

# The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

WINTER 2010

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## A Note from the Director



**Jane Dailey**

Associate Professor, History Department  
Interim Director of the Center for Gender Studies

As the Center transitions from the capable leadership of **Deborah Nelson** to that of **Linda M. G. Zerilli** (Charles E. Marriam Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and the College), we thank our faculty affiliates for their renewed commitment, especially our Board (**Debbie Nelson, Christine Stansell, Daisy Delogu, Lucy Pick, Elaine Hadley, Mary Anne Case**). The Board has been a model of engaged collective leadership. Extremely busy people have dropped what they were doing to draft grant proposals and organize events. **Martha Nussbaum** and **Alison LaCroix** deserve a special shout-out for leaping into action in September to organize a stunning conference on **Gender, Law and the British Novel** (more below). When a new funding source suddenly appeared, **Mary Anne Case** turned a talk into a mini-conference in two seconds flat. By connecting the **Women in the Sciences Project** with the Center, Associate Provost for Program Development **Mary Harvey** triggered a broad-based conversation about issues involving women faculty across the university. This is the sort of action that generates forward momentum, and we are grateful to everyone whose initiative has made for an exciting year at the Center.

We also want to thank **Provost Tom Rosenbaum** for his continued support of the Center and announce the creation of a new faculty research program. Next year, the Center will offer a faculty seminar on **"The Politics of Sexual Freedom."** This seminar, which will be organized around current faculty research, will meet biweekly

throughout the fall and winter, and three times in spring quarter. Four Faculty Fellows will be chosen; each will receive a one-course reduction in teaching. An additional six seminar members will receive \$1000 each in research support. A formal call for applications will be announced shortly.

There's a lot going on this winter and spring; here are some **key events** to add to your calendars now:

Monday, January 25, 4:30 pm  
Feminist Lives & Queer Trajectories presents **Amber Hollibaugh** of the Lesbian Community Care Project (Details on Page 2.)

Thursday, February 4  
Women in Science Project, **Making the Invisible Visible: from the Nose to the Cosmos** with **Evalyn Gates**, Assistant Director, Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics and **Leslie Kay**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Director, Institute for Mind and Biology. This is an event for UC women faculty in the sciences. Contact Gina Olson, [golson@uchicago.edu](mailto:golson@uchicago.edu), if you would like to attend.

Thursday, February 18, 4:30 pm  
**The Queer Picture Gallery in Max Ewing's Closet.** **Chad Heap**, Assoc Professor, George Washington University, former Hormel Fellow of the Center for Gender Studies (1998-99) Location: CGS

Monday, March 1, Time, Location TBA  
**Gender Boundaries in Jewish and Israeli Law Conference.** Structured around two documentary films, *Praying in Her Own Voice* and *Paper Dolls* (Bubyot Niyar), each centered on ways in which Israeli law and culture deal with individuals and groups who transcend the gender boundaries of Jewish law. Confirmed speakers include **Aeyal Gross** of Tel Aviv University, **Prina Lahav** of Boston University, and **Martin F. Manalansan IV** of the University of Illinois. <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/news/case123009>

Thursday, March 4, 5:00 pm  
**Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture.** **Mary Anne Case**, Arnold I. Shure Professor of Law (Title TBA) Location: Social Sciences 122

## Save the Date! Advance Notice of Spring Quarter Events:

April (date and place TBA)

Panel discussion of **Christine Stansell's** book **The Feminist Promise: 1792 to the Present**

May 14 and 15

**Gender, Law, and the British Novel** to be held at the Law School.

<http://www.law.uchicago.edu/gender-law-britishnovel>

We also have a number of co-sponsorships and collaborations this quarter:

- \* On January 20, with LGBTQ Programming Office, **Robin Ochs**, the editor of the Bisexual Resource Guide and the new anthology *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World*.
- \* On January 27, with ORCSA's Gilbert F. White Leadership Project, **"Women in Leadership" Panel**.
- \* February 16-17, with Creative Writing, graphic artist and creator of *Dykes To Watch Out For*, **Alison Bechdel**.
- \* On March 8, with the Office of Minority Student Affairs, Artist **Hector Silva**.
- \* On Tuesdays through the quarter, with Doc Films: **The First Wave: American Avant-Garde of the 1940s and 1950s**.

Have you published a book recently? We want to know! In April the Center will launch a new effort to celebrate and engage the work of our faculty associates with a discussion of history professor Christine Stansell's new history of feminism, *The Feminist Promise: 1792 to the Present* (Random House). If you have a book in press, please let us know.



THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES  
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## 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 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.

**The Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories Series** brings speakers who have pursued or constructed standard and non-standard careers dedicated to feminist and queer ideas and values. This Winter our **FL/QT** speaker will be **Amber Hollibaugh**, Chief Officer of Elder and LGBTI Women's Services Lesbian Community Care Project at Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago. Amber is a long term activist, author, and filmmaker. She has worked in AIDS, health, and issues of aging in many capacities. She is also the author of *My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home* (Duke 2000). Join us for refreshments and discussion with Amber on **Monday, January 25, at 4:30 PM at CGS.**

### Undergraduate Major or Minor in Gender Studies

University of Chicago students may major or minor in Gender Studies, which includes sexuality studies. All such students are required to take two foundation courses, 10100 Problems in the Study of Gender and 10200 Problems in the Study of Sexuality plus a number of the courses in gender and/or sexuality drawn from the many courses crosslisted under Gender Studies each quarter. Majors are also required to complete a B.A. thesis project of their own design in their fourth year. A full description of both options can also be found in the College Catalog under Gender Studies

or on the CGS website. For more information, contact Stuart Michaels, [stuartm@uchicago.edu](mailto:stuartm@uchicago.edu), Chair of Undergraduate Studies, CGS.

### 2009 Ruth Murray Essay Competition in Women's Studies, Feminist Criticism, or Gender Studies

Each year the Ruth Murray Prize is 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. The \$500 prize sponsored is in memory of Ruth Murray who died in 1991, having served as Bibliographer for the Education, Psychology, Sociology and Women's Studies Collections at the Regenstein Library for many years. Ruth Murray had a strong interest in encouraging scholarship in women's studies and often served as a stimulus and facilitator of work by students and faculty in the area. It is the intent of the Ruth Murray Prize Committee that the essay competition sustain and encourage scholarship in women's studies, as Ruth Murray did during her lifetime. 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. Undergraduate winners are awarded the prize at the College Honors Awards Assembly. **Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2009, 12PM**

**B.A. Deadline** Gender Studies B.A. theses will be due the end of fifth week of Spring Quarter, at **Noon, Friday, April 30.**

**Spring Quarter Course Descriptions** for courses in Gender Studies can be found on our website at <http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/undergrad/courses.shtml>

**Join our email list!**

<http://lists.uchicago.edu/web/info/gender-studies>

## Winter Quarter Lunchtime Talks

**Wednesday, January 20, 12:15-1:30 pm**  
Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum

**Robyn Ochs**, long-time activist, and the editor of the Bisexual Resource Guide and the anthology *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World.*

**Friday, February 5, 12:15-1:30 pm**  
"Where Did They Come From? Who Are They? Where Are They Going?": Sex Offenders, Community Notification, and the Consequences of Social Ostracism

**Laurie Jo Reynolds**, artist, activist, and adjunct faculty member at Columbia College and Loyola University.

The proliferation of sex offender statutes in the last decade has all the marks of a social panic. Premised in misconceptions about who sex offenders are, who victims are, and the real scale and nature of sexual violence, the laws have failed to make communities or children safer (and may have made them less safe) while permanently ostracizing thousands of ex-offenders. This workshop will provide an overview of the unintended consequences of these laws and examine current artistic and political efforts to reframe the public discussion of sex offenders.

**Friday, February 26, 12:15-1:30 pm**  
Whence Eve: The History of an Idea.

**Catherine Bronson**, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Bronson investigates the vistas of syncretism have produced the Eve of Islamic exegesis and how Islamic juridical law (and in particular, ritual praxis) has been formed as a response to the sin of the first female, a sin that has been imputed to all of humanity.

**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.

This Winter the workshop will be hosting special guest **David Caron**, Associate Professor of French at the University of Michigan, on January 26. He is the author of *AIDS in French Culture: Social Ills, Literary Cures* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2001) and the recent *My Father and I: The Marais and the Queerness of Community* (Cornell University Press, 2009). Caron will be discussing his new work on AIDS and the dynamics of disclosure.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops are held on the first floor of the Center for Gender Studies, 5733 S. University Avenue, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Attendees are expected to read the workshop paper in advance of meeting (papers are made available on the CGS website). If you are interested in being included on the workshop email list or would like to present your work at a future date, please email the workshop coordinator Sarah Imhoff at [sarahi@uchicago.edu](mailto:sarahi@uchicago.edu).

### Winter 2010 Workshop Schedule

Jan. 12: **Joe Fischel**, GS and Political Science

*Transcendent Homosexuals and Dangerous Sex Offenders: Sexual Harm and Freedom in the Judicial Imaginary.*

Jan. 26: **David Caron**, University of Michigan

*"I Have Something to Tell You": The Relational Dynamics of HIV/AIDS Disclosure*

Feb. 9: **Sian Beilock and Susan Levine**, Psychology (rescheduled from December 1)  
*Learning Math and Spatial Skills: How Performance Stereotypes and Anxiety Impact Early Elementary School Student Achievement*

Feb. 15 **Luis Manuel-Garcia**, Music (co-sponsored with Theater and Performance Studies workshop)  
*Smooth Experience/Rough Experience: Coming Undone and the 'Night Out' in Nightclub Scenes in Paris, Chicago, and Berlin*

Feb. 23: **Jay Sosa**, GS and Anthropology  
*Gilberto Freyre and the Myth of Brazilian Sexual Freedom*

Mar. 9: **Allison Lefkowitz**, GS and History  
TBA

#### **Spring 2010:**

April 6: Carly Schuster, Anthropology  
April 20: Gerard Cohen-Vrignaud, GS and Comparative Literature  
April 30 (3:30-5): Ruth Solie  
May 4: Eitan Wilf, Anthropology  
May 18: Alicia VandeVusse, GS and Sociology  
June 1: Erin Moore, Human Development

[http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/  
events/workshops.shtml](http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events/workshops.shtml)

## Graduate Studies

The Center for Gender Studies fosters many kinds of graduate participation in the Center. **Teaching opportunities** at the CGS include co-teaching in the core of the undergraduate concentration (Problems in Gender Studies I and II, a M.A.-level Theory course and B.A. Preceptorship) as well as free standing courses in the College. The core undergraduate courses for the program promote collaborative teaching among faculty and graduate students.

**Fellowships** are available for advanced graduate students, providing funding and/or residency at the Center. University of Chicago Ph.D. candidates from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Application deadlines for teaching and fellowships are as follow.

Full guidelines can be found on the links from the Graduate Students Page of our Website:

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

### **Noon, Wednesday, March 31**

CGS Dissertation Fellowship

Hormel Dissertation Fellowship

Office Residence Fellowships

Free-Standing Course Proposals  
in all divisions

Co-Teaching Applications

## Meet the Gender Studies Graduate Students



**Joe Fischel** (LGSP Hormel Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago, and his research interests are in normative political theory, feminist and queer theory, and law. His dissertation focuses on contemporary cultural representations of and legal regulations around sexual harm, with particular attention to the ways such representations and regulations are mediated through the figures of the child and the sexual predator. In 2007-2008, he was the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project student coordinator at CGS, and in 2008-2009 he was a lecturer for CGS courses in the winter and spring quarters. When not by his laptop, he can be found on the north side of Chicago, running on the lake path, practicing yoga, and searching for good sushi deals. He is tremendously grateful for the Hormel Fellowship and looking forward to this year.



**Sarah Imhoff** (Gender & Sexuality Studies Workshop Coordinator) is a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago Divinity School, whose work broadly considers gender and Judaism.

She received a BAS in religious studies and mathematics from Stanford University in 2002 and an MA from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2005.

She is currently writing her dissertation on the role of gender, sexuality, and race in the construction of images of Jewish men and women in early twentieth-century America. In a time when American culture wrestled with both masculinity and femininity, these became powerful tools in drawing social boundaries and creating ideals. The dissertation will argue that many Americans thought that Jews enacted gender and sexuality strangely, and it was no accident that non-Jews used the language of gender, sexuality, and race to "other" Jews in the early twentieth century. In other projects, Sarah also looks at the images of women and gender in rabbinic literature.



**Alison Lefkowitz** (CGS Fellow) is an advanced doctoral candidate in the History Department whose research focuses on 20th

century United States gender, sexuality, and political history. Her dissertation explores the politics of marriage from 1963 until the defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment. Her research shows how feminists, members of the New Left, welfare rights activists, and gay liberationists assaulted the cultural, legal, and economic practice of marriage, working to nullify a traditional regime rooted in sex difference. In crucial respects, they succeeded in dismantling institutional economic dependence, the legal residues of coverture, and the cultural compulsion to marry. Yet broad fears of marriage without gender eventually helped bring forth the political triumph of the Right. Eliminating distinctions between husbands and wives frightened many Americans who saw families under the new gender order as strikingly reminiscent of welfare families. Moreover gay marriage became a locus of anxiety as Americans grappled with the passing of an old gender order. The Right's identification of family as the lynchpin of society eventually prompted a backlash that brought

Americans concerned about gender, sexuality, race, class, welfare, and the growing federal state into one cohesive conservative movement.

Alison has a BA from Indiana University. She has been a part of the Center for Gender Studies for several years, serving as the Gender Studies preceptor and coordinating the History of Women at the University of Chicago project.



**Jay Sosa** (CGS Fellow) is a third year doctoral student in sociocultural anthropology. His ethnographic research centers around competing queer consumer and activist ideologies in São Paulo. His broader interests include the politics of gender and class differences in queer communities, commodities and erotics, mass media and urban space.



**Anthony Todd** (BA Preceptor) is a Ph.D. student in the History Department focusing on American History, Law and Gender. His dissertation will focus on the origins of the Progressive Movement in Chicago. Originally from Iowa City, Anthony is a graduate of Macalester College. Anthony has co-taught "Problems in Sexuality" and led his own course on the history of masculinity.



**Alicia VandeVusse** (LGSP Hormel Fellow) is a PhD student in the Sociology Department. Her research focuses on processes of medicalization, notions of family, and issues of reproduction. Originally from Milwaukee, Alicia received a B.A. in Economics from Smith College in 2004 and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 2007. Her dissertation explores the formation of "nontraditional" families using assisted reproductive technologies (ART), with a focus on how legal and professional regulation (or lack thereof) affects the experiences of patients and providers. She investigates how both the regulatory context and doctors' personal conceptualizations of family influence the provision of care to nontraditional ART patients. Her other research interests include the changing experience of birth in America and popular culture depictions of reproduction and nontraditional families.



**Elizabeth Hutcheon** (CGS Fellow) is a PhD candidate in the English department. Her dissertation, "Imitating Women: Rhetoric, Gender, and Humanist Pedagogy in

English Renaissance Drama," seeks to uncover the role of women's speeches in the teaching of rhetoric to schoolboys in the early modern period. She argues that, contrary to what we've been taught about the role of women's speech in the Renaissance, women's speeches in classical texts were presented to schoolboys as appropriate models of rhetoric. Boys were not invited to see women's speech as qualitatively different from their own; instead, speaking women in classical texts were divorced from the social anxieties that surrounded "real" women in the period. Using this as a framework of analysis, she then turn to Shakespeare's work in order to examine how he negotiates the relationship between gender, speech, and education in his plays.

Elizabeth has an MA in English from the University of Chicago, as well as Masters of Studies in both English and Women's Studies from Oxford University. She received her BA in English and Classics from Georgetown University.