The Center for Gender Studies at The University of Chicago

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As has become the style of Gender Studies, we have had a busy winter quarter at the Center. The Brownbag talks on Fridays and the workshops continued, with excellent presentations and lots of discussion among the students, faculty, and staff who attended. We are particularly pleased to have welcomed both new and old participants, and look forward to involving many more during the spring quarter. The new Social Hours on Third Thursdays were also a success; the first inaugurated an art show of works by students of the Committee on Visual Arts that were displayed on the first floor of the House; the second had wonderful music by two members of the local band Funkadesi, Rahul Sharma (pictured, on the sitar) and Maninder Singh (tablas). Delicious and warming food and drink made these social events even more welcome breaks from the harsh winter weather. Both were well attended by students, faculty and staff, and we hope that more will join us for the spring quarter Social Hours.

On March 7, we co-hosted a panel with the Graham School on The Future of LGBT Politics in Chicago, focusing on the recent aldermanic elections. The panelists (pictured at left): Debbie Gould, Paul Duggan, moderator Stuart Michaels, Rick Ingram and Jeff Edwards. On March 14, we were thrilled to welcome filmmaker Su Friedrich (pictured below with Rebecca West), who for over two decades has been making films of great interest to everyone interested in gender and feminism. We were also happy to see the excellent article on the Center that appeared in The Chronicle (March 6, 2003).

We have been busily planning for future events, including collaborative events with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. Friday, April 18 will mark the second annual Gender Studies Spring Symposium. This year we will be discussing Pedagogy in Gender Studies: drawing from the professional schools, the faculty in the arts and sciences, and graduate students currently teaching in the gender studies core courses. Our goal is to sponsor a discussion among panelists and between panelists and audience about the pedagogies we use and the ways they are being passed down to a new generation of teachers. We are looking forward to our Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, Wendy Doniger, who will speak on Wednesday, May 21 on The Third Nature in the Kamasutra: the Asymmetry of Male and Female Homoeroticism." Next year we plan to hold a conference on 'Generations of Feminism', to which will be invited exciting speakers, and which we hope will attract the interest of everyone from the youngest student to older alumni and alumnae. The Center has also agreed to co-sponsor a number of events in the future, and we are pleased that faculty and students are coming to us with ideas. The House is even more welcoming now that we have new furniture for the lounge area on the first floor, so please do stop by, pick up a Newsletter, and check out our bulletin board to see what is happening.

Rebecca West
Professor of Italian, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures,
Professor in the Program in Cinema/Media Studies,
Director of the Center for Gender Studies

QUEER STUDIES CONFERENCE

On January 18th, 2003, the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project hosted Queering the Lavender University: A Chicago Area Graduate Student Conference. Organized to highlight scholarship by Chicago area graduate students working in LGBT or queer studies, the one day conference brought together over seventy students, scholars and activists from across the Chicago metropolitan area.

Two panels focused specifically on graduate student work, showcasing the breadth and diversity of current scholarship; papers covered such topics as 1970s lesbian feminism, drag kings, gay white male appropriation of black female gender, and popular images of bisexuality. A final panel consisting of former LGSP Hormel fellows surveyed the state of the academic job market for queers. Panelists offered concrete advice and a realistic portrait of the job search for those whose dissertation projects deal with sexuality or gay identity in a significant way.

All who attended agreed that the conference was a great success: both providing young scholars a forum to discuss their work as well as providing an opportunity for the vibrant Chicago queer academic community to meet informally over lunch and coffee. The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project would like to thank all those who presented, moderated, commented or attended the conference!
APRIL

8  Tuesday, 4:30-6 p.m.
   **Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop:**
   *Feeling Yourself (Genres of Affect, Genres of Sexuality 1880-1900)*
   Kathleen Frederickson, Department of English, University of Chicago

11 Friday, 4:30-6 p.m.
   **Violence Against Women in Immigrant Communities**
   Sherizaan Minzalla, Staff Attorney at the Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center, and volunteer for the Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline.
   **Brown Bag:** Held in conjunction with Sexual Violence Prevention Month. Co-sponsored with Resources for Sexual Violence Prevention.

17 Thursday, 4:30-6 p.m. (note irregular date, location TBA)
   **Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop:**
   Joint meeting with the Latin American History Workshop.
   *Child Queer Prostitution, Buenos Aires 1870-1910*
   Pablo Ben, Department of History, University of Chicago

17 Thursday, 5-6:30 p.m.
   **Third Thursday Social Hour**
   Poetry Slam + Enjoy Wine and Food.

18 Friday, 1-5 pm
   Location TBA
   **Spring Symposium**
   **Pedagogy in Gender Studies**

   Drawing from the professional schools, the faculty in the arts and sciences, and graduate students currently teaching in the gender studies core courses, we will discuss the pedagogies we use and the ways they are being passed down to a new generation of teachers.

   Gender Studies Affiliated Faculty will convene for lunch and a faculty meeting beforehand from 11-1.

MAY

2 Friday, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
   **Brown Bag:** TBA

6 Tuesday, 4:30-6 p.m.
   **Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop**
   *Women's Choice and Women's Response to Autonomy*
   Hee-Kang Kim, Department of Political Science

9 Friday, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
   **Brown Bag:** *Queerly Chinese* (film)
   Director **Yau Ching**, a professor at Hong Kong in the independent film scene discusses her film

15 Thursday, 5-6:30 p.m.
   **Third Thursday Social Hour**
   Monologues + Enjoy Wine and Food

16 Friday, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
   **Panel—Burlesque Past and Present**
   **Strip Tease, Humor and Pleasurable Pain**
   Speakers will include **Miss Indigo Blue**, from Seattle's BurlyQ - A Queer Cabaret.
   Moderated by **Tara Tremmel**, History Department

20 Tuesday, 4:30-6 p.m.
   **Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop**
   **Barbara Ransby**, Department of African-American Studies

21 Wednesday, 5-7 pm
   Social Sciences 122, 1126 E.
   **Third Nature in the Ka: The Asymmetry of Male and Female Homoeroticism**
   Gender Studies Distinguished Faculty Lecture
   **Professor Wendy Doniger**

23 Friday, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
   **Brown Bag:** *Textual Women, colonial-era Hindi literature*
   **Valerie Ritter**, Assistant Professor, Department of South Asian and Civilizations
Workshop: Understanding Equality and Invisibility
Kong Polytechnic and a dynamic presence in the field.

Workshop:
American Studies, UIC

Gender and Sexuality Studies provides an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. Its primary purpose is to promote analyses of the ways in which these categories intersect with other practices, constructs, or systems of domination. We welcome new and old members to the workshop. Contact workshop coordinator Kathleen Frederickson, ksfredder@midway.uchicago.edu. The workshop meets every other Tuesday at 4:30. (See schedule at left)

Workshop on Genders and Sexualities in Asia is a diverse and unusual forum bringing together graduate students, faculty, and invited guests who all share a common interest in the study of sexualities and genders in Asia. Faculty advisers are Judith Zeilig (EALC), Holly Shissler (NELC) and Jonathan Hall (EALC). Coordinators are Po-Chen Tsai (CMS) ptsai@uchicago.edu & Arniya Fuhrmann (SALC) afruhma@midway.uchicago.edu. All interested in presenting and attending are encouraged to contact the coordinators. The Workshop listserve address is gsa@listhost.uchicago.edu.

*Queerly Chinese Cinemas: The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project in conjunction with the Workshop on Genders and Sexualities in Asia is delighted to announce a visually perverse and frankly queer 4-day program on Queerly Chinese Cinemas, May 8-12. Directors Cui Zi En and Yau Ching will be visiting the campus to introduce their filmwork and to discuss the role of lesbians, gays, and queers in new kinds of cinematic radicalism in China and Hong Kong. Yau Ching, a prison activist, queer professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and a dynamic figure in the independent film scene, will present her newest film, Ho Yuk Let’s Love Hong Kong, about female desire and sexuality set in a future Hong Kong. Then, Cui Zi En, the PRC’s leading gay activist and only “out” academic, joins us from the Beijing Film Academy to present and discuss his recent work including, Enter the Clowns, The Old Testament, and The Positive and Negative Aspects of the Public Toilet. Look for an announcement of the schedule in mid-April. Queerly Chinese Cinemas is also supported by the Franke Institute, the Center for Gender Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, the Mass Culture Workshop, Cinema and Media Studies, and the Chicago Experimental Film Club. If you have questions about the event, please write to event programmers Po-Chen Tsai (ptsai@uchicago.edu) and Jonathan M. Hall (jmhall@uchicago.edu).
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Calendar on pages 2-3! Please post.

PRIZES, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Ruth Murray Essay Prize
The Ruth Murray Prize will be awarded for the best essay written by a University of Chicago undergraduate or graduate student in the area of women’s studies, feminist criticism or gender studies. See the website for application details. Submission deadline is Monday, April 21, 2003 by 5 pm. The prize will be awarded at the annual Honors Assembly in May.

Office Space Competition
The Center for Gender Studies is now accepting applications for Gender Studies Offices for July, 2003 to June, 2004. Awardees receive an office (shared) and Center privileges as active participants in the life of the Center. University of Chicago graduate students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. We are seeking three qualified graduate students with dissertations relating to issues of gender and sexuality. See the website for application details. The deadline is Monday, April 14, 2003 (5 p.m.)

The Third Annual Dissertation-Writing Fellowship Competition
University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates from all disciplines in the write-up stage are encouraged to apply. Any dissertation centrally on matters of gender/sexuality is eligible for this fellowship—special consideration will be given to projects that challenge disciplinary boundaries and that attend to racial and/or economic hierarchy. The successful candidate will receive $15,000 for the academic year 2003-04 dispersed according to University policy. The recipient of this fellowship will also be given an office at the Center for Gender Studies from July of 2003 to June of 2004. See the website for application details. The deadline is Monday, April 14, 2003 (5 p.m.)

Teaching Opportunities in the Gender Studies Core 2003-2004
Gender Studies is seeking student co-teachers for Problems in Gender Studies (GNDR 10100 and 10200), Introduction to Theories of Sex and Gender (GNDR 21400), and a Gender Studies Preceptor/BA Paper Seminar (GNDR 299) for the school term 2003-04. The teaching arrangement in each of these sections—co-teaching, or CA-ing—is to be determined by individual faculty. The CGS encourages collaboration among the sections, and experienced Center faculty will be available to provide help on course design as well as advice during the term. We invite applications from interested Ph.D. students in all divisions and professional schools. The deadline is Monday, April 28, 2003 (5 p.m.)

Please see the website for specifics: http://humanities.uchicago.edu/cgs/funding.html

2003 Graduate Research Grants
The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project (LGSP) of the Center for Gender Studies is pleased to announce the competition for several Graduate Research Grants. The competition is open to University of Chicago M.A. and Ph.D. students for support of research (including preliminary research) undertaken for the master's thesis or dissertation. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Students may apply for grants ranging from $1,000 to $2,500. Funds may be expended for travel to research sites, photocopying of research material, purchase of equipment, and similar research expenses, but may not be used to pay for normal living expenses or computers. Recipients are expected to participate in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop in 2003-04 and to present their work to it. Awards will be announced by the end of May, and the grants will be available immediately.

Applications are due by noon on Monday, May 5. Applications should be mailed or delivered by hand to Gina Olson at the Center for Gender Studies. For further information about application procedures, please consult the LGSP website at http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/cgs/lgsp.html or contact the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project at <LGSP@uchicago.edu> or 773-834-4509.