This interdisciplinary symposium explores the sexualization of non-human entities (monsters, aliens, cyborgs, animals). What are the political stakes of such representations? How are sexual norms constructed and how can deviations from these norms challenge the heteropatriarchal system? What is the relationship between dehumanization and fetishization, particularly in a (post) colonial context? Is monstrosity a regression, an advancement, or a departure from the category of the human?
Schedule

Opening Remarks
10:00 – 10:15

Panel 1: Fashionable Monsters and the Aesthetics of Horror
10:15 – 11:45

Elise Bouley (Brown University)
“The Adorned Beast: Monstrosity, Sex, and Fashion in Alexander McQueen”

Florence Abitbol (Paris 1)
“Dressing Up Your Favorite Monster: Adorning the Self”

Kevin Sue-A-Quan (The New School)
“Beautiful Monsters: Confronting our Moral Failures”

Coffee Break
11:45 – 12:00

Panel 2: Monstrous Sexuality and the Transgression of Genre
12:00-13:30

Carina Stopenski (Carnegie Mellon University)
“Confronting Abominations: Nonhuman Lovers in Dating Simulators”

Ninon Bartz (University of Virginia)
“Can The Prostitute/Porn Actress Speak? Wild Grinning Monstrous Women in Baise-moi by Virginie Despentes and Coralie Trinh Thi”

Priyanka Das (Presidency University, India)
“Romancing the Monster: Gumihos and Robots in Korean Dramas”

Lunch
13:30 – 15:00

Panel 3: Surveillance, Colonial Trauma and the Survival of Monsters
15:00-16:30

Anna Maria Sienicka (University of Burgundy)
“Pathologizing the Gaze: Freaks and ‘Monsters’ in Late Nineteenth-Century France”

Rubens Riol (Princeton University)
“Oh Dear, You’re Pregnant: Sexual Exploitation and the Survival of the Monster in Cuban Visual Arts from Wifredo Lam to Brenda Cabrera”

Joshua Pederson (Boston University)
“Sex, the Monstrous, and Imperial Power in the Teixcalaan Series”

Closing Remarks
16:30-16:45

Organizing committee: Arthur Ségard (arthur.segard@nyu.edu) and Nicole Grimaldi (nicole.grimaldi@nyu.edu)

With the support of the Department of French Literature, Thought and Culture, the Institute of French Studies and the Department of Comparative Literature at New York University

Poster design: Pauline Lecerf