

Gender and Sexualities Workshop

“Digital Book Club” Meetings

fall 2021 | All meetings this quarter will take place digitally over Zoom

The Sociology Department’s Gender and Sexualities Workshop is a group of faculty and graduate students who meet regularly to present and discuss new research.

Just Get on the Pill:
The Uneven Burden of Reproductive Politics
(University of California Press, 2021)

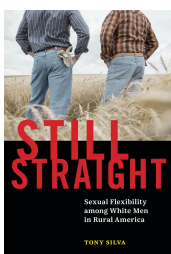
Krystale E. Littlejohn
Assistant Professor, Sociology
University of Oregon



Friday, Oct 29 @ 1:00-2:30pm PST
Zoom link to be provided



Understanding the social history and urgent social implications of gendered compulsory birth control, an unbalanced and unjust approach to pregnancy prevention. The average person concerned about becoming pregnant spends approximately thirty years trying to prevent conception. In *Just Get On the Pill*, Krystale Littlejohn investigates how birth control becomes a fundamentally unbalanced and gendered responsibility. She uncovers how parents, peers, partners, and providers draw on narratives of male and female birth control methods to socialize cisgender women into sex and ultimately into shouldering the burden for preventing pregnancy. Littlejohn draws on extensive interviews to document this gendered compulsory birth control and shows how this gendered approach encroaches on reproductive autonomy and poses obstacles for preventing disease. While diverse cisgender women are the focus, Littlejohn shows that gendered approaches to birth control also negatively impact trans, intersex, and gender nonconforming people in overlooked ways. In tracing the divisive politics of pregnancy prevention, Littlejohn demonstrates that the gendered division of labor in birth control is not natural. It is unjust.



Still Straight:
Sexual Flexibility among White Men in Rural America
(New York University Press, 2021)

Tony Silva
Assistant Professor, Sociology
University of British Columbia

Friday, Nov 19 @ 1:00-2:30pm PST
Zoom link to be provided

Why do some straight men in rural America have sex with other men? In *Still Straight*, Tony Silva argues that these men—many of whom enjoy hunting, fishing, and shooting guns—are not gay, bisexual, or “just experimenting.” Rather, they enjoy a range of relationships with other men, from hookups to sexual friendships to secretive loving partnerships, all while strongly identifying with straight culture. Drawing on interviews with straight white men who live in rural America, Silva explores the fascinating, and unexpected, disconnect between sexual behavior and identity. Some use sex with men to bond with other men in an acceptably masculine way; some are not particularly attracted to men, but are wary of emotional attachment with women; and others view sex with men—as opposed to women—as a more acceptable form of extramarital sexual behavior. Taking us inside the lives of straight white men who have sex with other men, *Still Straight* shows us that heterosexuality in rural America is not always, in fact, what it seems.

