

## Director's Note

Welcome back to everyone! As we move into this election year autumn, here at CGS we are all ready to plunge into the life of the Center with renewed commitment to scholarly work and social activism regarding issues and goals of importance. Work pertaining to gender and sexuality, and an engaged stance vis-à-vis topics pertinent to feminism, gay and lesbian studies, and all of the wide range of subjects, whether historical, literary, cinematic, social, political, or other, which emerge from a gendered approach, will as always give direction and shape to our work at the Center, particularly at this time when all American citizens are giving their attention to policies and national directions that will determine our future, as well as that of people all around the globe. Those proposed policies and directions are often directly relevant to the issue of how we live our lives as men and women with sexual preferences and attitudes toward individual, familial, and collective gendered identity that cannot be more significant at this juncture in history.

This will be my third and final year as Director of CGS, and I am looking forward to it with special enthusiasm, hopeful that the many colleagues and students whom I have gotten to know and with whom I have worked over the last two years will continue to be involved. I have also reached out to colleagues and students who have not been involved in the past, and my further hope is that some of these "newcomers" will lend their talents and energies to the Center over the coming year. If you have proposals for activities, or would like to be involved in some of our current planning, please contact me!

The fall schedule includes our **Welcome Back Reception**, which we will again host with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. The reception, with good food and drink, will take place at the house on October 13 from 4:30-6 pm, and you are all most cordially invited to attend. We will hold our annual **Dinner for CGS Resource Faculty**, on Thursday, October 7 at 6 pm. This will be a great occasion for all of us to reconnect in casual surroundings, and we will also have the chance to hear about the findings of the Provost's Committee on the Status of Women and the Family at the University of Chicago. This Committee, on which I serve, will continue to meet during the current year, and to consider important questions such as childcare, the mentoring of junior faculty, issues of fairness in the assignment of duties, and other topics pertinent to women and families here on campus.

We have decided to move our **Distinguished Faculty Lecture** to the Fall quarter, and we are extremely pleased that Professor **Amy Hollywood** has agreed to deliver it. Amy is on the faculty of the Divinity School, and she does work regarding women and religion of real interest not only to specialists of her field but to all of us. Her lecture will take place on Wednesday, November 17 at 5 pm and is entitled **Feminist Fundamentalism**. Please mark your calendars now.

We are working on the planning of the second part of our *Generations of Feminism* conference, the first part of which took place last February to an audience of over 500 attendees. In our second part, to be held later this academic year, we will seek to concentrate on literal generations; that is, on the processes of physical aging, and the medical technologies that are being developed to deal with diseases such as AIDS and breast cancer, as well as the medical "miracles" of Viagra and hormone replacement. With **Engineering the Life Cycle: Gender, Sexuality, and Aging in the 21st Century**, we hope to involve colleagues and students from the Biological Sciences, as well as those from the Humanities and the Social Sciences, and we are looking forward to a stimulating day of discussion, debate, and sharing on

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## Faculty News and New Publications

**Leora Auslander** (History) has several pieces in the works: "Beyond Words: The eloquence of things," *American Historical Review*, forthcoming February or April 2005. "Regeneration through the Everyday? Furniture in Revolutionary Paris," in a special issue of *Art History* (vol. 28:1, Spring 2005), ed. Katie Scott Submitted October 17, 2003. "Coming Home? Jews in Postwar Paris," solicited for a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary History* on the "PostwarHome," forthcoming January 2005. "Resisting Context: The Spiritual Objects of Tobi Kahn," in *Objects of the Spirit: Ritual and the Art of Tobi Kahn*, ed. Emily Bilski (New York: Avoda/Hudson Hills, 2004) pp. 71-78.

**Lauren Berlant** (English) has contributed to *Compassion: the Culture and Politics of an Emotion* (Routledge, 2004). This contains an Intro by Berlant and essays by **Candace Vogler** (Philosophy) and **Debbie Nelson** (English).

**George Chauncey** (History) is on leave this year as a Fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, where he is completing *The Strange Career of the Closet: Gay Culture, Consciousness, and Politics from the Second World War to the Gay Liberation Era*. In September he published *Why Marriage? The History Shaping Today's Debate over Gay Equality* (Basic).

**Melissa Harris-Lacewell's** (Political Science) *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* (Princeton 2004) was released this spring. Her Op-Ed appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on Blacks at

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OCTOBER

**5** Tuesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop  
Pablo Ben, Department of History  
*Queer Identities at the Turn of the 19th Century in Buenos Aires*

**7** Thursday  
6 p.m. at CGS  
**Faculty and Staff Welcome Dinner**  
We will gather at the Center for dinner and drinks. Susan Gal will provide an update on new policies and issues related to the Provost's Committee on Women and Family on Campus, including maternity/paternity/family leave policy changes, child care, mentoring, and workload equity. This is your chance to hear about these changes, ask questions, and bring concerns to discuss with members of the committee. Details: 702-9936.

**8** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch, TBA



**13** Wednesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
**Open House and Welcome Reception**  
Co-sponsored by The Center for Gender Studies and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture. Food and drinks will be served. All are welcome.

**15** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch  
Janet Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor, Oriental Institute, Dept. Near Eastern Lang. & Civ., Cmte. Ancient Mediterranean World and the College  
*Sex, Marriage, and Property Rights in Ancient Egypt*

**19** Tuesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

**21** Thursday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
**Gender Studies Third Thursday Social Hour.** We will be joined by board members of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) to discuss activities leading into the November national elections. Food and drinks will be served.

**22** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch  
Del LaGrace Volcano, Author, photographer and filmmaker  
*Queer in the 21st Century: What role does queer play (or could it potentially play) in LGBT cultures and communities in the 21st century. What are some of the problems in attempting to re-appropriate a term (or a political attitude) that has been both stigmatized and commodified? Is queer feminism an oxymoron or a path we as a community must carve? Is it possible for queer to travel outside of the petri dish of western european/american LGBT culture? What can the mainstream learn from us besides how to dress and groom?*



**29** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch. Round Table Discussion on BD/SM (Bondage & Dominance/Sadism)

NOVEMBER

**2** Tuesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

**3** Wednesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
**Meeting of Declared & Potential Gender Studies**  
This is a chance to discuss the requirements for the major. Snacks will be provided.

**5** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch  
Bart Schultz, Fellow and Lecturer in the Humanities  
Henry Sidgwick, *Eye of the Universe*

**12** Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.  
Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch  
Jennifer Welch, Policy Advisor on women's issues, former Executive Director of the Chicago Violence Against Women and the Political Participation, and how this past election has affected women. Sponsored with Resources for Sexual Violence.

**16** Tuesday  
4:30-6 p.m.  
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop  
Antoinette Burton, History Dept at the University of Kansas  
*Cold War Cosmopolitanism and the Postcolonial*

**17** Wednesday  
5-6:30 p.m.  
**Gender Studies Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Feminist Fundamentalism:** The paper will question the temporary US feminism to equate 'religion' and 'politics' to dismiss both, and to assert their necessity to feminism itself.  
Amy Hollywood, Professor of Theology and Religion in the Divinity School.  
Location: Social Sciences 122, 1126 E  
A reception will follow.

Events will be held at 5733 South University Avenue unless noted otherwise.

Admission is free to all events. Lectures and brown bags are open to the public.

People with disabilities who believe they may need assistance, please contact Gina Olson at 702-9936 or golson@uchicago.edu.

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**Full Program Info @ <http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs>**

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and possibilities involved in a Gender Studies

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General Studies will discuss his new book,

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19 Friday  
12:15-1:30 p.m.

Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch

J. Mark Miller, Associate Professor, Dept. of English Language & Literature and the College will discuss his book, *Philosophical Chaucer Love, Sex, and Agency in the Canterbury Tales* (forthcoming from Cambridge Univ Press)

30 Tuesday  
4:30-6 p.m.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

Elizabeth Bucar (Divinity/Ethics), CGS Fellow

Virgins, Mothers, and Rebels Construction of Women's Proper Role in the thought of Ayatollah Khomeini

**The Gender and Sexualities Studies Workshop** will meet bi-monthly on Tuesdays from 4:30 until 6:00 in the seminar room at the Center for Gender Studies, 5733 South University Avenue (see CGS calendar). Iris Young, from Political Science, and Valerie Ritter, of South Asian Studies are faculty co-directors this year, and Debra Michaud of History serves as coordinator. The first meeting of the workshop will take place on Tuesday October 5 at 4:30 p.m. at the Center for Gender Studies. In addition to a paper by Pablo Ben (History), there will be wine and cheese, and we'll introduce ourselves to one another and talk about activities for the year.

We have a good line up of invited scholars from various disciplines and parts of the United States. Antoinette Burton, of the history department at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, will visit the workshop on November 16, to discuss some of her work on feminism and the British empire in India. On January 25 Lynette Jackson, of history and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago will discuss issues of sexuality and AIDS in Zimbabwe. Steven Epstein, of the sociology department of the University of California at San Diego, will visit us on April 26 to discuss his research on sexual identity and health care. Graduate student fellows at CGS will also present, as well as several faculty from the University of Chicago.

Graduate students with work to present should contact Debra Michaud (dmichaud@uchicago.edu), Iris Young (iyoung@uchicago.edu) or Valerie Ritter (ritter@uchicago.edu)



The Center for Gender Studies  
at the University of Chicago  
5733 South University Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Phone: 773-702-9936  
Fax: 773-834-2000  
<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/>



Calendar Insert — Please post!

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topics that effect us all whether younger or older, gay or straight.

We are happy to be welcoming our Dissertation Fellow, Joshua Pilzer (Music), and Office Fellows, Elizabeth Bucar (Divinity/Ethics), Fanny Dolansky (Classical Lang and Lit), Hee-Kang Kim (Political Science), and Suzy Kim (History), as well as the Preceptor, Sarah Potter (History), who will work with our wonderful group of majors who will be writing their B.A. papers under her tutelage. Our majors are growing in number, and we are proud of them all, for their work is not only diverse but seriously engaged in many disciplinary fields that all enrich our collective life at the Center. Sebastian Chauvin will continue as a LGSP/CGS Fellow to our delight, in conjunction with the Anthropology Department. Sebastian has been a wonderful addition to the daily life of the Center.

Gina Olson and Stuart Michaels continue as Assistant Directors at CGS. I want to thank them for their invaluable past work, and to say how much I and so many others look forward to working with them again this year. Professor Debbie Nelson has agreed to become the Faculty Associate Director, and she will continue as well as Co-Chair of the Public Sphere Committee. Debbie has worked tirelessly for the Center, and I am thrilled that she has agreed to take on the extra task of being Faculty Assistant Director, thus making it possible for Gina, Stuart, and me to work even more closely with her as we plan events and discuss policies. George Chauncey, the Director of the Gay and Lesbian Project, will be on leave and in New York this coming year, and Stuart has agreed to serve as the Acting Director during George's absence. We will miss you, George!

Lastly, it is with excitement that I inform you all that Stuart and I will be teaching a course on comparative gender studies next spring at the new Chicago Paris Center. One of three new intensive three-and-one-half-week courses being offered at the Paris Center, it will take the Center's life across the ocean, thus extending contacts and confirming our vital role in the life of the University.

My very best wishes to everyone for a productive, stimulating, and enjoyable academic year!

**Rebecca West**

**William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the College Professor, The Committee on Cinema and Media Studies Director, The Center for Gender Studies**

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the GOP convention: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/oped/> As always, she says, "my website is the best link to all that is new and exciting about me--<http://home.uchicago.edu/~mvharris/>"

**Jan Johnson** (Near Eastern Lang. & Civ) recently published "Sex and Marriage in ancient Egypt," pp. 149-59 in *Hommages A Fayza Haikal*, BdE 138, ed. by Nicolas Grimal, Amr Kamel et Cynthia May Sheikholeslami. She will speak on the topic at a CGS brown bag on Oct 5.

**Armando Maggi** (Romance) has a forthcoming article: "On Kissing and Sighing: Renaissance Homoerotic Love From Ficino's *De amore* and *Sopra lo Amore* to Cesare Trevisani's *L'impresa* (1569)," in *The Journal of Homosexuality*, a forthcoming book: *Beings Against Nature. Familiar Spirits, Identity, and Love in the Renaissance* (University of Chicago Press), and a book project presented last year at a CGS brown bag: *From Saint Paul To the Apocalypse: A Reading of Pier Paolo Pasolini and David Wojnarowicz*.

**Patchen Markell's** (Political Science) *Bound by Recognition* (Princeton, 2003) was co-winner of the 2004 First Book Award of the Foundations of Political Theory organized section of the American Political Science Association.

**J. Mark Miller's** (English) *Philosophical Chaucer: Love, Sex, and Agency in the Canterbury Tales*, is forthcoming from Cambridge Univ Press (Dec/Jan)-- <http://titles.cambridge.org/catalogue.asp?isbn=0521842360>. He will discuss his new book at a CGS brown bag on Nov 19.

**Debbie Nelson** (English) is editing a special issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly* on the 1950s. Anyone with an essay to submit should do so by Oct. 1. She will also have an essay called "Suffering and Thinking: The Scandal of Tone in Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*," published this spring in a book called *Compassion* (Routledge) edited by **Lauren Berlant** (English).

**Bart Schultz's** (Humanities, Graham School) *Henry Sidgwick - Eye of the Universe* was released this spring--<http://us.cambridge.org/titles/catalogue.asp?ISBN=0521829674>. He will discuss it at a CGS brown bag on Nov 5.