Boundary Crossing - Sex & Gender in Context

Saturday, 10th December 2011

Building 10, Room 301, Sophia University

This workshop will examine issues of sexuality and gender in relation to situationality and boundary crossing. ‘Boundary crossing’ refers to the crossing of a border, be it one self-defined, legally-defined, socially perceived or institutionally prescribed. Indeed, one goal of the workshop will be to describe the social construction of gendered and sexual boundaries, and their relation to other types of boundaries. This workshop brings together sociologists exploring the politics of gender and sexual boundary crossing in various social and cultural contexts. Through examining the crossing of national borders, gender borders, as well as sexual borders, we hope to come to a greater understanding of the conflicts as well as societal underpinnings of gender and sexual categories. By looking at the question of borders, one is forced to question the construction of these boundaries and what happens when the line is crossed. This in turn leads us to the discussion of power (inequality socially, as well as institutionally), normativity (as socially constructed), acceptability (legal permission, social inclusion), and intersectionality (the relation to other categories such as race, ethnicity and class). By bringing together these various issues we seek to examine the interactions of ethnicity, gender, nationality, and sexuality, as well as how these categories intersect and intertwine with each other in the transnational as well as local sphere.

This workshop is intended as a follow-up to the workshop entitled "Sexual Boundary Crossings and Sexual Contact Zones in East Asia", which was held in October 2010 and organized by the Institute of Comparative Culture.

In English / No registration necessary