

Comm 146

Advanced Studies in Cultural Production: Feminist Dialogues on Technology

Spring 2014

University of California at San Diego

Lecture Tu/Th 11:00a – 12:20p WLH 2207

Section ID: 810621

Instructors:

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e-reserves access code: lc146

This seminar on feminism and technology is part of a larger distributed online collaborative course (DOCC) initiative provides an overview of major feminist technology theory and practice through consideration of posthumanism, cyborg culture, bioinformatics, reproductive technovisions, disability, gendered and racialized digital labor, and feminist game design and critical sci-art. Peer to peer teaching and learning, institutional intersectionality, and critical mediation and practice are explored reflexively through projects that feature opportunities for collaborative writing, interpretation, design, media production, and other forms of distributed activity. Attention is given to questions of embodiment, agency, mediation, and difference. The distributed network of classes is described at <http://fembotcollective.org/femtechnet/1972-2/> and <http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/>

Books – Required

Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method

Tom Boellstorff & Bonnie Nardi & Celia Pearce & T. L. Taylor (2012)

Human-Machine Reconfigurations: Plans and Situated Actions (Learning in Doing: Social, Cognitive and Computational Perspectives)

Lucy Suchman (2006)

Recommended:
The Cybercultures Reader: Second Edition
David Bell & Barbara Kennedy (2000)

Additional Readings

Geisel e-reserves and electronic book links listed here for items not in required books.
e-reserves password: lc146 (not case sensitive)

Week 1

Losh and Cartwright 4/1
Introductions

Cartwright 4/3

“The Cyborg Manifesto”

Donna Haraway

The Cybercultures Reader (p. 34-65)

<http://www.egs.edu/faculty/donna-haraway/articles/donna-haraway-a-cyborg-manifesto/>

Viewing: “Transformations”

<http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/transformations-donna-haraway-catherine-lord-and-beatriz-da-costa/>

Week 2

Writing feminism

Losh 4/8

Blog Comment Assignment Due

Viewing: “Archive”

<http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/archive-lynn-hershman-and-b-ruby-rich/>

Viewing: *! WOMEN ART REVOLUTION*

Losh 4/10

Reading:

Reading: “Reading Cyborgs, Writing Feminism”

Technologies of the Gendered Body

Anne Balsamo (1996)

Viewing: *Teknolust*, Lynn Hershman-Leeson, 2002, 85m

Week 3

Wikistorming

Losh 4/15

Essential Wikipedia Resource at

<http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/wikistorming/>

Viewing: “Feminism, Technology, and Wiki Storming” <http://vimeo.com/85418560> and
“Editing on Wikipedia,” <http://vimeo.com/64973792>

Reading: The Right Tools for the Job

Adele Clarke and Joan Fujimora (Princeton 1992)

Introduction, "What Tools? Which Job? Why Right?" (p. 3-46)

To start thinking about the Wikistorming assignment, look at a Wikipedia entry about “tools” or “jobs” that does not reflect the work of feminist scholarship. What questions do Clarke and Fujimora raise that could be applied to many domains? What does it mean to think about the material and embodied aspects of knowledge-making?

Cartwright 4/17

Joan Scott, *The Evidence of Experience* [1991]

Kavita Philip, What is a technological author? The pirate function and intellectual Property, *Postcolonial Studies* 8(2) [2005]

Week 4

Feminist ethnography 1

Losh 4/22

Wikistorming Assignment Due

“Ten Myths” (29-51) and “Ethics” (129-150)

Ethnography and Virtual Worlds: A Handbook of Method

Tom Boellstorff & Bonnie Nardi & Celia Pearce & T. L. Taylor (2012)

Cartwright 4/24

Richelle D. Schrock, *The Methodological Imperatives of Feminist Ethnography*

Carolyn Ellis, Tony E. Adams & Arthur P. Bochner, *Autoethnography: An Overview* [2011] at http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/1589/3095#footnote_1

Recommended: Radhika Gajjala and Annapurna Mamidipudi, *Cyber Selves: Feminist Ethnographies of South Asian Women* [2004]

Daniel Domínguez, Anne Beaulieu, Adolfo Estalella, Edgar Gómez, Bernt Schnettler & Rosie Read, *Virtual Ethnography* <http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/274/601> [2007]

Virtual ethnography project distributed

Week 5

Feminist ethnography 2: Mobile subjects

Cartwright 4/29

Michaela Fay, *Mobile Subjects, Mobile Methods, Parts 1 and 2*, <http://www.qualitative-research.net/index.php/fqs/article/view/278/611> [2007]

Alex Juhasz, *An Ethnographic Exploration of Tumblr*, <http://www.feministonlinepaces.com/2012/11/an-ethnographic-exploration-of-tumblr/>

Recommended: Radhika Gajjala and Annapurna Mamidipudi, *Cyber Selves: Feminist Ethnographies of South Asian Women* [2004]

Cartwright 5/1

Ethnography workshop

Week 6

Feminist HCI

Losh 5/6

Ethnography project due

Viewing: “Systems: Infrastructure”

<http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/systems-2-infrastructures-lucy-suchman-and-katherine-gibson-graham/>

Reading: Lucy Suchman 24-84 (“Preface,” “Introduction,” “Interactive Artifacts,” “Plans,” and “Situated Actions”)

Losh 5/8

Reading: Lucy Suchman 206-286 (“Agencies of the Interface,” “Figuring the Human in AI and Robotics,” “Demystification and Enchantment of the Humanlike Machine,” and “Reconfigurations”)

Shaowen Bardzell, “Feminist HCI” <http://dmrussell.net/CHI2010/docs/p1301.pdf>

Brewer, J., Kaye, J., Williams, A., and Wyche, S. Sexual interactions: Why we should talk about sex in HCI. 2006

Week 7 Labor/Design

Losh 5/13

Viewing :“Feminism, Technology, and Labor

<http://femtechnet.newschool.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/history-of-the-engagement-of-feminism-technology-labor-judy-wacjman-with-an/#post-1530>

Reading: Technofeminism

Judy Wajcman 1-31 (“Feminist Utopia or Dystopia” and “Male Designs on Technology”)

Recommended:

ICT, design and development: transnational feminist empowerment discourses

<http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:506080/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Digital baskets

Cartwright 5/15

Chavan, A., Gorney, D., Prabhu, B., Arora, S. The washing machine that ate my sari:

Mistakes in cross-cultural Design Interactions, 16(1), 2009, 26-31

Aimi Hamraie , Designing Collective Access: A Feminist Disability Theory of Universal Design <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3871/3411>

Recommended: Lerman, N., Mohun, A., and Oldenziel, R. Versatile tools:

Gender analysis and the history of technology -- Technology and Culture 38 (1997), 1-8.

Gender, disability, work and technology

A presentation by Amanda Cachia, Yelena Gluzman and Heidi Kayser

Week 8
Feminist space

Cartwright 5/20

Object Assignment Due

Melissa Wright, Gender and geography II: bridging the gap — feminist, queer, and the geographical imaginary [2010]

Mei-Po Kwan, Feminist Visualization: Re-envisioning GIS as a Method in Feminist Geographic Research, AAAG 92(4) 2002

Cartwright 5/22

Map assignment workshop

Week 9
Critical play / the self(ie)

Losh 5/27

Map assignment due

Viewing: “Systems: Narratives” (and Games)

<http://femtechnet.newschoo.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/systems-1-brenda-laurel-and-janet-murray/>

Reading: Critical Play: Radical Game Design by Mary Flanagan (MIT 2013)

Ch. 2. "Playing House" (17-62) and and Ch. 7 "Critical Computer Games" (222-249)

Losh 5/29

Viewing: Selfiecity.net

Viewing: “Feminism, Technology, and Race”

<http://femtechnet.newschoo.edu/groups/docc-2013-video-dialogs/forum/topic/race-lisa-nakamura-and-maria-fernandez/>

Viewing: “Seeing Digital Media”

<http://shelby.tv/video/vimeo/49985513/now-visual-culture-nakamura>

Reading: Lisa Nakamura, “Race In/For Cyberspace”

Cybercultures Reader 297-304

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/mposter/syllabi/readings/nakamura.html>

Week 10
Feminist technoscience

Cartwright 6/3
Critical Selfies Assignment Due

D.A. Caeton, Choice of a Lifetime: Disability, Feminism, and Reproductive Rights, DSQ 31 (1) 2011 <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/1369/1501>

Michelle Murphy, "Seizing the Means of Production"

Clark et al, "Biomedicalization"
<http://www.asanet.org/images/members/docs/pdf/featured/biomedicine.pdf>

Cartwright and Losh 6/5
Conclusion

Finals Week: Final FemTechNet Event

1) One blog comment (200-250 words)

Bonnie Nardi once observed that "the modal number of comments in individually authored blogs has been found to be zero," which was a theme picked up in Geert Lovink's book *Zero Comments*. This assignment asks you to make a substantive comment on a blog posting that addresses issues relevant to this course (HASTAC, CASTAC, Media Praxis, Planned Obsolescence, The Difference Engine, etc.) and to observe the principles of generosity, confidence, humility flexibility, and integrity from Balsamo.

2) One Wikistorming entry (revision or new entry)

Create an entry or revise an entry using information from the Wikipedia help page: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Contents> See this blog entry (<http://femtechnet.blogspot.com/2013/03/feminist-dialogues-in-technology-wiki.html>) from another FemTechNet course for other pedagogical experiments.

3) One object (prototype, zine, map, exhibit, assemblage, craft object, etc.)

Create a 2D or 3D object that can serve as a display or explanatory medium to foster conversation in the course or to express an argument, sentiment, gesture, collaborative effort, or networking possibility. Be ready to discuss your object with our group!

4) Virtual ethnography

In composing an ethnography of 7-10 pages, you should start with considering ethical framing. Documents created by the Association of Internet Researchers at <http://aoir.org/reports/ethics.pdf> and <http://aoir.org/reports/ethics2.pdf>, including feminist scholars from FemTechNet.

5) Mapping Project

Feminists often work to make the invisible visible. What does it mean to create a visual representation of place-making activities and landmarks of subjective experience? FemTechNet students have done feminist mapping projects that include charting sites of blocked access, sexual violation, and other manifestations of structural injustice. You may want to consider the limitations of resources like Google maps before adopting it, given the company's policies on privacy.

6) Critical Selfie

Online courses for women using selfies, such as Becky Higgin's Project Real Life or NOW YOU workshops devoted to "self care" and "nurturing ourselves wholeheartedly" facilitate both expression and repression in disciplining the body. Feminist researchers from the Association of Internet Researchers are encouraging students to rethink the genre of the selfie. Shoot a critical selfie and write a one-paragraph caption explaining your approach to the apparatuses of networked mobile digital photography and your own relationship to display media.

Group project:

One boundary object video or audio recording (interview, essay, vlog, digital storytelling, demo, etc.)

Create a video or audio recording that responds to the keyword project of FemTechNet. See keywords posted at <http://fembotcollective.org/femtechnet/faq-for-femtechnet/> and videos posted at <http://archive.org/details/FemtechnetKeywordVideos> for ideas. Be ready to screen your recording for the group!

Geisel Library a-reserves

Balsamo, Technologies of the Gendered Body

Brewer, J., Sexual interactions: Why we should talk about sex in HCI

Chavan, A., The washing machine that ate my sari: Mistakes in cross-cultural design

Clark, A. E. and Fujimura, J. H. - "What Tools? Which Jobs? Why Right?" in *The Right Tools for the Job*

Clarke, A. - *Biomedicalization : technoscience, health, and illness in the U.S.*

Ellis, C. - "Autoethnography: An Overview"

Flanagan, M. - "Playing House" and "Critical Computer Games" in *Critical Play: Radical Game Design*

Kwan, M. - "Feminist Visualization: Re-Envisioning GIS as a Method in Feminist Geographic Research"

Lerman, N. - "Versatile Tools: Gender Analysis and the History of Technology"

Murphy, M. - "Seizing the means of reproduction: entanglements of feminism, health, and technoscience"

Philip, K. - "What is a technological author? The pirate function and intellectual property
What is a technological author? The pirate function and intellectual property"

Schrock, R. D., *The Methodological Imperatives of Feminist Ethnography*

Scott, J. - "The Evidence of Experience"

Wright, M., *Gender and geography II: bridging the gap — feminist, queer, and the geographical imaginary*