 6. February 21 – 25
Title: The Red Thread - Buddhist Approaches to Sexuality
Author: Bernard Faure
BQ4570 S48 F3813 1998

Week 7. February 28 – March 4
Title: With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India
Author: Gayatri Reddy
HQ 77.95 I4 R43 2005

Week 8. March 7 – 11
Title: The Civilizing Process: Sociogenetic and Psychogenetic Investigations
Author: Norbert Elias
CB 83 E413

Mid-term essay due Friday, March 11.

Week 9. March 21 – 25
Title: The Germans
Author: Norbert Elias
E4513 1996

Week 10. March 28 – April 1
Title: The Origins of Nazi Violence
Author: Enzo Traverso
DD 256.5 T6813 2003
**Week 11.** April 4 – 8  
**Title:** Gods, Ghosts, and Gangsters: Ritual Violence, Martial Arts, and Masculinity on the Margins of Chinese Society  
**Author:** Avron Albert Boretz  
Honolulu : University of Hawai‘i Press, c2011.  
GV 1102.7 R44 B67 2011

**Week 12.** April 11 - 15  
**Title:** Time Warps: Silent and Evasive Pasts in Indian Politics and Religion  
**Author:** Ashis Nandy  
New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press,  
DS 428.2 N35 2002B

**Week 13.** April 18 – 22  
**Title:** Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary  
**Author:** Veena Das  
GN 635 I4 D2662 2007

**Week 14.** April 25 – 29  
**Title:** Why Did They Kill? - Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide  
**Author:** Alexander Laban Hinton  
DS 554.8 H56 2005

**Week 15.** May 2 – 6  
**Title:** The Dark Side of Paradise: Political Violence in Bali  
**Author:** Geoffrey B. Robinson  
DS 647 B2 R63 1995

**Final project due Wednesday, May 11, by 5 p.m.**