

# The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

WINTER 2007

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2

## Director's Note



**Deborah Nelson**

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

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Though the Center for Gender Studies has been a fixture on campus for the past ten years, very few in our community know how widespread **student interest in gender and sexuality** is. There are three ways to think about this at the undergraduate level. A small but dedicated number, between 6 and 9 students per year, major in gender studies. (We have only recently implemented a minor in gender studies.) There is another active cohort of about 50 students who populate the student caucus and regularly attend events, especially the **Feminist Lives and Queer Trajectories Series**, which features speakers who have made their interests in gender/sexuality part of their careers. (This fall the series brought Rabbi Benay Lappe, the first openly lesbian Conservative Rabbi, and activist and writer Judith Levine, author of *Harmful to Minors: The Perils of Protecting Children from Sex and My Enemy, My Love: Women, Masculinity and the Dilemmas of Gender.*)

However, a much larger group, some 800, took courses cross-listed in gender and/or sexuality last year. As we have expanded our offerings over the past five years, enrollments have remained steady at an average of 25 students per class. This ability to sustain high average enrollments suggests that there remains untapped interest in gender and sexuality on campus. I ask faculty to take this fact into consideration as they plan their courses for next year.

This winter we would like to restart two popular initiatives that lost significant membership to faculty leave this year: the faculty reading group and the junior faculty working group. Last year's **faculty reading group** met once per quarter to discuss readings chosen collectively. Likewise, the **junior faculty working group**, which included not only assistant professors, but also lecturers and Harper/Schmidt fellows, met regularly to share work and find community. Please contact the Center if you are interested in either or both groups.

We would also like to launch a new project for graduate students interested in film history. With **Theaster Gates**, arts programming director for the humanities, and the Center for **Media Studies**, CGS will sponsor an annual film series curated out of the extensive holdings here on campus. Interested students should

contact Stuart Michaels. We will hold a meeting in January to discuss details.

In the first event on the winter calendar, the Center for Gender Studies and the Martin Marty Center at the Divinity School are co-sponsoring a conference called "**Modernity's Other: Studies on Jewish Women,**" organized by the Feminist Theories and the Study of Religion group, to be held February 12 and 13<sup>th</sup> in Swift Hall. The conference organizers have asked panelists to explore the topic along both historical and theoretical lines. How did Jewish women's lives change with the onset of modernity? How are we to understand the Other of the Other, taking Daniel Boyarin's formulation of the feminized Jewish male as the "other" of modern west as a starting point of investigation?

A second event planned in collaboration with the Slavic Department brings **Bozena Karwowska** of the University of British Columbia to deliver a talk entitled "The Body in Auschwitz: The Polish Writer's Experience" on Feb. 21. Professor Karwowska will be drawing on the work of Polish writers Stanislaw Grzesiuk and Zofia Romanowiczowa as well as several archives that are little known in the US. Anyone interested in attending a dinner with Professor Karwowska to follow the talk should contact Gina Olson.

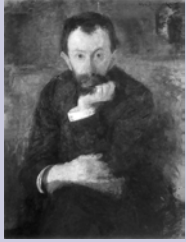


THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES  
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## Winter Quarter Brown Bag Lunch Discussions



**Friday, January 19, 12:15-1:30 p.m.**

**Bozena Shallcross**

Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

**Negotiating the Gaze:**

**Olga Boznanska as a Portraitist**

Professor Shallcross will discuss a highly visible Polish woman painter (1865-1940) and her treatment of visual transactions with her male models. Professor Shallcross analyzes the logic of the artist's gradual abandoning of the dichotomy of the proper/improper gaze and her forging a specular art of portraiture, in which she projected her own melancholic self-reflectivity on her sitters.

**Friday, February 2, 12:15-1:30 p.m.**

**Amahl Bishara**

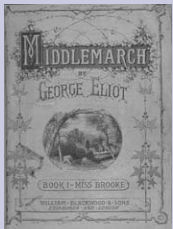
Instructor, Anthropology, University of Chicago

**Local Hands, International News: Gender, Nationality, and the Production of U.S. News in the West Bank**

Study of the production of news about Palestinian reveals the extent to which mainstream U.S. news about Palestinians is a cultural product not only of U.S. society and Western journalism's professional norms, but of Palestinian society, as well. This research analyzes the unrecognized and complex role of Palestinian media workers, who are both men and women, rather than focusing solely on U.S. foreign correspondents. Palestinian local social norms and goals, as well as the material challenges of working under Israeli military occupation, affect journalistic production in the West Bank. Studying Palestinian media workers casts gender in the Middle East -- a topic often oversimplified in the final texts of the news media -- in an unusual light. Rather than viewing Palestinian men only as aggressors (or occasionally victims) of political violence, Palestinian men here are producing the news upon which audiences around the world rely. Likewise, Palestinian women are active participants in Palestinian political debates and also in the production of international news. Class, education, and Palestinian ideas of danger and gendered political work guide women and men to their respective positions in this complex media world.

**Friday, Feb 16, 12:15-1:30 p.m.**

TBA



**Friday, March 2, 12:15-1:30 p.m.**

**Criscillia Benford**

Collegiate Assistant Professor, Humanities  
Collegiate Division, University of Chicago

**Women, Fashion, and Democratic Aesthetics  
in Eliot's Middlemarch**

In George Eliot's 1871 novel *Middlemarch*, clothes become more than tools for representing character. They offer a way for Eliot to think about representation as such. Eliot uses the clothed bodies of her female characters to enter the discourses of electoral and social reform via the discourse of Taste.

**Location: 5733 South University Avenue**  
<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events.html>

## The Gender Studies Student Caucus

This year's Center for Gender Studies Student Caucus is off to a great start! The Caucus had its first forum meeting in October and had attendees from a wide range of disciplines and programs from across the campus. The forum is a space for those students interested in and supportive of the Center for Gender Studies to connect with other students and voice their hopes and suggestions for the coming year. Some of the fruits of that discussion that the Caucus has decided to pursue this year are:

### Social Hour!

Once a quarter the Student Caucus plans to host a student social hour as a way to help people from different disciplines come and feel connected to a community that is dedicated to the study and raising of public awareness around issues of gender and sexuality. Come, relax, and socialize!

We had our first Social Hour on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and it was a big success! We had close to 50 attendees throughout the evening, along with free pizza, snacks, beer and wine! We hope to see you next quarter!

### Mentorship Program

The Caucus is in the process of establishing a mentorship program as a way to connect undergraduate students with graduate students for academic/career/personal support. If you are interested in being a mentor or mentee please contact Jennifer Vanore at [jvanore@uchicago.edu](mailto:jvanore@uchicago.edu) or Cindy Nguyen at [ctnguyen@uchicago.edu](mailto:ctnguyen@uchicago.edu) for more information!

### Undergraduate Symposium

This year the Student Caucus is trying to organize its first Undergraduate Symposium during Winter Quarter. The forum will offer undergraduates from different disciplines the opportunity to present current work or a B.A. thesis and get feedback from other students. If you are interested in presenting please contact Cindy Nguyen at [ctnguyen@uchicago.edu](mailto:ctnguyen@uchicago.edu) for more information!

## 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, January 9th 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).

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop has had a strong year so far with a consistently large number of attendees. We have been very happy with student contributions, both as presenters and respondents. Please contact Jennifer Vanore with any questions related to the workshop ([jvanore@uchicago.edu](mailto:jvanore@uchicago.edu)).

### WINTER 2007

January 9

**Jennifer Cole**, Associate Professor in Comparative Human Development  
*Making Love: Attachment and Reciprocity in Tamatave, Madagascar*

January 23

**Stuart Michaels**, Assistant Director for Curriculum and Development and Undergraduate Program Chair, Center for Gender Studies  
*The History of 10%: Social Science Measures and the Emergence of Gay Identity*

February 6

**Helen Li**, Sociology  
*Why states regulate prostitution: A study of Taiwan's two regimes' quest for legitimacy*

February 20

**Kristin Bloomer**, Theology, Resident Fellow, Center for Gender Studies  
*Being Maataa: Roman Catholicism and Marian Possession in Tamil Nadu, South India*

March 6

**Sarah Potter**, History, Dissertation Writing Fellow, Center for Gender Studies  
*Owning Domestic Space: Renting, Renovating, and Redefining the Family Home in Post-World War II Chicago*

### SPRING 2007

April 3

**Sarah Luna**, Anthropology  
*Ciudad Juarez, Reconsidered: Violence and the Problem of the Whore on the US-Mexico Border*

April 17

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

May 1

**Pablo Ben**, History, Hormel Fellow, Lesbian and Gay Studies Project  
*Male Queer Identities in Buenos Aires, 1880-1955*

May 15

**Jingwoan Chang**, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Resident Fellow, Center for Gender Studies  
*Gender, Health, and Bodily Appetites in Edo Japan*

May 29

**Sam Bergmann**, University of Chicago, Psychology and Human Development, Hormel Fellow, Lesbian and Gay Studies Project  
*(De)Gendering the Family?: Preliminary Findings from a Study of Lesbian Couples Who Coparent*

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

## Teaching, Fellowships and Prizes

The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago will again make several teaching, fellowship and award opportunities available for the coming academic year:

### Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowship in the College, Friday, January 13 at 5 PM.

The Center for Gender Studies is calling for applications by advanced graduate students (ABD) to teach one undergraduate course "of their own design". This course can be taught in any of the three quarters of the 2007-08 term. We invite applications for the Tave Fellowship from all interested Ph.D. students in the Hu-

manities Division. Applicants will be considered to compete for the Humanities Collegiate Division Stuart Tave Teaching Fellowships in the College next year. CGS will recommend up to two applicants who will compete for these fellowships across the Division.

### Teaching & Fellowship Deadline Friday March 30, 2007 at 5 PM.

**Co-Teaching Core Courses in Gender Studies and Preceptorship.** The Center for Gender Studies is calling for applications by advanced graduate students (ABD) to teach

in the Gender Studies core. We invite applications for these positions from all interested Ph.D. students in all divisions and professional schools.

### Free Standing Course Teaching Fellowship.

The Center for Gender Studies is calling for applications by advanced graduate students (ABD) to teach one undergraduate course "of their own design". This course can be taught in any of the three quarters of the 2007-08 term. We invite applications for these positions from all interested Ph.D. students in **all divisions and professional**

## The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project



**Lauren Berlant**  
George M. Pullman Professor, English  
Director, LGSP

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project sponsors three projects during winter quarter: the ongoing "New Voices" lecture series; a roundtable discussion on "Affect and ACT UP" commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACT UP/New York; and a panel on Queer Feelings.

On **Thursday January 11, 2007**, **Janet Halley**, Royall Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, will discuss her new book *Split Decisions: How and Why to Take a Break from Feminism* (Princeton 2006) in an open forum moderated by **Lauren Berlant**, LGSP director. Halley will focus our attention what it might mean, for people doing critical work on sex, gender, and sexuality in their relations to power, to work sometimes outside the presuppositions brought to us through the last 35 years of work in feminism. What conceptual, descriptive, political and/or law-reform possibilities are opened by such a move? What risks does one run -- for oneself? for women? for feminism?

On **Thursday, February 8, 2007** we are to be visited by **Colin Johnson**, speaking on: "The Consolations of Familiarity: Cross Dressing Sunday School Teachers and the Politics of Community in the Deep South." Johnson, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at Indiana University (and University of Chicago alumnus, class of '96; Ph.D. U. Michigan American Studies, 2003), is a truly trans-disciplinary thinker trained in disciplinary history, literary history, and critical/sexuality theory. The talk will mobilize material from his forthcoming book, *The Little Gay Bar on the Prairie: Gender, Geography and the Invention of Sexuality in Rural America*. The case details involve rural Georgia, Erskine Caldwell, and the complicated micro-politics of sexuality, social necessity and obligation that governed everyday life in small towns and rural areas during the early decades of the U.S. twentieth century.

In conjunction with the *Pathogeographies* exhibit at Gallery 400 curated by Feel Tank Chicago, on **Thursday, March 8, 2007** there will be a roundtable discussion on "Affect and ACT UP." Every media report about ACT UP during its heyday noted participants' anger, but few commentators have explored the role that anger, and other feelings, played in the movement. Marking the 20th anniversary of the emergence of ACT UP/New York, this roundtable

will explore the affective dimensions of ACT UP. Issues to be considered include the pleasures and disappointments of activism, the emotions of new queer subjectivities that formed within the movement, the feelings associated with "burnout," the making and unmaking of solidarities, the instrumentalizing of feelings, etc. Panelists (all former members of ACT UP): **Gregg Bordowitz**, Associate Professor, Film, Video, and New Media Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; **Ann Cvetkovich**, Professor, English Department, University of Texas at Austin and member, Feel Tank Austin; **Mary Patten**, Associate Professor, Film, Video, and New Media Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; member, Feel Tank Chicago; and **Kendall Thomas**, Nash Professor of Law, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Law & Culture, Columbia University. The panel will be moderated by **Deborah Gould**, ACT UP historian and Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Pittsburgh; member, Feel Tank Chicago.

Finally, On **Friday, March 9, 2007**, there will be a roundtable on *The Queerness of Public Feelings*, featuring **Ann Cvetkovich**, **Jose Munoz** (NYU, Performance Studies), and **Lisa Duggan** (NYU, American Studies). Moderated by **Lauren Berlant**. Very exciting, no? Look for announcements and posters.

### Winter LGSP Events

**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*

Location: Harper 103

**Thursday, 8 February, 4 p.m.**

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

*The Little Gay Bar on the Prairie: Gender, Geography and the Invention of Sexuality in Rural America*

Location: Harper 103

**Thursday, 8 March, 4:30 p.m.**

"Affect and ACT UP"

Panel Discussion

**Gregg Bordowitz, Ann Cvetkovich, Mary Patten, Kendall Thomas, Deborah Gould**

Location: CGS

**Friday, 9 March, 4 p.m.**

*The Queerness of Public Feelings* Panel Discussion

**Ann Cvetkovich, Jose Munoz** (NYU, Performance Studies), and **Lisa Duggan** (NYU, American Studies).

Location: CGS



<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/projects/>

## 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. See the website for upcoming talks.

### Highlights of Winter Course Offerings in Gender Studies

There are a rich and wide variety of courses

in gender and sexuality offered this Winter. In addition to the Gender Studies core "problems" courses in Gender and Sexuality, there are a variety of cross-listed courses from the Humanities and the Social Sciences. There is a sociology course *The Family* taught by Linda Waite; from English there is Mark Miller's *Reading Freud*, and Nathan Wolf's *Cinematic Bodes: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Theories of Film Spectatorship*. Bozena Shallcross from Slavic is teaching a course on the *Modern Polish Novel* and a new professor in Comp Lit, Tamara Chin is offering a course, *Historicizing Desire* which looks at desire and eroticism in Ancient Chinese and Greek texts. Elissa Weaver from Romance is again offering *Venetian Women & The Woman Question*. For the first time, we have a theater course on *Race and Gender in Ensemble Performance*, taught by Coya Paz. There is an especially rich set of offerings from outside the U.S. and Europe: *Gender, Theory and Ancient Near Eastern History*, *Gender in Modern*

*Colonial Korea* (Kyeong-Hee Choi); *Bollywood and Beyond* (Rochona Majumdar). Further information on these courses as well as graduate level courses can be found on our website and in the Time Schedule.

**Spring Quarter** will have at least 15 courses including a section of *Problems in the Study of Gender* taught by Leora Auslander from History and three advanced graduate student courses in sexuality (see descriptions elsewhere in this newsletter as well as updated information on our website during Winter Quarter).

### Majoring or Minor in Gender Studies

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.

### Free Standing College Courses in Gender Studies

#### 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).

#### SPRING QUARTER

*Sexuality in the Classical World*  
Matthew Perry, History

Drawing from the perspectives of both modern scholars and historical actors, this course will explore sexuality in the ancient societies of Greece and Rome. It will focus on the relationship between sexuality and gender, and how sexuality influenced an individual's standing in the community. This course will introduce students to literary and visual depictions of women and men in antiquity, and will explore the ideology of these sources in their historical and theoretical contexts. Students will analyze how Greeks and Romans defined normative categories of sexuality and gender, and how they used these categories as vehicles for social and political critique. This course will examine differences between Greek and Roman beliefs, and will encourage students to consider comparisons between ancient and modern

attitudes toward sexuality and gender. Such comparisons are useful for understanding the malleability of these categories and their role in shaping social life.

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

Women are on the move as never before in history. The contemporary world is witnessing a pervasive transfer of labor associated with women's traditional labor and gender roles. This class will examine the ways in which receiving nations absorb the care work of female migrants (often to the detriment of the families such migrants leave behind) and situate these experiences in the context of globalization and transnational migration. The first half of the course will introduce analytic tools of citizenship, globalization, the internationalization of reproductive labor and the influence of race and class in shaping women's mobility. The second part of the course focuses on women in and from Asia and Latin America. Based on four monographs and related essay we will analyze and examine the roles these women play in transnationalism both at home and abroad, how their lives are changed by larger transformations on local, national, and global levels, as well as their efforts at political mobilization at a transnational level.

*Youth, Gender, & Sexuality*  
Maira Hinderer, History

Who speaks for youth? Do young people have an inherent right to construct their own gender identity and express their sexuality? When parents, community and the state have competing claims over youth, who should decide the behavior standards expected of youth and the educational content to which they are exposed? These are some of the questions that we will address in this course as we examine contemporary debates and historical constructions of youth, sexuality and gender as presented in academic texts, popular literature and film. In particular, the class will focus on competing ideas about youth as innocents in need of protection or as autonomous beings, debates over sex education in public schools, and debates about sources of gender identity in youth.



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**schools.** Depending on available funds, the Center for Gender Studies may also fund up to two Free-Standing Courses in the College.

**CGS Dissertation Writing Fellowship.** University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates 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 successful candidate will receive \$15,000 for the academic year 2007-2008 dispersed according to University policy.

**Residency Fellowship.** University of Chicago graduate students (at all levels) from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. We are seeking two qualified graduate students with dissertations relating to issues of gender and sexuality interested in participating in the Center for Gender Studies while holding residence at the Center. This is an opportunity for graduate students regardless of funding sources.

**LGSP Hormel Dissertation Writing Fellowship.** The fellowship competition is open to University of Chicago 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 2007-08 academic year.

**Graduate Research Grants in Lesbian & Gay Studies.** The Graduate Research Grant 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.

**Ruth Murray Prize, Friday April 20 at 5:00 PM.** 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. Essays may come from students in all division and departments and may take the form of analytic or critical essays, empirical research papers, or personal essays.

**SEE THE WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS.**

#### CGS Contacts—Quick Reference:

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**Stuart Michaels**-Asst Director, Curriculum and Development; Undergraduate Program Chair (*Undergraduate Major, Course Cross-listing, Graduate Teaching Opportunities; Fundraising and Development*) ph: 773.702.2365, e: [stuartm@uchicago.edu](mailto:stuartm@uchicago.edu)

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#### The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project

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