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A Note from Our Director...

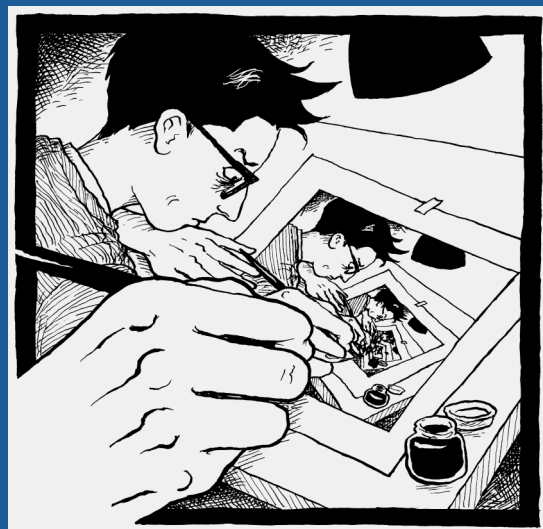
Linda M. G. Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the College,
Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies

Dear Friends of the Center:

We are looking forward to another busy quarter at the Center. Thanks to Artists' Salon project director *Hillary Chute*, we are delighted to welcome graphic artist *Alison Bechdel*, renowned author of many books, including *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, *Dykes to Watch Out For*, and, released on May 1, *Are You My Mother?: A Comic Drama*. Together with Hillary, Alison will teach a spring Gender and Sexuality Studies course, *Lines of Transmission: Comics and Autobiography* and organize *Comics: Philosophy and Practice*, a conference on May 18-20. The Center will also host an exhibit of Alison's work, with an opening celebration on April 5 and Hillary and Alison will present at the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop on April 17. We are proud that Alison Bechdel is the first artist whose work will be featured in the Artists' Salon project, which brings artists whose work meditates on sexuality and gender to the Center to mount temporary exhibitions in our space.

This year's *Sawyer Seminar on International Women's Human Rights* continues this quarter. On April 19-20 we will host the fourth and final Sawyer symposium, titled "Sexuality and Colonial Black Atlantic Cities." *Cassandra Pybus* of the University of Sydney will deliver the opening keynote address, "Doll Thomas, 'The Queen of Demerera': Race and Gender in the Atlantic World in the Age of Revolutions," on the 19th and on the 20th three panels of scholars will present their work with a closing keynote address, "Passages and Miracles: Notes on African contributions to Urban Life," delivered by *AbdouMaliq Simone* of Goldsmiths College. Organized by *Rachel Jean-Baptiste*, Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Center's project, *Sexualities in Africa and the African Diaspora*, the conference will showcase an innovative program on sexuality, identity, and urban life that you won't want to miss.



Self-portrait, 2012. Alison Bechdel.

Graduate Studies

Gender and Sexuality Studies fosters many kinds of graduate participation at the Center. The deadline for all **Fellowships and Teaching applications** will be **Monday, April 2 at noon**. Guidelines may be found on our website.

This spring, **crosslisted graduate courses** include offerings in Art History, Comparative Literature, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, English, German, French, Law, Philosophy and Religious Studies. Students interested in a Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies should refer to the website for full details and contact Sarah Tuohey, stuohey@uchicago.edu.

The **Gender and Sexualities Workshop** has an interesting Spring Quarter schedule. We begin our quarter with **George Paul Meiu**, a doctoral candidate in Anthropology and a Fellow at the Center. On April 17, Visiting Artist **Alison Bechdel** and **Hillary Chute**, professor of English will give a workshop as part of their quarter-long project on comics, philosophy and practice. On May 1, **Hyun Suk Park**, a doctoral candidate in East Asian Languages and Civilizations and a Fellow at the Center will present her work. **Jonathan Lyon** of the History Department will discuss, "Princely Brothers and Sisters in Medieval Germany, ca. 1138-1250" on May 15 and **Monica Mercado**, a doctoral student in History, will present "Reading Habits: Gendered Discourses on Good Books for Catholic Readers" on May 29.

Workshops meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm at The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. For further information or to join our listserv and receive pre-circulated papers in advance of the workshop meeting, please contact Caroline Schuster at carlys@uchicago.edu.

CSGS Staff

Linda M.G. Zerilli, Faculty Director

Gina Olson, Associate Director

Sarah Tuohey, Students Affairs
Administrator; Sawyer Seminar
Coordinator

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We are also looking forward to two more Sawyer public lectures, one on April 4th by Professor **Nivedita Menon**, author of *Recovering Subversion: Feminist Politics Beyond the Law*, and one on May 8th by **Leila Ahmed**, author of *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*. Finally, on May 4th we will host a major conference, "**Engendering Rights in India: The Colonial Encounter and Beyond**," which will feature critical international feminist voices in the Indian rights tradition.

Center faculty fellows continue to amaze us with their energetic and innovative programming. Among the many exciting upcoming events, be sure to catch the talks by **Sara Ahmed** (March 29) and **Gayle Rubin** (April 26), which are part of the LGBTQ Studies Project organized by **Lauren Berlant**. Our Director of Studies, **Kristen Schilt** and her students are organizing **Engendering Change: The Second Annual Chicago Area Graduate Gender/Sexualities Conference** on April 27-28. The conference, a collaboration with Northwestern University and University of Illinois Chicago, will feature faculty-moderated graduate scholarship panels, and topical panel discussions and workshops. The Social Media Project, led by **Rebecca Zorach** will host **Mary L. Gray** on April 13, speaking on **Queering the Digital Divide: Or, What Rural Youth Teach Us about the Boundaries of a Networked Public Life**.



Professors Lauren Berlant and Kristen Schilt. Photo: Sarah Luna.

On May 16, Jennifer Brier, Associate Professor in the Gender & Women's Studies Program and History Department, University of Illinois-Chicago, visits the Center for a lunchtime talk, **When the Erotic Becomes Illicit: Struggles over Displaying Queer History** related to her experiences curating the exhibition "Out in Chicago" at the Chicago History Museum. Dr. Brier's talk is the first in a series of programs at CSGS in 2012-2013 that will showcase the work of historians of gender and sexuality who create work for public audiences. Please see the Collegiate News column in this newsletter for details on this quarter's Feminist/Queer Praxis series.

We are also pleased to announce that on April 28, the Center and the UChicago LGBT Alumni Network will co-host a special event for alumni and friends, a performance package of *Angels in America* at Court Theatre. The event includes both parts of the production, *Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*, with a private dinner and wine at the Smart Museum and a brief discussion led by **Deborah Nelson**, Deputy Provost for Graduate Education and Associate Professor of English Language & Literature. Debbie is an expert in late 20th century American literature, gender and sexuality studies, and Cold War history, and former director of the Center. We hope you'll join us as we put a distinctively UChicago spin on this exciting new production!

On May 30, we will once again host a book party for some of our faculty with recent publications. And on May 31, we will host our annual End of Year BBQ with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture. Please see this newsletter and our website for details on these and other upcoming events.

As some of you may know, the Center hosted two lunches last quarter to discuss the possibility of establishing a **College Core sequence** in gender and sexuality studies. I want to thank curriculum committee director **Rochona Majumdar** and members **Leora Auslander** and **Daisy Delogu** for their work on this and related initiatives regarding curricular development at the Center. Based on the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response of our affiliated faculty, we are now moving forward with a proposal to the College. Our plan is to hold meetings in the fall quarter of 2012 to develop a preliminary syllabus, with the hope of launching the Core course in academic year 2013. A Core sequence would allow faculty to participate in the Center, while satisfying their Core teaching requirements for the College. We will be announcing the schedule of events associated with the planning of this new venture. Feel free to contact us if you would like to participate.

Upcoming Events

Organized by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

March 29, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Sara Ahmed, "Willful Queers: A Queer History of Will"
Harper 103

April 4, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Nivedita Menon, "Science in the laboratory of politics:
Commercial surrogacy and the question of the natural"
Classics 110

April 5, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Opening Reception: Artwork by **Alison Bechdel**
CSGS, 5733 South University

April 12, 12-1:30 PM

Feminist/Queer Praxis Series

Andi Zeisler, co-founder and editorial/creative director of
Bitch magazine
CSGS, 5733 South University

April 13, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

Mary L. Gray, "Queering the Digital Divide: Or, What Rural
Youth Teach Us about the Boundaries of a Networked Pub-
lic Life"
Cochrane-Woods Art Center (CWAC), Room 157

April 19, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

"Sexuality and Colonial Black Atlantic Cities," Symposium
Keynote address: **Cassandra Pybus**, "Doll Thomas, 'The
Queen of Demerera': Race and Gender in the Atlantic World
in the Age of Revolutions,"
Social Science Research, Room 122

April 20, 8:00 AM-7:00 PM

"Sexuality and Colonial Black Atlantic Cities," Symposium
Three panel presentations, Closing keynote address,
AbdouMaliq Simone, "Passages and Miracles: Notes on Af-
rican contributions to Urban Life"
5710 South Woodlawn Avenue, Room 107 (Community
Lounge)

April 26, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Gayle Rubin, "Sex in the (De)Industrial) City"
Location TBA

April 27, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

"Engendering Change: The Second Annual Chicago Area
Graduate Gender/ Sexualities Conference"
5710 South Woodlawn Avenue, Room 107 (Community
Lounge)

April 28, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

"Engendering Change: The Second Annual Chicago Area
Graduate Gender/ Sexualities Conference"
International House, Coulter Lounge

April 28, 3:00 PM-11:00 PM

Special Event for our Alumni: *Angels in America*
Court Theatre

May 4, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM

"Engendering Rights in India: The Colonial Encounter &
Beyond" Conference
Social Science Research, Room 122

May 8, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Leila Ahmed, "A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence
from the Middle East to America"
Location TBA

May 16, 11:30-1pm

Jennifer Brier, "When the Erotic Becomes Illicit: Struggles
over Displaying Queer History"
CSGS, 5733 South University

May 18, 12-1:30 PM

Feminist/Queer Praxis Series
Paige Schilt, writer/teacher/activist
CSGS, 5733 South University

May 30, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Book Party for CSGS Faculty
Social Sciences Research, Tea Room (Second Floor)

May 31, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Annual End of Year BBQ with the Center for the Study of
Race, Politics and Culture

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csgs@lists.uchicago.edu

The logo for the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality (CSGS) at the University of Chicago. It features the letters "CSGS" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

gendersexuality.uchicago.edu
Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
The University of Chicago