

# **Gender Theory and the Study of Religion**



Gabriel Garcia Roman

This course examines the intersection between religion and gender. We will consider how gender theory has developed, how it has been shaped by religion and religious people, and how religious people experience, navigate, and potentially undo various notions of gender.

We will ask: What is gender? What is religion? How are each of these socially constructed and what does that mean? How do gender, power, and religion overlap and play out in everyday scenarios? How are feminism, intersectionality, crip theory, queer theory, and trans\* theory engaged within religious scholarship?

Some potential topics include: intersectionality and Islamic feminism; the racial origins of fat phobia; fat feminism; the decolonizing notion of nepantla liminality; hegemonic masculinity in South Indian dance; gender, sexuality, and affect in evangelical empire; religious labor of women and gay men who are practitioners of Lucumí / Santería; how the Jewish Exodus speaks to contemporary trans experiences; American Christianity, idealized thinness, and diet culture; the preacher's wife and celebrity evangelical culture; sexual outlaws in Islamic Nigeria; and heterosexual ideology and a queer god.

Beck A. Henriksen  
[henr@live.unc.edu](mailto:henr@live.unc.edu)

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 3:00-4:15, Hybrid  
Gen Ed: PH / Cross-Listed: WGST 424