Dr. Clare Hemmings

"From 'Merely Cultural' to Culture Bound: the Changing Fortunes of Sexuality's Transnational Travels"

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When feminists talk about us being 'post-cultural turn' they often also mean that we are post-sexuality, without having to say so explicitly. This talk explores the changing fortunes of sexuality in feminist theory that lead us to this point, with particular attention to its centrality in oppositions between pleasure and harm, representation and reality, recognition and redistribution. Such oppositions tie sexuality to the local and the 'Western', while 'race' is freed to belong to the global and to 'politics that matter'. This has consequences for how sexuality can be taken up more broadly as part of global regulation, as part of tests for citizenship and as key to the war on terror.

Clare Hemmings is Reader in Feminist Theory and the current Director of the Gender Institute at LSE. Her research interests are in the transnational lives of sexuality studies and academic feminism.

The lecture is part of Christina Research Seminar.

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