

The Center for Gender Studies at the University of Chicago

WINTER 2009 VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

A Note from the Director



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The winter quarter begins with the Iris Marion Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture, the Center's most important annual event. This year the English Department's **Lauren Berlant**, former director of both the Center for Gender Studies and the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project, will deliver a lecture, "**After the good life, an impasse: Notes on the Cinema of Precarity**," on Thursday, January 15, at 4:30 pm in Social Sciences 122. This annual lecture by one of our faculty offers the increasingly rare opportunity to share on-going work with the broader community of students and faculty interested in gender and sexuality studies. Professor Berlant joins a tradition of excellence and intellectual generosity that includes lectures in recent years by Christine Stansell, Martha McClintock, Wendy Doniger, Jean Comaroff, Amy Hollywood, and George Chauncey. A reception will follow.

On March 7, the Lesbian and Gay Studies Project of the Center and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture will host a symposium on Asian American Sexualities which will become a special issue of *Amerasia Journal*. This initiative expands upon the journal's first collection "Dimensions of Desire: Asian American Sexualities" and takes us into the new century. David Eng and Amy Sueyoshi will be keynote speakers.

The Center also continues to sponsor lunchtime talks at the Center, please see the website for the most up-to-date schedule. Additionally CGS will co-sponsor a screening and discussion of "**Still Black: A Portrait of Black Transmen**" on Wednesday, January 21 at 5710 S. Woodlawn. The film is an alternative feature-length documentary that explores the lives of six black, transgender men living in the United States, offering viewers a complex and multi-faceted image of race, sexuality, and trans identity. Filmmaker Kortney Ryan Ziegler will be speaking afterwards about the film. Co-sponsored in collaboration with the LGBTQ Programming Office as part of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week of Events. On Thursday, Feb 19 at 5pm CGS will co-sponsor a lecture by Elizabeth Binggeli, Postdoctoral Instructor, English and Cinema and Media Studies, "**The Unadapted: Warner Bros. Reads Zora Neale Hurston**," exploring previously unexamined studio archival records from the 1930s and 1940s related to Hollywood's reception of the works of African American novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, demonstrating that Hurston's literary work was shaped by a desire to both see her works adapted to film and to rearticulate Hollywood's entrenched codes of racial representation. Co-sponsored with the Film Studies Center and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture.

The Board of the Center for Gender Studies is embarking on an assessment of the Center's entire program from events to curriculum to mentoring and intellectual community. It is an especially important time in our history to undertake such a project: we have filled the gender studies half-line; we are working hard on fundraising; the three-

year term of directorship is drawing to a close. In order to recruit input from as wide a spectrum of the Center's community as we can, we will hold a series of lunches this winter for faculty affiliates, graduate students, and undergraduates. Please make time in your schedule to share your thoughts.

The Center will be offering the last two \$1,500 awards to faculty who propose and develop a new course in gender and/or sexuality studies to be run in two of the next four years. Senior and junior faculty are invited to apply. The process is simple: Submit a one-page description/proposal for a new course to Stuart Michaels, stuartm@uchicago.edu by Monday, February 2. Please indicate the general outline of the course, the students for whom it would be most appropriate (undergrad, MAPH/MAPSS, graduate), and the gap it fills in current offerings. We will select two proposals for awards by the end of the month. See Collegiate Affairs on Page 3 for details.

Finally, the Center for Gender Studies and Special Collections at the Regenstein Library will open an exhibit entitled "**On Equal Terms**" – *Educating Women at the University of Chicago*" on March 11. The gala opening of the exhibit will be Thursday, April 2, so please mark your calendars. Concurrent with this exhibit but exhibited at the Center itself will be "**The Life of the Female Mind: Gender and Education at the University of Chicago**". This exhibit was researched and curated by undergraduates from the fall quarter class "Alma Mater" taught by Katie Turk and Monica Mercado, who are also the curators of the Regenstein exhibit. Please also make sure to come by the Center to see this fascinating addition to the main event. The opening for this exhibit will be Thursday, April 9.

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. Of special interest to undergraduates considering gender studies is the **Feminist Lives/Queer Trajectories Series** that brings in speakers who have pursued or constructed standard and non-standard careers dedicated to feminist and queer ideas and values. The Center also has a student caucus that helps to organize and plan events of their own design. Students interested in participating in the student caucus should contact Stuart Michaels (stuartm@uchicago.edu).

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 cross-listed 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, Chair of Undergraduate Studies at stuartm@uchicago.edu.

Highlights of Winter Course Offerings in Gender Studies

There are nine undergraduate 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. Linda Waite from Sociology is teaching a course on The Family. Candace Vogler from Philosophy is teaching a graduate course, Introduction to Theories of Sex/Gender which is open to advanced undergraduates. Katie Turk from History is offering History of American Feminist Thought. Aaron Seidler from Classics is offering, Rivalry, Glory, and Death. Wendy Olmsted also from Classics is offering Austen: Emma and Pride and Prejudice. Stuart Michaels from Gender Studies is offering Science and the Construction of Sexuality. And Gilberto Rojas of the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture is offering The U.S. Mexico Borderlands. Further information on these courses as well as graduate level courses can be found on our website and in the Time Schedule.

2009 Ruth Murray Essay Competition in Women's Studies, Feminist Criticism, 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 spon-

sored 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 24, 2009, 12PM

B.A. Deadline Announced

Gender Studies majors papers will be due at Noon, Friday, May 1.

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 student and faculty participants with an interdisciplinary forum for the development of critical perspectives on gender and sexuality.

The GSSW meets Tuesday afternoons in even weeks of the quarter to discuss pre-circulated papers written by graduate students, faculty, and visiting scholars in the field. Attendees are expected to read the paper—made available at the CGS website or on our email list—in advance of the workshop meeting.

To maintain the workshop's interdisciplinary focus, we have already scheduled presenters from a number of disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. We also look forward to welcoming new University of Chicago faculty, including **Kristen Schilt** (Sociology) who will present new work to the group in February. Additionally, the GSSW plans to invite at least two outside faculty to speak this year, in collaboration with other workshops. On May 13, 2009, along with the 18th- and 19th-Century Cultures Workshop, we will co-host Professor **Ruth Solie** from the Department of Music, Smith College, whose most recent work examines gender and class in the Victorian period. Professor Solie will meet with us before participating in the Center for British Studies Lecture Series the following day.

Below please find our winter calendar of meetings. With one exception, the workshop will continue to take place on alternating Tuesdays, from 4:30-6pm at the Center for Gender Studies (5733 S. University Avenue).

Winter 2009 Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, January 13

Jill Weinberg, MAPSS

"Empty Legal Protections: The Implications for Excluding Gender Identity from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act"

Tuesday, January 27

Katherine Turk, History and Co-Curator, "*On Equal Terms*" – *Educating Women at the University of Chicago*

"The Hand That Rocks The Cradle Should Rock the U of C: The Faculty Wife in the Feminist Era"

Monday, February 2, 5 - 6:30pm

location TBA

Elizabeth Hutcheon, English

"From Shrew to Subject: The Humanist Pedagogy of Petruchio's 'Taming-School' in *The Taming of the Shrew*"
co-sponsored with the Renaissance Workshop

Tuesday, February 10

Kristen Schilt, Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology
Title: TBA

Tuesday, February 24

Robin Valenza, Assistant Professor,
Department of English
Title: TBA

Tuesday, March 10

Sarah Imhoff, Divinity and CGS Fellow
Title: TBA

<http://genderstudies.uchicago.edu/events/workshops.shtml>

There are a limited number of openings for presenters this coming academic year. If you have a project you are interested in sharing with our group, please email workshop co-coordinators Monica Mercado (mmercado@uchicago.edu) and Anthony Todd (artodd@uchicago.edu) for available dates.

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, January 14

Stuart Tave Teaching
Fellowship in the Humanities
(Free Standing Courses)

Noon, Wednesday, April 19

CGS Dissertation Fellowship
Hormel Dissertation Fellowship
Office Residence Fellowships
Free-Standing Course Proposals
in all divisions
Co-Teaching Applications



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