A Note from the Director

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

This time last year many of us wondered whether we would recover from the loss of several key members of our community. This year we face another question entirely: how did we get so lucky? In the spring newsletter, I introduced a new assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, Kristin Schilt, who will join the faculty next year. This fall, I cannot begin to introduce the roster of new faculty in the Department of History without consuming the whole of the newsletter. With the additions of Ramón Gutiérrez, Christine Stansell, Emily Osborne, Rachel Jean-Baptiste, Jane Dailey, and Tara Zahra, the Department of History has transformed itself into a national leader in the study of gender and sexuality. So instead of introducing them all to you here, I invite you to join us at the Annual Welcome Reception, Wednesday, October 3 at 4:30--and to drop by the New and Visiting Faculty Brown Bag Series, which will feature this year’s and last’s new arrivals. We offer many thanks to Leora Auslander, Amy Stanley, and Jim Sparrow for their audacity, imagination, and hard work. I hope to bring even more good news from the social science division later this year and look forward to providing whatever assistance the Center can to the humanities division.

In March, the university announced that three students had won Truman Fellowships in public service, more than any other university in the country. The Center takes great pride that two of those three, Stephanie Bell and S.J. Cohen, are part of the gender studies cohort. Stephanie’s award was based on the program she devised for reducing the transmission of HIV in prisons; S.J’s on a plan for identifying sex on the birth certificates of transgender individuals. Congratulations to both Stephanie and S.J. Not only is the gender and sexuality studies cohort growing, it is attracting some of the best students in the college.

The Center will be mounting an exhibit on the History of Women at the University of Chicago in special collections at the Regenstein library in the spring of 2009. Despite the numerous extant histories of the college, none has treated the experience of women. Needless to say, women have very different stories to tell about the experiments in co-education and faculty diversification; the experience of the classroom, the laboratory, the dorm, and the streets of Hyde Park; the problems of mentorship, intellectual community, and career advancement; the opportunities for political action and community involvement, for friendship, romance, and sexual experimentation. Over the past three years, some of our best undergraduates have collaborated to take and transcribe 70 oral histories from alumni, faculty, and staff; this past spring two graduate students produced a finding guide on the history of women culled from the Regenstein’s impressive holdings on the history of the college. (Both the finding guide and excerpts from the oral histories can be accessed on the CGS website).

Elizabeth Helsinger of the Department of English provided an invaluable record of the founding of the Center for Gender Studies by donating several boxes of files containing material from the 1970s to 1996. We would be very grateful if anyone with additional material, anecdotes, or files contacted us this fall as we start working on the display cases for the exhibit. In addition, we are looking to hire a graduate student to create a finding guide for the oral histories as well as one or two graduate students to plan the exhibit and write the catalogue. Please contact Stuart Michaels at the Center if you would like to be considered for any of these positions.

This year’s programming begins with a fall conference organized by the Director of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project, Lauren Berlant, with a national network of scholars called the Feel Tank. “Anxiety, Urgency, Outrage, Hope: A Conference on Political Feelings” (October 19-20) will feature not only Lisa Duggan, Ann Cvetkovich, Jose Munoz, and Sian Ngai among others, but also welcome back former CGS and LGSP stalwarts Debbie Gould and Neville Hoad. The event is co-sponsored by the CGS, LGSP, and the Franke Institute.

The month of October will also see conferences planned by graduate students in the Romance Language and English departments. The Center is happy to provide sponsorship to “(De/Re)Constructed Identities in Iberian and Luso-Hispanic Literatures” on October 5-6th and to “Elements of Style” on October 19-20th. There are still co-sponsorship funds available for both student and faculty projects; please contact us as soon as possible if you would like to apply for funding.

The Center and LGSP will host a public lecture by Lee Edelman, titled “Learning Nothing: Bad Education,” on Thursday, November 8 at 4:30. MAPH students interested in gender and sexuality studies are invited to a lunch with Professor Edelman on Friday at noon at the Center. Copies of two articles will be distributed in advance of the lunch and sign up will be required.

While there is strong evidence of the health and vitality of the Center, we need feedback to be sure that we are creating programming that interests our community and providing the courses and mentorship that students need. I encourage you to contact me to let me know what you think.

Inside This Issue:

Events and Programs  2
Collegiate Affairs  3
LGSP and Workshop  4
Graduate Fellows  5

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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 3, 4:30 - 6 p.m.
5733 South University, 1st floor—All are welcome!

Brown Bag Lunch Discussions Featuring New and Visiting Faculty
Friday, October 12, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
“Rethinking Statutory Rape Laws”
Michele Goodwin, Visiting Professor of Law, former Wicklander Chair in Ethics and Professor of Law at DePaul University, where she directed the Health Law Institute. She also holds joint appointments in the Medical School and School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Her forthcoming book, Baby Markets, builds upon a distinguished body of scholarship debating the significance of moral, ethical, and legal norms in transactions involving the human body.

Feminist Lives and Queer Trajectories Series
Tuesday, October 16, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Jessica Halem, Queer Activist & Stand-up Comic

Brown Bag Lunch Discussions Featuring New and Visiting Faculty
Friday, October 26, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
Jane Dailey, Associate Professor of American History, historian of the nineteenth and twentieth century United States, with an emphasis on the American South. Primarily a political historian, she has strong interests in African American history, legal history, and the politics of race. Her first book, Before Jim Crow: The Politics of Race in Postemancipation Virginia analyzed the conditions that facilitated and, ultimately, undid interracial politics in the postwar South. Her current project is a book on race, sex and the civil rights movement from emancipation to the present.

Anxiety, Urgency, Outrage, Hope: A Conference on Political Feeling
Friday and Saturday, October 19-20 (see website for times)
This conference coordinates ongoing intellectual activities around understanding, curating, and fomenting public feelings—feelings about politics, publicness, social belonging, and intimacies among intimates and strangers, in many senses.
Location: Franke Institute
(1100 East 57th Street, Regenstein Library S-118)
http://politicalfeeling.uchicago.edu

Lesbian and Gay Studies Project Speaker Series
November 8, 4:30 p.m.
“Learning Nothing: Bad Education”
Location: Social Sciences 122.

Brown Bag Lunch Discussions Featuring New and Visiting Faculty
Friday, November 16, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
TBA

Feminist Lives and Queer Trajectories Series
November—TBA.

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

http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events.html
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 Friday Brown Bag series to special lectures and programs. For the third 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. We have heard from lawyers, judges, and doctors, community leaders and activists, women scientists, and music festival promoters. For details, see the calendar in this newsletter or the CGS Events webpage: http://events.uchicago.edu/genderstudies/

Majoring or Minoring 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. Our relatively small number of majors, 6 to 8 students per year, means that our majors 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 requirements. 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. 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 Stuart Michaels.

Lunch for Undergraduate Majors/Minors (including Interested/Potential)
Tuesday of Third Week, 9 October, 12:30.
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, 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 & the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project.

Highlights of Fall Offerings
This Fall Gender Studies has one of the largest and richest panoplies of courses ever offered. There are 12 courses open to undergraduates this Fall including our two core courses, Problems in the Study of Gender (GNDR 10100) and Problems in the Study of Sexuality (GNDR 10200), open to all undergraduates interested in gender and sexuality studies and required for majors and minors in Gender Studies. Check the Time Schedule to see the courses available from across a wide spectrum of disciplines; from the biological sciences, human development, and anthropology: The Biology of Gender, Darwinian Health, Medicine and Culture, to the courses on Feminism from the social sciences and law: Introduction to Feminist Political Theories, U.S./Third World Feminisms, and Feminist Jurisprudence, to U.S. history: Racialization and the Private Sphere in the U.S. and The Politics of Sexuality in U.S. History to the humanities: Class and Gender in the Victorian Novel and Foucault: History of Sexuality.

There are also graduate student seminars being offered by Martha Nussbaum of Philosophy and the Law School; a seminar on Gender in Europe taught by Leora Auslander and Susan Gal; two seminars by leading scholars who have just joined the History Department, Latin American and Latino Sexualities taught by Ramon Gutierrez and Metropolitan Life taught by Christine Stansell. Several of the courses listed above are also open to graduate students.
The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project presents two major events this fall. On Friday and Saturday, October 19-20, 2007, at the Franke Institute, a collaborative of Public Feelings groups— housed in New York, Austin, Texas, and Chicago— will host an event called, Anxiety, Urgency, Outrage, Hope: A Conference on Political Feeling. This conference coordinates ongoing intellectual activities around understanding, curating, and fo- menting public feelings— feelings about politics, publicness, social belonging, and intimacies among intimates and strangers, in many senses. The conference brings together a disciplinarily wide range of scholars work on affect, emo- tion, political agency, and political/aesthetic imaginaries. Speakers now include: Fred Moten, Ruthie Gilmore, Lisa Duggan, Jose Estaban Muñoz, Tavia Nyong'o, Lily Cho, Rebecca Zorach, Mary Patten, Debbie Gould, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Ann Cvetkovich, Carel Blumenschein, Katie Stewart, Neville Hoad, Ann Reynolds, and Sam Baker. There will be some long papers, some short papers, some shorter squibs, some performance and film. There is a distinguished host of “fellow travelers” as well, comprised of thinkers who will attend the sessions and talk from the floor, in the hopes of producing a sustained, workshop-like atmosphere. For more information see http://politicalfeeling.uchicago.edu.

Drawing from conversations already going on in political theory, art history, philosophy, sociology, aesthetics, geography, anthropology, music, performance studies, sexuality studies, and cultural studies, and using a variety of techniques to maintain a focus on discussion, the conference participants will open up scenes of political affect, emotion, and feeling to address the mediations of politics and the political by orchestrated conventional means and under-the-radar, intensive, kinetic transactions. The last ses- sion, organized by Ann Cvetkovich and Lauren Berlant, will focus on pedagogies of feel- ing: we will ask all participants and anyone else we can think of to give us syllabi, pa- pers, bibliography and weblinks to post on the website, which will be accessible not only to conference participants but to the wider (Googleing) public. Please send us your own if you’d like to be part of the conference archive (l-berlant@uchicago.edu).

Event Sponsors include the Center for Gender Studies; Lesbian and Gay Studies Project of the Center for Gender Studies; Franke Institute; Department of Visual Arts; Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture; Division of the Humanities; and Feel Tank Chicago (www.feeltankchicago.net)

Once we’ve recovered from this, LGSP is very excited to announce a major public lecture on November 8 by Lee Edelman, author of the recent controversial polemic, No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive (2004). (See his summary and extension of this argument in the recent issue of SAQ [July 2007], titled After Sex?: On Writing Since Queer Theory.) Edelman began his academic career as a scholar of twentieth-century American poetry. He has since become a central figure in the development, dissemina- tion, and rethinking of queer theory. His current work explores the intersections of sexuality, rhetorical theory, cultural politics, and film. He holds an appointment as the Fletcher Professor of English Literature at Tufts University and he is currently the Chair of the English Department. His lec- ture will come from his current project, titled “Learning Nothing: Bad Education”.

And please look forward to our major Spring lecture, by Jasbir Puar, of Rutgers University, who will be speaking from her exciting forthcoming book on globalization, wars on terrorism, racial imaginaries, and LGBTQ normativity, Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

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.

Our first workshop of the academic year will be held on Tuesday, October 2nd from 4:30 to 6:00pm in the first floor conference room of the Center for Gender Studies. In addition to introducing ourselves and discussing the first paper, there will be time set aside to discuss workshop plans for the rest of the year. To maintain the workshop’s interdisciplinary focus, we have already scheduled presenters from many disciplines, including English, History, Law, Sociology, Anthropology, and Religion. We also plan to co-sponsor at least two outside faculty this year, in collaboration with other University workshops. And in the spring, the GSSW will join the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project in co-hosting Rutgers University Professor Jasbir Puar, whose work examines queer identities and globalization.

Attendees are expected to read the paper in advance of the workshop meeting and the papers are made available on the CGS website or via our email list. In addition, a small number of hard copies will be available at the Center for Gender Studies. If you are interested in being included on the workshop email list, please email this year’s student co-coordinators, Monica Mercado (mmercado@uchicago.edu) and Anthony Todd (artodd@uchicago.edu).
Meet the New Graduate Fellows and Preceptor

**Thomas Jessen Adams** is a doctoral candidate in the History Department whose research focuses on 20th-century American labor, economic, gender, sexuality and social history. His dissertation entitles, “The Servicing of America: Service Labor and Political Economy in Postwar Los Angeles” analyzes America’s transition from an economy based on industrial production to one based on services. He argues that the “servicing of America,” produced a profound shift in the relationship between work and gender, racial and sexual identities.

Thomas returned to Chicago in August following a year of research in California, Washington D.C., and Detroit. Originally from Saint Paul, Thomas received his B.A. in History and Women’s Studies at Tulane University in New Orleans. Before attending the University of Chicago, he lived in New York and San Francisco as well as New Orleans and Minnesota. He is ecstatic to be in residence at the Center for Gender Studies in 2007/2008 though nostalgic for his winter research in Southern California.

**Pablo Ben** is a graduate student at the Department of History, University of Chicago. He studied anthropology at the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina and is currently writing his dissertation about male same-sex sexuality, the popular classes and the state in Buenos Aires between 1880 and 1955. His work integrates the history of sexuality with a sociocultural history of the period, comparing the case of the capital of Argentina with other countries of Latin America, the United States and Europe. Pablo has published articles in Spanish and English about the history of gender and sexuality in Argentina in relation to the nation-building process and the culture of the popular classes. He has taught courses about the history of sexuality and also about the history of Latin American both at the University of Chicago and the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

**Melissa Howe** is an advanced doctoral student in Sociology at The University of Chicago. Originally from California, she received her B.A. in Sociology and History from the University of California, San Diego, and her M.Phil. degree in Social and Political Sciences from Cambridge University. Her substantive areas of interest include gender, family, immigrant acculturation, and Muslims in the West. Her dissertation research focuses on intergenerational transmission of gender norms in Muslim families in Chicago and is based on a combination of ethnography, in-depth interviews, and survey analysis. The survey data for her dissertation emerged from an ongoing collaborative research project, The Qur’an and the Constitution: Islamic Adaptations in the United States, led by Dr. Richard A. Shweder (P.I.) at The University of Chicago and funded by the Russell Sage Foundation. This year, she looks forward to completing her survey analysis and follow-up interviews with Muslim immigrant mothers and their second-generation daughters. As a Park Lectureship recipient, she will have the pleasure of teaching a course on immigration at the U of C during Spring 2008.

**Alison Lefkovitz** (B.A. Preceptor/Project Director—Experience of Women at the University of Chicago) 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 2007-2008 academic year. She is also a director for the Experience of Women at the University of Chicago project.

Her dissertation “The Politics of Marriage in the Era of Women’s Liberation, 1963-1982” explores legal, economic, and cultural 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, various factions of feminists, and ordinary couples battled over the meaning, desirability, and means of attaining gender equality. To do so she will examine cohabitation, alimony, no fault divorce, welfare, housework, and the politics of choice. Following an archival trip to the Schlesinger Library in Boston, MA, this past summer, Alison plans to continue writing and researching her dissertation this fall.

**John Osburg** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology. His research is broadly concerned with examining the rise of a wealthy entrepreneurial elite in mainland China. Overwhelmingly male, this group has been at the vanguard of changing ideologies and practices of gender and sexuality in China including the rise of extramarital affairs and divorce, the spread of female polygamy among elite men, and the reassertion of “traditional” ideals of masculinity and femininity. From 2003-2006 he conducted ethnographic fieldwork with a group of new rich entrepreneurs in Chengdu, China accompanying them during countless evenings of entertaining and deal making. His dissertation analyzes practices of network building among wealthy male businessmen and government officials. Many of these networks are formed through shared experiences of leisure in China’s new spaces of entertainment—bars, nightclubs, and massage parlors. Young women, in the role of mistresses, hostesses, and sex workers, play a key role in mediating these relationships between men. Through his research he hopes to better understand the effect of a market economy on cultural systems of value and relations of gender.

John received his B.A. from Columbia University in 1997 and spent a year in China teaching English before coming to the University of Chicago to begin his graduate studies. During his fieldwork in China he endured a brief stint as the co-host of a variety show on a provincial television station.

**Elizabeth Pérez** is a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago Divinity School, focusing on religious formations of the African Diaspora. Elizabeth graduated from Hampshire College in 1997 and, inspired by such studies as Ruth Landes’ classic ethnography The City of Women and Karen McCarthy Brown’s Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn, she went on to pursue graduate research on traditions deeply indebted to West and Central African cultures. Her long-term research interests include Caribbean art, the image of the Black body in the material culture and aesthetic regimes of Afro-Atlantic religions; and popular representations of Haitian Vodou and Brazilian Candomblé.

Her dissertation will examine the intersection of healing female leadership, and conversion to Afro-Cuban Santería among African-Americans, basing her study on ethnographic research conducted in a Black religious community on Chicago’s South Side. She hopes for her analysis of women’s quotidian labor, particularly in preparing food for Afro-Cuban gods, to open up infrequently examined domestic spaces as sites of crucial, highly valorized ritual interventions and the elaboration of a Black religious pedagogy by female elders. She has also published poetry in the Bilingual Review/Revista Bilingüe, the anthology El Coro: A Chorus of Latino/a Poetry. and elsewhere.

**Timothy Stewart-Winter** is a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department specializing in the history of gender and sexuality in 20th-century America. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 2001 and received his MA in History from the University of Chicago in 2003. His dissertation examines lesbian and gay politics in Chicago since the 1960s, develops a historical analysis of the political incorporation of queers into the city’s ruling political coalition, and connects grass-roots activism to the shifting policing of urban space, the complex relationship between urban racial and sexual politics, and a changing legal landscape. He plans to spend this year writing his dissertation.
Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop Schedule

AUTUMN 2007

October 2
Joseph Fischel, Political Science
“I Do? Towards an (Alternative) Alternative Sexual Politics”

October 11
Christine Stansell, Professor of History
Special meeting of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop with the Political History Workshop and the Social History Workshop

October 16
Muraleedharan Tharayil, Professor of English, St. Aloysius College (Kerala, India)
“Corporeal Inscriptions: Body in Colonial Modernity”

October 30
John Osburg, Anthropology, CGS Fellow
“Entertaining is My Job: Masculinity, Sexuality, and Leisure Among Chengdu’s New Rich Entrepreneurs”

November 13
Timothy Stewart-Winter, History, Hormel Fellow of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project

November 27
Qiyamah A. Rahman, Meadville Lombard Theological School
“New Directions in Gender Studies and Religious Studies: Utilizing African Feminist Pedagogy to Develop Curriculum in South Africa’s Historically Black Universities”

WINTER 2008

January 15
Mary Ann Case, Arnold I. Sure Professor in the Law School, University of Chicago

January 29, February 12
TBA

February 26
Elizabeth Perez, Divinity, CGS Fellow
“Women’s Work, Ritual Labor: Cooking and Conversion in a Black Santeria/Lucumi Community”

March 11
TBA

SPRING 2008

April 8
Thomas Jessen Adams, History, Hormel Fellow of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project
“Gender, Sexuality and the Commodification of Identity in Postwar Los Angeles”

April 22
Jasbir Puar, Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University
“Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times” cosponsored by the LGSP

May 6
Alison Lefkovitz, History
“The Love Economy: Radical Feminism, Welfare Rights, and Marriage”

May 20
Melissa J. K. Howe, Sociology, CGS Fellow

June 3
Pablo Ben, History, CGS Fellow