

BCRW Newsletter
Fall 2007
September
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BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

**Towards a Vision
of Sexual and Economic
Justice**

Josephine Ho and Naomi Klein

**Ain't I American?
Women, Human Rights,
and U.S. Identity in the
21st Century**

Dorothy Q. Thomas

**Echoes of Life:
Developing Ultrasound
Technologies**

Beryl Benacerraf '71

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Page 12-13, Houston women's convention, 1977

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Page 15, Stephanie Pfirman and Diana Rhoten /

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Page 17, Lee Anne Bell / courtesy of the speaker.

No Feminists? No Justice.

Dear Friends,

Loyal readers of these pages won't be surprised by the iteration of the word: justice. In the record of the Center's work, it ranks exceptionally high. But, why? To a multitude of the world's population, the concept of justice remains just that: an elusive ideal, a platitude, something sought in the mysterious inner chambers of the Hague. But what does it mean in practical, achievable, everyday terms? And what do feminists have to do with it?

In the 36 years since the Center's inception, we've seen American feminism evolve from an intensely focused fight for the basic tenets of equality and dignity into a global movement that is broad and flexible enough to engage virtually any issue that affects women's lives. Poverty, racism, war and militarism, health care, immigration, education, environmental protection and preservation, sexual subjugation and sexual emancipation: name the issue, and you'll find feminists on its farthest frontiers, at the borders where connections between seemingly divergent issues can — and *must* — be made.

The speakers and many projects featured at BCRW this semester are notable for finding the common ground on which justice can be built — whether it's between individuals living radically different lives or organizations pursuing radically different agendas. We bring you journalist and anti-globalization activist Naomi Klein and scholar and sexual rights activist Josephine Ho, as well as Barnard faculty members Lee Anne Bell, Mona El-Ghobashy, and José Moya, each of whom do work that helps us to envision a more just future for *all*. We bring you human rights activist Dorothy Q. Thomas and, from opposite U.S. coasts, the members of Q-Team and FIERCE!, all inspiringly adept at transforming intellectual inquiry into practical, practicable action. And, as with alumna Dr. Beryl Benacerraf and Barnard professor Stephanie Pfirman, we bring you the work of women who make amazing strides in fields like math, science and engineering, where discrimination against women is surely more subtle than it ever has been, but sadly no less persistent.

There is a crucial connection between the kind of knowledge produced by BCRW and the quest for justice. To think through the relationship between sexual politics and economic policy, to understand the intersections of women's and human rights activism, to imagine how science might be transformed into a more inclusive discipline: such acts provide the knowledge we need for action. Life-changing, world-changing action. The young people on the cover of this issue are calling, quite literally, for a better future. Thinking and doing remain the surest routes to getting there. And the Center remains a place where both are in ready supply. Join us for the coming semester.

Sincerely,



Janet R. Jakobsen



09/

Tuesday, 09/18, 5:30 pm

Echoes of Life: Developing Ultrasound Technologies

A lecture with Beryl Benacerraf '71
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

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Wednesday, 09/26, Noon

The Storytelling Project: A Model For Teaching About Race and Racism Through Storytelling and the Arts

A lecture with Lee Anne Bell
BCRW Library, 101 Barnard Hall

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Thursday, 10/04, 7:00 pm

Young, Queer, and Organized

A panel discussion with Q-team
and FIERCE!

James Room, 4th floor Barnard Hall

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Wednesday, 10/24, Noon

Assessing The Political Impact of Egypt's Human Rights Groups

A lecture with Mona El-Ghobashy
BCRW Library, 101 Barnard Hall

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Friday, 10/26, 2:00 pm

Gender and Migration in a Global Perspective

A workshop co-sponsored
by the Barnard Forum on Migration and the
Columbia Institute for Latin American Studies
1512 International Affairs Building,
Columbia University,
420 West 118th Street

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Tuesday, 10/30, 5:30 pm

Ain't I American? Women, Human Rights, and U.S. Identity in the 21st Century

A lecture with Dorothy Q. Thomas
James Room, 4th floor Barnard Hall

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Friday, 11/02, 9:30 am

Reconstructing Womanhood: A Future Beyond Empire

A conference with keynote by
Hazel Carby
Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard College

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Thursday – Friday, 11/08 – 11/09

Sexuality, Religion, and Politics

A conference with keynote by
Michael Warner
The Graduate Center, CUNY

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Saturday – Sunday, 11/10 – 11/11

8:30 am Registration

Freedom on Our Terms: A New Agenda For Women and Girls

A conference co-sponsored by
the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute and
Girls Speak Out Foundation
Hunter College

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Monday, 11/12, 8:30 am Registration

Women, Minorities, and Interdisciplinarity: Transforming the Research Enterprise

A workshop with Diana Rhoten
and Stephanie Pfirman
Satow Room, Lerner Hall

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Thursday, 11/29, 5:30 pm

Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice

A lecture with Josephine Ho
and Naomi Klein
Julius Held Lecture Hall, 304 Barnard Hall

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BCRW On the Web:

The Scholar & Feminist Online

www.barnard.edu/sfonline

Issue 5.2 \ Spring 2007

Blogging Feminism: (Web) Sites of Resistance

Guest Edited by Gwendolyn Beetham and Jessica Valenti

Although popular interest in blogging is up, especially vis-a-vis electoral politics, feminist activity on the internet remains marginal to the mainstream. This issue of the *Scholar & Feminist Online* brings together bloggers, vloggers, scholars, and activists whose innovative work, especially in the political realm, is essential to creating and analyzing our virtual world. Taking full advantage of the interactive nature of the Internet, contributors take on issues of gender, cyber-activism, sexuality, race, class, and globalization in the blogosphere and beyond. As contributor Alice Marwick notes, "It's important to create [online] communities of women that are based around something other than consumerism. We need a more diverse array of female communities than these, and it's really important to foster alternatives online because so many other parts of the Internet can be hostile, sexist, homophobic places." With original essays, a blog section for readers' comments, and video of BCRW's November 2006 panel on feminist blogging, it's required reading for anyone interested in the political potential of the virtual world.

Issue 5.3 \ Summer 2007

Women, Prisons, and Change

Edited by Gisela Fosado, David Hopson, and Janet Jakobsen

In the last two decades, the population of incarcerated women has increased by 400 percent. At the heart of this staggering number is not only a certain philosophy of crime and punishment, but also complex and largely unexamined attitudes toward those we imprison. Taking as its point of departure the April 2006 Scholar & Feminist Conference, "Engendering Justice: Prisons, Activism, and Change," issue 5.3 of the *Scholar & Feminist Online* includes a full transcript of the proceedings; a streaming documentary, directed by Rebecca Haimowitz, inspired by the conference; as well as video of two BCRW lectures on the death penalty by prison activists Angela Davis and Sister Helen Prejean (*Dead Man Walking*); various reviews and excerpts of films related to women in prison; a slide show of photography by Ava Berkofsky; and a discussion on college education within prisons.

From the Collection

www.barnard.edu/bcrw

Women and Religion Exhibit

Curated by Katherine Smith '07

There's been something of a revolution in certain religions over the last quarter century: a feminist religious voice can at last be heard. This exhibit explores the ways in which women have become more fully incorporated into certain sects of Christianity and Judaism. Women's persistent activism surrounding their religious lives has grown into movements for women's ordination; an expansion and reevaluation of women's roles in Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism; the incorporation of feminist ideals into church institutions; and the increased participation of religious groups in broader, more progressive social justice initiatives. The documents included in this exhibit – newsletters, pamphlets, informational studies, journals, and resolutions from organization's meetings – reveal the history and diversity of women's involvement in religious communities. They also make clear the role that religion and spirituality have played in advancing women's rights throughout the United States and abroad.

BCRW Projects:

New Feminist Solutions

Marking the newest direction in BCRW's more than twenty-five-year-old tradition of print publication, *New Feminist Solutions* is a series of reports geared toward informing and inspiring activists and policy-makers alike. Volume 1 is now in its second edition and we are proud to announce that Volumes 2 and 3 have both been published this year. Electronic and printed copies are free and can be requested on our website.



Vol. 1

Responding to Violence, Rethinking Security: Policy Alternatives for Building Human Security

"Responding to Violence" synthesizes the work of over thirty scholars and activists dedicated to theorizing feminist responses to war and global militarism, as well as to more intimate forms of violence such as hate crimes, police brutality and domestic abuse. The report was inspired by the 2002 Virginia C. Gildersleeve Colloquium featuring Jody Williams, whose work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines earned her the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Free Electronic Copies

Download PDF versions of all three reports by visiting www.barnard.edu/bcrw and clicking on New Feminist Solutions.

Free Printed Copies

To request printed copies email us at bcrw@barnard.edu.

Vol. 2

Women, Work, and the Academy

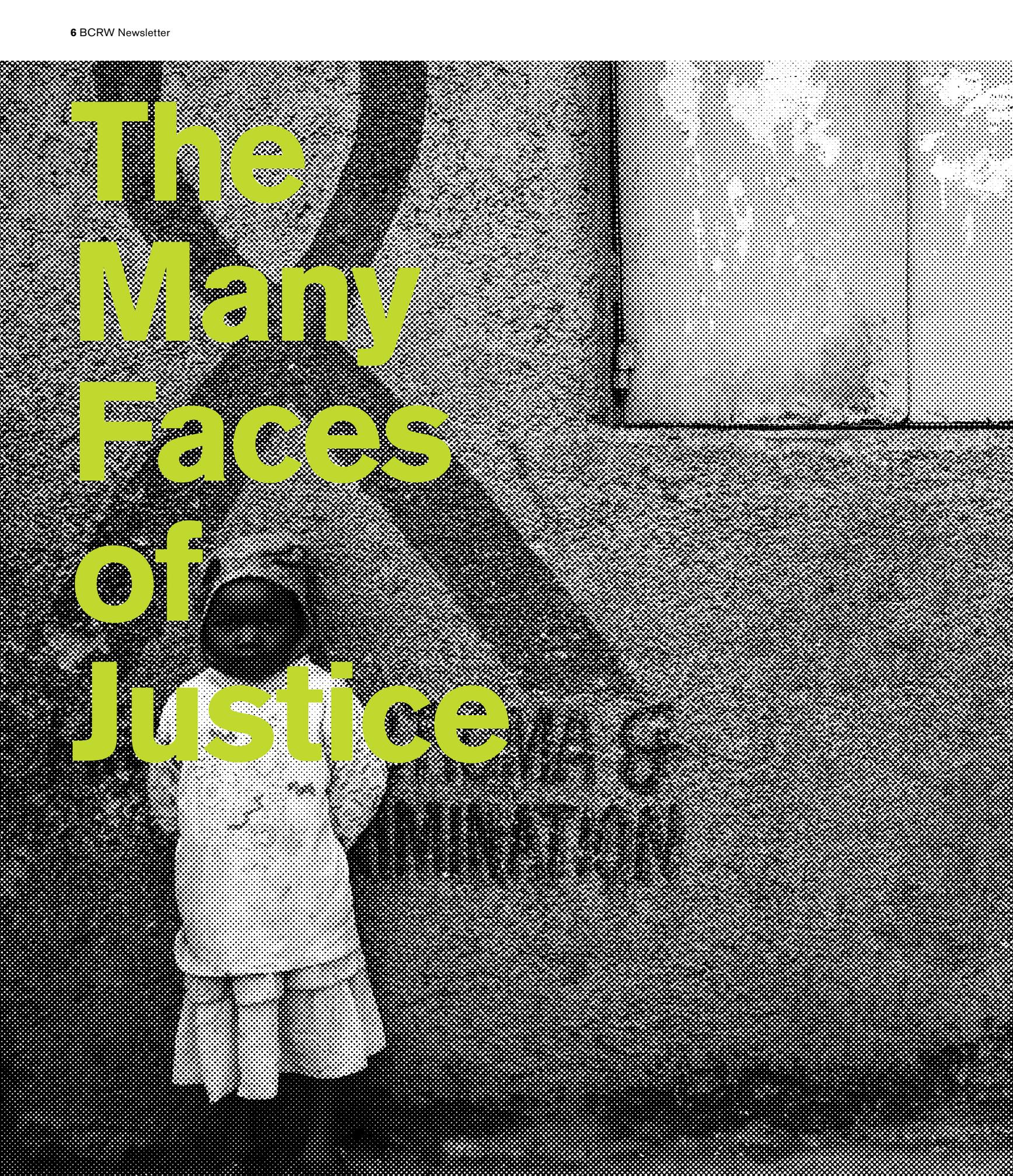
Despite improvements since Title IX, the Educational Amendment Act of 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination in education, women who work in the academy continue to face gender discrimination. It may no longer operate through the kind of overt barriers that mobilized activists in the 1960s, but discrimination can be seen in the patterns of devaluation and marginalization that can have a substantial cumulative impact on the quality of women's work life and effectiveness in the workplace. "Women, Work & the Academy" is a concise report designed for faculty members, administrators, activists, policy makers, and anyone who is touched by this issue. It is based on the 2004 Gildersleeve Colloquium, which featured the work of Nancy Hopkins, Claude Steele, and Virginia Valian.

Vol. 3

The Work-Family Dilemma: A Better Balance

Workers in the United States exceed all other industrialized countries in terms of the average number of hours they spend on the job, and yet the U.S. lags far behind other industrialized countries—and even behind many developing countries—in public policies that support working families. Although parents who care for young children are often seen as those most touched by work-family issues, any worker who becomes ill or who cares for an ill, disabled, or aging family member has a vested interest in these policies. Because these issues affect all workers we need policy solutions that cross the lines of class divisions and employment sectors. Based on the 2007 Summit with a Better Balance: the Work and Family Legal Center, "The Work-Family Dilemma" promotes the type of policy and advocacy that can address the needs of all workers.

The Many Faces of Justice



Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice

Josephine Ho and Naomi Klein



Josephine Ho



Naomi Klein

Lecture:

Thursday, 11/29, 5:30 pm
Julius Held Lecture Hall,
304 Barnard Hall

If your mission is putting an end to global poverty, you've got to have a strategy for stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS. Just as if you work to secure sexual freedom, you must first come to terms with the material conditions that such autonomy requires.

Sexuality and economics are inextricably linked. And yet the movements that aim to right the myriad wrongs of prejudice and poverty so often travel on tracks that fail to intersect. Contemporary campaigns for economic justice tend to shy away from sexuality issues, while those that fight for sexual rights rarely foreground economic concerns. Luckily, more and more activists, facing this divide, commit to building bridges that span it. They've sought out and nurtured strong, sometimes unexpected coalitions, giving rise to a multivalent movement that's better able to address the complexities of 21st century living.

On Thursday, November 29, BCRW offers a look into the inspired and inspiring work being done at the intersections where sexuality and economics meet. Renowned feminist scholar and sexual rights activist Josephine Ho joins best-selling author and anti-globalization activist Naomi Klein in a conversation that brings to light this new vision of global justice, and outlines strategies for securing it.

Heralded as the "godmother of the Taiwanese queer movement," Josephine Ho has also been active in local mobilizations against the war, globalization, nuclear power, and social exclusion. For her unremitting resistance to bigotry and prejudice, and her work on human rights and sex rights, she was among the 1,000 women who were collectively nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. Her books include *The Gallant Woman – Feminism and Sexual Emancipation*; *Gendered Nations – Sexuality, Capital and Culture*; *Radical Sexuality Education: Gender/Sexuality Education for the "New Generation"*; and *The Admirable/Amorous Woman*.

Naomi Klein is perhaps best known as the author of the international bestseller *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies*. Translated into 28 languages and with more than a million copies in print, *The New York Times* called *No Logo* "a movement bible." In 2004, her reporting from Iraq for *Harper's Magazine* won the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. That same year, she released *The Take*, a feature documentary about Argentina's occupied factories. In addition to writing a regular, internationally syndicated column for *The Nation* and *The Guardian*, she is the author of *Fences and Windows: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the Globalization Debate*. Her forthcoming book, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*, will be published worldwide in September 2007.

Ain't I American? Women, Human Rights, and U.S. Identity in the 21st Century

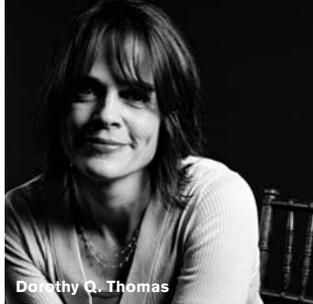
Dorothy Q. Thomas

**Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture:
Tuesday, 10/30, 5:30 pm
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall**

As a means of tracing the rise of two distinct but interrelated movements in the United States—the struggle for women's rights and the struggle for human rights—activist, author, advisor, and strategist Dorothy Q. Thomas shares with us an intimate look into three generations of her family's participation in them. The lives and work of Thomas' grandmother, her aunt Eleanor Thomas Elliott '48, and of Thomas herself give us a fascinating glimpse into not only the evolving relationship between two rights-based social movements in America, but also how those movements shape the United States' understanding of its role in the world.

Dorothy Q. Thomas is a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics' Centre for the Study of Human Rights and an independent consultant on human rights and strategic philanthropy. Until January 2007, she was the senior program advisor to the U.S. Human Rights Fund. From 1990-1998 she served as the founding director of the Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Division. She is a 1998 MacArthur Fellow and a 1995 Bunting Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. In 1998 she received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Bill Clinton. She is the author of numerous articles and reports on human rights, including most recently "Against American Supremacy: Rebuilding Human Rights Culture in the United States," "Into the Bright Sunshine: The Value of Human Rights in the United States," and "Close to Home: Case Studies of Human Rights in the United States."

In addition to these accomplishments, Ms. Thomas has the added distinction of being the niece of Barnard alumna, trustee emerita, and longtime friend of BCRW, Eleanor Thomas Elliott, whose generous gift makes this lectureship possible. Like so many of you, we at the Center were greatly saddened by Elly's death last year. It seems a particularly fitting tribute to honor Elly's legacy to Barnard, to the Center, and the women's movement in which she played a vital and lifelong role by celebrating her legacy to her family: with intelligence, wit, and great grace, Dorothy Thomas continues to fight the good fight.



Dorothy Q. Thomas

Questions for Dorothy Q. Thomas

An Interview with Rachel Jacobson '07

BCRW: What do you see as the relationship between the women's rights and the human rights movements?

DQT: Women's rights movements have proceeded from a presumption of exclusion. From a place where women have been treated as less than, other than, outside of. So the effort to link women's rights with more broad-based human rights initiatives has been deeply motivated by the desire to establish, once and for all, that there is no distinction between women and other people with regards to their fundamental humanity, equality, and dignity. By the same token, because human rights movements presume this kind of inclusiveness, it's taken for granted that if you work on human rights, you work on the rights of all people. But the actual relationship between the two movements reveals the need for human rights to be vigilant about its inclusiveness so that it doesn't end up replicating the kind of status-based exclusions it was established to overcome.

BCRW: How do you foster meaningful coalitions under the broad banner of human rights given that some people might be suspicious of working with one another/other agendas?

DQT: You don't have to sacrifice your specificity as a person in order to confirm a common humanity. It's not either/or. It's both/and. You're both a

Continued on page 18

Gender and Migration in a Global Perspective

Difficult Dialogues

Workshop:

Friday, 10/26, 2:00 pm

1512 International Affairs Building
Columbia University, 420 W. 118th St.

Dominating recent domestic policy discussions, migration has proven to be one of the most difficult and controversial political topics of our time. With last March's memorable Scholar & Feminist Conference, BCRW endeavored to create a dialogue around immigration that takes into account the otherwise often overlooked issues of gender and sexuality. This semester, BCRW joins the Barnard Forum on Migration and the Institute of Latin American Studies at Columbia in presenting a workshop that further explores the fundamental connections between gender and global migration. Why do sex ratios in population movements vary so widely across time and place? Why are 70 percent of all Filipino migrants today women, while, among Mexicans, the same percentage of migrants are men? Why are over four-fifths of Dominicans migrating to Spain women, while emigration to Kazakhstan is, according to a recent *New York Times* article, "emptying whole swaths of Central Asia of young men"? What factors account for these drastic differences: should we look to labor markets, education, demographic and family structures, gender ideologies, government regulations and legal status, or is it some intrinsic aspect of the migratory flow itself? By bringing together scholars with a global, comparative perspective, this workshop aspires to uncover recurrent and recognizable patterns to improve our understanding of the gendered nature of migration.

"Gender and Migration in a Global Perspective" is supported by Barnard's "Difficult Dialogues" project, and made possible by the generous support of The Ford Foundation and The Carnegie Corporation.

The Gender of Migration

There are now about 192 million people (or about three percent of the world's population) living outside their place of birth. This means that roughly **one of every thirty-five persons in the world is a migrant.**

Of the people obtaining legal permanent residence in the U.S., **56% are women.**

Women and children constitute some **80% of the world's millions of refugees** and other displaced persons, including internally displaced persons.

Female migrants contribute significantly to the economy of their countries of origin through their remittances. In Sri Lanka, they contributed more than **62% of the total 1 billion USD in private remittances in 1999**, which represented 50% of the trade balance and 145% of foreign credits and loans.

72% of Indonesia's labor migration is formed by women who work in the domestic service area abroad. In Italy, 50% of domestic workers are citizens from non-European Union countries and in France, more than 50% of migrant women work as domestic workers.

Young, Queer, and Organized

Q-Team and FIERCE!

Panel Discussion:

Thursday, 10/04, 7:00 pm

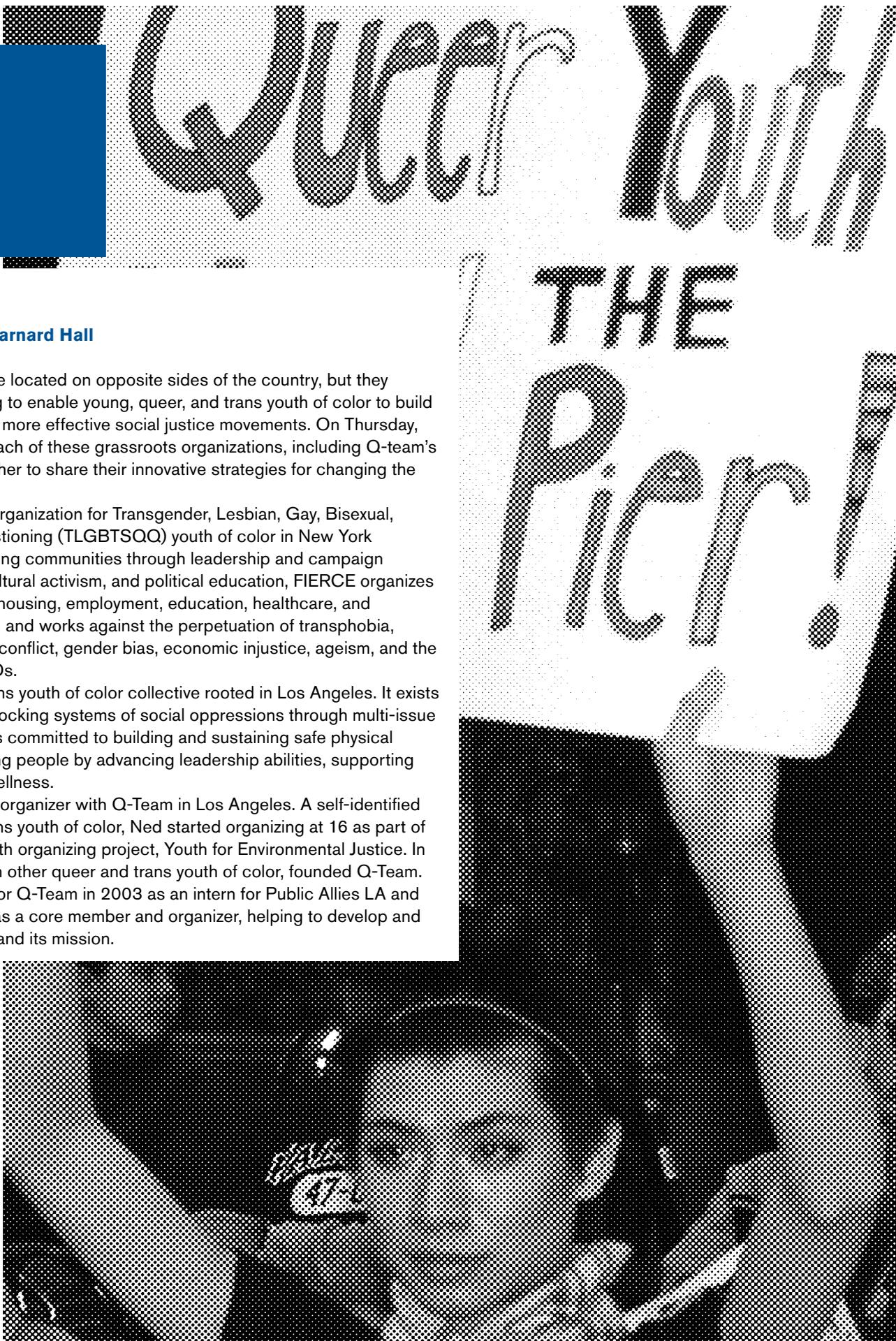
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

FIERCE! and Q-team may be located on opposite sides of the country, but they couldn't be closer in working to enable young, queer, and trans youth of color to build broader, more inclusive, and more effective social justice movements. On Thursday, October 4, members from each of these grassroots organizations, including Q-team's Ned del Callejo, come together to share their innovative strategies for changing the world.

FIERCE! is a community organization for Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two Spirit, Queer, and Questioning (TLGBTSQQ) youth of color in New York City. Dedicated to empowering communities through leadership and campaign development, artistic and cultural activism, and political education, FIERCE organizes against injustices related to housing, employment, education, healthcare, and the criminal "justice" system, and works against the perpetuation of transphobia, homophobia, racism, ethnic conflict, gender bias, economic injustice, ageism, and the spread of HIV, STIs and STDs.

Q-team is a queer and trans youth of color collective rooted in Los Angeles. It exists to challenge and resist interlocking systems of social oppressions through multi-issue grassroots organizing, and is committed to building and sustaining safe physical and political spaces for young people by advancing leadership abilities, supporting education, and promoting wellness.

Ned del Callejo is a youth organizer with Q-Team in Los Angeles. A self-identified working class queer and trans youth of color, Ned started organizing at 16 as part of an environmental justice youth organizing project, Youth for Environmental Justice. In 2002, Ned, along with seven other queer and trans youth of color, founded Q-Team. Ned became staff member for Q-Team in 2003 as an intern for Public Allies LA and continues in Q-Team today as a core member and organizer, helping to develop and strengthen the organization and its mission.

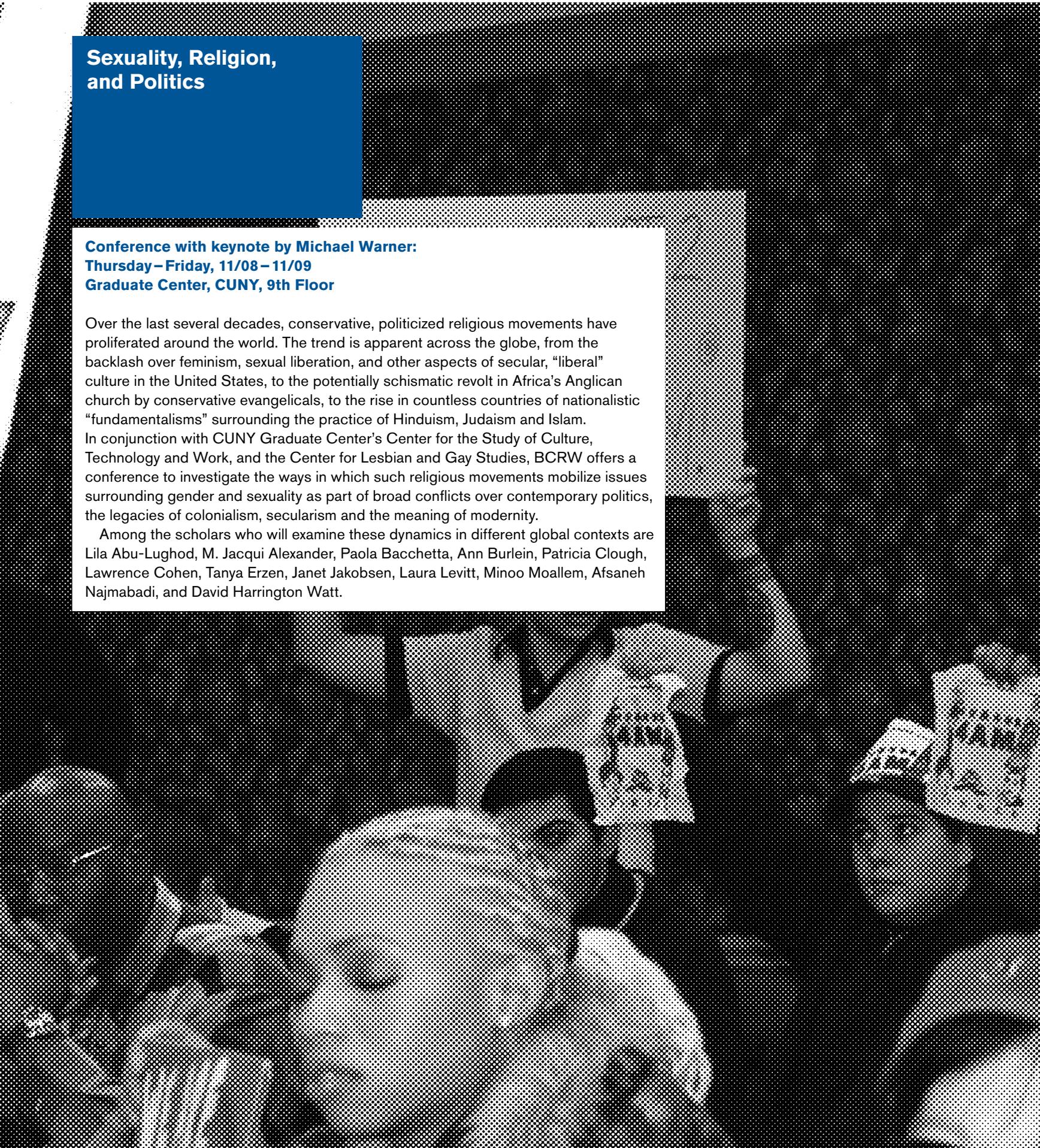


Sexuality, Religion, and Politics

**Conference with keynote by Michael Warner:
Thursday – Friday, 11/08 – 11/09
Graduate Center, CUNY, 9th Floor**

Over the last several decades, conservative, politicized religious movements have proliferated around the world. The trend is apparent across the globe, from the backlash over feminism, sexual liberation, and other aspects of secular, “liberal” culture in the United States, to the potentially schismatic revolt in Africa’s Anglican church by conservative evangelicals, to the rise in countless countries of nationalistic “fundamentalisms” surrounding the practice of Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. In conjunction with CUNY Graduate Center’s Center for the Study of Culture, Technology and Work, and the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, BCRW offers a conference to investigate the ways in which such religious movements mobilize issues surrounding gender and sexuality as part of broad conflicts over contemporary politics, the legacies of colonialism, secularism and the meaning of modernity.

Among the scholars who will examine these dynamics in different global contexts are Lila Abu-Lughod, M. Jacqui Alexander, Paola Bacchetta, Ann Burlein, Patricia Clough, Lawrence Cohen, Tanya Erzen, Janet Jakobsen, Laura Levitt, Minoo Moallem, Afsaneh Najmabadi, and David Harrington Watt.



Freedom On Our Terms: A New Agenda for Women and Girls

**Conference:
Saturday – Sunday, 11/10 – 11/11,
8:30 am Registration
Hunter College**

In 1977, over 20,000 people gathered in Houston, Texas at the National Women's Conference to evaluate gender discrimination in America and to develop recommendations for reform. Never before had such a diverse group of women gathered in one place to share the realities of their lives, educating each other about the unique challenges they faced as a result of violence, poverty, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, geography, and physical disability. Under the leadership of its Presiding Officer, Bella Abzug, conference delegates enacted a comprehensive National Action Plan, consisting of twenty-six planks focused on the many fundamental and crucial issues faced by American women, and including calls-for-action on equal rights, reproductive rights, and lesbian rights.

This November, BCRW joins the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute and Girls Speak Out Foundation in presenting a two-day conference to build on the achievements of that historic event. Participants represent an international, intergenerational group of feminist activists, including participants and delegates from the original 1977 National Women's Conference. With interactive panels and presentations focused on feminist activism, cultural performances celebrating women of all ages, and a substantive follow-up network charged with monitoring progress made towards the conference's eponymously titled plan of action, this year's anniversary conference promises to be a vibrant cultural event that highlights the power, excitement, achievements, and spirit of international feminist movements. By providing feminist activists of different generations a forum for dialogue, debate, and advocacy, "Freedom on Our Terms" aims to strengthen the connection between older and younger feminists and women of all backgrounds. By celebrating the enduring spirit of the National Women's Conference, it inspires women to proudly carry forward a women's rights agenda for the 21st century.



Reconstructing Womanhood: A Future Beyond Empire

Conference with keynote by Hazel Carby
Friday, 11/02, 9:30 am – 6:00 pm
Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard College

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of Hazel Carby's *Reconstructing Womanhood*, a touchstone of scholarship in the fields of Literary and Cultural Studies, African Diaspora Studies, Gender Studies, and Post-Colonial Studies.

With a one-day symposium on November 2, BCRW joins the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Columbia University and the Columbia University Libraries in reexamining the import of this work as it relates to a set of issues that are no less timely now than they were in 1987. Hazel Carby, along with scholars Lisa Lowe, Anne McClintock, Robert Reid-Pharr and Rinaldo Walcott, will lead us in reflecting on the production of "disposable life," refashioning masculinities and queer sexualities, and imagining a future beyond empire.

This event forms part of the *Feminist Classics* series, hosted by IRWaG throughout 2007/08, and designed to revisit the scholarly, artistic, and activist works responsible for shaping second-wave feminism. Other events include:

Monday, 10/01, 8:00 pm

Adrienne Rich Reads from her Work
Schermerhorn 501, Columbia University

Tuesday, 10/02, 12:50 – 2:00 pm

A Conversation with Adrienne Rich
Heymann Center Common Room, Columbia University

In this spirit, the series continues with an event exploring Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying* and transgressive feminist writing, a panel on the plays of feminist dramatist Caryl Churchill, and a discussion on classic works of feminist art. For more information on any of the above events, contact IRWaG at 212.854.3277.



Hazel Carby

Echoes of Life: Developing Ultrasound Technologies

Beryl Benacerraf '71



**The Roslyn Silver '27 Science Fellowship Lecture:
Tuesday, 09/18, 5:30 pm
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall**

Beryl Benacerraf '71 is one of the leading researchers in ultrasound technology. Because of her pioneering work in prenatal diagnosis and, most recently, three-dimensional ultrasound, both doctors and pregnant women have access to an astounding array of crucial medical information. Detecting Down syndrome and other chromosomal abnormalities, for instance, has become a matter of course for today's OBGYNs, but such screening methods were all but impossible before Dr. Benacerraf and her research revolutionized the field.

The first Barnard graduate to deliver BCRW's annual Silver Science Lecture, Dr. Benacerraf will discuss her own journey from being a severely dyslexic child to becoming an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Harvard Medical School. From her radiology internship at Massachusetts General and Brigham and Women's hospitals (where she continues seeing patients) to her position as president and medical director of Diagnostic Ultrasound Associates, Dr. Benacerraf offers not only an impressive biography, but an antidote to anyone who claims (à la Harvard's ex-president Larry Summers) that women, as scientific scholars and researchers, are destined to stand in the shadows of men.

In 1994, Dr. Benacerraf became the first woman clinical professor of Obstetric, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Harvard Medical School. Subsequently, she also became clinical professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School. Having authored over 250 peer-reviewed articles, she has focused her research on the detection and significance of fetal anomalies. Dr. Benacerraf is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine*. She has contributed chapters to many textbooks in the field and is the author of *Ultrasound of Fetal Syndromes*, a diagnostic reference text soon to enter its second edition.



Women, Minorities, and Interdisciplinarity: Transforming the Research Enterprise

Diana Rhoten and Stephanie Pfirman

Workshop:

Monday, 11/12, 8:30 am Registration
Satow Room, Lerner Hall

In the U.S., amid fears of a shrinking scientific workforce and the dulling competitive edge it brings, universities, as well as federal and local programs, have pushed to expand interdisciplinary research. The reason? To attract to the fields of science, mathematics, and engineering the very people who have, historically, been discouraged from practicing them, namely women and minorities. Eradicating gender- and race-based inequalities in these fields is essential not only to realizing social equality—certainly a worthy goal in and of itself—but also to ensuring that scientific and technological advancements in the United States benefit from the knowledge and talents of this traditionally underrepresented segment of the workforce.

On Monday, November 11, Barnard College joins the Social Science Research Council and Columbia University in hosting an interdisciplinary workshop on the transforming power of interdisciplinarity. Scientists, educators, historians, philosophers, sociologists of science, and policy makers consider how women and minorities might be drawn to interdisciplinary research, explore the learning styles and career behaviors that either help or hinder interdisciplinarity, and examine the implications of an interdisciplinary career.



Diana Rhoten



Stephanie Pfirman

A “Chilly Climate” for Women in the Sciences

It is now more than three decades since Congress passed the landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits sex discrimination in education (Title IX, 1972), and in this period women have doubled and tripled their representation in virtually all areas of undergraduate and graduate training. Women now earn 48% of the doctorates and over half of all graduate degrees awarded by U.S. institutions. And yet, at the level of the professoriate, gender inequities have proven to be stubbornly resistant to change; women continue to be disproportionately employed in part-time and limited term positions; their rate of advancement through the ranks, and their representation at the highest faculty ranks, remains below that of men. These differences hold for ethnic minorities, are compounded for minority women, and are amplified the more elite the institution.

Why do such inequities persist? According to conventional wisdom, any gender differences in outcome must reflect innate differences in the talent, drive, and commitment of women. Larry Summers, then-President of Harvard, touched off a firestorm of controversy in January 2005 when he appealed to the gendered play behavior of his children to account for the relative absence of women from the top ranks of the sciences. His remarks drew immediate rebuttal, and in the last year the National Academy of Sciences (2007) and the American Association of University Professors (West and Curtis 2006) have published reports that detail the

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Egypt's Human Rights Groups: Assessing Their Political Impact

Mona El-Ghobashy

**Lunchtime Lecture:
Wednesday, 10/24, Noon
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall**

When the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) and like-minded groups came into existence over twenty years ago, some hailed the groups as pillars of "civil society," the best hope for grassroots democratic transformation within an authoritarian regime. Others, though, argued that these same organizations are nothing more than smokescreens deployed by authoritarian elites to deflect international and domestic pressures for reform. Two decades later, scholars and journalists still disagree on the purpose and political impact of Egypt's human rights groups. On Wednesday, October 24, Mona El-Ghobashy discusses both views, and suggests an alternative understanding of how human rights groups function in undemocratic systems.

Mona El-Ghobashy is assistant professor of political science at Barnard, where she teaches courses on comparative politics, social movements, and Middle East politics. Her work on Egyptian politics has appeared in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Middle East Report*, and *Transparency International's Global Corruption Report 2004*.



The Storytelling Project: A Model for Teaching About Race and Racism Through Storytelling and the Arts

Lee Anne Bell

Lunchtime Lecture:
Wednesday, 09/26, Noon
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Stories are powerful vehicles for addressing race and racism, says Barnard professor of education Lee Anne Bell. In conjunction with a diverse team of artists, teachers, university faculty and students, she has developed a unique educational model that uses storytelling to help high school students understand and deal effectively with race issues. From the group's rigorous analysis of literature, critical race theory, and narrative, the framework for an exciting new curriculum emerged. On Wednesday, September 26, Professor Bell discusses the team's process, key issues that emerged over the course of their collaboration, and what we can learn about using the arts to teach challenging social content in public school classrooms.

Lee Anne Bell is Director of the Education Program at Barnard and co-editor/author of *Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice*. Her research includes "Sincere Fictions: The Pedagogical Challenges of Preparing White Teachers for Multicultural Classrooms" in *Equity and Excellence in Education*, and "Telling Tales: What Stories Can Teach Us about Racism" in *Race, Ethnicity and Education*. She also edits the series, *Teaching/Learning Social Justice*, which publishes works that link theory and practice in addressing issues of social equity and justice through education.



Lee Anne Bell

The Power of Stories

by Lee Anne Bell

"We learned enough about slavery and stuff, I think we need to learn more about what's going on today...we need to know more than just Martin Luther King and Malcolm X...[schools] teach the most important people but the smaller people, they do stuff too."

As the "smaller people" living today, young people yearn to make sense of the particularities of race and racism in their own lives but do not see their experiences with race and racism represented in either the official history taught in schools or the experiences of previous generations in their own communities. Through analytic, artistic and experiential activities, the Storytelling Project (STP) curriculum enabled students to discuss and better understand the systems with which they contend on a daily basis, and to approach course content with a sense that their experiences could be an integral aspect of classroom discourse. As they examined race and racism in their own lives through the lens of stock stories, concealed stories, resistance stories and counter-stories, youth involved in the STP curriculum explored issues that affect their lives today: stereotyping of youth of color in public and in the media, gentrification in their neighborhoods, limited opportunities and access to high quality education and well-paying jobs, to name a few. As one teacher who worked with us noted, "They have such valuable opinions and beliefs and...I think one of the reasons why our students don't get a lot of the information that comes out of the

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Questions for Dorothy Q. Thomas

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woman and a human being; you're both an American and a citizen of the world. A human rights approach enables us both to honor the specificity of our own experience and also find common ground with those who've lived very different lives. If you're convinced that going it alone is the way to go, chances are you'll find yourself in an antagonistic relationship with anyone who doesn't share your agenda. If, on the other hand, you believe that we're all in it together, that our task is not to deny our differences, but rather to negotiate a balance between them, you'll find yourself better able to develop a common agenda. We need that skill in an environment where we face quite a number of shared threats.

BCRW: How has growing up in a family of activists affected you?

DQT: I would say that my dedication to human rights is almost genetic. My grandmother leafleted for the suffragettes when she was very young. My aunt Elly became the chair of the board of Barnard and fought off the attempted takeover by Columbia. My mother founded a school and led it to become one of the most successful independent schools in Long Island. My foremothers were very much characterized by twin traits of extreme independence and fairly regular defiance. The irony is that this mode of being, which I inherited from three very deeply American women, has led to activism that has often brought me into direct conflict with the government of the United States. I'm beginning to question at a very deep level why my history of defiance, my commitment to feminism, and my profound belief in maintaining the relationship of the U.S. to the rest of the world has so often put me at odds with my country. For my own part, I am determined to reassert feminist, anti-racist, and human rights work as deeply American pursuits. Even if my foremothers wouldn't necessarily agree with everything I advocate (and that is an understatement), they would very definitely defend my right, and in fact my obligation, to do so.

BCRW thanks Rebecca Jacobson '07, of Human Rights Watch, for conducting this interview. To read the full transcript, visit www.barnard.edu/bcrw.

A "Chilly Climate" for Women

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results of the best current research by social scientists in fields ranging from social psychology and cognitive science to sociology and economics. They conclude unequivocally that the conventional wisdom is wrong; there is overwhelming evidence that persistent gender inequities in academia cannot be attributed to any innate cognitive deficit, lack of drive or commitment, but must rather be explained in terms of the cumulative effects of workplace environments that are inhospitable, evaluation biases that reflect gender and race stereotyping, and institutional structures and work patterns that systematically disadvantage women and under-represented minorities in academia (S-2, 3).

And yet, the familiar assumptions continue to circulate; for many they seem self-evident, consistent with a deep-seated conviction that academic institutions are meritocratic and, as Summers made clear, consistent with their everyday experience. The recognition that systemic gender and race inequities persist in the academy has required a fundamental conceptual shift signaled by two insights about "post-civil rights era" gender discrimination. First, gender biases that operate below the threshold of deliberate intention can put women

systematically at a disadvantage; and, second, although individual instances of these "micro-inequities" may seem trivial, their cumulative effects can account for large scale differences in outcome for women (MIT 1999, 10).

From *New Feminist Solutions*, volume 2, "Women, Work, and the Academy." © BCRW, 2007.

Power of Stories

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mainstream curriculum is that they don't care about it. They feel like it has nothing to do with them." When a classroom includes, indeed focuses on, issues of race and racism, and values what students bring to the classroom, youth are able to claim ground upon which to stand amidst the quicksand of enduring racial and economic discrimination and the regulation of communities of color. Everyone involved (students and teachers) can engage in analysis of the racialized system in which we live and develop the tools to change it. A learning process that is based in this kind of back and forth between student and teacher brings us closer to Paulo Freire's ideal of education as the practice of freedom.

Register for Center Courses

Please fill in the information below and mail with registration fee to:
Barnard Center for Research on Women, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
Check should be made to Barnard College.

- Consuming Passions: Pleasure and Politics in Women's Memoirs (\$315)**
- Translating Silences: An Expanded Poetry Workshop (\$200)**
- Writing and Being: Taking Back Our Lives Through Language (\$200)**
- Women's Cultures / Women's Lives (\$350)**

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BCRW Courses:

2007 Fall Semester

Consuming Passions: Pleasure and Politics in Women's Memoirs with Lori Rotskoff

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:30 pm

9/26, 10/24, 11/28, 12/19, 1/23, 2/27,
3/26, 4/30, 6/4

Fee: \$315

What are the passions, pleasures, and political commitments that fuel women's lives? In this class, we will discuss memoirs by American women who have embarked on journeys of personal fulfillment, intellectual growth, or political activism from the 1920s to the present.

Some memoirs focus on matters of appetite, desire, consumption, and addiction—subtly revealing how individual cravings are linked to broader issues of gender, power, and cultural identity. Other writers fashion their life stories in a context of historical change and social activism; they are consumed by passionate struggles for justice and equality. What motivates women to recount their life stories—and what do we, as readers, gain from reading them?

Participants of all ages and professional backgrounds are welcome to join our monthly discussion group. The mood is informal, yet informative. Whether you are an avid reader of memoirs or new to the genre, you will gain new insights that will enrich your reading in the future.

Lori Rotskoff is a cultural historian of American family life. She holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University, and has written articles and reviews for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Reviews in American History*, and *The Women's Review of Books*. This is her third year teaching at the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

Possible readings include:

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie*

Elizabeth Gilbert, *Eat, Pray Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India, and Indonesia*

Gael Greene, *Insatiable: Tales from a Life of Delicious Excess*

Elizabeth Hayt, *I'm No Saint: Memoir of a Wayward Wife*

Caroline Knapp, *Appetites: Why Women Want*
Gerda Lerner, *Fireweed: A Political Autobiography*

Toni McNaron, *I Dwell in Possibility*

Assata Shakur, *Assata*

Susan Shapiro, *Lighting Up: How I Stopped Smoking, Drinking, and Everything Else I Loved Except Sex*

Translating Silences: An Expanded Poetry Workshop

with Charlotte Mandel

Wednesdays, 6:15–8:15 pm

10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12

Fee: \$ 200

To begin a poem is to connect with feeling, idea, and the joy of language. Poet Charlotte Mandel invites both new and previous participants to this supportive workshop, which aims to explore sources of poetry within the self while refining techniques of the craft. Whether published or a "closet" poet, you are welcome.

Thanks to enthusiastic response, the poetry workshop "Translating Silences" will continue to open each session with an additional half hour to focus upon the work of a well-known contemporary "poet of the month."

This semester's reading list is as follows:

What Are Big Girls Made Of? Poems, by Marge Piercy.

19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East, by Naomi Shihab Nye

Selected Poems of Langston Hughes.

A book (or selected texts) by the "poet of the month" will be assigned to be read in advance, and discussed during the first half hour. The hour and a half "Translating Silences" workshop will follow with exchanges of creative work by participants. Optional assignments and imaginative exercises will be offered.

Charlotte Mandel is the author of six books of poetry, including *Sight Lines*, *The Life of Mary* and *The Marriages of Jacob*. She edited *Saturday's Women*, an award-winning anthology of women poets. Her poems, short fiction and critical essays have been published in many journals nationwide.

Writing and Being: Taking Back Our Lives Through the Power of Language

with Meg Giles

Thursdays, 6:30–8:00 pm

10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29, 12/13

Fee: \$ 200

Through directed journal writing and exercises, in this workshop we will reclaim, what N. Scott

Momaday refers to as "the word as an instrument of creation." We will explore the daily practice of writing our lives and how to transform the personal into meaningful, powerful public writing. We will seek writing as an act of meditation, of centering, of releasing, of claiming. This is, in fact, a writing workshop, and like any writing workshop, we will discuss craft. Beginners and veterans are welcome.

Meg Giles received an MFA in fiction from Columbia University and was, for a time, a literary agent. Her work has been published in *kgbbartlit*, *Hayden's Ferry Review* and *Five Points Quarterly*.

Women's Cultures / Women's Lives

with Leslie Calman

Tuesdays, 6:30–8:00 pm

9/18, 10/16, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/5,
3/11, 4/8, 5/6, 6/3

Fee: \$ 350

Now in its 16th year, Women's Culture/Women's Lives explores contemporary writing by women of many cultures. Led by Leslie Calman, former director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women and current vice president of external relations at the International Center for Research on Women, this is truly a discussion group, with members bringing their own perspectives and insights to understanding the changing lives of women. Prerequisites: intellectual curiosity, open-mindedness, a fondness for great books and smart women, and a sense of humor. Please join us!

This semester's reading list is as follows:

9/18 Kirin Desai, *The Inheritance of Loss*

10/16 Amy Tan, *Saving Fish from Drowning*

11/13 Lisa Fugard, *Skinner's Drift*

12/11 A.B. Yehoshua, *A Journey to the End of the Millennium*

1/8 Willa Cather, *My Antonia*

2/5 Aminatta Forna, *Ancestor Stones*

3/11 Penelope Lively, *Moon Tiger*

4/8 Orhan Pamuk, *Snow*

5/6 Carmen Laforet, *Nada*

6/3 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*

All courses held at BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall.

Center Friends

BCRW thanks all of our friends whose financial support helps us speak out.

- Janna Bellwin
- Lila Braine
- Estelle Freedman '69
- Elayne M. Garrett
- Joseph Hofheimer *(in honor of Eleanor Thomas Elliott '41)*
- Helen Neuhaus
- Achebe Betty Powell
- Susan Sacks
- David and Theresa Rogers

Show the world you support the Center!

with your donation of \$100 or more, you'll receive one of BCRW's signature tee-shirts. It's a great way to show your support of the Center and its mission—while spreading the word that Feminism matters.

Enclosed, please find my check made payable to Barnard College for:

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