

BCRW Newsletter
Fall 2009
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BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN



New Feminist Activism

A panel discussion with Mia Herndon,
Ai-jen Poo, and Rinku Sen

Should Religious Ethics Matter to Feminist Politics?

A lecture with Saba Mahmood

Grace Paley: Speaking Truth to Power

A panel discussion featuring Ujju
Agarawal, Yvette Christianse, Ynestra
King, Nancy Kricorian, and Amy
Swerdlow



The New Faces of Feminism

The last year has been a challenging one, especially for those of us who are concerned with the Center's guiding mission to assure that women can "live and work in dignity, autonomy, and equality." With many women being forced to live without economic security, healthcare, and affordable housing due to the economic downturn, our work to bring this mission to fruition is more difficult and more important than ever. But it's also an exciting time to form new alliances and work creatively with our allies to bring true and lasting social change. We see opportunities to reframe and reevaluate the role of feminism in larger movements for social justice, reenergizing the women's movement in these times of challenge, hope and change.

In this spirit, we're kicking off the semester with a panel on "New Feminist Activism," as part of a new project inspired by Trustee Emerita, Fran Rodgers '67. The panel will feature three young activists working for progressive organizations that are concerned with justice for all, across lines of gender, race, and class. These young feminist activists are at the forefront of a new form of "social justice feminism," and this event will be the first in a series of conversations about new forms of feminism. We'll also look at how feminist analysis plays a role in contemporary debates about religion in the Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture, presented this year by Professor Saba Mahmood, an expert on gender and Islamic movements. And, we'll look back on a bit of the history of social justice activism when we celebrate the life and work of Grace Paley, feminist activist and writer, with a panel discussion in her honor.

This semester's programming also highlights groundbreaking work being done in a number of other fields, from physics to art to philosophy. This year's Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecture will be presented by Professor Melissa Franklin, an experimental particle physicist who will discuss her work isolating the very building blocks of our universe. In our Lunchtime Lecture Series, we'll host Barnard College faculty members Jacqueline Olvera, who will discuss her research on immigration and migration in Mexican communities, and Alexander Alberro, who will explore how contemporary art practices are reshaping the way we view artwork. We are also honored to be hosting a conference with scholars from around the world to highlight the work of Eileen O'Neill '75, a pioneer in the field of feminist philosophy.

In addition to exploring these new ways of creating change and re-imagining our society, we're excited to announce that the Center is developing new ways to communicate with our friends and supporters, as well as making our programming accessible long after the conferences and events take place. In this effort, we've created a Facebook page and Twitter account, where you can find out more about upcoming events and Center news, as well as find links to videos and audio podcasts from recent events, such as our documentary *Women and Work*, featuring women leaders and activists, including the Guerrilla Girls, whose image graces our cover. We hope that this technology will allow us to broaden the reach of our work to audiences all across the web. Join us in person this fall and then join us online by clicking on the links to our Facebook and Twitter pages that are found at the bottom of the BCRW homepage.

Sincerely,


Janet R. Jakobsen

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Monday–Friday
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Page 16: City of Women, found on Internet.

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Scholar & Feminist Online

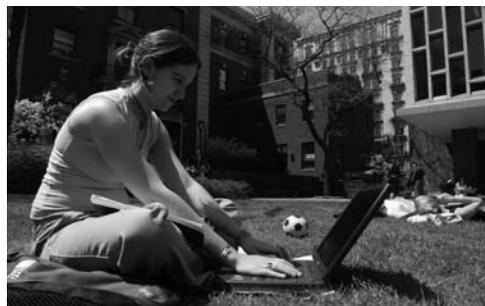
Issue 7.2/Spring 2009

Rewriting Dispersal: Africana Gender Studies

Guest edited by Kim F. Hall and Christine Cynn

This exciting issue of *Scholar & Feminist Online*, edited by Kim F. Hall and Christine Cynn, brings together a fantastic and diverse set of work that contributes to the growing field of Africana Studies (the multidisciplinary study of Africa and the Black Diaspora) with a focus on gendered perspectives within this field. Organized by the three themes of history, politics and the academy, "Rewriting Dispersal: Africana Gender Studies" draws together a broad range of work from specialists in fields ranging from politics and activism to the arts and the academy.

www.barnard.edu/sfonline/africana



New Media

From Facebook to Twitter

BCRW is using a number of social networking and video sharing websites in an effort to increase our visibility and make our programming more accessible. From podcasts to videos to documentaries, we're working to put more material from all of our events online so that you can listen to a conference panel you may have missed, watch an online video of one of our events, or learn more about a particular issue through our documentary productions. We also maintain Twitter and Facebook accounts where you can follow what's going on in the Center on a day-to-day basis, get alerts about upcoming events, and give us your feedback. Please visit our website and click on the links to our Facebook, iTunes, YouTube, Vimeo, and Twitter accounts at the bottom of the page for more information and to see some of our exciting online offerings!

www.barnard.edu/bcrw



From the Collection

Gender and Sexuality in Higher Education

Curated by Anna Steffens '10

College campuses provide fertile ground for discussions of gender and sexuality, and the BCRW archive reflects the importance of these ongoing discussions over the past 40 years. With a particular emphasis on single-sex education, this exhibit will include editorials, articles, reports, and pamphlets from both inside and outside of the classroom. Encompassing diverse issues including sexual harassment, coming out, and the development of women's studies, sexuality and gender have played key roles in shaping life for women on campuses and in classrooms across the nation.

www.barnard.edu/bcrw/archive

BCRW Calendar

09/

Wednesday, 09/16

6:30 PM

New Feminist Activism

A panel discussion with Mia Herndon, Ai-jen Poo, and Rinku Sen

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

10/

Friday and Saturday, 10/02 and 10/03

Registration begins at 9:00 AM

Women, Philosophy, and History: A Conference in Celebration of Eileen O'Neill

A conference

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall



Monday, 10/05

6:30 PM

Los Demonios Del Edén: Gender, Violence, and Activism in Mexico

A screening and discussion with Lydia Cacho
Julius Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Thursday, 10/08

12:00 PM

The Place of Contemporary Art

A lunchtime lecture with Alexander Alberro
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



Wednesday, 10/21

6:30 PM

A Lab of One's Own: A Place to Measure the Broken Symmetries of This Particular Elegant Universe

The Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecture with
Melissa Franklin

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

11/

Wednesday, 11/04

7:00 PM

Erotohistoriography

A lecture with Elizabeth Freeman
Great Room, New York University
19 University Place, 1st Floor

Thursday, 11/05

6:30 PM

Should Religious Ethics Matter to Feminist Politics?

The Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture with
Saba Mahmood

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Friday, 11/06

6:30 PM

Citizenship, Labor, and the Biopolitics of Biochemistry: Recruiting Female Tissue Donors for Stem Cell Research

A lecture with Catherine Waldby

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, 11/12

12:00 PM

Negotiating "Illegality" in New Immigrant Destinations

A lunchtime lecture with Jacqueline Olvera
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

12/

Friday, 12/11

6:30 PM

Grace Paley: Speaking Truth to Power

A panel discussion featuring Ujju Agarawal, Yvette Christianse, Ynestra King, Nancy Kricorian, and Amy Swerdlow

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall





NEW FEMINIST ACTIVISM

Revitalizing the Movement

Progressive social activism and change are undergoing a resurgence in the US. For those of us who have been working to promote social justice, especially justice and rights for women in the US and worldwide, it's especially heartening to see individuals and groups who hadn't been part of these struggles beginning to join in the fight. After last November's presidential election, where many underrepresented groups, including young people and people of color, turned out to vote in record numbers, we've seen an increased awareness and interest in activism and reform.

This growing interest has manifested itself in many forms, from community organizations that have sprung up over the last few years in New York City around environmental justice, to nationally based groups calling for healthcare reform. Further fueling these efforts have been the new ways available for circulating information and calls to action, with many activists using tools like blogging, Twitter, and Facebook to organize campaigns and spread the word. It's an exciting time to be involved in social justice work, especially as feminist scholars and activists, with much to be done and amazing new tools available to accomplish our mission.

With all of this change in the air, we at BCRW recognize that the feminist movement is also changing and growing. Young women especially are spearheading projects to tackle issues as far ranging as anti-violence work, empowerment and leadership, media justice, and others in ways that are vastly different from the ways that feminists have engaged with these issues in the past. In order to find out more about this new form of feminist activism, and to look for new directions in the movement, BCRW is initiating a very exciting project that will bring young feminist leaders from all kinds of backgrounds together to build alliances, discuss their strategies for action, and reflect on where the feminist movement has been and where it is headed. This fall, we're presenting a public panel on New Feminist Activism, where three women who work with progressive organizations in New York City will come together to discuss what it's like to be at the frontlines of this new movement, working for organizations that are promoting women's rights, as well as campaigns for racial justice and equality, economic justice and worker's rights, and making our political system more accessible and democratic. We also plan to host a roundtable discussion with young, emerging leaders who work at the intersection of feminism and social justice activism, in order to foster dialogue about the future of this new movement.

One of the challenges of feminism has been how to build a movement that works alongside other progressive movements for social change. Social justice feminism, which seeks to connect feminism to issues like health care, the environment, economics, and race, broadens the conversation about how to achieve rights for all women without marginalizing these other interconnected issues. In the past, BCRW has worked with numerous other groups that are concerned with the intersection between feminism and other progressive social movements; for instance, we've collaborated with the National Domestic Workers Alliance (which you can read more about on page 9) in an effort to secure rights for domestic workers; a group of activists and scholars working on issues of sexual and economic justice in the creation of a New Feminist Solutions report; and a coalition of prison reform activists to explore the gendered dimensions of the justice system at the Scholar and Feminist XXXI conference. Though these movements focus on a wide range of concerns, they share a common ground in social justice feminism—seeking rights and justice for all women, with a recognition that economic and political autonomy, healthcare, workplace rights, and other needs are part of the larger picture.

Young women, including the participants in our New Feminist Activism panel (see panel description on page 10), are engaging with struggles for justice around race and class, education, worker's rights, and other interconnected issues in new and exciting ways. Who are these young leaders and around what types of issues are they mobilizing? Many of these new feminist organizations are interested in using new media and the arts to spread their message. For instance, the Oakland, California-based Third World Majority, a new media training and production center run collectively by young women of color, trains young people in "digital storytelling" and the creation of videos to share with their communities and in their activist work. Similarly, the organization A Long Walk Home uses art therapy and the visual and performing arts to educate about anti-violence and allow women to share their stories. There is also a great deal of work being done by young feminists to promote leadership and community organizing. Here in New York, the Bushwick, Brooklyn-based group Sista Il Sista organizes young women of color in an effort to fight for justice, political change, and personal and collective power within their communities. Running Start, based in Washington, DC, works directly with young women in high school and college to empower them and educate them about running for political office. Each of these organizations differs in its approach to mobilizing young women, but they are all a part of the growing new feminist movement. We're eager to find out more about the type of work that's being done by young women in their communities and on the national level.

We see this project as the beginning of an ongoing exploration into what young feminists are working on now, and where the feminist movement is headed. It's crucial to give young feminist activists a forum where they can share ideas, build alliances and coalitions, and support each other's work. It is our hope that the New Feminisms project will provide a space for these conversations, fostering dialogue and connecting a new generation of feminist leaders. Our world is changing in a myriad of ways, from the growing influence of technology and the globalization of media; to the changing economic landscape; to the increased availability of information via the Internet. Feminist and social justice responses to the issues facing our society are changing as well. We look forward to being a part of this new movement.

To learn more about these issues, attend the September 16th panel discussion, "New Feminist Activism." See page 10 for more details.

THE VALUE OF WOMEN'S WORK

As Gloria Steinem argues in *Women and Work: Feminists in Solidarity with Domestic Workers*, “the only reason there is a division between domestic work and every other kind of work is that mostly women do domestic work... and we still have a system that values the work by the sex and race of the worker instead of by the importance of the work to the community.”

Domestic labor and its continual devaluation have been perennial issues for the feminist movement. Despite the fact that women have entered the formal workforce in numbers now comparable to men in the US¹, women also continue to bear the overwhelming burden of domestic labor. In 2000, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that married mothers spent 41 hours on “unpaid family caregiving” compared to 22 hours spent by married fathers². And even when domestic work and care work enters the formal or informal economy, as in the case of hired domestic workers, this work remains grossly under-compensated and this workforce, which is composed almost entirely of women, remains one of the most vulnerable sectors of our labor force.

Why does the US lag behind in work-family policies (which explicitly work to value domestic labor) compared to all other industrialized nations? What will it take to create movement forward in relation to these issues in our country?

At the Barnard Center for Research on Women, we have often undertaken projects related to women and work and work-life balance issues as a way to raise awareness about the various ways in which women’s labor is systematically devalued in the US and globally. Our most recent “women and work”-related endeavor consists of a two-year project focusing on domestic workers, working in collaboration with Domestic Workers United and the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

This project, already in its second year, will include several publications; an issue of our webjournal, *Scholar and Feminist Online*, focusing on global aspects of domestic work; an issue of our New Feminist Solutions report series, focusing specifically on aspects of domestic work organizing in the US; and a short video called *Women and Work: Feminists in Solidarity with Domestic Workers*, featuring Gloria Steinem, Liz Abzug, Maria Hinojosa '84, Amy Richards '92 and many other prominent feminist leaders. Feminist art activists, the Guerrilla Girls, featured on the cover of this newsletter also contributed to the project. *Women and Work* is now available on the video page of our website (www.barnard.edu/bcrw).

Despite the fact that domestic workers take care of that which we prize most in our society—our children and our homes—they are among the most vulnerable and underpaid workers in the US, often denied a living wage, sick leave, vacation leave, severance pay, termination notice, and other basic protections that our society provides for most other laborers. Their work is crucial to the functioning of our families and the rest of our economy, and yet half of all domestic workers earn less than a living wage and 26 percent make wages below the poverty line³.

As Gloria Steinem argues in *Women and Work*, “the only reason there is a division between domestic work and every other kind of work is that mostly women do domestic work... and we still have a system that values the work by the sex and race of the worker instead of by the importance of the work to the community.” Feminists can take many steps to move our society toward valuing work equally regardless of who does the work. We can create a movement on behalf of women workers, including domestic workers. And those of us who hire domestic workers can create good jobs. The progressive organization Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ), which is also featured in our

New Feminist Activism

Mia Herndon, Ai-jen Poo, and Rinku Sen

A Panel Discussion

Wednesday, 09/16

6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

BCRW has long been interested in supporting social justice movements that reach beyond the limits of traditional feminist activism. In past semesters, we have hosted programs that have taken up a variety of intersectional projects that join feminist activism and analysis with other progressive movements, including reproductive justice, workplace rights across the economic spectrum, and the links between sexual and economic justice, to name a few. This panel on New Feminist Activism will explore how young feminist activists are engaging with struggles for justice in areas such as education, the environment, and race and class. By using new forms of media and building alliances, these activists (and many others like them) are creating a strand of feminist activism that is fundamentally concerned with social justice and social change.

Panelists include: Mia Herndon, Executive Director of the Third Wave Foundation, a feminist, activist foundation that works nationally to support young women and transgender youth; Ai-jen Poo, Lead Organizer at Domestic Workers United, an organization working for fair labor standards for nannies, housekeepers, and other domestic workers in New York; and Rinku Sen, President and Executive Director of the Applied Research Center, a racial justice think tank and home for media and activism, publisher of *Color Lines* magazine, and the author of *Stir It Up: Lessons in Community Organizing* and *The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization*.



Los Demonios Del Edén: Gender, Violence and Activism in Mexico

Lydia Cacho

A Lecture and Screening

Monday, 10/05

6:30 PM

Julius Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

With her 2005 book *Los Demonios del Edén (Demons of Eden)*, author and human rights activist Lydia Cacho revealed the existence of organized sexual abuse of minors in Mexico. Following the publication of her book, she was subject to police harassment and became a symbol of a growing movement for greater freedom of the press. As a result of the attempts to silence her, Mexico has seen an increasing awareness of the obstacles facing both independent journalists and victims of sexual abuse. After a screening of a documentary based on *Los Demonios del Edén*, and her work on behalf of victims, Lydia Cacho will respond to questions from the audience. Cacho is the recipient of the 2007 Amnesty International Ginetta Sagan Award for Women and Children's Rights and the 2008 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. An investigative journalist and a specialist on gender-based violence, she is the founder and Director of the Refuge Center for Abused Women of Cancun and is also the President of the Center for Women's Assistance.



Should Religious Ethics Matter to Feminist Politics?

Saba Mahmood

Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture

Thursday, 11/05

6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Established in 2004 in honor of Barnard alumna Helen Pond McIntyre '48, the McIntyre lectureship highlights the work of scholars who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of Women's Studies. In past years, the lecture series has welcomed numerous feminist icons, including legal scholar Patricia Williams; human rights advocate Dorothy Q. Thomas; feminist science pioneer Anne Fausto-Sterling; and scholar and activist Angela Davis. This fall, we are pleased to highlight the work of Saba Mahmood, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California and expert on issues of secularism, gender, and modernity within the context of Islamist movements in the Middle East and South Asia. Professor Mahmood will reflect on why ethical practice and forms of embodiment matter to questions of feminist politics and analysis. By engaging some common misreadings of her 2005 book *Politics of Piety*, Mahmood urges feminist scholars to critically re-think the normative status accorded to secular conceptions of the self and body in contemporary debates about religion.

Saba Mahmood is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California Berkeley. She is the author of *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*, which received the 2005 Victoria Schuck award from the American Association of Political Science. Mahmood is the recipient of the 2007 Carnegie Corporation Scholar's award, and the Frederick Burkhardt fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (2009-10). Her current project focuses on the politics of religious freedom in the Middle East.



Grace Paley: Speaking Truth to Power

Ujju Agarawal, Yvette Christianse,
Ynestra King, Nancy Kricorian, and Amy
Swerdlow

A Panel Discussion

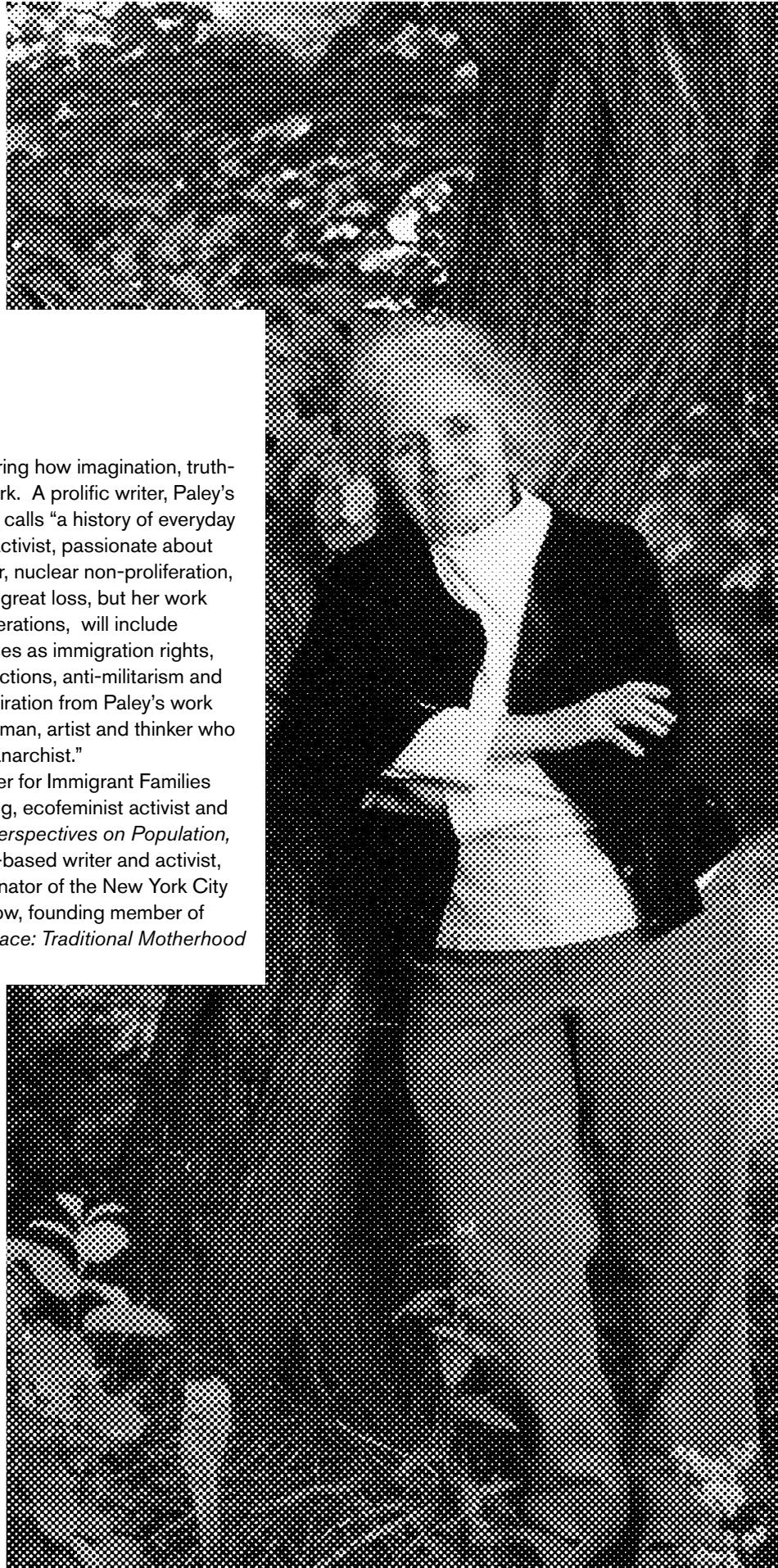
Friday, 12/11

6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

On Grace Paley's birthday, we present a conversation exploring how imagination, truth-telling, and courageous action flow out of Paley's life and work. A prolific writer, Paley's fiction highlights the everyday struggles of women, what she calls "a history of everyday life." In addition to her writing, Paley was also a committed activist, passionate about numerous issues, including women's rights, the Vietnam War, nuclear non-proliferation, and most recently, the war in Iraq. Her death in 2007 was a great loss, but her work continues to inspire. Speakers, coming from a range of generations, will include politically engaged writers, artists, and activists in such causes as immigration rights, housing, human rights, gay and lesbian issues, foreclosure actions, anti-militarism and other important struggles. The speakers have all drawn inspiration from Paley's work and life and demonstrate various affinities to the amazing woman, artist and thinker who described herself as a "combative pacifist and cooperative anarchist."

Speakers will include: Ujju Agarawal, member of the Center for Immigrant Families Collective; Yvette Christianse, poet and novelist; Ynestra King, ecofeminist activist and educator, and editor of *Dangerous Intersections: Feminist Perspectives on Population, Environment, and Development*; Nancy Kricorian, New York-based writer and activist, author of *Zabelle* and *Dreams of Bread and Fire*, and coordinator of the New York City chapter of CODEPINK Women for Peace; and Amy Swerdlow, founding member of Women Strike for Peace and author of *Women Strike for Peace: Traditional Motherhood and Radical Politics in the 1960s*.



Women in Science

“A Lab of One’s Own: A Place to Measure the Broken Symmetries of This Particular Elegant Universe”

A lecture with Melissa Franklin

Wednesday, 10/21

6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

This year’s Roslyn Silver ’27 Science Lecture will be presented by Melissa Franklin, Mallinckrodt Professor of Physics at Harvard University. An experimental particle physicist who studies hadron collisions produced by the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, she works in a collaboration of over 600 international physicists who discovered the top quark, the most massive of known elementary particles. Her work is focused on looking for new particles, which can only be produced by colliding protons at very high energies. She will also be collaborating with 2000 other physicists on experiments using data from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world’s largest and highest-energy particle accelerator, when the LHC is turned on this fall. Professor Franklin will discuss her research and its potential to answer questions about how these elementary constituents of matter come together to create more complex forces, including those forces that may have created the universe. She will also discuss the challenges in navigating the university and the international laboratory in order to make a contribution to this effort, and the importance of having “a lab of one’s own” to allow for independent thinking.

Professor Franklin received her B.Sc. from the University of Toronto and her Doctorate from Stanford University. She worked as a post-doctoral fellow at Lawrence Berkeley Lab, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and as a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard, before joining the Harvard faculty in 1989 and becoming the first woman to gain tenure in the department of physics in 1992.

“Citizenship, Labor and the Biopolitics of the Bioeconomy: Recruiting Female Tissue Donors for Stem Cell Research”

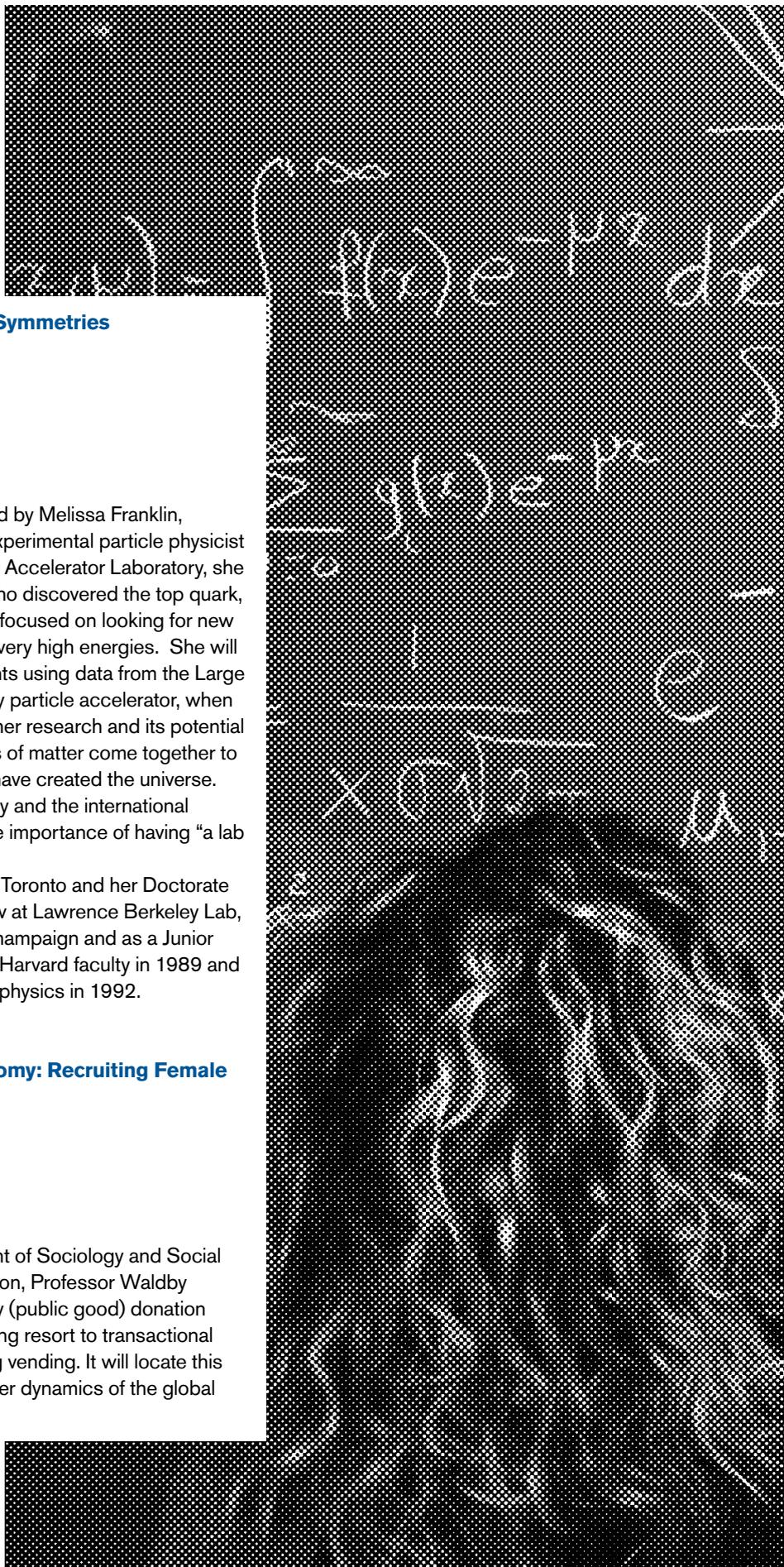
A lecture with Catherine Waldby

Friday, 11/06

6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Catherine Waldby is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy at The University of Sydney, Australia. In this presentation, Professor Waldby will explore the emerging tensions between women’s voluntary (public good) donation of reproductive tissues for stem cell research and the increasing resort to transactional forms of tissue procurement, for example egg sharing and egg vending. It will locate this tension in both a feminist biopolitical analysis and in the broader dynamics of the global bioeconomy.



Erotohistoriography

Elizabeth Freeman

A lecture

Wednesday, 11/04

7:00 PM

The Great Room

New York University

19 University Place, First Floor

Elizabeth Freeman is Associate Professor of English at the University of California, Davis. She specializes in American literature and gender/sexuality/queer studies, and her articles have appeared in numerous scholarly journals. Her first book was *The Wedding Complex: Forms of Belonging in Modern American Culture*, and she is the editor of *Queer Temporalities*, a special double issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian Gay Studies* 13.2/3 (Winter/Spring 2007). Her second book, *Time Binds: Queer Temporalities, Queer Histories*, will be published by Duke University Press next year. Her talk will be drawn from this forthcoming project and frame the project of erotohistoriography—loosely, a project of encountering the past in which the body is an instrument—in terms of its place in a revised history of sexuality. It seeks to offer a revised history of sexuality by centering queer pleasures and proposing the body as site of historical encounter, in and across time. Through these encounters across time, we might get a glimpse of historically specific pleasures and ways of organizing a life that exceed the current cramped politics of same-sex marriage as end game of sexual liberation.

Women, Philosophy, and History: A Conference in Celebration of Eileen O'Neill

Friday and Saturday, 10/02 and 10/03

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

This two-day conference continues the groundbreaking work of Eileen O'Neill '75 by examining the standard narrative of the history of philosophy from a feminist perspective. O'Neill's pioneering scholarship has brought to light the texts and ideas of women in the early modern period, and demonstrated the substantial contributions they made to philosophy. Her work has encouraged the analysis of thinkers as diverse as Marie de Gournay, Margaret Cavendish, Anne Conway, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Anna Maria van Schurman, Mary Astell, Émilie du Châtelet, and Damaris Masham. It has also challenged philosophers to reconsider methodological assumptions that have hidden these women and their works from view. The eminent international scholars gathered for this conference will continue this exploration and discuss the methodological, pedagogical, and philosophical implications of O'Neill's work. The conference also celebrates the impact of O'Neill's commitment to women in philosophy more generally.

Participants include Lanier Anderson (Stanford), Martha Bolton (Rutgers), Desmond Clarke (University College Cork), John Conley (Loyola College, Maryland), Marguerite Deslauriers (McGill University), Karen Detlefsen (University of Pennsylvania), Ann Ferguson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Alan Gabbey (Barnard College), Dan Garber (Princeton University), Don Garrett (New York University), Karen Green (University of Monash, Australia), Gary Hatfield (University of Pennsylvania), Sarah Hutton (Aberystwyth University), Dan Kaufman (University of Colorado), Anne Marie Keyes (Marymount Manhattan College), Marcy Lascano (California State, Long Beach), Ernan McMullin (University of Notre Dame), Stephen Menn (McGill University), Christia Mercer (Columbia University), James Ross (University of Pennsylvania), Marleen Rozemond (University of Toronto), Tad Schmaltz (University of Michigan), Lisa Shapiro (Simon Fraser), Alison Simmons (Harvard University), Robert Sleigh (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Alice Sowaal (San Francisco State University), Connie Titone (Villanova University), Mary Ellen Waithe (Cleveland State University), Sue Weinberg (Hunter College, CUNY), and Eileen O'Neill (University of Massachusetts, Amherst).

Sponsored by: Barnard Center for Research on Women; The Philosophy Departments of Barnard College, Columbia University, Nassau Community College, Princeton University, Queens College (CUNY), Simon Fraser University, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Notre Dame, and University of Pennsylvania; the Provost of Barnard College; the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Columbia University; Office of the Dean of Arts & Humanities, Harvard University; NYU Issues in Modern Philosophy Conference Series, sponsored by the NYU Department of Philosophy and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Dean of Humanities, Department of Philosophy, and Program in Feminist Studies, Stanford University.



Lunchtime Lecture Series

“The Place of Contemporary Art”

with Alexander Alberro

Thursday, 10/08

12:00 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

In this lecture, Alexander Alberro, Virginia Bloedel Wright Associate Professor of Art History at Barnard College, explores forms of art and spectatorship that have emerged in the past two decades and are referred to as “contemporary.” The new modes are varied, covering a span from digital productions and sculptural installations that overwhelm cognition and produce sheer affect, to relational practices that seek to immerse art in the world of everyday life. Together, they have significantly realigned the manner in which art addresses its spectator – indeed, they have constructed the spectator in a new way.

Professor Alberro is the author of *Conceptual Art and the Politics of Publicity*. His essays have appeared in a wide array of journals and exhibition catalogues. He has also edited and co-edited a number of volumes, most recently *Art After Conceptual Art* and *Institutional Critique: An Anthology of Artists' Writings*.

“Negotiating ‘Illegality’ in New Immigrant Destinations”

with Jacqueline Olvera

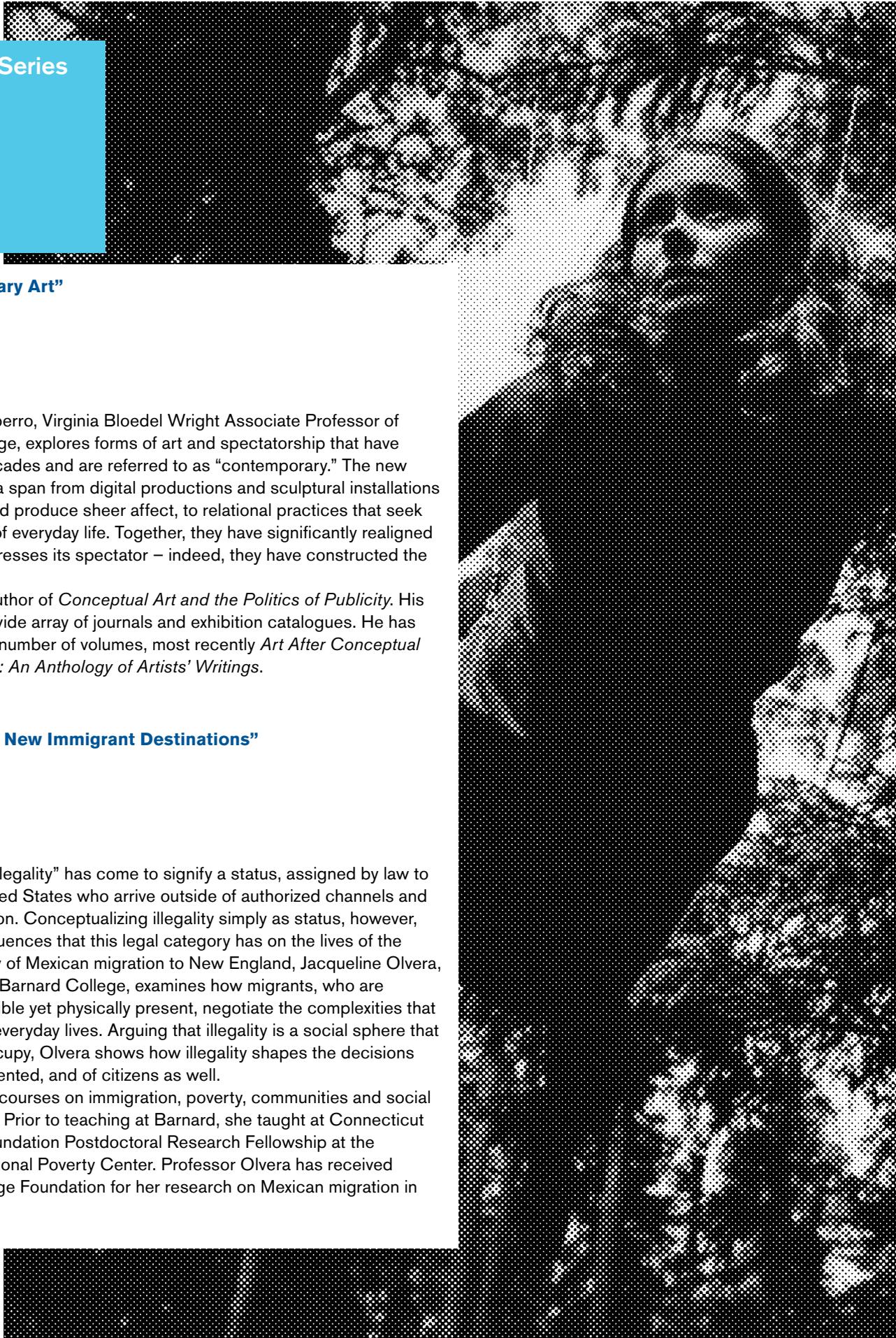
Thursday 11/12

12:00 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Conventionally, immigrant “illegality” has come to signify a status, assigned by law to migrants residing in the United States who arrive outside of authorized channels and without proper documentation. Conceptualizing illegality simply as status, however, overlooks the social consequences that this legal category has on the lives of the undocumented. In her study of Mexican migration to New England, Jacqueline Olvera, Term Assistant Professor at Barnard College, examines how migrants, who are constructed as socially invisible yet physically present, negotiate the complexities that illegality introduces in their everyday lives. Arguing that illegality is a social sphere that unauthorized immigrants occupy, Olvera shows how illegality shapes the decisions and actions of the undocumented, and of citizens as well.

Professor Olvera teaches courses on immigration, poverty, communities and social change, and ethnic conflict. Prior to teaching at Barnard, she taught at Connecticut College and held a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Michigan’s National Poverty Center. Professor Olvera has received funding from the Russell Sage Foundation for her research on Mexican migration in New England.



BCRW Courses:

2009 Fall

Poems from the Women's Movement: A Masterclass Workshop

with Honor Moore

Dates: Tuesdays: 09/15, 11/10, 12/01, 12/08

Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$140

This masterclass workshop will combine reading poems and writing new ones. We will look at some of the great poems written by women between 1966 and 1982 and allow ourselves to be inspired. There was an intensity and passion that can serve to renew the poems we as women write from the lives we are living now at the dawn of the 21st century.

Honor Moore is an award winning poet and nonfiction writer who lives and teaches in New York City. Her collections of poems are *Red Shoes*, *Darling*, and *Memoir*, and she is the author of a verse play, *Mourning Pictures*. Her nonfiction works are *The Bishop's Daughter*, a memoir of her relationship with her father, Bishop Paul Moore, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and a Editors Choice of the *New York Times* and *The White Blackbird*, *A Life of the Painter Margaret Sargent by Her Granddaughter*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book in 1996. She is editor of *Poems from the Women's Movement*. She has taught in the graduate writing programs at The New School and Columbia University School of the Arts. Since 2000, when she was elected to its board, she has been active at PEN American Center. Her awards include fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts in poetry and the New York State Council on the Arts in playwriting.

From Spectacle to Spectator: Feminist Performance as Activism

with Elizabeth Whitney

Dates: Mondays: 10/5, 11/9, 12/7, 1/25, 2/15, 3/15, 4/12, 5/10

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Fee: \$260

From poetry slams to music festivals to burlesque, feminism is a present force in a wide variety of contemporary performance forms. Participants in this course will have the opportunity to discuss recent histories of and contemporary trends in feminist performance, and the ways that such performance offers a vehicle for social justice activism.

We will look at work by artists including (though certainly not limited to) The Guerrilla Girls, Spider Woman Theatre, Split Britches, Karen Finley, Holly Hughes, The Sex Workers Art Show, The Harlem Shake, The Femme Show, Big Moves, Kate Bornstein, Lenelle Moise, Kimberly Dark, Staceyann Chin, Michelle Tea, and Alix Olson. There will be a reading list as well as online materials to view, and some sessions may take place at live performance venues in New York City.

Seeking Your Voice: Poetry Workshop

with Patricia Brody and Eva Miodownik Oppenheim

Dates: Wednesdays: 10/07, 10/21, 11/04, 11/18, 12/02, 12/16

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Fee: \$200

Explore ways to open up your voice and bring breath and space to your poems. Make new discoveries, take greater risks. We'll look at the work of three contemporary poets and suggest exercises

and assignments to stretch your work. We welcome and have successfully engaged poets of all levels and backgrounds, from graduate students steeped in literary study, to physicians just starting to write.

Patricia Brody's new collection, *American Desire*, was selected by Finishing Line Books for the 2009 New Women's Voices Series. Brody practices family therapy in NYC and is editing *Survival of the Soul: Artists Living with Illness*. She teaches American Literature at Boricua College in Harlem.

Eva Miodownik Oppenheim is the author of a book of poems, *Things as They Are*, and a memoir, *The Stork*. Her poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and literary journals. An editor and PR writer, she served as a senior administrator in alumnae affairs at Barnard College for 18 years.

Women's Cultures/ Women's Lives

with Leslie Calman

Dates: Tuesdays: 09/22, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 01/12, 02/09, 03/09, 04/06, 05/04, 06/01

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Fee: \$350

Another year –our 19th – of experiencing the modern world from the comfort of home, complete with spirited discussion among smart women devoted to good books and laughter. This year's reading brings us New Yorkers by way of Holland and Pakistan, native Americans, American slaves and slaveholders, Parisians, British, Australians, Ukrainians, Japanese, Mexican Jews in Berlin, straights, gays. Among the authors: some veterans, many prizewinners, a few first-timers. Join this lively, satisfying group in which you'll probably love the books – but you'll always love the discussion.

Leslie Calman is former Director of the

Barnard Center for Research on Women and current Executive Director of the Mautner Project: The National Lesbian Health Organization.

Reading List:

Joseph O'Neill, *Netherland*

Marianne Wiggins, *The Shadow Catcher*

Toni Morrison, *A Mercy*

Muriel Barbery, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*

George Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*

Joan London, *The Good Parents*

Marina Lewycka, *A Short History of the Tractor in Ukrainian*

Yoko Ogawa, *The Housekeeper and the Professor*

Chloe Aridjis, *Book of Clouds*

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 fifth year teaching at the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

Reading List:

Mary Childers, *Welfare Brat*

Carolyn Kay Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*

Esmeralda Santiago, *When I Was Puerto Rican*

Jill Ker Conway, *The Road from Coorain*

Kim Barnes, *Out of the Wilderness: Coming of Age in Unknown Country*

Mary Crow Dog, *Lakota Woman*

Lucette Lagnado, *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit*

Jennifer Baszile, *The Black Girl Next Door*

Aline Kominsky Crumb, *Need More Love*

continued from page 9

video, is working to raise consciousness so that employers of domestic workers think of their home as a workplace where they can create a good job.

As Dara Silverman, the former Executive Director of JFREJ, states in the video, JFREJ asks employers of domestic workers what they would want in their own job, and they often say, "You would want a clear understanding of what your wages were, of what your responsibilities were; to know how you were going to be evaluated; to get to define your vacation time; to get sick time; to get raises." Dara goes on to say that all of the benefits and protections that people want in their own jobs are what they should be trying to recreate in their home when they employ people.

Please check out our video on our website or on Vimeo, YouTube, or Facebook and share it with your friends, and look out for our upcoming publications on domestic work in *Scholar and Feminist Online* and *New Feminist Solutions*.

1. According to US Census data from 2000, women now make up 46.7% of the workforce, compared to only 37.8% in 1970. (US Census Bureau, "We the People: Women and Men in the United States," Jan. 2005, pg. 11, <http://www.census.gov/prod/2005pubs/censr-20.pdf>)
2. US Census Bureau, "We the People: Women and Men in the United States," Jan. 2005, pg. 11.
3. <http://www.datacenter.org/reports/homeexecsum.pdf>

Multicultural Memoirs: Class, Culture and Creativity in Women's Lives

with Lori Rotskoff

Dates: Wednesdays: 09/16, 10/14, 11/18, 12/16, 01/20, 02/24, 04/07, 05/05, 06/02

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Fee: \$315

This class explores contemporary memoirs by women from a range of cultural and national backgrounds. Women's personal narratives are profoundly shaped by differences in class, race, ethnicity, and religion. This course will introduce you to well-crafted memoirs written by historians, educators, poets, novelists, journalists, artists, and activists. How does a writer's social position and geographical history affect how she understands and constructs her life story? How do authors translate lived experiences of social mobility, immigration, and expatriation into compelling works of literary non-fiction?

Our discussions will explore how women have shaped their life stories into literature, and address how we, as readers, can enrich our own lives by reflecting on them. Participants of all ages and professional backgrounds are welcome to join the class. Come share your thoughts, opinions, and questions with other passionate readers, and gain new insights into women's history and creative expression.

Lori Rotskoff is a cultural historian of

All courses take place in the Barnard Center for Research on Women, 101 Barnard Hall.

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.

- Seeking Your Voice (\$200)
- Multicultural Memoirs (\$315)
- Women's Cultures / Women's Lives (\$350)
- From Spectacle to Spectator (\$260)
- Poems from the Women's Movement (\$140)

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SAVE THE DATE

02/27/10

9:00 AM–6:00 PM

The Scholar & Feminist
Conference XXXV

Feminism & Climate Change

Keynote address by
Majora Carter & Joni Seager

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.

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