

# FALL '17: Anth 3280: Archaeological Approaches to Gender and Sexuality



There's been a lot of talk in public spheres, up to and including the Supreme Court, about "traditional marriage," and "traditional families." Traditional is a term often wielded by those who would give their particular worldview the semblance of great time depth, and thereby define what is "normal" vs. "aberrant" or "natural" vs. "unnatural." Archaeology, as our best access to data on what people actually did in the past (versus what they wrote about what they did), would therefore be in a particularly good position to turn such assertions into hypotheses, and test these against archaeological data.

In this class we will do just that. We will look at look at anthropological, biological, and historical approaches to gender and sexuality. Then we will look at archaeological sites and cases ranging from palaeolithic hominids, to ancient Egypt, to early 20<sup>th</sup> century fraternity houses at U.C. Berkeley, to explore the enormous diversity of gender and sexual identities in the past, and the many ways archaeologists explore and interpret them using material data and ethnographic analogy.

**Join us: Tuesdays 9:25 to 12:05, Centennial 125  
Dr. Minette Church**