

Thursday, January 22, 2009

**Lessons from the Great Depression: Shifting Contours of Race, Racism and White Privilege Among Working Class Women**

Panel discussion

Lois Helmbold, BBRG Scholar, Professor & Chair, Women's Studies Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Monica McDermott, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Stanford University  
Ula Y. Taylor, Asst. Professor, Dept. of African-American Studies, UCB

Based on interviews with and letters by Black and white working class women during the 1930s, this research analyzes commonalities and differences within class and gender, across race, age, and familial and marital situations in the urban north and Midwest. Crisis unlocks contradictions. The harsher experiences of Black women resulted from institutionalized racism, but contributed to white women's assumption of whiteness, whether they were immigrants or American born

Thursday, January 29, 2009

**The Veil: Visible and Invisible Spaces**

Panel discussion

Speakers: Jennifer Heath, Barbara Goldman Carrel, Ashraf Zahedi

The veil, vastly misunderstood, is a multi-layered, multi-situated sign. Veiling of women, of men, and of sacred places and objects has existed in countless cultures and religions through history. Today, veiling is a globally polarizing issue, framed as a locus for the struggle between Islam and the West and between contemporary and traditional interpretations of Islam. But veiling was a practice long before Islam and still extends far beyond the Middle East. This panel will explore and examine some of the cultures, politics and histories of veiling in varying societies.

Speakers:

Jennifer Heath: **Revelatio: Behind the Male Veil.**

Barbara Goldman Carrel: **Shattered Vessels: Unveiling Hasidic Women's Dress Code**

Ashraf Zahedi: **Desexualization of Public Spaces: Taming the Wild Gaze**

Sponsored by: Beatrice M. Bain Research Group, Gender and Women's Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Muslim Identities and Cultures Townsend Center Working Group

Thursday, February 5, 2009

**Feminism, Sexual Liberation and Contemporary Global Struggles**

Film screening & discussion

Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, Professor Emeritus, Cal State East Bay  
Silvia Fererici, Professor Emerita, Teaching Fellow, Hofstra University  
Paola Bacchetta, Associate Professor, UCB; Director, Beatrice Bain Research Group  
Laura Fantone, Researcher, University of Padua; BBRG Visiting Scholar

What do the issues raised in the 70s by the feminist movement mean for gender struggles today? The legacy of the late '60s and early '70s is often simplified and transmitted as a revolutionary, univocal narration, full of male leaders and workers. But it is important to remember actively how sexual liberation and the feminist movement enriched ideas of freedom, starting to speak publicly not just of politics in an abstract sense, but of everyday life. The idea of freedom and liberation of women needs to be discussed frankly, in its limits and co-opted forms.

Video clips from recent Italian films will be shown to connect 70s feminism in the US and in Europe, bringing three generations of scholars and activists from different backgrounds and generations - North American on the 60s, anti-colonial Marxist on the 70s, transnational contemporary perspectives - to the same table to discuss.

Sponsors: Beatrice M. Bain Research Group, Free Speech Movement Cafe

**Monday, March 2, 2009**

**Nature, Nurture, Neither: Reconceptualizing Sex, Gender and Sexuality**

Anne Fausto Sterling, Professor of Biology and Gender Studies, Brown University

The lecture will be followed immediately by a reception.

Sponsored by: Gender and Women's Studies, Li Ka Shing, Beatrice Bain Research Group

**Thursday, March 5, 2009**

**Gender, Migration and African Women**

Roundtable

Dr. Manuh research interests are in women's rights and empowerment issues in Ghana, Africa, African development issues, The State, Gender and Women in Ghana, Contemporary African Migrations and higher education in Africa.

Cosponsor Graduate Program in Performance Studies

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009**

**The Meaning of Motherhood in the 21st Century: Changing Reproductive Stakes**

Panel discussion

Jacqueline Adams, BBRG Scholar in Residence: What does motherhood mean in the region (Hong Kong) with the lowest fertility rate in the world?

Rene Almeling, Asst. Professor, Sociology, Yale, and Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar: Marketing Genes and Gender in Egg and Sperm Donation

Michele Pridmore-Brown, BBRG Scholar in Residence: Consuming motherhood at 35: How the trend toward older motherhood has changed reproductive stakes in the U.S.

Charis Thompson, Discussant: Co-director of STSC and Associate Professor, Gender and Women's' Studies

Co-sponsors: Near Eastern Studies Department, Center for the Study of Sexual Culture

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009**

**Violence and (Self) - Killing Passion: Lethal Biopolitics or a New Formation of Self, or....**

Lecture

Speaker: Kazuko Takemura

Introduction by: Trinh T. Minh-ha

The development of the feminist movement and feminist and gender studies during the past several decades, as well as the recent global economy and the rapid advancement of science and technology, has been instrumental in transforming the modern sexual regime. Paradoxically, however, violence which was before deployed based upon asymmetrical power configurations is now extending across previously existing boundaries. Modern biopolitics is flinging off any pretense of bio-ness and seems to be transforming itself into a “lethal machine.” Referring to injuries and murders committed in Japan, this talk examines a sort of affinity between recent re-definitions of the human/inhuman or the concept of connectedness and what could be called the (self-)killing passion observed specifically in the behavior of younger generations in Japan.

Co-sponsors: Gender and Women's Studies, Beatrice Bain Research Group, Center for the Study of Sexual Culture

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009**

**Film Screening and Symposium: Maggots and Men**

The Townsend Center Working Group in Socialisms and Sexualities Presents:

Film Screening and Symposium: Maggots and Men The film offers a stylized historical account of the Kronstadt Rebellion in revolutionary Russia, and is uniquely “cast with actors from a range of masculine gender expressions.” This provocative conjuncture situates the undoing of normative gender within a broader challenge to the dominant political-economic order.

Speakers: Susan Stryker, Gender Historian, BBRG Affiliated Scholar; Anne Nesbet, Slavist & Film Scholar; Members of the Socialisms and Sexualities Working Group

Co-Sponsored by BBRG