



Quarterly Newsletter, WINTER 2012
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A Note from Our Director...

Linda M. G. Zerilli

Charles E. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Political Science and the College,
Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies

Dear Friends of the Center:

As we move into 2012, I want to thank those of you who have given so much of your time and energy to CSGS. Fall quarter was a very busy and productive time at the Center, and I am happy to say that we had great attendance at our main events. As part of the ongoing Sawyer Seminar on Women's International Human Rights, the visits of Robert Meister ("After Evil: A Politics of Human Rights") and Samuel Moyn ("The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History") were a great way to kick off our critical discussion of the Western human rights tradition. Catharine MacKinnon's provocative talk on "Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality" to an overflow crowd at the Law School and the student seminar she led with a group of undergraduate, graduate, and law students helped deepen the debate here at the Center about the place of women in this tradition and its many blindspots. Thanks are also in order to our UChicago colleagues Charlotte Walker-Said and Agnes Lugo-Ortiz for organizing, respectively, symposia on "Sexual Rights as Human Rights" and "Women's Human Rights in Latin America," both of which generated new conversations about rights among CSGS faculty seminar participants. Please stay tuned for upcoming Sawyer Seminar events in the months to come.

CSGS Faculty Fellow and George M. Pullman Professor of English Lauren Berlant provided innovative programming for our LGBTQ studies project in the form of

During Winter Quarter, the CSGS Sawyer Seminar, "International Women's Human Rights: Paradigms, Paradoxes, and Possibilities," goes forward with its third symposium, "Understanding Sexual Violence in Conflict: Gendered Dynamics of Victimization"; participants will include Elisabeth Wood, Professor of Political Science at Yale University, Dara Cohen, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and Jocelyn Kelly, Director of the Women in War Program for Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. The symposium will be held at the Franke Institute on Thursday, March 1 and in Classics 110 on Friday, March 2.

In Spring Quarter the Sawyer Seminar presents its fourth and final symposium, "Human Rights and Sexuality in Colonial Black Atlantic Cities," along with public lectures by Nivedita Menon and Leila Ahmed. The seminar's international conference, "Engendering Rights in India: The Colonial Encounter and Beyond," on May 3 and 4 will bring to campus the distinguished Indian scholars Tanika Sarkar, Jayatri Ghosh, Charu Gupta, Zoya Hasan, Rajeshwari Sunder Rajan, and Ruth Vanita.

Graduate Studies

Gender and Sexuality Studies fosters many kinds of graduate participation at the Center. Deadlines for Fellowships and Teaching opportunities will be announced later this quarter. Students interested in a Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies should refer to the website for full details and contact Sarah Tuohey (773-702-2365; stuohey@uchicago.edu.)

The Gender and Sexualities Workshop has an exciting Winter Quarter schedule. We begin our quarter programming on January 17 with a presentation by **Julia Kowalski**, a doctoral candidate in Human Development and a Sawyer Seminar Dissertation Fellow at the Center. Kowalski's workshop presentation is co-sponsored by the Clinical Ethnographies Workshop and showcases her dissertation research on women and domestic violence in India. On January 31, **Abigail Ocobock**, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, will be presenting her dissertation research on same-sex marriage. On February 14, **David Getsy**, the McComb Finn Distinguished Professor of Art History, Theory, and Criticism at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago, will present a chapter from his upcoming book, which will treat the sculptor David Smith and the poet/curator Frank O'Hara. In keeping with our focus on pedagogy and professionalization, **Heather Lainey Talley**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Western Carolina University, will conduct an interactive workshop on feminist pedagogy on February 28. We end the quarter on March 13 with **Caroline Schuster's** dissertation work on gender and microcredit in Paraguay. Schuster is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology, a Sawyer Seminar dissertation fellow at the Center, and coordinator of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop.

Workshops meet bi-weekly on Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm at The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. For further information or to join our listserv and receive pre-circulated papers in advance of the workshop meeting, please contact Caroline Schuster at carlys@uchicago.edu.



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several popular events, including a marvelous public conversation on October 19 (photo, left) with film maker and UChicago graduate **Kimberly Peirce** (*Boys Don't Cry*). Video of the talk will soon be available on our website.

On November 10, **Julie Rak** (University of Alberta) and **Anne Poletti** (Monash University, Australia) provided a panel discussion on *Feminists, Queers, and the New Memoir* and on November 11, "Theory Meets History and Practice: A Zine-Making Workshop." Professor **Berlant** will also host a much anticipated February 16 visit from **Jasbir Puar** (Rutgers), speaking on "Homonationalism Gone Viral: Transmission, Affect, Assemblage."

Nancy K. Miller (CUNY) will visit the Center for a lunchtime talk, "I Found My Family in a Drawer: Pieces of a Jewish Past" on March 1 and the **Social Media Project**, which studies the locations and practices of gender and sexuality in new media and social media, will host **Lisa Nakamura** (UIUC) on February 27.

We are delighted to announce that **Leora Auslander**, Professor of European Social History and Founding Director of the Center for Gender Studies, will give our annual *Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture* on January 19. Her talk, "Bodies Covered and Exposed: Feminist Reflections on 'Choice' in the 21st Century" will address if these choices, and the responses to them, have changed since the now distant debates of the 1970s and 1980s.

I am also happy to announce our *new annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture*. The inaugural lecture will be given on February 9 by **Katherine Crawford**, who received her Ph.D in History in 1997 and is currently Associate Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. Her talk is titled "Love, Talk and Dirty Jokes: French Erotic Poetry and Masculinity in the Renaissance." If you have suggestions for future speakers, kindly be in touch with the Center.

Fall quarter at CSGS was also an opportunity to host a book party for graphic artist **Alison Bechdel** (photo, below) for her new work *The Best American Comics 2011* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Author of *Dykes to Watch Out For* and *Fun Home*, Bechdel will be a Mellon Fellow at the Gray Center in Spring 2012. Together with CSGS Faculty Fellow, Director of the CSGS Artist's Salon, and Assistant Professor of English **Hillary Chute**, she will teach a course, "Lines of Transmission: Comics and Autobiography," for CSGS and give a workshop at the Center.



Finally, if you have not had a chance to do so, please visit our new website at gendersexuality.uchicago.edu to get all the information you need to stay informed about the many upcoming activities of the Center. We look forward to seeing you.

Collegiate News

New Name for Undergraduate Program!

The undergraduate program (major and minor) has officially changed its name to Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS), to better reflect our course offerings and the intellectual interests of our students. Time Schedules and College Catalog listings will also use the program's new abbreviation, GNSE.

Majoring or Minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies

The Gender and Sexuality Studies undergraduate major has existed at the University of Chicago for the last 12 years, and since 2006 a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies has been an option. Majoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies requires our two core courses, GNDR/GNSE 10100 and GNDR/GNSE 10200 (introductions to the study of gender and sexuality, respectively), plus nine additional courses, at least five of which must be specifically in gender/sexuality studies. The major also requires a BA project, a two and a half quarter process which includes a BA seminar. Because the number of majors is comparatively small – typically five to eight GSS students graduate per year – our students derive intensive group and individual support from one another and are able to work very closely with the GS and Sexuality Studies. A minor requires the two core GSS courses and at least four additional courses in gender and/or sexuality (these courses may not be double counted with major or general education requirements). Students who want to complete a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies must declare this intention before the end the spring quarter of the third year by filing a form available online on the College web site (<http://college.uchicago.edu/policies-regulations/forms-and-petitions>). If you are interested in learning more about majoring or minoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies, get in touch with Sarah Tuohey, CSGS Student Affairs Administrator, at stuohey@uchicago or 773-702-2365. A full description of both options can also be found in the College Catalog under Gender and Sexuality Studies and on the CSGS website.

Feminist/Queer Praxis

Two feminist activists made lunchtime presentations in the autumn as part of the “Feminist/Queer Praxis” series. Sociologist and activist **Rachel Caidor** talked about her “job” in social services and non-profits and her “work” on feminist anti-violence, and blogger-activist **Clarisse Thorn** discussed her research on online “pick-up artist” forums. We will host at least two more F/QPs as the year goes on – check the CSGS website for announcements!

Gender Activism, Learning, and Service

The CSGS-sponsored undergraduate workshop, **Gender Activism, Learning, and Service (GALS)** continues its many



activities – discussions, visiting lectures, community service – in Winter Quarter. Check out the workshop's blog GALS ~ Galatea at <http://galsgalatea.wordpress.com/about/> for upcoming events and to participate in the conversation.

Movie Nights in Winter

Director of Studies and professor in the Sociology Department **Kristen Schilt** will show two documentaries, “Lake of Fire” (about abortion politics in the ‘90s) on Monday, February 6 and “Live Nude Girls Unite” (about sex worker unionization), to her “Problems in the Study of Gender” on Wednesday, February 29. Both screenings will be open to all undergraduates and pizza and soda will be provided.

Looking Ahead to Spring Course Offerings

During Autumn Quarter, CSGS offered an advanced course in Feminist Theory, and in the Spring we will offer “What’s Queer? What’s Theory?” to be taught by Jay Sosa. Other new Spring offering is “Lines of Transmission: Comics and Autobiography,” to be co-taught by Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of English **Hillary Chute** and cartoonist/author **Alison Bechdel** (author of the strip “Dykes to Watch Out For” and the 2006 novel *Fun Home*), who will also be the Center’s Artist in Residence during Spring Quarter.

CSGS Staff

Linda M.G. Zerilli, Faculty Director

Gina Olson, Associate Director

Sarah Tuohey, Students Affairs Administrator;
Sawyer Seminar Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Organized by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Thursday, January 19, 5 pm

Leora Auslander, "Bodies Covered & Exposed: Feminist Reflections on 'Choice' in the 21st Century"
Social Science Research, Room 122

Monday, February 6, 6 pm

Movie Night: "Lake of Fire" (documentary on abortion politics in the 1990's)
5710 S Woodlawn, Community Lounge

Thursday, February 9, 4:30 pm

Katherine Crawford, "Love Talk and Dirty Jokes: French Erotic Poetry and Masculinity in the Renaissance"
Harper Memorial Library, Room 103

Thursday, February 16, 4:30 pm

Jasbir Puar, "Homonationalism Gone Viral: Transmission, Affect, Assemblage"
Harper Memorial Library, Room 103

Friday, February 17, 12-1:30 pm

Jasbir Puar, Brownbag lunch on 'Lifelogging'
CSGS, First Floor Conference Room

Monday, February 27, 5 pm

Lisa Nakamura, "Instrumental Sexism and Homophobia in Virtual World Games"
Classics Building, Room 110

Wednesday, February 29, 6pm

Movie Night: "Live Nude Girls Unite" (documentary on sex worker unionization)
5710 S Woodlawn, Community Lounge

Thursday, March 1, 12-1:30 pm

Nancy K. Miller, "I Found My Family in a Drawer: Pieces of a Jewish Past"
CSGS, First Floor Conference Room
Sponsored with Chicago Center for Jewish Studies

Thursday, March 1, 4:30-6 pm

"Understanding Sexual Violence in Conflict: Gendered Dynamics of Victimization," Symposium, Keynote lecture by Elisabeth Wood
Franke Institute for the Humanities

Friday, March 2, 8:30 AM-6 pm

"Understanding Sexual Violence in Conflict: Gendered Dynamics of Victimization," Symposium

Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

January 17: Julia Kowalski (PhD candidate, Comparative Human Development; CSGS Fellow)

"Fixing the Limits of Care: Defining Gendered Household Violence in Jaipur, India"

January 31: Abigail Ocobock (PhD student, Sociology)

Dissertation Proposal

February 14: David Getsy (McComb Finn Distinguished Professor of Art History, Theory, and Criticism at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago)

"On Not Making Boys: David Smith, Frank O'Hara, and Gender Assignment"

February 28: Heather Laine Talley (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Western Carolina University)

"Public Feminism, Popular Writing: Dispatches from The Feminist Wire"

March 13: Caroline Schuster (PhD candidate, Anthropology; CSGS Fellow)

"Debt Forgiveness: the Gender of Promises in Development Microloans on the Paraguayan Frontier"

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