

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

AUTUMN GEM

A Documentary on Modern China's First Feminist

Meet the "Chinese Joan of Arc," Qiu Jin (1875 - 1907), a radical women's rights activist and leader of a revolutionary army against the corrupt Qing Dynasty. Qiu Jin boldly challenged traditional gender roles and emerged as a national heroine who redefined what it meant to be a woman in early 20th-century China.

Join us for a free screening and Q-and-A session with filmmakers Rae Chang and Adam Tow.
Co-sponsored by Asian Cultural Studies Townsend Working Group and Beatrice Bain Research Group.
For more information visit <http://autumn-gem.com>

Thursday, September 30, 2010

Recovering our past knowledge. Are emotions part of the Sciences Studies Research Agenda?

Dr. Rosa Medina Doménech, University of Granada, Spain

Sponsored by the Science, Technology, and Society Center (STSC)
Co-Sponsored by BBRG (Beatrice Bain Research Group)

Thursday, October 21, 2010

The In/Organic Juncture: exploring the boundary between life and matter

470 Stephens Hall
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

Sponsored by Science, Technology, and Society Center (STSC), Li Ka Shing Initiative in Gender and Science, BBRG

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Race Reveal

Racialized Tropes, Queer Performance, Political Possibilities

Race Reveal will critically engage the contemporary and historical links between burlesque, minstrelsy, the geopolitics of performance, ethnic drag and the frameworks of white supremacy. Co-organized with the exciting Bay Area community performance project, Kaleidoscope, this symposium will bring together community artists, activists, and performance studies scholars to focus on the intersection of performance and politics of race, gender, and sexuality. Speakers include Prof. Jayna Brown (UC Riverside), Prof. Amira Jarmakani (Georgia State University), Prof. Tina Takemoto (California College of the Arts), globally-recognized performance artists, Narcissister, La Chica Boom, and more!

Organized by: Center for Race and Gender
Co-sponsored by: Department of Gender & Women's Studies and Beatrice Bain Research Group

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

VISUAL TECHNOLOGIES OF IDENTITY AND DISIDENTIFICATION: Fashion, Visual Art and News Media

Three BBRG scholars explicate the ways in which selves are made and remade within and by the visual technologies of fashion, art and news media. Minh-Ha T. Pham considers the entrepreneurship of self-hood in the context of fashion media technologies, Kate MacNeill explores the disruptive potential of post-identity contemporary art practices and Libby Lewis examines the ways in which discursive practices of memory and counter-memory mark and expose racist narratives in the news media.

Featuring talks by:
Minh-Ha T. Pham
Kate MacNeill
Libby Lewis

The perfect you? There's an app for that

Minh-Ha T. Pham

Drawing on an array of new fashion media communication technologies (blogs, vlogs, and mobile device apps), Minh-Ha T. Pham's presentation will consider the modes and conditions of these new technologies of self-making. The specific mode of digital labor she is concerned with—the entrepreneurialism of selfhood—is distinct but related to other forms of digital labor emphasized by Tiziana Terranova, Lisa Nakamura, and Andrew Ross because rather than a labor that produces commodities, it employs the technologies, techniques, and rationalities of self-fashioning to produce selfhood. Such digital labors are voluntarily given, free of traditional spatio-temporal frameworks of labor, and are typically pleasurable practices of agency. Yet, as Minh-Ha T. Pham will discuss, these “free” digital labors do not escape the logics and procedures of capitalism. In fact, digital labors of selfhood are embedded in gendered neoliberal capitalist economies.

Post identity politics and the event of viewing

Kate MacNeill

The art associated with “identity politics” is based firmly in conventional notions of art as a form of “self-expression”, and in its most literal of senses, as a declaration: “this is me/us.” In this paper Kate MacNeill explores the potential of an art that is concerned with disrupting these dominant framings of identity as fixed and inherent. She argues that in the light of Judith Butler's formulation of identity as performative we might think of the exhibition of these works of identity art as part of the iterative means whereby identities congeal around gender, race and sexuality. Kate MacNeill associates this with a shift from the notion of artistic intentionality towards audience reception; her concern is not so much with the identity of the artist but with that of the viewer whose engagement with the work can be thought of as a moment of intersubjectivity. She conceives of the act of viewing as an event – an opportunity in which one's subjectivity is brought into question. These moments, MacNeill suggests, allow for the possibility of a radical intervention being produced by art that asks of the viewer 'who are you?' in a manner proposed by Butler in *Giving an Account of Oneself* (2005).

Threat, Progress, and Othering Discourse of Barack and Michelle Obama

Libby Lewis

This paper focuses on how “Blackness” is represented in traditional and “new” media before, during, and after the 2008 Election. Libby Lewis' tools of analysis include selected news broadcasts to track the ways in which explicitly racist narratives of Barack and Michelle Obama were produced, circulated and subsequently reported. She also interrogates the so-called “objective” perspective television news media claims to bring to unequivocally racist imagery, including a New York Post cartoon depicting Obama as a Monkey and former California Mayor Dean Grose's circulation of an image depicting a watermelon patch on the White House lawn. Critical to the project are discursive practices of memory and counter-memory showing how they alternately mask and expose racist narratives in television news and how raced Black television news anchors and reporters intervene in corporate newsroom culture. This interdisciplinary project builds on the critical insight of media scholars by taking up the function of professionalizing practice in television reporting and anchoring, its relationship to language and power, interventions, and resistance to the dominant culture order.

Organized by: Beatrice Bain Research Group (BBRG)
Co-Sponsored by: Science, Technology, and Society Center (STSC)

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Survival, Resistance and Creativity: Romani (Gypsy) Women's Lives in Western Europe

This panel was envisioned as a dialogue between the past and the present. In the last decade, Roma people in Western Europe have faced new forms of discrimination and an increasing denial of basic human and citizenship rights.

"Caught between war and institutional discrimination"

Laura Fantone, BBRG scholar, visiting faculty at SF Art Institute

Laura Fantone will discuss the dilemmas and strategies of a few young Romani women who were born in the 1980s in Former Yugoslavia, but, with their families, left the Balkans to escape war. The young women grew up in Italy, and learnt to use video, drawing, and writing for their survival, creatively navigating conflicting cultures and material hardship.

"Ceija Stojka's Art: Representing the Past in the Present--Surviving Nazi Persecution as a Romani Woman"

Michaela Grobbel, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Literatures and Languages, Sonoma State University

Michaela Grobbel will discuss the paintings and poetry of Ceija Stojka, an Austrian Romani woman, who is a key figure for the history, art, and literature of Romani culture in Europe. Her paintings depict her life as a traveling Romani woman before and after World War II, the trauma she and other Roma experienced in three Nazi concentration camps (Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, and Bergen-Belsen), and the hope she has for future generations to overcome oppression. Ceija Stojka offers her art and her stories as a new means to start a dialog with the majority population in her own country as well as abroad.

Discussant: Sani Rifati, president of Voice of Roma, a nonprofit organization working to educate the public about Romani culture, music, history, and current events, promoting Romani cultural arts and traditions in a way that counters both romanticized and negative "Gypsy" stereotypes, and in so doing, to contribute to the preservation of Romani identity and culture. VoR also works to heighten awareness of human rights issues faced by Roma today. www.voiceofroma.com

Organized by: Beatrice Bain Research Group (BBRG)

Co-Sponsored by: The Institute for European Studies (IES), Center for the Comparative Study of Right-Wing Movements (CCSRWM)