

SESSION 13: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Experiences

Readings to complete before class:

- (1) Steward, Doug. “Working Towards Equality.” *Academe* 89, no. 4 (July-August 2003).
<http://www.aaup.org/publications/Academe/2003/03ja/03jastew.htm>
- (2) Feltey, Katherine M. “Living Outside the Center.” Chapter 6 in *Lesbians in Academia: Degrees of Freedom*. Edited by Beth Mintz and Esther Rothblum. New York, NY: Rothblum (1997). ISBN: 0415917026.
- (3) Anonymous. “My, How Times Have Changed... Or Have They? A Quarter Century as a Lesbian Academic.” Chapter 29 in *Lesbians in Academia: Degrees of Freedom*. Edited by Beth Mintz and Esther Rothblum. New York, NY: Rothblum (1997). ISBN: 0415917026.
- (4) Bernstein, Fred. “On Campus, Rethinking Bio 101.” *New York Times* (March 7, 2004).

Discussion notes:

- Sex vs. gender
 - Sex = biological sex, based on physical features.
 - Gender = social role and identity (affects clothing, speech patterns, encouraged career goals, etc.).
 - Big question in cultural studies of how much of gender is determined by sex and/or by society’s conventions.
 - Both terms are used independently of sexual orientation (who a person is romantically/sexually attracted to).
- Because of their relative seclusion from the outside world, university settings can be excellent – or terrible – in terms of environment for GLBTs.
- Differently-gendered living arrangements
 - Pros and cons of same-sex roommates, floors, dorms, schools.
 - What about more “traditional” requests? “Yale Five” – Orthodox Jewish students at Yale sued the university for requiring them to live in co-ed dormitories (or, as it happened in practice, to pay for the dorms while actually living at home) which the students felt was against their religion’s teachings on moral living. Suit dismissed by courts because "the plaintiffs could have opted to attend a different

college or university if they were not satisfied with Yale's housing policy." How is this similar or dissimilar to GLBT accommodation requests?

- Should students at single-sex colleges be allowed to continue to be enrolled if during college they change to identifying (either personally or biologically) as a member of the opposite sex?

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