

EXAMENVRAGEN: CULTURE INTIMACY AND RELATEDNESS 2021-2022

H0: Prologue

- What, according to you, is the most important lesson you take home from this course, and why?
- What theme you found absent, or underdeveloped, in this course, and why?
- What theme or topic would you like to see included in this course (but wasn't, in this first edition), and why?
- What for you was the common thread throughout the eight chapters we dealt with in this course on Culture, Intimacy and Relatedness?

H1: Groundworks: some key concepts

- What did Terence Turner mean when he coined the expression "social skin"? What does the concept stand for?
- Apply Mary Douglas' concept of the social body to the text by Emily Martin on "the egg and the sperm".
- What does a functionalist approach of body and society imply? Give an example.
- Explain the concept of "bodiliness". Illustrate.
- Explain the concept of "embodiment". Illustrate.

H2: Gender and performativity

- Discuss the concepts of agency and negotiation in relation to the text (on foodways in male leisure spaces in Kathmandu) by Mark Liechty .
- What does it mean to say that gender is performative? What are its implications? Give examples.
- Discuss the notion of precarity in relation to gender.

H3: Politics and passion

- Family, gender and sexuality are subject to macro-economic changes. Illustrate, and discuss the consequences of this manipulability (use examples from different chapters).
- Gender roles, sexual identity and sexuality are part and parcel of a discourse and imagination on the 'nation' and 'the state', on -ultimately- power. Comment and explain.
- Social and political tensions are often played out on the female body; social anxieties are often translated in a concern over reproduction, fertility and sexuality. Explain and illustrate.

- Summarize and discuss the argument by Susan Pedersen (on National Bodies, unspeakable acts), and relate it to the course.
- Discuss the argument by Susan Pedersen on the sexual politics of colonial policy making, and relate it to the course.
- Female Genital Cutting (FGC) is a remnant of an obsolete tradition. Comment and explain this statement. Use the example provided by Susan Pedersen.
- Discuss the following statement: "Mainstream developmentalist and feminist approaches of Female Genital Cutting (FGC) tend to overlook female agency". Illustrate.

H4: Kinship and beyond

- "Kinship" is a model for the organization of society. It follows that kinship also is an ideology. Explain and illustrate with regard to Western society.
- Why is the concept of relatedness better suited to study intimate relationships than the notion of kinship?
- Older studies of kinship projected western values and ideology onto "other" societies. Explain and illustrate.
- Kinship (or relatedness) is not "natural" or "given", but negotiated and performative. Explain and illustrate.
- Reproductive technologies undermine popular, dominant perceptions of kinship and relatedness. Explain and illustrate this process.
- Biology is just a folk model for understanding and organizing sexuality and kinship. Do you agree, and why? Use examples.

H5: Romantic love and companionate partnership

- "Love" is an idiom and ideal for understanding and "making" intimate relationships. Comment. Discuss the implications of this statement. Illustrate.
- "Love" is a properly political concept. Explain and illustrate.
- Companionate marriage provides a language and arena through for groups and individuals to position themselves in an increasingly globalized society. Explain and illustrate.
- Comment and illustrate: "globalization affects people in their most intimate relationships".
- "Love" is intimately associated with "modernity". Discuss and illustrate.
- Summarize and discuss the argument by Rachel Spronk. Relate it to the course.
- Around the world, many women embrace the ideals of romantic love and companionate partnership. Explain and illustrate the social, economic and cultural processes behind this particular "globalizing" phenomenon.
- Romantic love and companionate partnership go hand in hand with the global promotion of individualism, self-achievement and meritocracy. explain and illustrate this statement.

H6: Intimacy and technology

- The idea(l) of a customizable body is part and parcel of a modernist and capitalist ethos and perception of the "self". Explain and illustrate.
- Modern technologies (such as, for instance, Facebook) promote a particular idea of "self". Explain and illustrate
- Technology is not gender neutral. Moreover, often it also acts as an "agent of poverty". Explain and illustrate.
- The intensification of connectivity (globalisation) leaves its traces in the domain of the intimate. Explain and illustrate.
- Recent years have seen the increasing commodification of intimate relationships. Explain and illustrate.

H8: Relating and the other-than-human

- What is meant by posthumanism? Illustrate (see for instance the text by Locke, on interspecies intimacy).
- The figure of the cyborg challenges received wisdom regarding the divide between culture/ nature; human/ non-human; masculinity/ femininity. What does this statement mean?

Andere:

- Leg uit: agency - phenomenology - individual
- What is your take-home message from this course?
- What is missing in this course?