Spring 2015 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

The Spring Quarter theme is “Desire,” curated by Professor Hillary Chute (English). “Desire” is a theme that is deliberately broadly construed for the workshop to explore. Is there such a thing as appropriate and inappropriate desire? How does desire manifest itself in cultural production and in behavior? As it connects to crucial notions of agency and subjectivity, desire is a concept that has long both vexed and inspired studies across fields in gender and sexuality.

Spring 2015: Desire

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Workshops are held at 4:30 to 6pm in the first floor seminar room of the CSSG, 5733 S. University Ave, unless otherwise noted. Attendees are expected to read the paper in advance of the workshop meeting; papers are made available on the CSSG Blog or via our email list at: http://cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/genderandsexuality. If you are interested in joining the email list, please contact workshop coordinators, Annie Heffernan and Rebecca Oh at GSSWorkshop@gmail.com.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group

The GSSW will be sponsoring a graduate students’ working group in the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year. The goal of the working group is to provide for graduate students a forum and space to workshop research and write at any point in the progress of the work. Please contact the working group coordinators, Omie Hsu and Katie Hendricks, at gswworkinggroup@gmail.com.

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends of the Center,

Spring 2015 brings with it a diverse array of programming by our talented faculty and students. On April 1 the CSSG in partnership with the Special Collections Research Center at the Regenstein Library will hold the gala opening of “Closed Out in the Quadrangles: A History of LGBTOF Life at the University of Chicago.” A multiyear and multifaceted project, “Closed Out” brings together over 95 oral histories from LGBTQ alumni, faculty and staff, and a range of archival materials documenting what life was like for LGBTQ people before and after Stonewall. It gives public voice to the radical claims to rights that galvanized various individuals and campus groups to join in political struggle. Closed/Out builds on the success of “On Equal Terms: Educating Women at the University of Chicago,” a four year project that culminated in an exhibition at Special Collections in 2009. Like the earlier project, Closed/Out combines creative teaching with in-depth research on uncharted terrain. Under the superb leadership of project director Gina Olson (CSSG Associate Director), Monica Mercado (History PhD 2014) and Lauren Stokes (ABD History) led the research and taught courses in oral history methods, archival research in gender and sexuality studies and LGBTQ public history. They guided an enthusiastic group of undergraduates to give of their time in developing an archive that will have a lasting impact on how we think about the history of the University. As Director, I wish to express my thanks to Gina, Monica, and Lauren for their energetic devotion to the project over the years and the creativity with which each of them approached the material.

On April 2, Nayan Shah (Professor and Chair, American Studies and Ethnicity, USC and History MA ‘85, PhD ’95) will deliver the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Lecture, “Forcible Feeding and the Crisis of Care in Indefinite Detention.” The talk will explore the visual and visceral experiences of refusing food and the procedure of tube-feeding by force, such as the political mobilization and controversies of medical ethics during the imprisonment of suffragettes in Britain and U.S in the early 20th century and currently with detainees and deportees struggles in South Africa, Guantánamo and Europe. This is the final in a series of talks organized this year by Professor Lauren Berlant (English) as director of the LGBTQ Studies Project of the Center, with the Worlding/Writing Project of 3CT.

As part of its programming around the endemic problem of sexual misconduct and assault on college campuses, on April 30 the Center is collaborating on a screening and discussion of The Hunting Ground,” directed by Kirby Dick. The film has garnered significant media attention and we hope to probe further into the difficult

Dear Friends of the Center,
questions it raises in the panel following the screening and in future programming. On May 6, Celene Reynolds (PhD candidate, Sociology, Yale) will present, “From Un-equal Pay to Unwanted Consent: The Jingle of Title IX in American Universities” tracing how the issues cited in Title IX complaints and the types of schools that receive complaints have shifted from 1994 to 2014. On April 11, we encourage you to attend “Engendering Change: The Fifth Annual Gender and Sexuality Conference.” A joint conference run by Northwestern University, University of Illinois at Chica- go, and the University of Chicago, the conference brings together graduate students to present their scholarship and engage with students from across the Chicago area. Thanks to Professor Kristin Schilt (PhD, Sociology) and Student Affairs Administrator Sarah Tuohy for their work on this event. Other student-led conferences will be held at the Center this spring: “The Family and the Unfamil-iar” undergraduate conference on April 17, “Masculinities on the British Fringe” on April 24 and the “Sexual and Reproductive Justice Graduate Working Conference” on May 15. See the calendar for details.

In May, the Counter Cinema/Counter Media Project, led by Professor Jennifer Wild (Media and Cinema Studies) continues, including a visit from actor Zackary Drucker on May 8. On May 14, Professor Hillary Chute (English) and the Artists’ Salon will host a talk by Ramzi Fawaz (English, University of Wisconsin, Madison), “Flame On!” Nuclear Families, Unstable Molecules, and the Queer His-tory of the Fantastic Four.” Those who you have been attending the GSS Workshop will know how exciting the now two-year- old format has been. The winter and spring quarters, cur- rently, are being run by Professors Lisa Rudick and Agnes Lugo-Olitz. will be followed by five sessions this spring on the theme of “Embodiment,” led by English Professor Hillary Chute. If you are not yet part of the workshop, do stop by to see what you are missing.

Warm regards,
Linda Zerilli
Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Service Professor, Political Science and the College; Faculty Director, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Graduate Student News

Spring Courses

This spring, Gender and Sexuality Studies is debuting a theory course that will be required for GSS majors who enter in 2015. Titled “Theories of Gender and Sexuali-ty,” it will be co-taught by Lauren Berlant, George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor of English, and Kristen Schilt, Associate Professor of Sociology, Faculty Director Linda Zerilli will teach “Advanced Theories of Gender and Sexuality” in the spring as well. Other offer- ings comprise “Problems in the Study of Gender: Citizen, Government, and the University,” “Gender and Race,” “Sex, Gender, and Med- ical Knowledge,” “Gender, Crime, and Criminal Justice,” “Social Theory,” “Gender in the Social Sciences,” and “Sociology major Caron Gafney will take internships in the Chicago area.”

“The Family and the Unfamiliar,” Undergraduate/MA Student Conference

The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality is part-nering with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture to host its second annual all-day conference titled “The Family and the Unfamiliar” on Friday, April 17, at 5733 S. University. There will be original academic papers on such issues as gestational surrogacy in India and business women’s self-help books and creative pre-sentations on “alternative families” in comic book, story, and business women’s self-help books and creative pre-sentations on “alternative families” in comic book, story, and spoken word form. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

Essay Prize in Women’s Studies, Feminist Criticism, Gender Studies

Each year, the Center awards a prize of $500 for the best essay written by a University of Chicago undergraduate student in the area of women’s studies, feminist criticism or gender studies. Essays may come from students in all majors and may take the form of analytic or critical essays, term papers, or personal essays. The 2015 competition deadline is Monday, April 13 at 12:00pm. For full details see: http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/fellowships/essay_prize.shtml

Graduate Student News

Positions, Awards and Authorships

Several CSGS former fellows have secured great posi-tions for 2014-15 and 2015-16. Luis Manuel Garcia and Larisa Reznik, both in residence in 2010-11, are currently serving as Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Groningen and Lecturer in Religious Studies at Pomo-ra College, respectively. Julia Kowalksi, a fellow in 2011- 12, is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Williams College. Claire McKinley, in residence in 2011- 2014, will take the position of Assistant Professor of Gov-ernment and Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies at the College of William and Mary in 2016-17. and Abigail Cobcock, in residence during the same years, will begin a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Sociology at the Uni-versity of Notre Dame in the fall. Emily Remus, a fellow in 2012-13, has accepted an Assistant Professorship in His-tory at the University of Notre Dame, and Samuel Perry, in residence in 2013-14, will start as an Assistant Profes-sor of Sociology and Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma. Sarah Weisckel, a fellow at the center in 2013-14 and this year has been awarded a Smithsoni-an Institution and Committee on Institutional Cooperation research fellowship to work in the collections of the Na-tional Museum of African History and Culture and the National Museum of American History. Currently, Profes-sor of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame, and Kristin Schilt, Associate Professor of Sociology, Faculty Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innova-tion in Sexual and Reproductive Health, and A Global History of Sexualities (Lauren Stokes, graduate student in History and co-coordinator of the ClosedOut/On the Quadrangles project). Descriptions of these courses and many cross-lists can be found at http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/aca-demic/courses.shtml.

Undergraduate Summer Internships for 2015

CSGS has committed funding for four undergraduates to hold unpaid internships this summer. History major Hele-na Konetzke, a junior, will intern with Tewa United, a service organization of indigenous women in New Mexico, while English major Jessica Cowil, a senior, will intern with the organization. History of Culture, and Feminist Studies major Clair Fuller, and GSS/Sociology major Carson Gafney will take internships in the Chicago area.

The Center in partnership with the Special Collections Research Center/Department of Special Collections, the University of Chicago, will host its second annual all-day conference titled “A Global History of Sexualities” (Lauren Stokes, project co-coordinator and exhibition curator will teach “A Global History of Sexual-ities” (GSN 220D).

On April 6, the Center will host a lunchtime talk with UChicago Professor Christopher I. Sotomayor, titled “The Emergence of the Modern Day LGBT Movement: Sur-vey Trends and me” moderated by CSGS kris Rosentel. Sotomayor will be the first speaker in the series of the emergence of the modern-day LGBT+ movement and was a founder of the U of C group that became the Chicago Gay Liberation Front in 1970. He is a past pres-ident of the American Association of Public Opinion Re-search (AAPOR) and for many years was charged with the national exit poll and projections for international news outlets. He will share personal stories about life at the University of Chicago in the 1970s, and put these stories in perspective of the changes in public opinion toward LGBTQ+ people and issues.

On April 23, the Center will co-sponsor with the LGBT Alumni Network a reading by Ann Baly (AB/68 AM 1988), Steve Close: Voices of Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender and Gender Non-conformers at the Seminary Co-op. Baly con-ducts oral history interviews with forty gay, lesbian, and transgender and gender non-conformers, mostly living in northwestern Indiana, to give voice to this previously silent and invis-ible population. The program will include a reading of the stories it will be the first stories we have to do exploring the intersections of work, class, gender, and sexual identity in the dangerous industrial setting of the steel mill.

On Saturday of Alumni Weekend, June 6, the Center and the Galileo Network will co-host a panel on the exhibition and the annual LGBT Alumni Forum, starting at 6pm at the SCRC. The panel will feature the co-organizers and speakers of the workshop (AM 2011, ABD History) and Monica Mercado (PhD 2014) and scholar Timothy Stewart-Winter (PhD 2009).
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College News

New Events

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Teaching Applications

Reminder: Fellowship and teaching applications are due on Friday, April 15 at 12 pm. See our site for details: http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/fellowships/

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