



## this issue

Director's Note P.1  
Collegiate News and  
Graduate Studies P.3  
Event Details P.4

## 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:

I am delighted to announce some crucial developments at the Center since my last report in Spring 2011. To begin, we now have a new name: Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. As many of you know, the Center has always been committed to research not only on gender but also on sexuality, and the name change is intended both to reflect what it is we already do and to widen the scope of our critical activities. In keeping with this inaugural moment, we are also proud to announce the new CSGS website, which you will soon be able to access at [gendersexuality.uchicago.edu](http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu). The site reflects the innovative programming that has been taking shape at the Center, thanks to the creative contributions of our devoted faculty and staff and the generous financial support of the provost and the deans.

Starting in 2011-2012, the Center will have not only a new name but also a new faculty structure: we will now offer up to eight regular faculty fellowships. Funded by the Provost, these fellowships are intended to enable University of Chicago faculty to be involved with the Center in mutually productive ways as we seek to build an intellectual community of scholars working and teaching on gender and sexuality across the disciplines. Fellows receive personal research stipends and programming budgets that are commensurate with their level of active involvement with the Center. Faculty fellows will make up the core group involved in faculty governance, teaching, and research at the Center, though of course we will be working together with our larger group of affiliated faculty. What is particularly exciting about the new fellowships is that

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Innovative new programming** has been taking shape at the Center: the **Lesbian and Gay Studies Lecture Series** will feature dynamic speakers from across the U.S. and abroad; the inaugural year of **the Artists' Salon** will feature world-famous cartoonist Alison Bechdel; the **Feminist Theory Project** is devoted to a critical rethinking of the foundational texts in the development of feminist thought; **The Age of Global Politics** takes as its departure point the 2011-12 Sawyer Seminar; **Sexualities in Africa and the African Diaspora** aims to broaden research on the history of sexuality in Africa and African diasporas; the **Social Media Project** studies the locations and practices of gender and sexuality in new media and social media; and **Women in Science** brings together women faculty from the Biological, Physical and Social Sciences Division to share their work and interests and build community.

The autumn portion of the Sawyer Seminar, titled **"The European Rights Tradition,"** will be devoted to situating feminist theory and practice around human rights in a broader, historically-informed debate about the formation of political communities and the subject of rights, especially as it emerged in eighteenth and nineteenth-century discussions about citizenship and the rights of Man. *See page 4 for event details.*

(Continued from page 1)

they allow faculty to lead projects at the Center in their area of expertise, thus infusing CSGS with fresh ideas for both teaching and research.

**The 2011-2012 faculty fellows are:** **Lauren Berlant**, English Language and Literature, Director, Lesbian and Gay Studies Project; **Mary Anne Case**, Law School, Director, the Feminist Theory Project; **Hillary Chute**, English Language and Literature, Director, the Artists' Salon; **Rachel Jean-Baptiste**, History, Director, Sexualities in Africa and the African Diaspora; **Rochona Majumdar**, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Chair, Curriculum Committee; **Kristen Schilt**, Sociology, Director of Studies; **Rebecca Zorach**, Art History, Director, Social Media Project.

I am happy to announce the new position of Director of Studies, which will be held in 2011-2012 by **Kristen Schilt**, Assistant Professor of Sociology and author of *Just One of the Boys: Transgender Men and the Persistence of Gender Inequality*. An immensely popular teacher and creative scholar, Professor Schilt will help us develop both the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in gender and sexuality studies. Professor Schilt represented CSGS in the first annual Chicago area graduate student conference, *Engendering Change*, which was held at Northwestern University in Spring 2011. University of Chicago will host the conference next year, and we look forward to your participation.

Building on new undergraduate initiatives, we will once again sponsor an undergraduate workshop, *Gender, Activism, Learning & Service (GALS)*. Thanks to the always generous Dean of the College, **John Boyer**, the Center was able to sponsor two undergraduate interns in summer 2011, **Lulu Danzig**, who interned at the Howard Brown Health Center, and **Dayna Heller**, who interned at the Young Women's Leadership Charter School of Chicago.

Last year I reported that CSGS will run a 2011-2012 **Mellon Sawyer Seminar** on "Women's International Human Rights: Problems, Paradoxes, Possibilities." I am happy to say that the plans are now firmly in place for the many events associated with the Seminar, including a range of public lectures by distinguished human rights scholars **Samuel Moyn**, **Lynn Hunt**, **Robert Meister**, **Leila Ahmed**, and **Carole Vance**. We will also host a major conference on the Indian rights tradition on May 3-4, "Engendering Rights in India: The Colonial Encounter and Beyond"

with a keynote lecture by **Tanika Sarkar**. See further details in this newsletter.

**Faculty Participants in the Seminar are:** **Lauren Berlant**, English Language and Literature; **Susan Burns**, History; **Jennifer Cole**, Comparative Human Development; **Jane Dailey**, History; **Leela Gandhi**, English Language and Literature; **Susan Gzesh**, Human Rights Program; **Alison James**, Romance Languages and Literatures; **Agnes Lugo-Ortiz**, Romance Languages and Literatures; **Rochona Majumdar**, South Asian Languages and Civilizations; **Tianna Paschel**, Political Science; **Charlotte Walker**, Human Rights Program; **Tara Zahra**, History; **Linda Zerilli**, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Political Science; and the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, **Zahra Jamal**, PhD, Anthropology, Harvard University.

Following up on the success of last year's Classics of Feminist Theory Project, which featured Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, we have selected **Catharine MacKinnon** as our main author for 2011-2012 and will be sponsoring events on her work. The first event will be a lecture by Professor MacKinnon, co-sponsored by the Law School, on November 14. There will also be a seminar with her on November 15 at CSGS. Please be in touch with Center for more information.

With the new Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, Professor **Michael Dawson**, I anticipate some genuinely innovative and collaborative efforts in the area of race, gender and sexuality in the coming year. We are also looking forward to some major renovations of our common space at 5733 South University Avenue, which will follow up on the transformation of the third floor in 2010-2011. Do stop by and see our lounge, which is available for use by our students and affiliated faculty.

Finally, I am delighted to announce that **Gina Olson**, who has been with the Center for over a decade, has been promoted to the new position of Associate Director. Please join me in congratulating Gina. Another happy staff note is that **Sarah Touhey**, our energetic Student Affairs Administrator, will continue in her post. Sarah is also the official program coordinator of the Sawyer Seminar, so please be in touch with her if you have questions specific to the related events. We are grateful for the efforts made by our talented and devoted staff to move CSGS forward. Thanks as well to all of you who have contributed so generously of your time to the Center. I look forward to welcoming you at our activities in the coming year.



The "Artists' Salon" is a new initiative at the Center directed by **Hillary Chute**, Assistant Professor of English and author of the marvelous *Graphic Women: Life Narrative and Contemporary Comics (Columbia, 2010)*. Thanks to Professor Chute, who won a **Mellon Residential Fellowship in Arts Practice and Scholarship at the Richard and Mary L. Gray Center for Arts and Inquiry**, which brings an artist to campus to teach a course with a UofC professor, CSGS will be hosting **Alison Bechdel** in Spring 2012. Creator of the *New York Times* bestseller *Fun House: A Family Tragicomic*, Bechdel is one of the most prominent graphic artists working today. Together with Professor Chute, she will teach a course titled "Lines of Transmission: Comics and Autobiography" in Spring 2012. The Center will be one of several sites devoted to the exhibition of Bechdel's work over the course of the academic year. On October 7, we will host Bechdel and celebrate her new book, *The Best American Comics 2011* at the Quadrangle Club.

### CSGS Staff

Linda M.G. Zerilli, Faculty Director

Gina Olson, Associate Director

Sarah Tuohey, Students Affairs  
Administrator; Sawyer Seminar  
Coordinator



## Collegiate News

The Center for Gender Studies has a new name – the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, and so do our undergraduate major and minor – Gender and Sexuality Studies! As always, we offer and cross-list courses from across the university's divisions and schools. During the Autumn of 2011, the Center will offer a number of non-course opportunities for undergraduates as well. Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories has become Feminist/Queer Praxis (FQP) and will continue to bring in guest presenters – activists, professionals, artists, academics – to talk about how they practice their values. Our first FQP presenter of the year is Rachel Caidor, a Chicago activist/artist. Art History professor Rebecca Zorach will introduce Ms. Caidor at a lunch gathering in the first floor seminar room at the Center on Monday, October 17 (noon to 1:20).

As Director of Studies, Sociology professor Kristen Schilt, who has taught Problems in the Study of Gender and Problems in the Study of Sexuality several times, will work with undergraduate and graduate students to optimize their experience with the Center. She will lead two new quarterly programs aimed at undergraduates this year. One will be a quarterly Study Break/Movie Night at the Center with pizza and the screening of a fun, gender/sexuality-related film. Another quarterly event will be Lunch with a CSGS Faculty Member. More details on these new programs will be posted on the CSGS web site in the next few weeks.

Another major event that Prof. Schilt will oversee is the second annual *Engendering Change* Student Conference, co-sponsored by the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, which will be held on campus in late spring quarter. At least one panel participating in the conference will comprise undergraduates who have worked with GSGS' 2011-12 Postdoctoral Fellow Zahra Jamal during autumn and part of winter quarter. Dr. Jamal will lead a reading group and workshop on international women's human rights called "Women and Power: International Women's Human Rights" during autumn quarter at the center. Students who attend the group and workshop will have the opportunity to submit papers to and, if accepted, present *their papers at the spring conference*.

The Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies offers a major, with a choice between a generalist path and discipline-based path. Many of our majors, usually those who choose the discipline-based path, also pursue and complete one or even two other majors. We also offer a minor, which makes the most sense for students whose majors have little overlap with our courses. If you have questions about the major or minor and want to talk about how they might fit in with your general academic goals, call or email student affairs administrator Sarah Tuohey (773-702-2365; [stuohey@uchicago](mailto:stuohey@uchicago)) to talk or set up a meeting.

**Welcome Back/Welcome To... Gathering at the Center, Wednesday, October 26, 12:00-1:30** — Please join us and your fellow students at the Center to talk, get information, and ask questions about the major, the minor, and other opportunities at CSGS!

## 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](mailto:stuohey@uchicago).)

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop (GSSW) provides participants with an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality. The workshop discusses pre-circulated papers written by University of Chicago graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars. Attendees are expected to read the paper in advance of the workshop meeting; papers are made available on the CSGS website or via our email list. If you are interested in being included on the workshop email list, please register on our website or email this year's student co-coordinators: Larisa Reznik, [lreznik@uchicago](mailto:lreznik@uchicago); Caroline Schuster, [carlys@uchicago](mailto:carlys@uchicago).

This quarter, papers on a wide range of themes from disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, and English literature will be featured. Presentations will include a discussion of gender dynamics in the classroom, gender and identity-formation in the television show *Mad Men*, the relationship between the color pink and femininity, a discussion of women, divorce, and mental health from the perspective of medical anthropology, statistical approaches to assessing tolerance of homosexuality, and sex work at the U.S./Mexico border. *See Page 4 for details.*

# Upcoming Events

## International Women's Human Rights: Paradigms, Paradoxes, and Possibilities

The Sawyer Seminar will present four public lectures and two symposia on campus this quarter. The first symposium, "**Sexual Rights as Human Rights: Reproduction, Ritual, and the Reconstitution of Sexuality in the Human Rights Agenda**," will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 (reception to follow) on October 21 at 5710 S. Woodlawn; the second, "**Women's Human Rights in Latin America: The State of the Question**," on November 10 and 11, times and locations to be announced. Public lectures will be given by **Robert Meister** (November 1 -- "After Evil: A Politics of Human Rights"), **Catharine MacKinnon** (November 14), **Lynn Hunt** (November 15 -- "Inventing Human Rights: A History"), and **Samuel Moyn** (November 29 -- "The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History").

## Lesbian and Gay Studies

The **Lesbian and Gay Studies Lecture Series** will feature dynamic speakers from across the U.S. and abroad.

November 10: *Feminists, Queers, and the New Memoir*

"Life Gaming: Sims 3 as Personal Narrative" – **Julie Rak**, University of Alberta

"Wanting Everything to Be Slippery and Audacious: Assemblage and Adaptation in Queer DIY Autobiography" – **Anne Poletti**, Monash University (Australia). And on November 11: "Theory Meets History and Practice: A Zine-Making Workshop"- Anne Poletti.

Winter and spring speakers include Jasbir Puar, Sarah Ahmed and Gayle Rubin.

## Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

October 4— "Gender, Sexuality, and the Pedagogical Question: A Practicum on Classroom Practice" with **Lauren Berlant**, The George M. Pullman Professor of English and **Kristen Schilt**, Assistant Professor of Sociology.

October 11—"The Mad Men in the Attic: Seriality and Identity in the Modern Babylon" **Lauren M.E. Goodlad**, Associate Professor of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This event is co-sponsored by the Nicholson Center for British Studies and the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Cultures Workshop.

Oct 18— "Princess boys, girlie girls and the metonymic relationship between color and femininity" **Dominique Grisard**, The Center for Gender Studies, University of Basel and the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago.

Nov 1— Title: TBA **Sarah Pinto**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Tufts University.

This event is co-sponsored by the Clinical Ethnography Workshop.

Nov. 8— "Assessing the Demographics of Homosexual Tolerance" **Michael Kozloski**, PhD Candidate in Sociology, University of Chicago.

Dec. 6— "Easy Money and Easy Women: The Moral Economies of Sex Work, Factory Work, and Drug Trafficking in a Mexican Border City" **Sarah Luna**, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, University of Chicago.

5733 South University Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60637

773.702.9936 ph

csgs@lists.uchicago.edu

[gendersexuality.uchicago.edu](http://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu)

**CSGS** Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality  
The University of Chicago