

MAPPING SEXUALITIES IN 19TH C. PARIS

GNDR_ST 321/HIST 300



This class explores themes linking sexuality and the making of Paris into a modern commercial capitalist city. Beginning at mid-century, massive engineering projects under Baron Haussmann demolished the twisted winding streets of old medieval Paris to create the modern city of wide boulevards and monumental vistas. A new daily life emerged around the newly developed department stores, apartment buildings, the café-concert, theaters, open-air promenades, and parks. Using three of Emile Zola's novels based on Haussmann's Paris as our common-source, we will examine how the changing physical structure of the city altered the old connections between illicit sexualities and nonconforming gender practices. We will also interrogate how the reshaping of public and intimate spaces fostered new bourgeois gender norms and identities. Finally, we will ask how the new opportunities of the changing economy changed notions of pleasure and criminality. This course will draw on readings in feminist and queer theory, urban geography, art history, literature, and social history to understand why advocates and critics of urban capitalist innovations articulated their perspectives through discourses of sexuality.

Tessie Liu

MWF 11-11:50am

Locy 111