Kinship, Kinning, and Cultural Representations

Course description:
From film to television, fiction and advertising, cultural representations of kinship have undergirded some of the most thorny debates of the 20th century and have shaped deeply-held conceptions around sexuality, masculinity, race, personhood, and even humanness. This course addresses representations of kinship and processes of “kinning” – or kinship building – in cultural texts. Whereas exploration of kinship networks has a long history in anthropology, in other disciplines such as literary studies, media and film studies there seems to be a growing interest in investigating and theorizing kin. This work is done in a variety of fields, including, for example, childhood studies, humanimal studies, queer studies, postcolonial studies, adoption studies, and Native American studies. Some of these fields – but not all – have strong affiliations with gender studies/feminist studies, where the notion of “family” or kinship, and issues of “reproduction” have long been under scrutiny from a wide variety of critical perspectives. What links much recent scholarship on kinning/kinship together is an understanding of kinship as processual rather than static; as based on defining factors beyond blood or law. It is the aim of this course to introduce, explore, and critique theories of kinship from various critical fields and perspectives.

The course invites PhD students, and it is also open to Master students engaged in research. It gives 7.5 ECTS Credits for active participation and a short paper, and 15 ECTS Credits for active participation and an essay.

Teachers:
Mark Jerng, Associate Professor of English, University of California, Davis, USA.
Helena Wahlström, Associate professor, Gender Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden.
Johanna Gondouin, Senior Researcher, Gender Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden.

Location: Centre for Gender Research
Uppsala University, Sweden
Time: February 20-22, 2013
Deadline for application: December 19, 2012
Maximum number of participants: 20

More information about the course, reimbursement, and application procedures is available at www.Intergender.net

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Welcome to the Research School in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies