What do theory and literature have to tell us about gender?

Can theory be separated from literature?
Can gender be separated from theory?

To explore these questions, COLT 377 will read a range of literary texts: novels, a long prose poem and the intersections, literature-theory and theory-literature.

We will work at extrapolating theory from the literature rather than impose models on our texts. We’ll let them tell us their stories and dramatize their theories about genders. We’ll investigate both the fluidity of genders and their fixity, we’ll work from the intersections of sexuality, race and class with gender. We’ll be reading modern texts—for the most part from 1970 on—texts from Brazil, Germany, France, South Africa and the UK as well as the USA. Throughout we’ll examine transnationalism, globalization and nationalism in relation to gender.

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