

JNST 000J
Science, Sexuality, Society
M/W 9:30-10:50am
Professor Tim Seiber
Spring 2021

In this seminar, we will ask how scientific research, publication, and ideas have informed current and historical debates about sexuality. Are sex and gender innate biologically? How does the brain affect who and what we are attracted to? Is there a ‘gay gene’? Is identity somehow held materially in the body? The power of scientific discourse itself will be examined as well: where does “validity” and “proof” come from in experimental settings, and how does this map on to our experience of everyday life? Using analytical tools developed by queer theorists interested in science, we’ll also ask how these ideas travel to other scientific understandings of the world—from how we see animals and conservation biology, to the way that we narrate to ourselves how molecules work by repulsion and attraction.