

The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

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A Note from the Director



Linda M. G. Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the College, Professor of Gender Studies
Director of the Center for Gender Studies

As the new Director of CGS, I am delighted to announce some exciting changes at the Center, starting with the appointment of **Sarah Tuohy** as the new **Student Affairs Administrator**. Sarah has worked in student affairs at the University of Chicago for the past 25 years and was most recently Assistant Dean of Students for Admissions and Fellowships in the Humanities Division. She manages most aspects of the Center's graduate and undergraduate curriculum, advising Gender Studies majors and minors and working with graduate students participating in the newly established **graduate certificate** program and the **Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop**. I am also happy to say that **Gina Olson** will continue in her post as the **Assistant Director**. Gina has been involved with the Center for a decade and is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Center, event planning, programming, and development. She has taken responsibility for many Center projects, especially our ongoing **Feminist Lives and Queer Trajectories** series. Please stop by and talk with Gina and Sarah about any ideas you might have for the Center.

Building on the significant accomplishments of our wonderful 2009-2010 Interim Director, Professor Jane Dailey, CGS has just launched its new faculty fellows and faculty seminar program. As Jane reported in our Spring Newsletter, the theme of this year's **CGS Faculty Fellow seminar** is "**The Politics of Sexual Freedom**." Recipients of the first Faculty Fellow awards are: **Mary Anne Case** (Arnold I. Shure Professor of Law), **Kyeong-Hee Choi** (Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Civilizations), **Rachel Jean-Baptiste** (Assistant Professor, History), **Kristen Schilt** (Assistant Professor, Sociology), and **Rebecca Zorach**

(Associate Professor, Art History). Additionally, **Shadi Bartsch** (Ann L. and Lawrence B. Buttenwieser Professor of Classical Languages and Literatures), **Cathy Cohen** (David and Mary Winton Green Professor of Political Science and Deputy Provost for Graduate Education), **Shannon Lee Dawdy** (Assistant Professor of Anthropology), **Daisy Delogu** (Assistant Professor of French, Romance Languages & Literatures), **Aden Kumler** (Assistant Professor, Art History) and **Lucy Pick** (Senior Lecturer, Divinity School) have received research grants to underwrite their participation in the seminar. Public lectures related to the seminar's theme include talks by **Patrick Johnson** (Northwestern), **Maud Lavin** (The School of the Art Institute of Chicago), **Elizabeth Bernstein** (Barnard), and **Morris Kaplan** (SUNY Purchase). Check the CGS website for details.

Next year's CGS seminar will be run in tandem with a 2011-2012 Sawyer Seminar on the topic "**Women's International Human Rights: Paradigms, Paradoxes, Possibilities**," which has been funded by the Mellon Foundation. The co-organizers of the Mellon grant are **Martha Nussbaum** (Law, Philosophy, and Divinity), Jane Dailey (History), and myself. Look for more information about the Sawyer Seminar soon.

CGS Affiliated Faculty continue to publish works of great interest to gender and sexuality scholars: **Cathy Cohen**, *Democracy Remixed: Black Youth and the Future of American Politics* (Oxford, 2010), **Sian Beilock**, *Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal about Getting It Right When You Have To* (Free Press, 2010), **Rochona Majumdar**, *Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal* (Duke, 2009), and **Christine Stansell**, *The Feminist Promise: 1792 to the Present* (Modern Library, 2010). Please check the CGS website for the dates of book parties celebrating our CGS affiliated authors.

CGS is happy to announce **The Feminist Theory Project**. The project includes a new series called **Classics in Feminist Theory**, which is devoted to a critical rethinking of the foundational texts in the development of feminist thought. The inaugural year of the series will focus on Simone de Beauvoir's **The Second Sex**. The first event will be a lecture on October 28 by Sheila Malovaney-Chevallier and Constance Borde, the co-translators of the **new English translation** of the text. Future 2010-2011 events include a one-day workshop in

spring quarter for undergraduates and graduate students with Beauvoir scholar Professor Penelope Deutscher (Philosophy, Northwestern University). Other speakers include Toril Moi (Duke) and Sonia Kruks (Oberlin). Check the website for postings.

Raewyn Connell, Professor at the University of Sydney, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, and one of Australia's leading social scientists will give a talk on November 15, *Roses from the South: Gender Theory from the Global Periphery*, on how we might think about gender analysis from starting-points in the global periphery.

In addition to co-sponsoring the public lectures on The Politics of Sexual Freedom, the Center's Lesbian and Gay Studies Project is planning a variety of exciting events for this academic year. LGSP will co-host talks by **Mara Keisling**, Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality in November for Transgender Remembrance Day and **Christopher Ryan**, author of *Sex at Dawn: The Prehistoric Origins of Modern Sexuality*, on November 4 with Out in Public Policy and the Office of LGBTQ Student Life.

As part of our continuing efforts to expand the undergraduate program, CGS is happy to announce the creation of a new **undergraduate workshop**. This year's workshop is being organized by Erin Britton and Mrinalini Ramesh and run in connection with the **Global Affairs Leadership Society**. The mission of GALS is to encourage an active dialogue on and an engagement with gender/women's issues and international affairs, and to promote initiatives and leadership in the fields of policymaking & implementation on these issues. The theme for the year is **Women's Rights in Conflict Areas**. Check the CGS website to get details about the workshop.

Finally, CGS wants to thank **Stuart Michaels**, who has left the Center to work at NORC. Stuart was a committed teacher and mentor to the many students who have passed through the Center in the last decade and especially instrumental in building the program in sexuality studies. We are deeply grateful for Stuart's many contributions to the CGS intellectual community.

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Collegiate Affairs

The Center for Gender Studies has much to offer students interested in gender and/or sexuality as topics of study and as approaches to understanding a variety of phenomena, from social life to cultural and intellectual production. We offer and cross-list courses from across the university's divisions and schools. The Center also sponsors and participates in several major programs each year. Now in its fifth year, the **Feminist Lives, Queer Trajectories** series, which brings feminist and/or queer activists, academics, artists, professionals, and business leaders to campus to describe their life trajectories, how they came to do the work they do, and why it matters to them, begins this year on October 8 with Nona Willis Aronowitz, a feminist author, speaker, and activist whose talk is titled "Girldrive: Feminism and Activism for Gen Y." In 2010-11 the Center will also usher in a new series, **Classics in Feminist Theory**, with Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, first published in 1949, as the inaugural text.

Welcome Back/

Welcome To Reception

Please join the Center's new director, Linda Zerilli, and your fellow undergraduates for a "Welcome Back/Welcome To" reception at CGS on **Friday, October 22**, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. We will connect and reconnect over lunch and begin to discuss plans for the Undergraduate Workshop slated to begin this year and answer any questions students may have about the major or minor in Gender Studies.

Majoring or Minor- ing in Gender Studies

The Gender Studies undergraduate major has existed at the University of Chicago for the last 12 years, and since 2006 a minor in Gender Studies has been an option. **Majoring in Gender Studies** (which includes sexuality/LGBT studies) requires our two core courses, GNDR 10100 and GNDR 10200 (introductions to the study of gender and sexuality, respectively), plus nine additional courses, at least five of which must be specifically in gender/sexuality studies. The major also requires a BA project, a two and a half quarter process which includes a BA seminar. Because the number of majors is comparatively small – typically five to eight GS students graduate per year – our students derive intensive group and individual support from one another and are able to work very closely with the GS preceptor. Nearly half of our majors are double majors, bringing in the perspectives and skills of various academic disciplines. Overall, the group is intellectually and creatively versatile: BA projects have their sources in sociological fieldwork, historical research in archived texts, and theoretical analysis of written and visual forms, to name only a few.

Students may also **minor in Gender Studies**. A minor requires the two core GS courses and at least four additional courses in gender and/or sexuality (these courses may not be double counted with major or general education requirements). Students who want to complete a minor in

Gender Studies must declare this intention before the end the spring quarter of the third year by filing a form available online on the College web site (<http://college.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations/forms-and-petitions>).

If you are interested in learning more about majoring or minoring in Gender Studies, get in touch with **Sarah Tuohey**, CGS Student Affairs Administrator, at stuohey@uchicago or 773-702-2365. A full description of both options can also be found in the College Catalog under Gender Studies and on the CGS website.

Looking Ahead to Winter Course Offerings

GNDR 10100, **Problems in the Study of Gender**, taught by Leora Auslander, will be offered during Winter Quarter, along with courses originating in Sociology (**Sociology of the Family**, taught by Linda Waite), History (**Motherhood as Institution**, by Christine Stansell; **U.S. Women's History**, by Amy Dru Stanley), Philosophy (**Introduction to Political Philosophy**, by Bart Schultz), English (**Virginia Woolf**, by Lisa Ruddick), East Asian Languages and Civilizations (**Women and Work in 20th Century China**, by Jacob Eyferth), and the Law School (**Regulation of Family, Sex, and Gender**, by Mary Anne Case).

Gender Studies Course Descriptions can be found on our website:

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.shtml>

Autumn 2010 Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, October 5

Anthony Todd, PhD Candidate, History, CGS Dissertation Fellow
Finding a Place in the Sky: Female Aviators, Equality and the Performance of Gender, 1941-1945

Tuesday, October 19

Claire McKinney, PhD Candidate, Political Science
Incommensurable Politics? The Anti-selective Abortion Debate, Disability Criticism, and Pro-Choice Feminism

Friday, October 29 Rosenwald 405, 1pm

Jacqueline Winspear, Novelist and Journalist, TBD
Co-sponsored with the Nicholson Center for British Studies.

Tuesday November 2

Catherine Bronson, PhD Candidate, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, CGS Fellow
Imagining Eve in Early Islamic Exegesis

Tuesday, November 9 Wilder House, 6pm

Mark Canavera, Associate, Child Frontiers, and Activist, LGBTQI issues in Africa
Les Forces Nouvelles: Gay Identity and Armed Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire
Co-sponsored with the African Studies Workshop.

Tuesday, November 16

Joseph Fischel, PhD Candidate, Political Science
'Especially Heinous': Politics, Predation, and Sex Panics

Tuesday, November 30

Luis-Manuel Garcia, PhD Candidate, Ethnomusicology, LGSP Hormel Fellow
Sex On Several Levels: An Affective Mapping of Queer Heterotopias in Rio de Janeiro and Berlin

The Center for Gender Studies is pleased to announce that it now offers a **Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies**. Graduate Students can receive a Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies after completing the following requirements:

1. A graduate level foundation course in Gender and/or Sexuality [e.g., Introduction to Theories of Sex/Gender or some equivalent graduate level course]
2. At least 3 additional courses in gender and/or sexuality studies. These may be cross-listed courses or equivalent non-cross listed courses approved by the graduate chair.
3. A major research paper with a substantial gender/sexuality component.
4. At least 1 year of participation in the Gender & Sexualities Studies Workshop.

Students wishing to receive the certificate should submit evidence of having fulfilled the requirements for approval to the Student Affairs Administrator, **Sarah Tuohey**, stuohey@uchicago.edu.

The Center for Gender Studies fosters many kinds of graduate participation in the Center. **Teaching opportunities** at the CGS include co-teaching in the core of the undergraduate concentration (Problems in Gender Studies I and II, a M.A.-level Theory course and B.A. Preceptorship) as well as free standing courses in the College. The core undergraduate courses for the program promote collaborative teaching among faculty and graduate students.

Fellowships are available for advanced graduate students, providing

funding and/or residency at the Center. University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Application deadlines for teaching and fellowships are in winter and spring quarters.

Deadlines for 2011 will be announced soon. Full guidelines can be found on the links from the Graduate Students Page of our Website:
<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/grad/>

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (GSSW)

promotes studies of the ways in which gender and sexuality shape human experiences and are embedded in other social practices. It provides participants with an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. The workshop meets Tuesday afternoons in even weeks of the quarter to discuss pre-circulated papers written by University of Chicago graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops are held on the first floor of the Center for Gender Studies, 5733 S. University Avenue, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Attendees are expected to read the workshop paper in advance of meeting. Papers are made available on the CGS website: <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events/workshops.shtml>

If you are interested in being included on the workshop email list or would like to present your work at a future date, please email the workshop coordinator Erin Moore, emoore@uchicago.edu.

Meet the Gender Studies Graduate Students



Catherine Bronson (CGS Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations specializing in Early Islamic Thought with a focus on Qur'anic exegesis. Her dissertation, "The Islamic Eve: Sacred Prototypes and Moral Archetypes", explores both the vistas of syncretism that have produced the Eve of Islamic exegesis and the God-willed gender hierarchies that flowed therefrom. Her work focuses on the ineluctable tension between the Qur'anic depiction of Eve as Adam's consort and equal in the sequence of events that precipitated their expulsion from the garden and her later transformation in the greater Islamic tradition as a seductress, singularly and indelibly condemned for humanity's estrangement from God and on text and oral materials that implicate Eve as the archetypal femme fatale.

She is investigating how Islamic writings on Eve, as a collective, fashioned the medieval *Weltanschauung* of woman as spiritually and ontologically impoverished. By making normative the idea that woman was lacking in intelligence and of ill moral repute, the exegetes created an anthropology of inequality wherein interpretations of sacred texts came to underlay theological-legal paradigms and the imaging of femininity. That these disedifying tales became the basis for deriving law can be seen in Islamic ritual praxis, which, at a certain level, was formed in response to the sins of the first female.



Luis-Manuel Garcia (LGSP Hormel Fellow) is a PhD Candidate in Ethnomusicology at the Music Department of the University of Chicago. His work deals with various aspects of

Electronic Dance Music (e.g., house, techno, trance, dubstep, etc.) and the scenes that support it. His dissertation project, "Can You Feel It, Too?: Intimacy and Affect at Electronic Dance Music Events," is a multi-sited ethnographic study of music, intimacy, and crowds at "techno" and "house" nightclubs in three cities: Berlin, Paris, and Chicago. It focuses on how music, bodies, and space play a role in engendering a sense of intimacy between strangers on the dancefloor. Working from interviews, sound recordings, and participant observation, he argues that this sense of intimacy emerges out of the shared experience of heightened affect, and that music plays a vital role in shaping this collective experience. He reconceptualizes collective intimacy by moving between this ethnographic data and theoretical proposals about what constitutes social belonging, developing a concept of vague, fluid togetherness. His analytic focus on the sensing, affective body also highlights the complex and often messy entanglements of sex, pleasure, touch, intoxication, and anonymity (as both protective and risky). Luis-Manuel has an MA in Musicology from the University of Toronto as well as a BMus in Music History and Culture from the University of Toronto.



Melissa Hardesty (LGSP Hormel Fellow) is a Ph.D. student at the School of Social Service Administration. Her dissertation research investigates family making as it occurs through the day-to-day activities of adoption caseworkers and prospective parents interacting in the context of a private, agency-based adoption program. Melissa uses an organizational ethnographic research approach to study how prospective parents and caseworkers manage potential conflicts between personal, organizational, and dominant cultural ideas about parenting and family. She is particularly interested in how competing registers of morality matter in adoption assessments for non-traditional prospective parents, including LGBT and/or single parent applicants. Melissa received her B.S. in Psychology from Indiana University Bloomington in 1999 and her M.S.W. from Indiana University Northwest in 2007.



Monica Mercado (B.A. Preceptor) is an advanced doctoral candidate in the History Department whose research focuses on United States gender, religion, and cultural history. Her dissertation, "Women and the Word: Gender, Print, and Catholic Identity in Nineteenth-Century America," examines American Catholic print culture and the role of women readers and writers in sustaining religious publishing movements during an era of intense Protestant-Catholic competition. She has taught courses on U.S. history, women's history, and Catholic studies at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Monica has a BA from Barnard College. She has been a part of the Center for Gender Studies for several years, serving as the Gender and Sexuality Studies workshop coordinator and curating the exhibition "On Equal Terms": *Educating Women at the University of Chicago*.



Erin Moore (Workshop Coordinator) is a third year doctoral student in comparative human development. Her ethnographic research centers around the circulation of international "girls empowerment" texts and ideologies via NGO programs in Kampala, Uganda. Her broader interests include the history, culture, and politics of feminist organizing and the problems of gender, youth, and development in translocal contexts. Erin has six years of volunteer and professional experience working for girls' and women's organizations both in the US and abroad. She has received a BA in Gender Studies and a BA and an MA in Human Development from the University of Chicago.



Larisa Reznik (CGS Fellow) is a doctoral student in Theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School concentrating on religious thought in the modern West. Her research interests include an interrogation of appeals to theological grammar in twentieth-century political

and social thought, questions of religious subjectivity and materiality, the relationship between modern religious thought and modern political theory, and gender and feminist studies in religion. She is also the co-founder and coordinator of the Feminist Theories and the Study of Religion group, a graduate student organization in the Divinity School. She earned a B.A. in both English Literature and Religion from Bowdoin College and an M.A. from the University of Chicago Divinity School.



Carly Schuster (CGS Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago. She is just returned from 18 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Ciudad del Este, a commercial special

customs zone on Paraguay's shared border with Argentina and Brazil. Her research focus is on anthropology of credit and debt, especially microcredit-based development loans for economically excluded women in Paraguay. Microfinance programs initiated by *Fundación Paraguaya*, a Paraguayan non-government organization (NGO) provide small loans to what they call "committees for women entrepreneurs;" the foundation self-consciously places gender and commerce in the same frame as two social processes that are worked out in conjunction. Carly's interests include the intersection of gender, commerce, kinship and development programs in the latin american context.

Carly has a longstanding interest in microcredit. Her BA at Stanford University in Development Studies, and MA at the University of Chicago both focused on the intersection of microcredit, gender, and indigeneity in northwestern Argentina.



Anthony Todd (CGS Dissertation Fellow) is an advanced doctoral candidate in the History department who focuses on American history, politics, law and gender. Anthony has been affiliated with the center since 2007 and served as the Gender Studies BA preceptor in 2009. He has co-taught both Problems in Sexuality and Problems in Gender, as well as a course entitled "Manhood in America: Past and Present." Anthony is currently at work on a dissertation entitled "An Ethical Bohemia: Institutions, Social Networks and the Origins of the Progressive Community in Chicago, 1871-1912," examining the structure and ideology of the Chicago progressive community, attempting to understand the ways in which they tried to enact political change. This group of reformers, male and female, used settlement houses, voters' leagues, schools of social work and cultural institutions as sites for networking and information transmission. Rather than attempting to change a machine-controlled city government, Progressives relied on networks of influence and association, as well as on close personal relationships. By 1911, these networks had grown powerful enough for them to run an independent mayoral campaign and make a bid to change the face of the entire city. The mixed-gender nature of the progressive community is particularly important in understanding their power and influence, as well as some of the internal conflicts over their goals and methods. Anthony holds a B.A. from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN and an M.A. from the University of Chicago.