

The Criminology Program and Department of Sociology

present

Dr. SM Rodriguez, Assistant Professor of
Criminology and Sociology, Hofstra University

The Unnatural Offence: Homosexuality In Colonial and Postcolonial Law

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
2:55-4:20 p.m.

Room 209 Breslin Hall, South Campus



SM Rodriguez is a scholar-activist and a new member of Hofstra's criminology faculty. Her research interests, as well as organizing efforts, lie in justice movements that are by and for same-gender loving and gender non-conforming people of African descent. For several years, she was a core member of The Audre Lorde Project's Safe OUTside the System, for which she organized workshops and events on policing and gentrification, and provided security for protests by LGBTQ people of color in New York City.

Dr. Rodriguez' forthcoming book, *A Queer Time for Activism*, is based on participant observations and interviews in Kampala, Uganda, and New York City between 2011 and 2014. The text examines the legislative history of sodomy in Uganda, the dialectics of global and local culture, and the effects of transnational LGBTI advocacy on grassroots activism in Kampala.

Lecture Summary: Section 145 of the 1950 Ugandan Penal Code, called "Unnatural Offences," criminalizes carnal knowledge of man against the order of nature. This is often interpreted as sodomy or bestiality, and has been punishable by life in prison since 1990. In 2014 the Anti-Homosexuality Act of Uganda attempted to further this legislation by defining "homosexuality" in the law for the first time and by drastically implementing new enforcement mechanisms that engaged communities in policing the offense. Although Uganda nullified the Anti-Homosexuality Act shortly after its passage, the effects of its proposal and passage are far-reaching and significant. This talk explores both the history and the repercussions of this legislative development, including the importance of understanding the many legal avenues through which sexual repression may exist.

This event is free. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please email **Dr. Liena Gurevich**, Director of the Criminology Program and Associate Professor of Sociology, at Liena.Gurevich@hofstra.edu.

