

# PAAS 208 Family, Gender and Sexuality in the Asia-Pacific

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## Course description:

In this course, you will examine how family, gender, and sexuality have been constructed in relation to nation-building, colonialism, militarism, capitalism, and biopolitical technologies in the modern and contemporary Asia-Pacific. By looking into various topics including gender inequalities, ideal femininity/motherhood, militarized sexual violence, bodily autonomy, feminist movements, and LGBTQ identity politics in East and Southeast Asian societies, you will *unsettle* the conventional association of "Asian culture" with static Confucian values. Instead, you will be encouraged to articulate how normative ideas of gender roles and identities are (re)produced in negotiation with complex political relations, and how individuals' gendered experiences reveal both their vulnerabilities and resistance potential. A variety of scholarly and literary works, and visual materials will help you navigate crucial questions around family, gender, and sexuality in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

## Proposed assignments:

- Regular class attendance and active participation (10%)
- A film review essay (15%)
- A book review essay (15%)
- Blog assignment (20%)
- Midterm & final exams (essay questions, each exam 20%, total 40%)

## Proposed reading list:

- Liu, Jieyu, and Junko Yamashita. *Routledge Handbook of East Asian Gender Studies*. London; New York, NY: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020.
- Nam-Joo, Cho. *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*. Translated by Jamie Chang. New York: Simon & Schuster, Limited, 2020.
- Sturdevant, Sandra Pollock, and Brenda Stoltzfus. *Let the good times roll: prostitution and the U.S. military in Asia*. New York: The new Press, 1992.