A Note from the Director

This Spring quarter is the season for conferences sponsored by our faculty affiliates. We begin on March 31, Mobilizing Gender Secularism, Nation and Remaking Europe a one-day mini-conference on the topic of gender and secularism in contemporary Europe organized by Jennifer Cole (Comparative Human Development). Susan Gal (Anthropology) and Kelsey Robbins (PhD candidate, Comparative Human Development). It asks why these issues become so visible in Europe and what might this visibility tell us about the changing ways nation-states establish their physical and metaphorical borders/ties both within Europe and beyond. On April 21 and 22, Querelles des Femmes, or, The Long History of French Feminism is the subject of a conference organized by Daisy Delogu and Alison James (both Romance Languages). Lucy Pick (Divinity) and Jonathan Lyon (History) will host Gender and Power in the Middle Ages conference on May 8-9. This event promises to bring together some of the scholars who are currently doing the most exciting and ground-breaking work on the problem of the relationship between gender and power in the medieval word in a workshop-like setting. Finally we will co-sponsor a workshop on state violence and black maternal activism, Grief as Resistance: Racialized State Violence and the Politics of Black Motherhood in the Americas, which will take place on May 25-26, organized by Yanilda Maria Gonzalez (SAI).

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Spring 2017 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (GSSW) is pleased to announce its Spring Quarter schedule, curated by Susan Burns. Associate Professor of Japanese History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations. This quarter’s theme, “Transnational Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality,” explores the historical dimensions of gender, sexuality, and feminist thought on work that is transnational or comparative in perspective.

Workshops are held on alternating Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:00pm in the first floor seminar room of 5733 S. University Avenue, unless otherwise noted. The dates of this quarter’s workshops are April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, and May 30. Additional workshop information, including past schedules, can be found at http://voices.uchicago.edu/gendersexuality/sexuality-gender-wkshp or contact the workshop coordinators, Annie Heffernan (Political Science) and Danya Lagos (Sociology) at gssworkshop@gmail.com.

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Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group welcomes students and papers from any field, discipline, or methodological tradition, as long as the research is relevant to gender and sexuality studies, broadly defined. Submitted work may be partial or rough, including rough drafts of papers or dissertation chapters, work nearing completion, survey designs, literature reviews, or methodological sections. Meeting time consists largely of discussion of the submitted research or work following brief comments from the presenter. We ask that only students, graduate or undergraduate, attend.


April 25: Sneha Annavarapu, Sociology, “We Match Better: an analysis of the dramaturgy of online matrimonial sites”

May 9: Devon Borowski, Music History and Theory, “Creoles, Queers, and Castrati: Envoicing Liminality in Late Georgian Britain (1780-1830)”

May 23: Amanda Davis, English, “Locked Wombs and Thick Intimacies from Rosemary’s Baby and The Yellow Wallpaper”

Papers are circulated in advance via e-mail. If you have any questions, would like to be added to the Working Group e-mail list, or are a person with a disability who may need assistance, please contact the Working Group coordinators, Omie Hsu and Katie Hendricks at gssworkinggroup@gmail.com.

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Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture. She will speak on, “Allegory Today,” about the practice of allegory in medieval literature, the relationship of allegory to gender, the power of thinking worlds in the world today, and the potential for resistance that it offers. And on May 11, 2017, she will welcome back Deborah Gould, PhD 2000 (UCSC Sociology) to give the 2017 Distinguished Alumna Lecture, on “Becoming Coalitional: The Perverse Encounter of Queer to the Left and the Jesus People USA.” In this talk, Gould considers a Chicago low-cost housing coalition that included a group of secular leftist and an evangelical Christian group to explore coalitions as contact zones, analyzing in particular what desires, capacities, and potentialities they might generate and nourish.

As usual, Spring is filled with exciting speakers and events. William Spurlin, a scholar whose work lies at the nexus of queer studies, postcolonial studies, and critical and cultural theory, joins us on the first day of the new quarter, March 27, for the inaugural Thomas Traylor Memorial Lecture: “Native” Women on Strips: Hygienic Discourse and Violence Through Photography in Colonial Morocco during the 1930’s.

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program will be led by Susan Burns (East Asian Languages and Civilizations) in the Spring quarter under the theme “Transnational Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality.” The workshop meets in the first floor seminar room on alternate Tuesdays beginning in April from 4:30 to 6:30. And the Alternate Realities and Virtual Worlds project, led by Patrick Jagoda (English) and Heidi Coleman (Theater & Performance Studies) continues to be organized around using games, science fiction and virtual worlds to open up conversations about gender and sexualities.

Finally, as many of you know, on the evening of March 9, someone posted hate flyers on our building, and on many other locations on campus. Along with our partners at 5735 S University, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, the Center for Identity + Inclusion, and UChicago Grad, we are planning a community forum on March 29 to discuss recent incidents of hate speech on campus and responses to them. All are welcome.

Lucy K. Pick - Interim Director, Senior Lecturer in the History of Christianity

Graduate Student News

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Two CSGS-affiliated graduate students have been awarded postdoctoral fellowships for 2017-18. Cayce Hughes, 2016-17 CSRPC-CSGS Dissertation Fellow, has been awarded a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Sociology at Rice University. Katya Motyl, 2016-17 CSGS Dissertation Fellow, has received a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship at the European University Institute in Italy, to begin in September 2017. She has also been promoted to Editor of Eastern Europe at NOTCHES: (re)making on the history of sexuality blog.

Conference Presentations

Several fellows have been invited to conferences in the spring and summer. Caroline Séquin, 2016-17 CSGS Residental Fellow, will give four papers in the coming year: “Interracial Transactional Sex, White Slave Trade, and Colonialism” at the Francophone Colonial History (1910s-1940s) at the Seventeenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities; "Femmeture des maisons de tolérance et sexualité interdisciplinaire dans le Dakar d’après-guerre" at the French Colonial Historical Society Annual Conference; “Sexe sans frontières: Prostitution, Imperial Mobility, and Racial Boundaries in the Interwar Period” at the Working the Empire/ Devant l’Empire Workshop; and “Abolishing Slavery, Instituting Nation: Sexual and Racial Economies in the Post-emancipation French Atlantic” at the Third Annual Soni N’Yeve-Haour Workshop. Lisa Wade, author of American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus, will be at the Center on April 28 for “The Scholar as Public Intellectual: Conversation with Lisa Wade,” a discussion on public sociology. And on May 25, Christelle Tarad, a specialist in the history of prostitution in North Africa will speak on “On Native” Women on Strips: Hygienic Discourse and Violence Through Photography in Colonial Morocco during the 1930’s.”

Problem, Theories, and Advances in Advanced Theories in 2017

During the 2017-18 academic year CSGS will offer three “Problems in the Study of Gender and Sexuality” courses: Rochona Majumdar will teach “Problems: Inequality” and Jennifer Wild “Problems: Media Wars” in the winter; and Linda Zenrilli will teach “Problems: Public Feminisms” in the spring. Prof. Zenrilli will also teach “Advanced Theories of Gender and Sexuality” in the winter; David Carroll Simon will teach his version of this course in the spring. Lauren Berlant and Kristen Schilt will again teach “Problems: Intersectionality and Critical Junctures” in the autumn. Problems, Theories, and Advances in Advanced Theories in 2017 will offer up to six graduate student-taught-free-standing courses over the course of the year.

College News

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

The Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies offers a major, with a choice between a generalist path and discipline-based path. Many of our majors, usually those who choose the generalist path, also pursue and complete one or two extra majors. We also offer a minor, which makes the most sense for students whose majors have little overlap with our courses. Descriptions of major and minor requirements can be found at http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/academic/.

If you have questions about the major or minor and want to talk about how they might fit in with your general academic goals, call or email student affairs administrator Sarah Tuohy (773-702-2365; stuohy@uchicago.edu) to talk or set up a meeting.

Spring Courses

This Spring Quarter, four Gender and Sexuality Studies courses are being offered, taught by advanced graduate students in History, Political Science, and Sociology. “Gender and Sexuality in Africa” will be taught by Elizabeth Fretwell of History, “Gender, Work, and Family” by Jaclyn Wong of Sociology, “Gendered Bodies in the Material World” by Sarah Weicksee of History, and “What was queer theory?” by Omie Hsu of Political Science.

Distinguished Alumni Lecture

Thursday, May 4, 4:30 pm
Deborah Gould, PhD ‘00
“Becoming Coalitional: The Perverse Encounter of Queer to the Left and the Jesus People USA”

Each Spring, the CSGS welcomes a UChicago alumnae/i, working in the field of gender and sexuality back to present their work. On Thursday, May 11, Deborah Gould, PhD ‘00 (Sociology, UC Santa Cruz) will deliver the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Lecture: “Becoming Coalitional: The Perverse Encounter of Queer to the Left and the Jesus People USA.”

In this talk I consider a Chicago low-cost housing coalition that included a group of secular queer leftists and an evangelical Christian group. Strikingly, difference here was both pronounced and a non-event: the two groups never confronted each other, but shared a home; shared or their widely divergent cosmologies. I use this case of affinities across chasms of perceived difference to explore coalitions as contact zones, analyzing in particular what desires, capacities, and potentialities a coalition might generate and nourish. Interested in political appetite and the not-yet of politics, the talk traverses a number of themes including: convergence without unity; home politics and the supposedly spatial; and desire for activism that holds out the possibility of being changed.

CSGS STAFF

Lucy K. Pick, Faculty Director
Gina Olson, Associate Director
Sarah Tuohy, Student Affairs Administrator
Tate Brazas, Program Coordinator
Mary Reichschmal, Event & Media Intern

NEWSLETTER

Gina Olson, Editor
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Continued from Page 1

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Be a part of the conversation!

https://www.facebook.com/UChicagoGender
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VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

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