

# The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

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## Director's Note



**Deborah Nelson**

Associate Professor, English Department  
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THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES  
at THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu>

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In what is beginning to feel like a very pleasant newsletter ritual, I would like to announce another major hire in the social science division: **Don Kulick** will join the Department of Human Development in the fall of 2009. Kulick is presently at NYU where he is professor of anthropology as well as the director of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. His work has been familiar to many in our community ever since his 1997 book, *Travesti: Sex, Gender and Culture among Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes*, had a dramatic impact on the Sawyer Seminar on global sexualities. In addition to this work, which is exemplary in its integration of innovative gender and sexuality research, Kulick has also published a monograph on language and culture in Papua New Guinea as well as several important edited collections, *Language and Sexuality*, *Taboo: Sex, Identity, and Erotic Subjectivity in Anthropological Fieldwork*, and a third called *Fat: The Anthropology of an Obsession*. His work spans several continents and his wide interests intersect with many of our colleagues and students at the Center and the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project (LGSP).

Our spring calendar kicks off with

two events, both co-sponsorships with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. The first is the very timely one day event, "**The Hip Hop Generation: Gender, Race and the Vote**," organized by artist-in-residence at CSRPC, Bakari Kitwana. This will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 on Saturday, April 5 in the Max Palevsky auditorium. The second, a two-day conference "**Race, Sex, Power: New Movements in Black and Latina/o Sexualities**," represents both an unusual collaboration among faculty, staff and graduate students from nine colleges and universities and a rare integration of scholarship, activism, and art. **Dr. Joycelyn Elders**, the former United States Surgeon General appointed by President Clinton, will open the conference on Friday, April 11 at the UIC Forum. There will also be a poetry event that Friday evening and all-day screenings of films, documentaries, and shorts running concurrent with the panels and workshops.

Several other events of note: CGS and the Nicholson Center for British Studies are bringing **Sharon Marcus**, professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, to campus on April 28-29. The Gender and Sexuality Workshop and the LGSP will host **Jasbir Puar**, professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, for a talk entitled "Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times" on Tuesday, April 22. **Tamara Chaplin**, assistant professor of History from the University of Illinois, will give a talk on sexual liberation in France on Monday, May 12 as part of a series of lectures on May 1968, co-sponsored with The

France Chicago Center. CGS is also one of the co-sponsors with the Section of Family Planning and Contraceptive Research at the University of Chicago of "**Beyond Choice: Exploring Reproductive Justice from Scholarship to Activism**" to be held on Thursday, May 22. The symposium will focus on those generally left out of the reproductive rights debate and promote more culturally-competent health care and inclusive legislation.

There will also be two book events, one by **Nancy Polikoff**, Professor of Law at American University, who will be discussing her new book, *Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families Under the Law*. This event will be at 2PM on Friday, April 25. The second will present **Kalisha Buckhanon** reading from her new novel, *Conception*. A Department of English graduate student and an alum of the college, Kalisha has already published one novel, *Upstate*, which won several major awards including the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award in the category of Debut Fiction. This event is TBA.

We are also pleased to announce the recipients of our curriculum grant competition. **Rick Fox**, assistant professor at the Divinity school, will be offering "Religion, Gender, and the Idea of Power," which treats the intersection of religion, gender, and post-coloniality in Egypt, Iran, and Indonesia. **Rachel Jean Baptiste** will be offering "Women and Slavery in the Americas and Africa." Both courses expand and enrich our curriculum and we welcome the opportunity to encourage this exciting new work.

## Spring Quarter Event Calendar

All events held at 5733 S University unless otherwise noted.

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

**Saturday, April 5, 1 - 4 pm**

### "The Hip-Hop Generation: Race, Gender and the Vote"

Panelists: Dr Maya Rockeymoore, Crystal Holmes, Dr. Vijay Prashad, Bakari Kitwana, MI (aka Mutulu Olugbala), Aquamoon, Rosa Clemente, William Upski Wimsatt. Co-sponsored with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture.

Location: Max Palevsky Cinema. Free and Open to the Public.



**Friday, April 11 - Saturday, April 12**

**8:30 am - 7:00 pm** Featuring: Joycelyn Elders, Frances Aparicio, Sonia Baez-Hernandez, C.C. Carter, Staceyann Chin, Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez, Ramon Gutierrez, Rhodessa Jones, Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, Mark Anthony Neal, Charles Nelson, Coya Paz, Nicole Perez, Urvashi Vaid. Location: UIC FORUM, 725 W. Roosevelt Road.

**Thursday, April 17, 12 - 1:30 pm**

Feminist Lives & Queer Trajectories Series: **Renee Nuener**, Girls Rock!

Chicago Camp Director & Co-Founder and Center for Gender Studies Alum.

Girls Rock! Chicago is a 501(c)(3) non-for profit organization dedicated to fostering girls' creative expression, positive self-esteem and community awareness through rock music. Lunch provided.

**Friday, April 18, 12:15 - 1:30 pm**

Brown Bag: "**Hierarchies of Victimhood: Gender, Nation, and Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina**"

**Elissa Helms**, Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology.

The dominant modes of representing Bosnian women since the profoundly gendered violence of the 1992-5 war center on female victimhood, especially two iconic images: distraught rural women in headscarves and traditional Muslim dress fleeing "ethnic cleansing" and the shamed and silenced young Muslim victim of wartime rape by Serb forces. Women's activists in Bosnia – far from passive victims themselves – have maintained an uneasy relationship to these images and to notions of female victimhood, both embracing the moral status of victim while distancing themselves from associations with rape, rurality, or passivity. This presentation explores the relationship between women's activism and those most iconic victim figures, problematizing the connections between victimhood, womanhood, and (lack of) agency. It further examines these often strategic positionings as efforts to pitch their message to different audiences: donors, state officials, international representatives, and fellow citizens. The analysis is based on ethnographic research conducted in 1999-2000 and 2005-7 among women's NGO activists in the Bosniac (Muslim) dominated areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Tuesday, April 22, 4:30 - 6:00 pm**

Lesbian and Gay Studies Project New Voices Series Talk:

**"Prognosis Time: Pathologies of Terror"**

**Jasbir Puar**, core faculty member of the department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. Her diverse and influential work on queer diasporas, globalization, transnational feminisms, queer biopolitics, race and sexuality, and discourses of counter/terrorism has appeared in many publica-

tions. She has most recently authored, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times*. Location: Social Sciences 122. A reception will follow the talk.

**Friday, April 25, 12:15 - 1:30 pm**

Brown Bag: "**Women, Floods, Bodies, History, Revisited: Reflux as Form in Marinetti's Late Venetian Writings.**"

**Jennifer Scappettone**, Assistant Professor, English, Creative Writing.

This talk addresses the resurgence of Venice within F.T. Marinetti's designs on modernity in the midst of World War II—more than three decades after he and fellow Futurists called for the "passéist" city's decimation in spectacular happenings in Saint Mark's Square and the Fenice Theater. The talk will culminate in a discussion of Marinetti's last, unpublished 1944 "aeropoem" or "aeronovel," *Venezianella e studentaccio* (or, *Venicette and Rottenstudent*), which calls for Futurists to tap into Venice's "fecund simultaneity."

**Friday, April 25, 2 - 3:30 pm**

Talk: "**Beyond (Straight and Gay) Marriage: Valuing All Families under the Law.**" **Nancy D. Polikoff**, Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law. Previously, she practiced law as part of a feminist law collective and directed the family law programs at the Women's Legal Defense Fund. Her articles have appeared in numerous law reviews, and her history of laws affecting lesbian and gay parenting appears as a chapter in *Creating Change: Sexuality, Public Policy, and Civil Rights*, edited by John D'Emilio, William Turner, and Urvashi Vaid.

**April 28-29: Sharon Marcus**, Professor of English, Comparative Literature, Columbia University. Co-sponsored with the Nicholson Center for British Studies.

**Friday, May 2, 12:15 - 1:30 pm**

Brown Bag: "**Miss L'Eurafricain (Miss Euroafrican): Gendered Racial Identity in post-1945 Colonial French Africa**"

**Rachel Jean-Baptiste**, Assistant Professor of African History.

This paper examines the imbrication of gender, race, and identity in examining how members of the Association of EuroAfricans of French West and Equatorial Africa (L'Union des Eurafricains, a civic organization whose members were mixed race men and women across the vast French African empire) sought to carve out a space for themselves as respectable citizens in the post-World War II French empire. The organization's newspaper, published from 1949-1960, is a precious and not yet exploited body of source materials that reveals the conscious efforts of mixed race individuals to fashion a distinct identity that blurred the colonial categories of (white) citizen and (black) colonial subject. A main aim of the association was to aid the mothers of mixed race children and the children who had been "abandoned" by European fathers, as well to convince the colonial state to provide them with economic, social, and educational opportunities. This paper examines the Union's focus on mixed race girls and women-in-photographs of beauty pageants, cultural fairs, social soirées; in fictional stories and faits divers; and in articles authored by métis men and women-as a discursive space in which the association sought to present images of "civilized," bourgeois, and respectable Eurafricain women who would be productive citizens.



**Monday, May 12, 12 pm**

Talk: "**May 1968 and Sexual Revolution**"

**Tamara Chaplin**, Assistant Professor of History from the University of Illinois. Co-sponsored with The France Chicago Center. Lunch provided.

**Thursday, May 15, 12 - 1:30 pm**

Feminist Lives & Queer Trajectories Series: **Dr. Armand Cerbone**, Director of Behavioral Health Service at Howard Brown Health Center and pioneer psychologist and activist in the realm of LGBT psychotherapy. Lunch provided.

**Friday, May 16, 12:15 - 1:30 pm**

Brown Bag: "**Warfare, Homosexuality, and Gender Status Among American Indian Men in the Southwest**"

**Ramón A. Gutiérrez** is the Preston & Sterling Morton Distinguished Service Professor in United States History. This presentation focuses on the history of *berdaches* in northern New Spain, those indigenous males who dressed as females and offered sexual service to other men. Scholarship since the 1960s has generally depicted these transvestites as gender transgressors who moved easily between male and female roles, thus offering moderns a positive model for the socialization of queer girls and boys. Gutiérrez argues that such depictions are simply wrong, a willful misreading of colonial documents, which clearly describe berdaches as prisoners of war. Their humiliation and emasculation as defeated warriors was marked by a host of gendered symbols, namely wearing women's clothes, carrying heavy load into battle, sexually servicing their new masters, and being pimped out to junior males and visiting lords. In sum, berdaches did not enact a gender role but instead embodied a gender status.



**Thursday, May 22**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Commemorative Roe vs. Wade Event: "Beyond Choice: Exploring Reproductive Justice from Scholarship to Activism"**

Featuring: Dorothy Roberts, Toni Bond, Gaylon Alcaraz, Lisa Harris, Christine Stansell, Lorie Chaiten, Faith Pennick, Cassing Hammond, Elena Gutierrez.

Co-sponsored with The Section of Family Planning and Contraceptive Research at the University of Chicago. Location: Assembly Hall, International House.

## Collegiate Affairs

### Collegiate Affairs

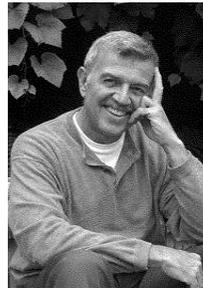
Spring Quarter is an exciting time for Gender Studies students. In June our majors will graduate. We wish them all the best as they furiously finish up their B.A. essays. Spring is also when many students decide whether to major, double major, or minor in Gender Studies. The Center for Gender Studies 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 as well as activities organized by our Student Caucus.

**Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories.** In its third year, 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? For the first time this Spring one of our speakers will be a recent grad, **Renee Neuner ('06)**, who double majored in Gender Studies and Human Rights.

Renee will speak about how her experience as a student, star soccer player, and internships led her to co-found **Girls Rock! Chicago**, a rock 'n roll summer camp for girls 9 to 16. Join us for lunch and discussion with Renee at Noon on Thursday,



April 17. Our second and final speaker of the year will be **Dr. Armand Cerbone**, Director of Behavioral Health Service at **Howard Brown Health Center**. Armand has been a pioneer psychologist and activist in the realm of LGBT psychotherapy. He will speak at Noon on Thursday, May 15.



**Majoring or Minor in Gender Studies** Our Spring meeting for current and potential majors/minors in gender and sexuality studies will be **Friday of sixth week, May 9, at 12:30 PM**. It's a great opportunity to learn about the major/minor, get answers to your questions, and meet other

students in Gender Studies. **NB: Third years who wish to minor in Gender Studies must file a form to do so by the end of the quarter.** At any time, students interested in learning more about majoring or minoring in Gender/Sexuality Studies can 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.

### Info on Spring Course Offerings in Gender/Sexuality Studies

There are 19 undergraduate level courses in gender and sexuality offered this Spring, six of which are mixed undergrad/grad courses, plus an additional 7 graduate level courses, the largest number ever. Many of these courses are offered for the first time. Full descriptions of the undergraduate courses can be found on our website at <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.shtml>. It's wonderful to see the variety and richness of these offerings. Check them out!

## Teaching, Fellowship and Prize Deadlines

### TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

#### Co-Teaching Core Courses in Gender Studies and Preceptorship – Tuesday, April 1, Noon.

We invite applications for these positions from all interested Ph.D. students in all divisions and professional schools. Six student co-teacher positions are available: two for GNDR 10100 on feminism and Gender; two for GNDR 10200 on sexuality; one to co-teach GNDR 21400 - Intro to Theories of Sex and Gender; and one to act as preceptor for the senior B.A. projects.

#### Free Standing Courses in Gender Studies - Tuesday, April 1, 2008, Noon.

Advanced graduate students (ABD) in all divisions and professional schools are encouraged to apply to teach one undergraduate course "of their own design". This course can be taught in any of the three quarters of the 2008-09 term.

### GENDER STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS-

#### ALL: Tuesday, April 1, 2008, Noon.

#### Dissertation Writing Fellowship

Advanced graduate students (ABD) from all disciplines 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 fellowship provides a stipend of \$15,000 for the 2008-9 academic year, and fellows are also awarded an office and privileges as active participants in the life of the Center.

#### Residency Fellowship

Graduate students (at all levels) from all disciplines 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. A

fellow is awarded an office and Center privileges as active participants in the life of the Center.

#### James C. Hormel Dissertation Fellowships

Two Hormel Fellowships in Lesbian and Gay Studies will be awarded for the 2008-9 academic year to Ph.D. students who are writing dissertations in lesbian, gay, and queer studies. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply. The fellowship provides a stipend of \$14,000 plus tuition, insurance and fees for the 2008-9 academic year, and fellows are also awarded an office and privileges as active participants in the life of the Center.

### ESSAY PRIZE

#### Ruth Murray Essay Prize-Friday, April 25, 2008, Noon.

This prize is awarded for the best essay written by an \*undergraduate or graduate student\* in the area of women's studies, feminist criticism or gender studies. The total prize is \$500. Full submission guidelines are available on our website.



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## Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop Schedule

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop meets biweekly on Tuesdays during even weeks of the quarter to discuss graduate student papers and unpublished work from faculty in the field.

The workshop is committed to providing

participants with an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality, and all are welcome!

If you are interested in receiving workshop announcements and links to the current

papers, please visit the Center for Gender Studies website, or contact workshop co-coordinators Anthony Todd ([artodd@uchicago.edu](mailto:artodd@uchicago.edu)) and Monica Mercado ([mmercado@uchicago.edu](mailto:mmercado@uchicago.edu)).

### SPRING 2008

*Tuesday, April 8*

**Pablo Ben**, Ph.D. Student, History and Hormel Fellow of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project. Paper TBA.

*Tuesday, April 17*

**Nancy MacLean**, Professor of History at Northwestern. Paper TBA.  
Co-Sponsored with *Social History Workshop* and *American Political History Workshop*.

*Tuesday, April 22*

**Jasbir Puar**, see page 2 for details.  
Cosponsored with the LGSP. Location : Social Sciences 122.

*Thursday, April 24*

**Dorothy Sue Cobble**, Professor, Department of Labor and Employment Relations, Rutgers University. Paper TBA. Co-Sponsored with *Social History Workshop*. Location : Social Sciences 224.

*Tuesday, May 6*

**Alison Lefkowitz**, Ph.D. Student, History. Gender Studies Preceptor.  
*The Love Economy: Radical Feminism, Welfare Rights, and Marriage*

*Tuesday, May 20*

**Melissa J. K. Howe**, Sociology and CGS Fellow. Paper TBA.

*Tuesday, June 3*

**Thomas Jessen Adams**, Ph.D. Student, History and Hormel Fellow of the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project.  
*Gender, Sexuality and the Commodification of Identity in Postwar Los Angeles*

All workshops are 4:30-6 pm, held in the CGS conference room.  
<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/genderandsexualitywkshop.html>