The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

AUTUMN 2005
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

Director’s Note

George Chauncey
Professor of History &
Interim Director

The Center for Gender Studies exists to foster innovative research, teaching, and debate on gender and sexuality and to help build a feminist public sphere on campus. We aim to do so this year both by organizing a series of major public events and by launching several smaller-scale but equally important new initiatives to involve more students and faculty in the Center.

Recent events have reminded us how urgent the need is for creative, critical thinking and action on gender and sexuality issues. The very ground is shifting beneath our feet. President Bush’s nomination of John Roberts to the Supreme Court forces us to reckon with something that once seemed unthinkable: that American women may soon lose the right to control their reproductive decisions. The reorganization of the global economy threatens many of the economic gains won in the last generation by movements for gender and racial equality, and AIDS continues to devastate the lives of millions and foster a conservative moral reaction. At the same time, gay marriage, virtually unimaginable just a decade ago, has become a legal reality in Spain, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands and Massachusetts, and the subject of intense moral and political debate throughout the United States. And far-reaching changes in the representation and everyday performance of gender, as well as medical innovations and transgender political activism, have fostered new forms of embodiment and desire that productively challenge a host of feminist and lesbian/gay orthodoxies.

This year the Center is organizing a series of lectures and conferences that address these developments, several in cooperation with our colleagues in the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. This Fall, Jean Comaroff, the Bernard E. & Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Anthropology, will deliver the annual Distinguished Faculty Lecture, Beyond the Politics of Bare Life: AIDS and the Neoliberal Order (November 17). In the winter, we join forces with the Race Center to host a day-long conference, Walmart: Local Controversies, Global Processes (January 21), which invites people from across the city to put last year’s heated controversy over Wal-Mart’s campaign to move into the South and West Sides in its global context, with special attention to how this giant corporation’s reshaping of global capitalism is affecting the prospects of women and peoples of color everywhere. A month later, at a symposium on Trans/FORMing Knowledge (February 17), we invite you to join four leading scholars in an interdisciplinary conversation about the implications of the new transgender studies for the theoretical underpinnings of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. In the spring, we anticipate co-sponsoring a symposium with the Race Center that explores recent debates over the family, from gay marriage to welfare reform.

We also continue our engagement with the arts. This winter, we and the Race Center will co-sponsor a blues women’s performance at Shoreland House (date TBA), and will host a discussion of the sexual and racial politics of the blues the following week. Also this winter, the Center’s Lesbian and Gay Studies Project presents its third annual Winter Queer Film Series at the Film Studies Center: five Friday evenings of astonishing, influential, and rarely-seen underground films from the 1950s and 60s (January 13-Feb 10). This series serves as an introduction to the LGSP’s spring conference, Beyond Warhol, Smith, and Anger: The Significance of Queer Underground Cinema, 1950-1968 (April 7-8).

Although major events such as these provide us with unique opportunities to think together about issues of special moment, it is equally important that CGS serve as an on-going center of intellectual sustenance, support, and sociability. Thus this year we are launching a series of new initiatives designed to expand the ways in which the Center serves its diverse constituencies.

Faculty have long expressed the need to meet and talk with one another outside the usual venues, so this year we are organizing a faculty reading group and will host a faculty dinner and discussion each quarter. Junior faculty associated with the Center are also organizing a monthly First Friday social hour.

CGS’s Student Caucus is organizing a dissertation support group and the CGS and LGSP graduate fellows are considering other programming. Stay tuned for details!

We’re also discussing several exciting new extra-curricular programs for undergraduates with GS majors, which we hope to announce soon, and are strengthening the concentration’s administration. (See inside for details.)

Two long-standing programs will continue to bring the entire CGS community together: the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (see this year’s schedule inside) and another exciting series of Friday brown-bag lunches.

This newsletter provides further details of the Center’s plans and preliminary schedule for the year. Although extensive, this schedule is but a work in progress. It will be expanded and enriched by the ideas and energy of the feminist community on campus. If you are interested in organizing a gender/sexuality studies event—a lecture, conference, reading group, exhibition, performance, or other project—please talk with us. We may be able to provide logistical support and funding and help you reach others who share your interests. We aim to make the Center an even more vital and vibrant center of committed scholarship and debate, and to help make the University of Chicago a major center of feminist and queer inquiry.
**The Center for Gender Studies**

**Coming Soon to the Center for Gender Studies — a Minor in Gender Studies**

Over the years many students have discovered an interest and even a passion for courses in gender and sexuality. Soon, students who take several courses in Gender Studies will be able to graduate with a Minor in Gender Studies. There are more and more courses to choose from, with an average of about 10 courses per quarter cross-listed under Gender Studies this year. We fully expect that our proposal for a new Minor in Gender Studies will be approved by the Curriculum Committee of the College this Autumn. At that point, a student who takes our two core courses, Gender Studies 10100 and 10200 (introductions to the study of gender and sexuality respectively) and at least four additional cross-listed courses in gender and/or sexuality will be eligible to graduate with a Minor in Gender Studies. These courses cannot be double counted toward any other major or minor, nor toward the general education requirements.

Students interested in learning more about the new Minor in Gender Studies should check with their college advisor or Stuart Michaels at CGS. Students who take more courses in Gender and Sexuality are encouraged to Major in Gender Studies either singly or in conjunction with another major. Majoring in Gender Studies requires our two core courses plus an additional 9 courses, of which at least five of which must be in Gender Studies. It also requires taking a B.A. Seminar and writing a B.A. paper. A full description can be found in the College Catalog under Gender Studies, or see the CGS website.

Stuart Michaels Designated Undergraduate Program Chair

As part of our efforts this year to enhance the experience of our undergraduate students, Stuart Michaels, CGS Assistant Director for Curriculum and Development, has been designated Undergraduate Program Chair. He and the new chair of the Curriculum Committee, Amy Dru Stanley of the History Department, will also lead a new initiative to review and develop the GS curriculum. If you have questions about courses in gender and sexuality studies, the major, or soon, the minor in Gender Studies you should contact him. His email is stuartm@uchicago.edu & his office is in Room 300 of the CGS house.

Stuart got his PhD in Sociology at UofC in 1997 and teaches sections of GNDR 10100 & 10200, the Center’s core courses in gender & sexuality studies. He managed the large UofC-generated national survey of sexuality in the early 1990s and is a co-author of *The Social Organization of Sexuality: Sexual Practices in the United States* (UofC Press, 1994), for which he wrote the chapter on homosexuality. Afterwards, he lived and worked in France for four years, where he pursued comparative research on sexuality and homosexuality in the U.S. and France. His current research is on the relation between quantification and the development of gay identity. Stuart has a long history of involvement in queer politics.

**Highlights of the Fall Offerings in Gender Studies**

Two sections of each core Gender Studies course are being offered this year; one of each in both the Fall & Winter Quarters! Fall Quarter there are 9 additional cross-listed courses including: Roaring Girls: Gender in Renaissance Drama, Black Queer Media (makers), Darwinian Health, Queer Life and Politics in 20th Century Europe, Chicano/a Intellectual Thought, Foucault: History of Sexuality, Medieval Women’s Religious Writing, Black Women Writers 1940s-1950s, and Body, Space, Desire: Feminist Theories of Visuality.

**The following Free-Standing College Courses are being sponsored or co-sponsored by Gender Studies:**

**History of Queer Life and Politics in 20th Century Europe**

Examines the social, cultural and political history of sexual minorities in 20th century Europe. With the use of recently published or translated scholarly work as well as first-hand material (films, speeches, manifestos, life stories, literary works) from various periods and countries, delving into the European past leads us to tell the story of a rich period where manifold actors meet and compete: the nation-state in construction, psychiatrists, politicians, mass political movements, cultural producers, the media, the emerging forces of globalization, and most importantly, queer people themselves. Taught by Sébastien Chauvin, Gender Studies and Anthropology. Autumn.

**Gender, Sexuality, and War in 20th-Century America**

Inquires into the relationships between gender and sexuality and the history of twentieth-century wars, with an emphasis on everyday life and ordinary people. Readings will address the United States, with occasional forays elsewhere, beginning in the early twentieth century and continuing to the present day. Topics may include conscription, industrial production, marriage, child-rearing, social movements, medical care, disability, the status of veterans, and intimate and racial violence. Taught by Tim Stewart-Winter, History. Winter.

**Sex, Love and Gender in Africa in the Age of AIDS**

Examines sexuality and gender in contemporary Africa, using the AIDS epidemic as a frame for thinking about changes in African societies over the last two decades. Theoretically, the course explores how African contexts challenge conventional conceptualizations of gender and sex. More empirically, the course explores key aspects of personhood in African societies, including the colonial legacy, reproduction, women’s rights, homosexuality and AIDS. This course assumes some background in gender and sexuality studies. Taught by Robert Wyrod, Sociology. Winter.

**The Sexual Subject in Weimar Cinema**

The period known as the Weimar Republic (1918-1933) arguably stands as the highpoint of German cinema; it witnessed an incredible degree of technical and aesthetic achievement in filmmaking. With their many sexualized monsters, doubles, femmes fatales, and cross-dressers, it comes as no surprise that recent scholarship has emphasized the problematic representations of sexuality and gender in these films. In this course we will view key cinematic texts of the period and think critically about their depictions of gender, sexuality, power, and desire. Taught by Darren Ilett, Germanic Studies. Spring. Consult the timeschedule for details.

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Faculty and Staff Notes

Congratulations to our Affiliated Faculty:

Lauren Berlant, Professor in English Language & Literature and the Committee on African and African-American Studies and former Director of the Center for Gender Studies, received the 2005 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

Sandra Macpherson’s essay, “Sex at Twickenham,” English Literary History 72 (2005): 471-93 was published this summer.


Hans Bjarne Thomsen, Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History, has curated a show at the Smart Museum of Art, which will run September 17-December 11, 2005 entitled, The Poetry of Shijo Surimono. Celebrating the sophisticated literary and artistic culture of nineteenth-century Japan, cultural figures of the day commissioned artists and publishers to create complex intricate prints called surimono. These works shed light on the print culture of the day and on the complex relations between the poets, artists, actors, geisha, and other cultural figures of the period.

Oxford University Press has published a new book of essays by Iris Marion Young, Professor, Department of Political Science: Female Body Experience, “Throwing Like a Girl” and Other Essays.

New Affiliated Faculty Profile:

Jessica Cattelino, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and of the Social Sciences in the College, conducts research on indigenous sovereignty and citizenship, American public culture, and economy and value. She also sustains interests in gender, space and place, law, and cultural production.


The CGS Student

The Gender Studies Student Caucus is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students interested in influencing the Center’s teaching, research, and program activities. The Caucus also encourages student-led, campus-wide discussion and debate around gender and sexuality related issues. Caucus activities for the 2005-2006 academic year include a dissertation support group for students pursuing gender related projects as well as developing an undergraduate Brown Bag/discussion series.

If you would like to participate in the dissertation support group, please contact Carrie Dohe at cbdohe@uchicago.edu.

Interested in participating in the Caucus? Please contact Keisha Lindsay (keisha@uchicago.edu) for more information.
Annette Bourland Huizenga (CGS Resident Fellow) is a PhD Candidate in Biblical Studies at the Divinity School. Her dissertation topic is "What’s a Woman to Do? Training Women to Virtue in the Pastoral Epistles and Texts by Pythagorean Women." These ancient texts convey "sexist" advice for proper behavior for women, as wives, mothers, and household managers, and these expectations are still in force in some churches today. This year, Annette will continue her research into and writing on literature and education for women in the Greco-Roman world, and teach as an adjunct at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Born in western Maryland, Annette graduated from Vassar College, then obtained a Master of Religious Education from Wesley Theological Seminary (D.C.). In Chicago, she has worked in educational positions in churches and for the Christian Education Task Force for World Peace, and acted as publisher and editor of Daughters of Sarah, a Christian feminist journal. Annette was ordained by LaSalle Street Church, Chicago (nondenominational), and served as one of the pastors there for 10 years. During that time, she completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at McCormick Theological Seminary. Annette and her husband Tim live on the north-west side of Chicago.

Sébastien Chauvin (CGS Visiting Fellow) is a visiting fellow in Gender Studies and the department of anthropology, from the Ecole normale supérieure (Paris, France). His work has been focusing on the one hand on lesbian and gay cultures, feminism and sex work, and on the other hand on racial domination, immigration and casual labor. He is currently preparing an article on the evolution of the link between feminist and lesbian and gay movements in France. At the same time, for his thesis at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris) he has been conducting ethnographic fieldwork in Chicago on immigrant and African-American "precarious employment" in local day-labor agencies. In the Fall 2005 quarter, he will be teaching the "Introduction to Pierre Bourdieu" class in anthropology (ANTH 21411), and the seminar on the "History of Queer Life and Politics in Twentieth-Century Europe" in Gender Studies and History (GNDR 22301 / HIST 19601).

Liz Bucar (CGS Dissertation Writing Fellow) is a doctoral candidate in ethics at the Divinity School whose research focuses on gender and comparative religion (Roman Catholicism and Shi’ite Islam). Liz spent the summer of 2004 in Iran interviewing leaders of the women’s movement, and the 2004-2005 year as an office fellow at the CGS working on her dissertation, “Back Talk: Feminist Ethics Within the Rhetoric of John Paul II and Ayatol­lah Khomeini.” Her dissertation is focused on demonstrating how religious leaders’ arguments about women’s proper roles provide unanticipated possibilities for feminist ethics through the case study of two communities: Catholic women in the United States and Shi’ite women in Iran. This year she plans to complete her dissertation research with a series of interviews of US Catholic lay leaders and finish writing her dissertation.

Pamela Y. Cook (CGS Resident Fellow) is a native of Milledgeville, Georgia and was educated at Spelman College and Emory University School of Law. A doctoral student in political science, she is also an adjunct professor of political science at Beloit College. While on the faculty at Beloit, Pamela has taught courses in political science, women’s and gender studies, and interdisciplinary studies, as well as worked on a diversity initiative.

While at CGS, Pamela will be completing work on her dissertation which tests a theory of womanist consciousness in the political participation of African American women. A chapter explicating this herstyle theory of political activism will appear in the forthcoming volume, The African American Political Woman: A Reader.

Professionally, Pamela has served as secretary of the American Political Science Association’s Organized Section on Race, Ethnicity, & Politics and on the Women of Color Committee for the Women’s Caucus of the American Political Science Association. At the University of Chicago, she has served in several leadership roles in the Minority Graduate Student Association and CCMI (now OMSA). Her teaching, research, and activist interests include race and gender politics, womanist pedagogy, and the recruitment and retention of scholars of color in the academy.

Keisha Lindsay (B.A. Preceptor and Workshop Coordinator) is a PhD candidate in the political science department. She is the student coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop and the Gender Studies preceptor for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Keisha’s research interests include popular culture and the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality. Her dissertation explores the increasingly common theme, in academic and popular discourse, that black British and African-American males constitute an "endangered" or a marginalized species. Keisha argues that claims regarding black men’s "endangered" status are significant because they seem both to validate and transcend debates about neo-liberalism and black female success in the 1980s and beyond. Not only that, in asserting that black men are marginalized because they are heterosexual, black, and male, proponents of the black male crisis narrative suggest that intersectional understandings of race, gender, and sexuality need not be grounded in either an explicitly feminist or an inherently leftist approach.

Darren Ilett (LGSP Hormel Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Germanic Studies. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1998 and received his M.A. from the University of Chicago in 2001. In May 2003 Darren organized a conference on the Turkish Diaspora in Germany, and in March 2005 he co-organized an interdisciplinary conference on bodies and control called "Körperkontrolle/Kontrollkörper." His publications include translations of Feridun Zaimoglu and Benjamin von Stuckrad-Barre. Darren has taught first- and second-year German courses and received a Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship to teach a course on gender and sexuality in Welmar cinema during Spring Quarter 2006. The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project awarded Darren a Vance Lancaster Graduate Research Grant in 2004 and a James C. Hormel Dissertation Fellowship for 2005-2006. He is currently working on his dissertation, "Turnhalle—Dachkammer—Schlafsaal: Homosexualität, Discipline, and Authority in German Boarding School Literature and Film," which interrogates the relationship between homo-sexual thematics and narrative form around 1900. His research interests include fin de siècle literature and art, film studies, queer studies, gender studies, transnational German literature, and German Orientalism.

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Gender and Sexuality Studies

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (GSSW) provides an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. We meet in the Center for Gender Studies seminar room from 4:30-6 on Tuesday afternoons in even weeks of the quarter to discuss pre-circulated papers written by graduate students, faculty, and visitors.

GSSW graduate student coordinator Keisha Lindsay worked tirelessly with faculty and graduate students this summer to plan a phenomenal year for the Workshop. So many students are interested in presenting their work that she has already scheduled most of the year’s meetings, although we have deliberately left open a few sessions for newcomers. Religion, women’s political mobilization, masculinity and violence in the age of AIDS, and sexuality, representation, and space are among our central themes this year.

The workshop’s first meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 4. In addition to introducing ourselves and discussing Pamela Cook’s paper on African American women’s political mobilization, we will discuss Workshop plans for the rest of the year. Plan on staying afterwards for a light dinner and lively socializing!

As always, the Workshop features the work of graduate students, but we are also pleased to welcome three visiting scholars this year. On October 18, Lynette Jackson (University of Illinois at Chicago) will present her research on AIDS and gender violence in Zimbabwe. Margot Canaday (University of Minnesota) will discuss the queer sexual politics of the New Deal welfare state on November 1. And Lisa Baldez (Dartmouth) will visit the workshop on February 21 to discuss gender and political mobilization in Latin America.

The faculty co-directors of the Workshop are George Chauncey (History), Stuart Michaels (Gender Studies), and Iris Marion Young (Political Science). For more information about the Workshop or to inquire about presenting a paper, please contact the workshop coordinator, Keisha Lindsay (keisha@uchicago.edu).

Papers will be available for download at http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/genderandsexualitywkshop.html

Hard copies will be available in limited number outside Room 306 at the CGS.

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**Fall 2005**

**Week 2: Oct 4**

Pamela Cook, University of Chicago, Dept. of Political Science, Center for Gender Studies Fellow

“In Search of Herstyle: Womanist Consciousness and African American Women’s Political Participation”

**Week 4: Oct 18**

Lynette Jackson, University of Illinois at Chicago, Associate Professor, Depts. of Gender and Women’s Studies & African American Studies

“Gender Violence and AIDS in Zimbabwe”

**Week 6: Nov 1**

Margot Canaday, Univ. of Minn. Post-Doctoral Fellow in History

“Most Fags are Floaters: The Problem of ‘Unattached Persons’ During the Early New Deal, 1933-1935”

**Week 8: Nov 15**

Darren Ilett, University of Chicago, Germanic Studies, Hormel Fellow

“The Homoerotic Body and Narrative Form in Heinrich Mann’s ‘Abdankung’ (Abdication)”

**Week 10: Nov 29**

Daniel Chen, University of Chicago, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Sociology

“Gender Violence and the Price of Virginity: Theory and Evidence of Incomplete Marriage Contracts”

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**Winter 2006**

**Week 2: Jan 10 - TBA**

Robert Wyrod, University of Chicago, Dept. of Sociology

“Being a Man in Bwaise Town: Masculinity in Urban Uganda in the Age of AIDS”

**Week 4: Jan 24**

Timothy Stewart-Winter, University of Chicago, Dept. of History

“Putting Gay Gentrification in its Place: Reflections on the Origins of San Francisco’s Castro District”

**Week 6: Feb 7**

Rachel Rinaldo, University of Chicago, Dept. of Sociology

“Transforming Feminism: The Politics of Islam and Women’s Rights in Indonesia”

**Week 8: Feb 21**

Lisa Baldez, Dartmouth University, Associate Professor, Dept. of Government

“Politics and Gender in Latin America”

**Spring 2006**

**Week 2: Apr 4**

Jeff Rees, University of Chicago, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Religious Ethics

“Just Subjects: Towards a Queer Theory of Justice”

**Week 4: Apr 18**

Elizabeth Bucar, University of Chicago, Religious Ethics, Center for Gender Studies Fellow

“Religious Women’s Back Talk”

**Week 6: May 2**

Kristafer Baker, University of Chicago, Dept. of Anthropology

“Gender Capital: Homophobia, Misogyny, and The Precarious Position of Masculine Privilege in Guadalajara”

**Week 8: May 16 - TBA**

**Week 10: May 30**

Cynthia Whitehead, University of Chicago, Dept. of History

“All Workshops will be held from 4:30–6 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Center for Gender Studies. See the website for updates and papers: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/genderandsexualitywkshop.html”
The Gender Studies Brown Bag Lunch Series

Friday, October 14, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Gender and Modernity in Thai Buddhism
Steve Collins
Professor, Dept. of South Asian Languages and Civilizations

Friday, October 28, 12:15-1:30 PM
Human Rights and Sexuality Panel:
HIV and LGBTQ Discrimination Across the Globe
University of Chicago students will discuss their experience interning with non-governmental organizations through the Human Rights Program’s 2005 Summer Internship Program. Having worked on three different continents, the students will discuss the intersections of human rights and sexuality.

Derek Ciszek, College - Amnesty International, Australia
Justin Hill, College - Black AIDS Institute, Los Angeles, CA
James Sams, College - BONELA, Botswana

Sponsored with the Human Rights Program.

Friday, November 11, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
TBA.
Sponsored with Resources for Sexual Violence Prevention.

Friday, December 2, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Lessons from Multiracial Women on Adoption, Race, and Identity
Gina Samuels
Assistant Professor, School for Social Service Administration

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