The Center for Gender Studies
Volume III, number 2 - Winter 1999

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
The fall term has been lively at the Center. The year led off with our third annual fall lecture, “How did Welfare Become a Dirty Word?” by Professor Linda Gordon. She presented a compelling account of welfare legislation in the U.S. The well-attended reception and pot-luck dinner following the lecture were marked by engaged discussion and debate.

The relation of gender and politics was also on the table when the Gender and Society Workshop sponsored a discussion of Linda Kerber’s new book, No Constitutional Right to be Ladies. The workshop then turned its attention to the innovative work of graduate students working within a gender studies paradigm. We have engaged dissertation chapters and articles on such diverse topics as the regulation of relations between women and men around military bases (Kim Reilly, History), the gender dynamics of Syrian migration to the United States (Sarah Gualtieri), and women’s movements and politics in the Czech Republic (Melissa Feinberg).

The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project has provided context and support for work on sexuality at the University. Workshop discussions included work ranging from Debbie Gould’s analysis of “Ambivalence, Emotions, and the Emergence of Militant AIDS activism,” to Neville Hoad’s presentation of “Representing African Sodomy in the Missionary Position,” to Christopher Castiglia’s work on “Sex, Panics, Sex Publics, Sex Memories.” We are particularly pleased to announce the

(Continued on page 2)

How Welfare Became a Dirty Word
THE 3RD ANNUAL CGS FALL LECTURE BY LINDA GORDON
story by Rochona Majumdar

On Friday, October 23, 1998 Linda Gordon, the Florence Kelley and Vilas Distinguished Research Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, delivered the third annual CGS Fall Lecture on the subject, “How Welfare Became A Dirty Word.” Following the introduction by Professor Amy Dru Stanley, (Department of History, University of Chicago), which emphasized the politically useful and socially energetic aspects of her work, Gordon went on to analyze the history of the decision made by the U.S. President and Congress in December, 1996 repealing the program Americans knew as "welfare," that is, the aid to poor children and their parents. This lecture, she stated, was a eulogy at the funeral for welfare in America. In her role as a historian she wanted to understand the process that had rendered the U.S. the only industrial state in the world without the entitlement to “welfare”. The lecture drew upon the insights on the same subject in Gordon's book Pitied But Not Entitled (1994), while adding substantially to it by looking at the developments surrounding welfare legislation post-1935. Tracing her narrative of the history of the earliest welfare initiatives in the United States from the 1900s, Gordon showed how “welfare,” from the moment of its inception in the agenda of female reformers, was inadequate to the task it was required to perform. These early feminists had failed to grasp the enormity of the problem and dilemmas of single motherhood, a problem they viewed through the lens of their own class position and social experience. They could not regard mothers as legitimate autonomous subjects, and believed that these women had to be subjected to the

(Continued on page 2)

FEMINIST STUDIES PROJECT CREATED

The Center for Gender Studies is delighted to announce the inauguration of The Feminist Studies Project. The goal of this project is to coordinate research on feminist theory, feminist movements, and empirical research in a feminist framework at the University. The project will be particularly focussed on issues of gender difference and inequality and on study of the political and intellectual movements oriented to righting those inequities. Research and teaching coordinated by the project will be global in reach and cover all time periods, as well as embrace all disciplinary approaches. The Feminist Studies Project will take on the coordination of the Gender

(Continued on page 2)
supervision of male relatives or, in their absence, the state. Given these limitations in the visions of its early activists, its recipients, i.e. single mothers, were designated as ‘dependent’ and hence stigmatized. In addition, early welfare activists denied aid to immigrants, women of color and those who they considered morally deviant. In the post 1930s period, Gordon shows that the stigma on welfare recipients became racialized, creating an erroneous assumption that most recipients of welfare are women of color. This racialized stigma has been drawn upon in recent years to deny a single category of needy people, single mothers, aid. Gordon’s talk was full of engaging anecdotes and was useful to those interested in history, social policy and gender studies. Having displayed how “welfare” has been rendered a pejorative term in contemporary American society, Gordon ended on a note of hope, expressing optimism that the American people would engage in a critical rethinking of the entire discourse surrounding welfare.

(Continued from page 1) and Society Workshop, sponsor lectures and conferences, and support student research.

The Feminist Studies project is the Center for Gender Studies’ second project, following in the footsteps of the very successful Lesbian and Gay Studies Project. The creation of this second project represents the consolidation of our vision of the Center for Gender Studies as an umbrella organization, providing support for a wide variety of approaches to the study of gender and sexuality. We hope that in the years to come other faculty, students, and staff will take the initiative to create other such projects suitable to their research and teaching interests. For more information on the Feminist Studies Project and on the Center as a whole please contact Leora Auslander or Julia Nitti.

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**FEMINIST STUDIES PROJECT**

**DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

The Center for Gender Studies announces the availability of a $15,000 dissertation fellowship for University of Chicago graduate students working in the fields of feminist, women’s and gender studies. The fellowship is made possible by a number generous individual gifts.

**ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS.** The competition is open to University of Chicago Ph.D. students who have been admitted to candidacy and are writing dissertations in gender studies. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply. The fellowship provides a stipend of $15,000, from which tuition and other fees will be deducted, for the academic year, 1999-2000. The Award(s) will be announced in early March, and payment of the fellowship may begin on April 1, July 1, or October 1, 1999 depending on the recipient(s)’ needs.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES.** Applications are due by noon on Monday, February 2, 1999. They must include four copies, in order, of the following: (1) summary sheet stating the applicant’s name, address, phone, and e-mail; department; year entering department; proposed dissertation title; and name of faculty recommenders (and their departments), in that order; (2) a 2-page (single-spaced) summary of the dissertation project, which explains its relationship to the field of gender studies if not self-evident; (3) a 1-page statement describing the applicant’s interest, background, and previous involvement in gender studies; (4) a curriculum vita; and (5) a year-by-year summary of the financial aid and grants (both internal and external, including dollar amounts) received by the applicant while in graduate school. The application dossier should also include: (6) letters from two faculty members on the dissertation committee addressing the applicant’s work and its relevance to gender studies (letters in sealed, signed envelopes to be turned in with the application).

**SUBMISSION.** Applications should be delivered by hand to Julia Nitti at the Center for Gender Studies, Judd Hall room 422, or mailed to her at

the Center for Gender Studies
5835 S. Kimbark, 422
Chicago, IL 60637

For further information, contact Julia Nitti at the Center for Gender Studies: 702-9936 or org-cgs@uchicago.edu.

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**Table of Contents**

| Director's Note | 1+3 |
| 3rd Annual Fall Lecture | 1+2 |
| Feminist Studies Project | 1+2 |
| Feminist Studies Dissertation Grant | 2 |
| Lesbian & Gay Studies Update | 3 |
| Cleopatra Exhibit | 4 |
| Web Exhibit | 5 |
| Coming Events | 5 |
| CGS Resident Fellows | 6 |
| 1999 Gender Studies Courses | 7 |
| Winter Brown Bag Lunch Schedule | 7 |
| Workshop Schedules | 8 |
The Lesbian and Gay Studies Project of the Center for Gender Studies is pleased to announce that the following two graduate students have been awarded this year’s LGSP Dissertation Fellowships: Debbie Gould (Political Science) “Sex, Death, and the Politics of Anger: Emotion, Reason, and ACT UP’s Fight Against AIDS.” Chad Heap (History) “‘Slumming’: The Politics of American Urban Culture and Identity, 1910-1940.”

Our grant from the Small Change Foundation of San Francisco will enable us to offer two more fellowships in 1999-2000, and two more in 2000-2001. The competition for next year’s fellowships will be held this spring and will be announced in this newsletter and elsewhere. The competition is open to University of Chicago Ph.D. students who have been admitted to candidacy and are writing dissertations in lesbian and gay studies. Students in all disciplines are encouraged to apply.

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE POLITICS OF RESPECTABILITY

APRIL 10, 1999

A One-Day Conference
organized by the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project

The moment of institutionalization is a crucial one, producing new hierarchies of power, new inclusions and exclusions, creating new senses of achievement and old and new feelings of betrayal, limiting some horizons while expanding others. We are interested in investigating the changing nature of sexual politics in the context of nearly a decade of institutionalized lesbian and gay studies in the American academy. Reflecting on the dynamics of this institutionalization, and the changing relationship of activism and academia, opens onto such related issues as the institutionalization and professionalization of the lesbian/gay movement, and the increasing commercialization and mainstreaming of lesbian and gay identities. All of these phenomena engage broader questions of respectability. The goal of this conference is to examine the assistance and restrictions “respectability” offers various political projects. How have struggles and negotiations over political participation, self-definitions, and...
Reflections on Cleopatra

Reflections on Cleopatra is a metaphor of the spiritual search and struggle for forgiveness and self-actualized Life/Woman. This work examines the spirit of both man and woman as they each struggle to evolve and come to terms with the interconnection of their spirits— as any harm done to the Other is harm to the Self. It is through this struggle and search that each soul begins to forgive the history of mistreatment and misuse of Life/Woman. These black and white photographs of a woman's immobile body are representationa of this cycle of suffering/forgiveness/resurrection that continues from Eve to myself as a living thread. By realizing forgiveness and cool spirit, I become the owner of my soul and a further step in the evolution of black man and woman.

Bridgette R. McCullough

Bridgette R. McCullough is an African-American artist and art theorist, whose work concentrates on the representation of the African American woman and the discourse of African-American female sexual aesthetics in postmodern art. Her work in this area examines the ownership of the image of the African American woman and how that relates to the object of ‘her’ to the ‘other’ as viewer. She is also developing a comprehensive art educational program for children called Art Academics and Athletics.

Currently, she is a cultural arts workshop instructor at The Field Museum and a Research Assistant at The University of Chicago’s Annenberg Project on Chicago School Reform. She is preparing work for an upcoming exhibition entitled The Softest Place On Earth for the Embodied Utopia Conference at the Center for Gender Studies in April 1999.

She has worked in various museums in New York City and Chicago and has studied at Columbia University in New York, the Art Students League of New York, New York University, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

December 11, 1998 through January 15, 1999

“Deeply personal photos that gracefully walk the line between humiliation and deep confidence.”

Michael Weinstein, New City

Sponsored by the University of Chicago, Center for Gender Studies & the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture
The Web With Many Weavers

An Integrated Series of Artwork by Diane Reiss

February 5 through March 5, 1999

This series of artwork is a personal reflection of my daughter's tragedy of abuse and our moving through the extensive process that leads to a true healing. It is my hope this artwork will somehow assist others on their road toward a better life.

Opening Reception
Friday
February 5, 1999
4:00 – 7:00
Judd Hall, Room 422

In The Beginning... the creating of this installation was way to share my daughter’s pain...even shoulder some of the pain. I thought I could do what she can do for herself. I hoped to find forgiveness for failing to protect her and betraying her trust.

And Then... The Great Creator had a much larger plan. We are all survivors of our path. We climb our mountains or fall down the side searching for the spirit of our authentic self. We all need to be healed. That healing spirit is our inner guide.

And So It Is... The vision has grown. To present images that embrace my feelings...your feelings? To reach survivors of life has become the lofty goal.

Upcoming Events of Interest

JANUARY 28 — 3rd ANNUAL SPEAKOUT
7:00 to 8:30 pm, Library of Ida Noyes Hall.
Survivors, friends and loved ones are invited to speak out and tell their stories of sexual and domestic violence.

FEBRUARY 4 — David Eng, Columbia University speaking on
ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITIES AND SEXUALITIES
4:00, Classics 10

FEBRUARY 18-19 — SPECULATIVE IDENTITIES:
The Past & Future of Difference in Speculative Fiction
A conference with authors Octavia Butler and Samuel R. Delany.
Butler and Delany are acute observers of how racial, gender, and sexual hierarchies shape identities and societies of both the future and the (fantastical) "past."

FEBRUARY 26-28 — THE ACTIVIST CAMERA:
CLASS, SEXUALITY, ETHNICITY IN FILMS IN JAPAN
Screenings, lectures, and a panel discussion with filmmakers and scholars, in conjunction with a DOC film series entitled Japanese Cinema after the Economic Miracle: A Retrospective of Masaki Tamura.
(For a full schedule call 773-702-9936)

MARCH 4-6 INVESTIGATING & COMBATING TORTURE:
EXPLORATION OF A NEW HUMAN RIGHTS PARADIGM
(For a full schedule call 773-702-7721)

APRIL 10 — THE POLITICS OF RESPECTABILITY
A One-Day Conference organized by the Lesbian & Gay Studies Project
(more information in the Spring Newsletter)

APRIL 16-18 — EMBODIED UTOPIAS:
GENDER, SOCIAL CHANGE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
(more information in the Spring Newsletter)
I am working on a dissertation which examines nine cases of English literary imposture, spanning the course of the 'long' eighteenth century, in which writers suppressed their own authorial identity and attempted to occupy a narrative subjectivity explicitly constructed to represent the social margins. I use these cases to interrogate, from a materialist-feminist perspective, the kinds of cultural and material capital which social difference (race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality) could generate in eighteenth-century England. I am working against the new common-sense in eighteenth-century studies, most recently articulated by Michael Warner in his *Letters of the Republic*, that white, male, middle-class narrators asserted an unassailable hegemony in this period, consonant with rise of the "Enlightenment" subject. Against Warner (and other critics who have absorbed the Postmodern critique a bit too automatically), I argue that 'other' subjects were spectacularly visible in central texts of culture (though they were often utilized for reactionary ideological purposes), and that to read these minoritized subjects out of culture, a priori, is to effect a new form of theoretic violence. My project examines the various ways in which these fabricated social 'others' actively contributed to the processes of cultural production. I am additionally working on a series of conference papers which take a hard look at the dystopic tendencies of several eighteenth-century literary "feminotopias." 

continued → to consider the implications of gendered citizenship for democratic society in Europe more generally, suggesting that the Czech case was merely one manifestation of a wider phenomenon.

Having this office space in the CGS makes the process of completing my dissertation much less painful and ultimately more productive. While it would certainly be possible to write without ever leaving my house, I find that I am simply not able to get as much done if I am always within the same four walls. In the office, I can focus my energy and my thoughts, ultimately writing more in less time. But, aside from the space itself, being a part of the life of the Center is also important to me. Having more constant contacts with others working on similar issues cannot but improve my work, besides making me a much happier, saner, and intellectually richer person.

CGS Resident Fellows: Amy Bingaman (Art History), Amy Doherty (Post-Doctorate), Melissa Feinberg (History), Michelle Jensen (English), Daniel Monterescu (Anthropology).
Gender Studies Courses 1999

**Winter**

GendSt 102
GendSt 205 (Political Science)
GendSt 215 (Sociology)
GendSt 226 (Sociology)
GendSt 250 (East Asian)
GendSt 270 (English)
GendSt 277 (Political Science)
GendSt 283 (Germanic Studies)
GendSt 284 (South Asia)
GendSt 294 (East Asian)
GendSt 297
GendSt 299

PROBLEMS OF GENDER STUDIES - 2
THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
SOCIOLOGY OF WORK
SEX, RELIGION and the SOCIAL ORDER
MODERN KOREAN WOMEN'S FICTION
FICTION OF THREE AMERICAS
DEWEY: PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY
HUMANISM/FEMINISM/ANTIFEMINISM
DIASPORAS: ASIAN MIGRATION -2
GHOSTS in the CHINESE LITERARY IMAGINATION
READING/RESEARCH: GENDER STUDIES
B.A. PAPER PREP: GENDER STUDIES

Elizabeth Povinelli
Deborah Gould
Leslie Salzinger
Dawne Moon
Keong-Hee Choi
William Veeder
R. Bart Schultz
Samuel Jaffee
Carol Breckenridge
Judith Zeitlin
Staff
Staff

**Spring**

GendSt 208 (Human Dev't.)
GendSt 222 (English)
GendSt 282 (History)
GendSt 285 (Cinema + Media)
GendSt 293 (South Asia)
GendSt 295 (Art History)
GendSt 297
GendSt 299
GendSt 351 (East Asian)
Anthro 539

SEX IDENTITY/LIFE CYCLE/LIFE STORY
ANGLO-AMERICAN GOTHIC FICTION/19th C
AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN: LIVES/SYMBOLS
MASTROIANNI AND KEITEL
GLOBALISM/HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT
FEMININE SPACE IN CHINESE ART
READING/RESEARCH: GENDER STUDIES
B.A. PAPER PREP: GENDER STUDIES
SELF-REPRESENTATION/AUTO-BIOGRAPHY
CRITICAL STUDIES OF SEXUALITY

Bertram Cohler
William Veeder
Julie Saville
Rebecca West
Carol Breckenridge
Wu Hung
Staff
Staff
Judith Zeitlin
Elizabeth Povinelli

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A Room of One's Own
(and a bit of money)
at the CGS

Graduate Students and Post-Docs working on questions of
SEXUALITY GENDER MASCULINITY
MEN FEMINISM
GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES WOMEN

To apply, please send a letter with your name, department, and year, plus a description of your current research and how an office would be useful to you, to org-cgs@uchicago.edu.

**Deadline:** April 15, 1999
for the summer term and fall term.

**Winter**

**Brown Bag Lunch Discussions**

January 29 — "Transgender Surgery"
Sander Gilman (Germanic Studies)

February 5 — Gender & Sexuality in Medieval Literature
Mark Miller (English)

February 12 — "Passing and Pedagogy"
Pamela Caughie (English) Loyola University

February 19 — Pedagogy and Power

March 5 — A Feminist Pedagogy for the Y2k?

IN JUDD HALL, 422 – FRIDAYS 12:15-1:30
Workshops

**Lesbian and Gay Studies**
January 4 – David M. Halperin,
"How to Do the History of (Male) Homosexuality: A Discursive Approach"
January 18 – Tim Dean
February 1 – David Churchill (History)
February 15 – Maureen Loughnane (East Asian)
March 3 – TBA

The Workshop is held every other Monday at 4:30 p.m. in Cobb Hall, 408.

**Gender and Society**
January 6 – Leslie Salzinger (Sociology)
January 20 – TBA
February 3 – Matt Lindsay (History)
February 17 – Daniel Monterescu (Anthropology)
"Arab Masculinity in an Israeli-Palestinian Mixed Town"
March 3 – Pamela Cook (Political Science)

The Workshop is held every other Wednesday.

**Embodied Utopias**
January 27 – Leora Auslander
Citizenship, Gender and Design
February 11 – Lise Shapiro
Shopping: Public Space & Gender of Commerce
March 11 – Amy Bingaman
Arts & Crafts Movement: Domestic Aesthetic
May 13
Looking Back/Summing Up

The Workshop is held monthly at 7:00 p.m. in the CGS – Judd Hall, 422.

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Please let us hear from you:

Center for Gender Studies
The University of Chicago
5835 South Kimbark Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: (773) 702-9936
Fax: (773) 834-2000
Email: org-cgs@uchicago.edu

or visit our NEW website after January 15th:
http://humanities.uchicago.edu/cgs/

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Center for Gender Studies
University of Chicago
5835 S. Kimbark Avenue, 422
Chicago, IL 60637

Address Correction Requested