

# The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

AUTUMN 2006

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

## Director's Note



**Deborah Nelson**  
Associate Professor, English Department  
Director of the Center for Gender Studies

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Events and Programs 2

Collegiate Affairs, Contacts 3

LGSP and Workshop Schedule 4

Graduate Fellows 5

Free Standing Courses 6



THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES  
at THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu>

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This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Center for Gender Studies. Our mission has been to foster innovative research, teaching, and debate on gender and sexuality and to help build a feminist public sphere here at the University of Chicago. There are, of course, reasons to worry about the future of the Center and of gender studies more generally. In the larger national community, the religious right leverages hostility to the gains made by women and sexual minorities in the past few decades to animate their constituency. In our own community, we have been diminished by faculty leaving for other institutions and by the death this past summer of our much valued colleague, **Iris Marion Young**. Looking back at these ten years, however, there is firm ground for optimism: we continue to produce challenging programming for audiences within and outside the university; we have a thriving major and a new minor for undergraduates; we have sponsored approximately forty-five dissertating students whose work constitutes the next generation of scholarship in the field; we have likewise provided scores of teaching opportunities for graduate students; we continue to have a vibrant faculty community engaged with the Center. It is my great pleasure to begin my term as director as we enter our second decade and to work with you to maintain the high level of energy we

have enjoyed and to replenish that which we have lost.

Iris Young joined the University of Chicago faculty in 2000 and immersed herself in the life of the Center, serving multiple terms on the board, directing the gender and sexuality workshop, and mentoring graduate students and junior faculty working not only in her field of political science, but across the social sciences more generally. Two events will commemorate her life and work. The first is a memorial service on November 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm in Bond Chapel. The second is a symposium on her work that will be jointly sponsored by the department of political science and the Center. Details will be forthcoming.

**Lauren Berlant** has taken over this year as the Director of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project and has already organized a marvelous lecture series featuring new voices and new directions in lesbian/gay/queer studies. We all owe a debt of thanks to Lauren for taking on this project and fulfilling its goals so imaginatively.

Please join us for our **Annual Welcome Reception** on Wednesday, October 11 from 4:30-6 pm held in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture (CSRPC).

Professor **Martha McClintock** will deliver the 2006-07 Distinguished Faculty Lecture, **Human Scents and Pheromones: Effects on Fertility, Sexuality and Emotions** on Thursday, Nov. 2 at 5 pm in Social Sciences 122. Professor McClintock is the first member of the biological sciences division to speak in this annual event. Join us for a reception immediately following the lecture.

The **faculty reading group** will be contacted at the beginning of the year so that they may reconvene their quarterly meetings. Anyone interested in joining the group should

contact the Center. We will also continue our series for undergraduates, **Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories**, which helps students to imagine future careers by meeting informally with people working in fields that make use of the study of gender and sexuality. There is a meeting Friday, Sept. 29 for students interested in the series.

CGS and CSRPC will cooperate on our first joint venture of the year by helping to support activities the first week in December organized by the local chapter of **Students Global AIDS Campaign**. The focus this year will be on three issues: access to healthcare, the training of health-care workers, and empowering women against the epidemic. Details will be forthcoming on our webpage.

Finally, the Center has redesigned our webpage in order to make it more visually compelling and more easily navigated. Check it out at our new URL <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu> and let us know how it is working. We also wanted to include new material, like some of the fascinating stories that have been discovered by our undergraduate interns in the Oral History project on the **History of Women at the University of Chicago**. In the interests of expanding our research in this area, we are looking for graduate students to work at the Regenstein Special Collections to create a finding guide for the library's holdings on women at the University of Chicago. Graduate students should contact us if they are interested in a position.

There are numerous other activities listed in the rest of the newsletter and I encourage you to mark your calendars. If you are interested in working with us to organize an event, please talk with us. We may be able to provide logistical support and funding to help you reach others who share your interests.

## Center Programs and Events

### Autumn Quarter CGS Events

**The Annual Welcome Reception  
of the Center for Gender Studies  
and the Center for the Study of Race,  
Politics and Culture**

Wednesday, October 11, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

5733 South University, 1st floor—All are welcome!

**The 2006-07 Gender Studies  
Distinguished Faculty Lecture**

Thursday, November 2, 5 p.m.

**Human Scents and Pheromones:**

**Effects on Fertility, Sexuality and Emotions**



**Martha McClintock**, David Lee Shillinglaw Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Psychology, Committees on Human Development, Neurobiology, and Evolutionary Biology.  
Location: Social Sciences 122,  
Reception to Follow.

### Brown Bag Lunch Discussions

Thursday, October 12, 12:15-1:30 p.m.

**De-militarizing Masculinities in the Age of Empire**

**Simona Sharoni**, Faculty, Masters in Teaching Program,  
Evergreen State College

Friday, November 10, 12:15-1:30 p.m.

**Sexual Violence Awareness Week**

Speaker TBA. Co-sponsored with Resources for Sexual Violence Prevention.

November—TBA.

### Feminist Lives and Queer Trajectories Series

Thursday, October 19, 12-1:30 p.m.

**Judith Levine**, Journalist, essayist, activist and author who has written about sex, gender, and families for two decades. Director, National Center for Reason & Justice. Author of *Not Buying It: My Year Without Shopping* and *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children From Sex*.



November—TBA.

All Events will be held at

5733 South University Avenue unless noted otherwise.

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events.html>

### Lesbian and Gay Studies Project Events

Thursday, 26 October, 4 p.m.

**Shaka McGlotten**, SUNY Purchase, Assistant Professor of Media, Society, and the Arts

**The Bleed: The Murder of J.R. Warren**

Location: TBA.

Friday, 17 November, 4 p.m.

**Gregg Bordowitz**, School of the Art Institute Chicago, Faculty of Film, Video and New Media

**Of the Passions and Art Today**



Thursday, 11 January, 4 p.m.

**Janet Halley**, Harvard University,  
Royall Professor of Law

**Split Decisions: A Conversation on  
'Taking a Break from Feminism'**

between Janet Halley and Lauren Berlant

Thursday, 8 February, 4 p.m.

**Colin Johnson**, Indiana University, Bloomington, Assistant Professor, Department of Gender Studies

**The Consolations of Familiarity: Cross Dressing Sunday School Teachers and the Politics of Community in the Deep South**

Thursday, 19 April, 4 p.m.

**Molly McGarry**, University of California Riverside,  
Assistant Professor of History

**Ghosts of Futures Past:**

**A Queer Historiography of Untimely Sexualities**

Location for all talks listed above: Franke Institute, except 10/26 TBA.

Check the website for details on:

**ACT-UP: 25 Years On**

Panel Discussion, **Thursday, 8 March**

Debbie Gould, Ann Cvetkovitch, Mary Patten, Kendall Thomas (tentative)

**Queer Publics, Queer Affects**

Panel Discussion, **Friday, 9 March**

Jose Munoz, NYU; Ann Cvetkovitch, Texas; Lisa Duggan, NYU

**Judith Butler**, **Monday, 30 April**

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/lgsp.html>

## The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project of the Center for Gender Studies (LGSP) will begin a new public forum this year, and we're very excited to invite you to participate in the ongoing public discussion. This quarter the project will begin to host a year-long lecture series featuring new voices and emerging debates in GLBTQ scholarship. The first lecture will be by anthropologist and performance artist **Shaka McGlotten**, of SUNY-Purchase. His

lecture, "'The Bleed: The Murder of J.R. Warren," addresses the racial, sexual, legal, and communal complexities of a West Virginia hate crime: Thursday, October 26. Professor McGlotten will also host a seminar that evening on problems of sexuality, race, public sphere theory, and ethnography in looking at gay chatroom activity in Austin, TX (see future announcements).

The second talk, by artist and theorist

**Gregg Bordowitz** of the Art Institute of Chicago is titled, "Of the Passions and Art Today," and advances an account of the theory and practice of the new Queer art: Friday, November 17. Look forward also to panels on World AIDS Day, on December 1, and to talks later in the year by Janet Halley, Judith Butler, Lisa Duggan, Jose Munoz, Ann Cvetkovich, and Lee Edelman.

**See Page 2 for Event Details...**

## Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop Schedule

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop meets biweekly on Tuesdays to discuss graduate student papers and as-yet-unpublished work from leading scholars. The workshop focuses on any area of gender and sexuality studies and assumes them as embedded in social practices and categorizations. In maintaining the workshop's interdisciplinary focus we have already scheduled presenters from approximately 10 different disciplines including, but not limited to, English, History, Chinese Literature, Sociology, and Political Science. Workshop meetings are held in the first floor

conference room of the Center. The first workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 10th from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Attendees are expected to read the paper in advance of the workshop. They are available at the CGS website or via our email list. If you are interested in receiving announcements of the workshop and links to the papers, please email [jvanore@uchicago.edu](mailto:jvanore@uchicago.edu).

This year's first presenter is James Fortney (Romance Languages & Literatures) on the gay characters in the work of Natalia Ginzburg, an Italian writer of the 20th cen-

ture. This academic year the Gender and Sexuality Workshop plans to co-sponsor at least two outside faculty. Along with the Latin American Studies Workshop, the GSSW will co-host Professor Omar Acha, an Argentinean scholar at the University of Buenos Aires whose work examines questions of race, class, and sexuality primarily in Argentinean culture.

The workshop still has openings for presenters this coming academic year. If you have a paper you wish to present, please email [jvanore@uchicago.edu](mailto:jvanore@uchicago.edu) for available dates.

### Autumn 2006

October 10

**James Fortney**, University of Chicago, Romance Languages & Literatures  
*"Con quel tipo li": Gay Characters in Natalia Ginzburg's Narrative Families*

October 24 - TBA

November 7

**Kathleen Frederickson**, University of Chicago, English Language & Literature  
*Freud's Australia*

November 21

**Arnika Fuhrmann**, University of Chicago, South Asian Languages and Civilizations  
*"What kind of case is the case of a ghost": Femininity, loss, and recovery in contemporary Thai cinema's horror-ghost genre.*

December 5

**Keisha Lindsay**, University of Chicago, Political Science  
*Intersecting Privilege and Oppression in Black Male Crisis Narrative Texts*

### WINTER 2007

January 9 TBA

January 23

**Omar Acha**, University of Buenos Aires, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters

February 6 TBA

February 20 TBA

March 6

**Sarah Potter**, University of Chicago, History, CGS Dissertation Writing Fellow  
*Owning Domestic Space: Renting, Renovating, and Redefining the Family Home in Post-World War II Chicago*

**All workshops are 4:30-6 pm, held in the Center's conference room.**

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/genderandsexualitywkshop.html>

### SPRING 2007

April 3

**Liz Bucar**, University of Chicago, Religious Ethics  
*Curing Homos? Homosexuality, Transgender, and Sex Change Operations Within the Islamic Republic of Iran*

April 17

**Robert Wyrod**, University of Chicago, Sociology  
*Beyond ABC: AIDS, Sexuality and Masculinity in Urban Uganda*

May 1

**Pablo Ben**, University of Chicago, History, Hormel Fellow

May 15

**Jingwoan Chang**, University of Chicago, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, CGS Resident Fellow  
*Gender, Health, and Bodily Appetites in Edo Japan*

May 29

**Sam Bergmann**, University of Chicago, Human Development, Hormel Fellow

## Graduate Fellows and Preceptor



**Sam Bergmann** (LGSP Hormel Fellow) Sam Bergmann is an advanced doctoral student in the Department of Comparative Human Development working on a dissertation study of gender roles and identities in the relationships of female couples raising children. He originally hails from Texas and has a B.A. from the University of Texas in the humanities and psychology. Most recently, he has been living in San Francisco conducting interviews and gathering other data, but has now dusted off his long johns and snow boots and returned to Chicago as a Hormel fellow. He plans to graduate in 2007 and to continue advancing toward a license as a clinical psychologist. He is the proud coparent of 2 small terriers desperately in need of remedial training.



**Kristin C. Bloomer** (CGS Resident Fellow) is a Ph.D. candidate in Theology and the History of Religions at the Divinity School whose research

focuses on gender, popular religion and contemporary Christianity in Tamil Nadu, south India. Kristin spent two years in south India studying Roman Catholic, Protestant and Hindu communities whose memberships cut across class, caste, and geographic lines, examining in particular these communities' discourses and practices as they pertained to Mary. She sought to analyze the status of Mary in these discourses and practices, the extent to which, if at all, they seemed to correspond to the status of women in these communities, and the extent to which these discourses and practices shared similarities to, or differed from, one another as well as to or from local discourses and practices associated with Hindu goddesses. Her dissertation, an ethnography that locates itself in the developing field of comparative theology, will focus on possession and exorcism rituals

involving Mary. It will furthermore seek to examine the status of Mary in Roman Catholic discourse and practice on at least three levels: the level of Vatican elite; the level of Indian Roman Catholic clerical elite; and the level of local Roman Catholics and Hindus who cannot be counted among the elite of Tamil South Indian society.

Kristin graduated from Wesleyan University in 1989, earned an M.A. from King's College, Cambridge University in 1991, and completed an M.F.A. in creative writing from University of Montana in 1993. She worked for several years as a print journalist before moving to Chicago, where in 2000 she earned the Divinity School M.A. that immediately preceded her doctoral work. She reads and speaks Tamil. A Marty Dissertation Fellow at the Divinity School, she will also be teaching at Loyola University this year.



**Jingwoan Chang** (CGS Resident Fellow) is a PhD student in the East Asian Languages and Civilizations department. She is interested in the cultural history of Ming-Qing China and Tokugawa Japan, and plans to write a dissertation

on the role of gender in Edo food culture and food publications. In particular, she will focus on Chinese influences on such texts and examine the gendered discourses tied to bodily appetites, food prohibitions, and culinary manners for women.

Jingwoan was born in Taiwan, raised in Singapore, and has lived in the United States for over sixteen years. A native speaker of English and Mandarin Chinese, she has spent four summers in Japan immersed in language training, research, and gastronomical adventures. The place that has felt most like home has been the San Francisco Bay Area, where she spent a few years working as a technical writer for IBM Corporation.

This year, Jingwoan will prepare for qualifying exams and serve as one of the student coordinators for the Literature and Cultural History in Early Modern East Asia workshop.



**Alison Lefkowitz** (B.A. Preceptor) is a doctoral candidate in the History department whose research focuses on 20th century United States gender, family, and political history. She is the Gender Studies preceptor for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Her dissertation "The Politics of Marriage in the Era of Women's Liberation, 1963-1982" explores legal, economic, and social changes in marriage from 1963 until the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment. She will examine the struggle over personal rather than public life—specifically marriage—as the New Right, feminists, and ordinary couples battled over the meaning, desirability, and means of attaining gender equality. Following archival trips to Boston, MA and Washington DC this past summer, Alison plans to continue writing and researching her dissertation in Chicago this fall.



**Sarah Potter** (CGS Dissertation Writing Fellow) is a doctoral candidate in the History department. She graduated from Columbia University in 1999 and received her MA in History from the University of Chicago in 2002. Sarah's research

focuses on gender and sexuality in the twentieth-century United States. Her dissertation, "The Postwar Private Sphere: Social Difference in Daily Life in Chicago, 1940-1960," uses confidential adoption and foster care records from the 1940s and 1950s as a lens into daily domestic life during the baby boom. She seeks to complicate our understanding of the politics and values informing family life at this time by studying a diverse group of African American, working-class, and middle-class families. Sarah has been a part of the Center for Gender Studies for several years, serving as the Gender Studies Preceptor and the graduate student representative for the Gender Studies Student Caucus. This year she plans to complete her dissertation.

## Collegiate Affairs

The Center for Gender Studies has an enormous amount to offer students interested in gender and/or sexuality as topics of study and 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 departments. We also have a rich panorama of programming to supplement course work: from our Brown Bag series to special lectures and programs. For the second year in a row, we will continue our twice quarterly Feminist Lives, Queer Trajectories series intended to help provide answers to the perennial question: What do you do with a major (or minor) in Gender Studies? This series brings in speakers who have pursued or constructed standard and non-standard careers dedicated to feminist and queer ideas and values. Last year we heard from lawyers and doctors, community leaders and activists, and music festival promoters.

### Majoring or Minor in Gender Studies

A major in Gender Studies has existed at the University of Chicago for the last 10 years. In 2006, a minor in Gender Studies also became an option. Majoring in Gender Studies (which includes sexuality/LGBT studies) requires our two core courses GNDR 10100 & GNDR 10200 (introductions to the study of gender and sexuality, respectively) plus 9 additional courses at least 5 of which are specifically in gender/sexuality courses. It also involves a B.A. paper/project, a two and one half quarter process which includes a B.A. seminar. The relatively small number of majors, 6 to 8 students per year, receive intensive group and one to one support from their fellow majors and from the Gender Studies preceptor. About one third to one half our major are double majors. Projects range from literary studies to social science research to creative work focused on some aspect of gender and/or sexuality.

Students may also minor in Gender Studies. A minor involves the two core courses and at least four additional courses in gender and/or sexuality. However, these courses cannot be double counted toward the student's major(s) or his/her general education re-

quirements. Fourth year students must declare their intention to minor before the end of Autumn Quarter by filing a form available from their college advisor.

Students interested in learning more about majoring or minoring in Gender/Sexuality Studies should contact, Stuart Michaels, Undergraduate Program Chair of CGS at [stuartm@uchicago.edu](mailto:stuartm@uchicago.edu). A full description of both options can also be found in the College Catalog under Gender Studies or on the CGS website.

### Student Caucus

The Center for Gender Studies has a student caucus made up of both undergraduate and graduate students. The student caucus plans activities of specific interest to students and provides a voice in the direction of the Center for Gender Studies. For example members of the student caucus co-organize the Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories series. In addition, representatives from the Student Caucus serve on the CGS Board of Directors. If you are interested in finding out more about or joining the Student Caucus, you can contact Cindy Nguyen, [ctnguyen@uchicago.edu](mailto:ctnguyen@uchicago.edu) or Erin Moore, [emoore@uchicago.edu](mailto:emoore@uchicago.edu).

### Lunch for Undergraduate (Interested/Potential) Majors and Minors – Friday of First Week, 29 September at Noon.

All undergraduates are invited to a lunch meeting for potential and existing majors/minors. Even if you're unsure, you are welcome to join us. Come meet with Debbie Nelson, new Director of CGS and Stuart Michaels, Undergraduate Program Chair and other Center staff and students to discuss Gender and Sexuality Studies opportunities and this year's program. Find out about the major/minor, the student caucus, and other activities of CGS.

### Highlights of Fall Offerings in Gender Studies

Stuart Michaels and Marissa Guerrero will be teaching a section of one of our two core courses, GNDR 10200 Problems in the Study of Sexuality on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 3 PM. For the first time, The Biology of Gen-

der is being cross-listed with Gender Studies. From English, Lisa Ruddick is offering her popular course, Virginia Woolf. Sue Gal is offering a joint graduate/undergraduate course on Approaches to Gender in Anthropology. James Madigan of Lambda Legal Defense is offering a course on Sexual Orientation and the Law. There are also two courses from professors of Italian/Romance Languages: Armando Maggi's course on the important writer/filmmaker, Pasolini, and Rebecca West, former director of Gender Studies, new course, Creative Couples & Collaboration in 20th Century Italy. Don't forget to check out our Free Standing course offerings described on the final page of this newsletter, including this Fall, Critical Perspectives on Masculinity.

There are also graduate student seminars being offered by Lauren Berlant of English and Martha Nussbaum of Philosophy and the Law School.

### CGS Contacts—Quick Reference:

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**Gina Olson**-Asst Director, Administration and Programming (*Budget Oversight, Daily Operations & Building Issues, Fellowships, Events, Collaborations, Co-sponsorships, Outreach, Publicity, Newsletter, Website*)  
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**Alison Lefkowitz**-BA Preceptor,  
History of Women at the U of C Project  
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## Free Standing College Courses

### FALL QUARTER

#### Gender Studies 21703

##### **Critical Perspectives on Masculinity**

##### **John Osburg, Anthropology**

While it may seem that much scholarship is already disproportionately concerned with the deeds and ideas of men, the study of men as gendered beings is a relatively new and burgeoning area of inquiry. This course critically examines different approaches to studying masculinity as a historically variable social formation. Beginning with psychoanalytic and feminist approaches to the study of gender, we will trace the emergence of masculinity as an object of study and will move on to examine the concept of “hegemonic masculinity,” sex role theory, and notions of gender as performance. Along the way we will consider the role of the state and legal regimes, as well as the intersections of sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class with forms of masculinity. Case studies will be drawn from a variety of different geographical regions ranging from Highland New Guinea to the contemporary United States.

### WINTER QUARTER

#### Gender Studies 21802

##### **Viewing Positions, Viewing Pleasures: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Theories of Film Spectatorship**

##### **Nathan Wolf, English**

This course focuses on questions of gender and sexuality in the major theories of film spectatorship of the last 35 years. We will begin with Laura Mulvey’s classic account of Hollywood narrative cinema as structured on the woman’s to-be-looked-at-ness and the male spectator’s voyeuristic pleasure-in-looking. We will then consider competing models of cinema spectatorship, asking how each account imagines our position as viewers, what pleasures or displeasures are encouraged or disavowed, and how categories of gender and sexuality are reinforced or transgressed in the act of viewing. Weekly topics will include voyeurism; the physiological excitation of “body genres” (melodrama, horror, porn); camp and queer spectatorship; the male body as the object of the gaze; and masochism and shock. Required screenings may include: *Rear Window* (Hitchcock), *Halloween* (Carpenter), *Videodrome* (Cronenberg), and *Far from Heaven* (Haynes).

### COMING IN SPRING QUARTER:

**GNDR 20002, *Sexuality in the Classical World*, Matthew Perry, History**

**GNDR 22202, *Imported Intimacies: Women & Transnational Migration*, Maria Garrett, Anthropology**

**GNDR 22602, *Youth, Gender, & Sexuality*, Moira Hinderer, History**