

BCRW Newsletter

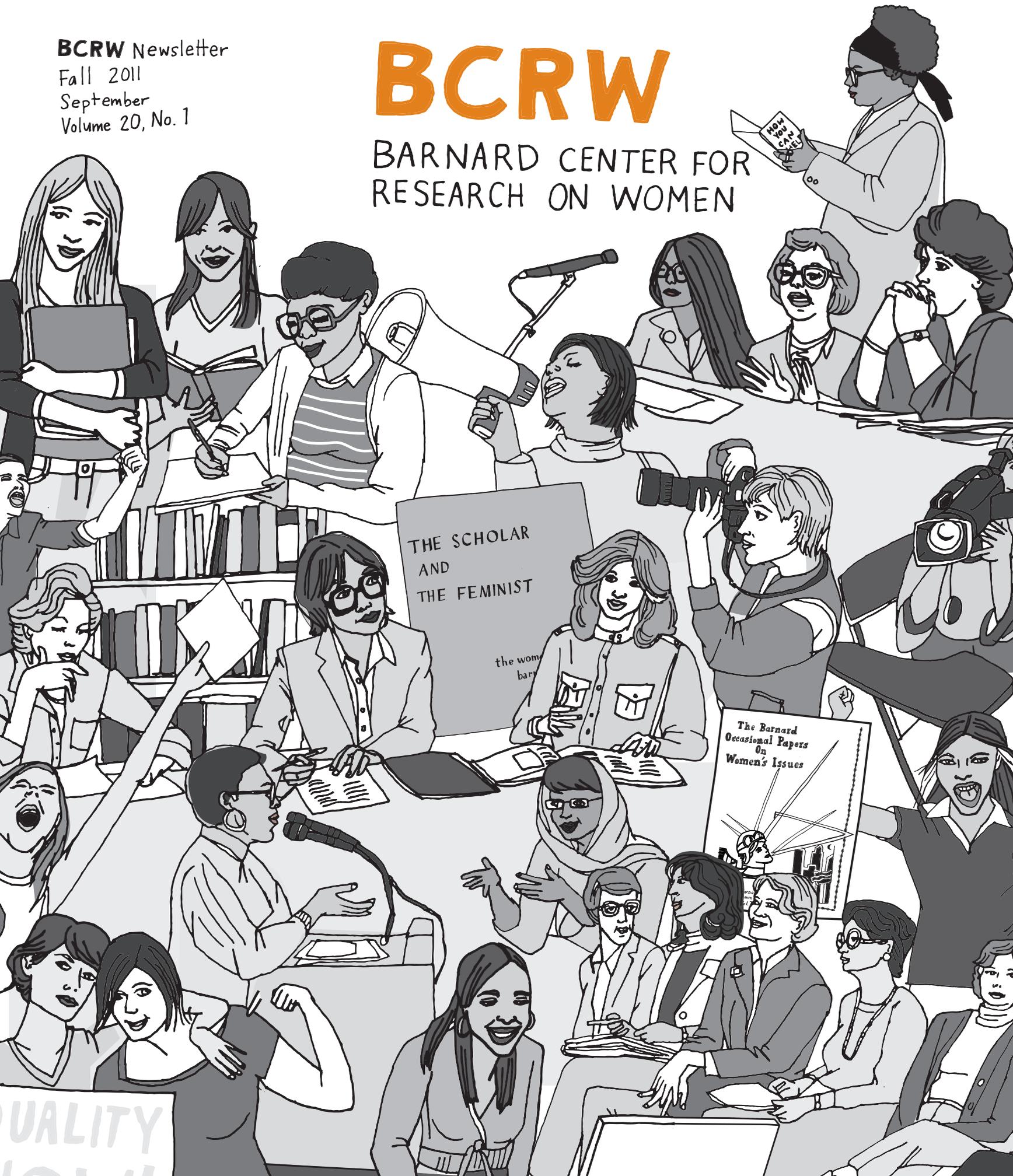
Fall 2011

September

Volume 20, No. 1

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN





Four Decades of Feminist Conversation

In the fall of 1970, a group of Barnard students, faculty, and staff met to discuss how to formally recognize the arrival of the women's movement on campus. A task force was formed and eventually the Barnard Women's Center (now officially called the Barnard Center for Research on Women) was created in 1971. For the past forty years, we have worked to fulfill the Center's original mission, "to assure that women can live and work in dignity, autonomy, and equality," with events, publications, and projects that have continued to redefine and expand the evolving feminist movement. While gender equality and feminist consciousness is still at the heart of our work, we have also taken up issues like environmentalism, disability rights, violence and war, economic justice, and many other contemporary social concerns. We believe that by viewing these issues through a feminist framework, we can expand the existing dialogue and foster new and creative forms of scholarly and activist responses.

This fall, we're presenting a conference in honor of BCRW's 40th anniversary that will highlight the breadth of our work and the way in which the feminist movement in general has expanded to encompass new ideas and modes of action. "Activism and the Academy," a two-day conference on September 23-24, will be an exploration of one of the key concepts of BCRW's work: the relationship between scholarship and action. At the conference, we'll engage in discussions about the future of women's and gender studies, the role of new media in feminist activism, and the way in which activists produce knowledge. We'll focus not only on activist-academic partnerships that are happening on US campuses and in local and national contexts, but also on transnational feminist organizing in Africa and Latin America. We'll have ample time to celebrate and recognize all of the individuals who have contributed to the Center over the years – we're hosting a reception with a performance by Suzanne Vega '81 after the first day of the conference, where we will honor our alumnae and provide an opportunity for them to share their experiences at the Center. I hope you'll join us at the conference, and at this celebratory reception, in September.

The 40th anniversary conference isn't the only event we're excited to host this fall. This year's Helen Pond McIntyre '48 lecture will be given by Wendy Hesford, Professor of English at Ohio State University. Professor Hesford will be lecturing on the role of the humanities in creating human rights and feminist frameworks, a project that connects with work to enhance the study of the humanities that is currently happening at Barnard. BCRW has always been committed to highlighting the exceptional work of Barnard's faculty, and this semester we're especially pleased to have Rebecca Jordan-Young of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department as our Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecturer. In the spirit of our long tradition of expanding the issues typically associated with feminism, we're also presenting a panel on food production and politics with Barnard faculty members Hilary Callahan, Kim F. Hall, Deborah Valenze, and Paige West. This semester's lunchtime lectures will also be given by two faculty members who are presenting new and exciting projects: Helene Foley of the Classics Department and Séverine Autessere of Political Science.

I am pleased and honored to be serving as Acting Director of the Center this semester, while Janet Jakobsen is on leave, and I look forward to seeing you at our events this fall, especially at the anniversary conference.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Castelli
Chair Religion Department
Acting Director BCRW

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Monday–Friday
10am–5pm

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Illustration by Julia Rothman

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A conference exploring new forms of indigenous feminism and feminist agency

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BCRW Projects



BCRW's New Website Design

This fall, we are pleased to announce the launch of BCRW's new website! Our site will continue to provide students, scholars, and activists with access to all of our publications and materials, and also contains new and exciting features that will allow you to explore and share our events, videos, podcasts, and other aspects of our work more readily. Visitors to our website can search our postings by theme or use the tags at the bottom of the page to find out more about issues like reproductive justice, media, transnational feminisms, and science. The website is full of videos, podcasts, and publications that address these issues. New "Videos" and "Podcasts" tabs make our media productions even more accessible, and it's easy to share them on Facebook and Twitter using the buttons at the bottom of each page. Take some time to explore the new site (at our new web address, www.bcrw.barnard.edu) and let us know what you think!

bcrw.barnard.edu

New Feminist Solutions: Desiring Change

BCRW and Queers for Economic Justice (QEJ), a grassroots organization working at the intersections of gender, the economy, race and sexuality, have produced our seventh report in the *New Feminist Solutions* series called "Desiring Change." This report builds on a 2007 gathering at Barnard of 21 social justice organizations from around the country, and ongoing collaborations with QEJ around the need for economic and racial justice organizing to integrate an understanding of gender, sexuality and desire. The report offers new models for organizing on a range of issues and is available on our website and will be in print this fall.

barnard.edu/bcrw/publications/nfs

Scholar & Feminist Online Critical Conceptions: Technology, Justice, and the Global Reproductive Market

This issue of *The Scholar & Feminist Online*, edited by Rebecca Jordan-Young, brings together scholars whose works tie reproductive technologies to frameworks for reproductive justice. "Critical Conceptions" bridges two vital threads of feminist thought that are only rarely brought into conversation with one another: legal, market, and scientific analyses of reproductive technologies and reproductive justice analyses. Feminists have been visionaries as well as critics, long imagining how reproductive technologies might be used to portend the future, where social justice guides biological and social reproduction. Sparked by conversations begun at the 2009 conference, "New Technologies of Life," this issue delves into the many repercussions of new forms of reproduction.

www.barnard.edu/sfonline

BCRW Calendar

09/



Friday, September 23–
Saturday, September 24
10:00 am–5:00 pm

Activism and the Academy: Celebrating 40 Years of Scholarship and Feminism

A conference in honor of the 40th anniversary of BCRW

Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

10/

Monday, October 3
12:00 pm

Julia Ward Howe's *Hippolytus*: Remaking Greek Tragedy for Nineteenth- Century America

A lunchtime lecture with Helene Foley
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Monday, October 10–
Tuesday, October 11

Preventing Violence, Promoting Justice

A conference co-sponsored with Sakhi for South Asian Women and the Women of Color Policy Network at the New York University Wagner School of Public Service
Kimmel Center, New York University

Tuesday, October 11
6:30 pm

“Sex” is Not a Mechanism: Making “Sex-Specific Medicine” More Scientific

The Roslyn S. Silver '27 Science lecture with
Rebecca Jordan-Young
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall



Friday, October 14–
Saturday, October 15
**Injured Cities, Urban
Afterlives**

A conference co-sponsored with the Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference at Columbia University
Miller Theater and Wood Auditorium,
Columbia University

Tuesday, October 18–
Wednesday, October 19
**North American Biodiversity,
Territorial Dispossession,
and Indigenous Women's
Responses**

A conference sponsored with New York University's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Latino Studies, and Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, and the Institute for Latin American Studies at Columbia University
King Juan Carlos of Spain Center,
New York University,
53 Washington Square South



Monday, October 24
6:30 pm

States of Exception: Children's Human Rights and the Humanities

The Helen Pond McIntyre '48 lecture with
Wendy Hesford
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

11/

Tuesday, November 1
6:30 pm

What's on Your Plate? The History and Politics of Food

A panel discussion with Hilary Callahan, Kim F. Hall, Deborah Valenze, and Paige West
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Tuesday, November 15
12:00 pm

Seeing Like a Peacebuilder: an Ethnography of International Intervention

A lunchtime lecture with Séverine Autesserre
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



The Barnard Center for Research on Women opened our doors in the fall of 1971, after a year of planning, hard work, and negotiation by a small but committed group of faculty members, alumnae, students, and administrators. As Catharine Stimpson, the Center's first Acting Director, noted in an article in the *New York Times* about the newly established Women's Center, the Center was "more than a place or a project." The Center's founding signaled a new awareness of the feminist movement on the Barnard campus and in the wider academic community, while the Center became a much-needed outlet for students, faculty, and community members who were interested in working for gender equity in all contexts, from the classroom to the workplace to the home, and beyond.

Conversation, collaboration, and sometimes controversy, have always been key characteristics of the Center's programming and projects. In the years directly following its founding, the Center became a place where discussions about the new feminist movement, as well as the emerging field of women's studies, could take place. The Center tackled topics and provided resources about issues directly affecting women in the Barnard community, as well as women beyond the College's gates. BCRW's first public program, hosted in January 1972, was a panel discussion entitled "Is There Male Chauvinism at Columbia?" – described with dry humor by the Center's first permanent

Director Jane Gould as "an evening of high comedy." The Center's first major conference, "Women Learn from Women," attempted to cover nearly every major concern of the maturing feminist movement, from education to child care, abortion to consciousness-raising, and more. Projected attendance for that conference was 400 people, but nearly 1,000 attended – a sure sign that individuals throughout the community were attracted to the Center's work and philosophy.

Over the years, the Center has continued to tap into the energy and inspiration of feminist scholars and activists. This fall, in honor of the past four decades of social justice and feminist work, we are celebrating the past and looking forward to the next steps for BCRW with a series of events and projects to mark this occasion. On September 23 and 24, we will host "Activism and the Academy," a two-day conference that will explore one of BCRW's key projects: our commitment to bridging the gap between scholarship and feminist activism. This commitment to bringing scholars and activists together in conversation and collaboration has always been at the center of our work. We've worked to forge alliances between activists and the academy through our programming, including our cornerstone, nationally-recognized annual conference, *The Scholar and the Feminist*; and through our publications, which have grown to include *S&F Online*, a webjournal of feminist theories and women's movements, as well as the *New Feminist*

Solutions series of reports written in collaboration with scholars and organizations who share our vision of linking feminist knowledge with multiple struggles for social justice. The conference will feature numerous panels on the issues surrounding the relationship between activism and the academy – a relationship that can be simultaneously productive, exciting, challenging, and frustrating – as well as remarks from our keynote speakers, Sonia Alvarez and Mamphela Ramphele, two scholar-activists whose work truly embodies and reflects both the tensions and promises of these types of collaborations. For more about our keynote speakers, please see their biographies below, and see the full conference schedule on page 13.

The fortieth anniversary conference also gives us a chance to specially recognize the Barnard students who have worked at and with BCRW over the years, providing the skills, ideas, and creativity necessary to achieve all of this work. In honor of all of the past and present BCRW students, we are hosting a reception on Friday evening after the first day of the conference. Suzanne Vega '81 (a former BCRW student and long-time supporter of the Center) will perform and there will be a chance for alumnae to share their stories about their time at the Center. We hope that you will get in touch with us before the conference if you have memories of your time at BCRW to share – and please be sure to attend the conference and especially the reception!

Anniversaries are usually a time devoted to looking back and recalling past successes and challenges. While this is certainly part of the events we have planned for this fall, we're also intending for this anniversary to be a time for looking forward to the future, both of the Center and of feminist movements more broadly. This year, in conjunction with the Center's fortieth anniversary, we are kicking off a new and exciting Transnational Initiative, a multi-year project that will connect BCRW and Barnard College to feminist work happening transnationally, and will draw on the expertise and interest of our faculty and students. This past year, the Center's Associate Director, Catherine Sameh, conducted a study of the many different models, visions and projects of transnational feminist work and scholarship. Through research, interviews with Barnard faculty and other experts

in transnational feminisms, and contact with international activists (including a group of feminist activists in Hong Kong and feminist scholars in Beijing, which you can read more about on page 8), we have identified four key areas of scholarship/activism that we'll pursue through collaborative projects. These four key areas are gender, art and performance; religion and gender; the global economy; and new social movements – all areas with much overlap and many opportunities for intersectional analysis. These collaborations might include workshops, conferences, new curriculum, joint teaching across transnational lines, study abroad, and publications. Already, with the help of Africana Studies faculty members and BCRW Faculty Fellows Kim F. Hall and Yvette Christiansë (see page 11) we've solidified a relationship with the African Gender Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, and are in conversation with AGI director, Jane Bennett, about possible faculty exchanges and conferences over the next four years. One of the first events in the transnational initiative, falling under the theme of religion and gender, will be a salon-style discussion next spring on gender and Islam. We are looking forward to kicking off this project at the anniversary conference, and to embarking on this new initiative, that will hopefully be one of the highlights of our next forty years.



Conference Keynote Speakers

Sonia E. Alvarez is Leonard J. Horwitz Professor of Latin American Politics and Studies and Director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has written extensively on social movements, feminisms, NGOs, transnational activism, and democratization. She is the author of *Engendering Democracy in Brazil: Women's Movements in Transition Politics* and co-editor of *The Making of Social Movements in Latin America: Identity, Strategy, and Democracy*, and *Cultures of Politics/Politics of Cultures: Re-visioning Latin American Social Movements*. Her current research centers on the articulation of race and anti-racist politics among feminist movements in Brazil and she is working with a team of Latin American feminist scholars on the “sidestreaming” of feminist discourses and practices into parallel social movements throughout the region.

Mamphela Ramphele is a South African academic, activist, and writer who has worked extensively in both the public and private sectors. She is currently the Executive Chair of Letsema Circle, a Cape Town based transformation advisory company, where she is director of Major Companies. She is the Chair of the South African Technology and Innovation Agency, which was established in 2009 to help stimulate the use of technology to address socioeconomic challenges and promote sustainable economic growth. She served as a Managing Director of the World Bank from May 2000 to July 2004. Prior to joining the Bank, she was Chancellor of the University of Cape Town. She is an author of many important titles about critical socio-economic issues in South Africa and has received numerous prestigious national and international awards acknowledging her scholarship, her service to the community, and her leading role in raising development issues and spearheading projects throughout South Africa.



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Volunteers supported by International Exchange Association of CUC

UNESCO
on Media & Gender Image Communication • Education

联合国教科文组织
“媒介与女性”教育影像传播·全民

Organized by: Communication University of China
UNESCO-CUC Chair on Media and Gender
Co-organized by: MLeague & Exchange Association
Hosted by: Media and Gender Institute

主办：中国传媒大学、联合国教科文组织
合办：传媒高等教育国际联盟、中国传媒大学
承办：中国传媒大学媒介与女性研究中心

Report from China

BCRW Associate Director Catherine Sameh reports on the UNESCO Chair in Media and Gender International Forum 2011 in Shanghai and Beijing

From May 19-24, I had the great privilege and pleasure of attending the UNESCO Chair in Media and Gender International Forum 2011 in Shanghai and Beijing, thanks to an invitation from Steven Cui and Debora Spar. In addition to several Chinese scholars, 5 international guests and about 20 graduate students from the Communication University of China (CUC) attended the Media and Gender forum held all day on May 20.

On the afternoon of my arrival on May 19, I participated in a roundtable discussion with the theme: "Future Image and the Responsibility of Higher Education in Media and Communication." Among the possible themes identified by the organizers, I chose to speak about the social justice component of media, identifying the ways that BCRW and our activist partners use online and print media to produce and disseminate feminist knowledge.

The Gender and Media Forum took place all day on May 20. There were three sessions: Education for All & Women's Development; The Innovation of Gender Communication and Its Application; and Image Communication & Female Culture. My talk, "Transnational Feminist Networks and New Media Technologies," was in the first session, Education for All & Women's Development. I talked about the ways in which transnational feminist networks use new media technologies to coalesce new political cultures. The other presentations were: "Aspiring Careers: Gendered and Mediated Intentions of Children From Four National Contexts," by Patrice Buzzanell (Purdue); "In Their Own Voices: Muslim Women In the Internet Era," by Marguerite Moritz (University of Colorado); "Three Levels of Work for Education for all Women's Development," by Minka Zlateva (University of Sofia); and "Gendering Nation, Gendering Journalism?," by Iiris Ruoho (University of Tampere).

On May 22, we toured the campus of CUC with Professor Luo Qing, Deputy Director of the Department of International Exchange and Cooperation of the Communication University of China (CUC). That evening, I gave a talk to undergraduate students in the Media and Gender program at CUC on gender roles in US media. The students in the program study everything from animation to information technology to media theory, so their questions ranged from how to achieve gender

equality in broadcasting to representation to the role of women in transforming the field of media. I tried to emphasize the importance of feminism to shifting media content, analyses, culture and practices.

It was a great privilege to participate in this conference and travel to China. In addition to visiting different parts of Shanghai and Beijing as well as historic sites in such a short period of time, and glimpsing snapshots of a complex and dynamic country, I was able to familiarize scholars from China, Finland, Bulgaria, Australia, the US and New Zealand with the work of BCRW and Barnard College. Professor Liqun Liu, Chair of the Media and Gender Institute and Vice President of CUC, is very interested in building the Institute by bringing more feminist analysis, scholarship, and visiting feminist scholars to her program and is very keen on collaborating with BCRW.

From May 24-27, I went to Hong Kong on behalf of BCRW to meet with feminist activists working on gender and labor issues. I met with Debby Chan from Students and Scholars Against Corporate Misbehavior (SACOM) and May Wong from Globalization Monitor. Both NGOs primarily track health and safety violations of workers in Hong Kong and mainland China by big companies. Globalization Monitor worked with women battery workers in four subsidiary factories of Gold Peak Battery International who were found to have cadmium poisoning. The women workers led a successful campaign for safe working conditions and labor rights against amazing odds. Both SACOM and Globalization Monitor are interested in working with BCRW on the intersections between labor, feminism and globalization.

These potential collaborations with the Media and Gender Institute of CUC in Beijing and with SACOM and Globalization Monitor serve multiple goals of our transnational feminisms initiative: to build relationships with scholars, artists, students and activists in different corners of the globe through the exploration of gender and feminism; to explore the similar and different historical and political contexts of women's political and intellectual participation in different societies; and to consider what it means to work collectively across transnational lines with various differences in resources, capacity and social location.



Women's Studies & the Humanities

As an institution with a liberal arts philosophy, Barnard College offers an education that is deeply embedded in the study of the humanities. The humanities, as a set of disciplines exploring the human condition by examining beliefs, creative production, and critical inquiry across history, provide us with ways of thinking and speaking about what it means to be human. They include disciplines like history, philosophy, religion, languages, literature, cultural studies, and many other fields. An education based in the humanities fosters skills like creative thinking and analysis and provides a lens through which to explore crucial questions about our society. Similarly, the Barnard Center for Research on Women has always used feminist inquiry to explore the issues of the day, providing alternatives to injustice, violence, and inequality. This fall, we present a lecture by Wendy S. Hesford, Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University, that will take up many of the questions that have been posed both by a humanities framework

and by scholars working with a feminist perspective. We are also pleased to support a new Humanities Initiative at Barnard that will further some of these pressing questions about the role of the humanities in academic and public life.

Why should we be concerned with teaching and studying the humanities? What can these modes of inquiry offer us? We ask these questions at a time when fewer undergraduates are choosing to major in humanities-based disciplines, and when more and more colleges and universities are emphasizing pre-professional programs and other majors that lead directly into certain careers. Typical answers within the academic community have tended to focus on the pragmatic reasons to encourage humanistic study; for instance, emphasizing the importance of exposing students to ancient and canonical texts, or providing them with a common “language” to discuss philosophical questions. But what if we offer an alternative reason for why the humanities matter? What if knowledge and

intellectual exploration are valuable in their own right? Thinking about the importance of the humanities sparks a broader debate about how our society assigns value and how it articulates specific values about knowledge, creativity, and scholarship.

The work of this year's Helen Pond McIntyre lecturer, Wendy S. Hesford, also provides us with new and expansive ways of understanding how different scholarly frameworks—drawing on disciplines like women's studies, human rights, and philosophy—can be applied to international human rights law. Professor Hesford has produced writing and research in areas including rhetorical theory, studies of visual culture, autobiography, and transnational feminism. Her most recent project, on which she will be lecturing at Barnard on Monday, October 24, is concerned with the ways in which the figure of the child is represented in human rights law. This work looks at representations of children who have been made vulnerable by their social and political standing (for example, as stateless children, children of undocumented immigrants, and children born of wartime rape). By using a humanities-based analysis to explore how these representations are constructed, it is possible to formulate new legal, humanitarian, and political responses to the issue of children's human rights. Rather than using representations of vulnerable individuals to “turn passive or silent voices into speech that compels listeners,” our goal should be to “reconfigure rhetorical listening and witnessing in ethical terms.”¹ Using the humanities to contextualize such representations socially and historically can help us formulate new responses to violence and governmental oppression.

This fall, a new Humanities Initiative at Barnard will also begin the work of encouraging and fostering discussions about the value of the humanities here on campus. This evolving project was created by three members of the Barnard faculty: Taylor Carman of the Philosophy Department, Nancy Worman of the Classics department, and Elizabeth Castelli, who is a Professor of Religion and will also be serving as Acting Director of BCRW for the 2011-2012 year. The Initiative seeks to identify and explore key debates within the humanities that have sparked controversy and advanced understanding, both in academic communities and the larger public sphere. With the goal of establishing a Center for the Humanities at Barnard, the first project taken up by this Initiative will be a series of lectures over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, by distinguished scholars who are engaged in formative ideas in the study of the humanities. This fall, the Humanities Initiative will host two lectures, one with Amy Hollywood (Professor of Christian Studies at the Harvard Divinity School) on Wednesday, October 12 and one with Anthony Grafton (Professor of History at Princeton University) on Thursday, October 27. For more information on these lectures, please visit www.barnard.edu/events. And please join us for Wendy Hesford's lecture on October 24 to learn more and continue this conversation about the value of humanistic and feminist inquiry.

¹ Wendy S. Hesford. “Documenting Violations: Rhetorical Witnessing and the Spectacle of Distant Suffering.” *Biography* 21.7 (Winter 2004): 104-144.



Yvette Christiansë



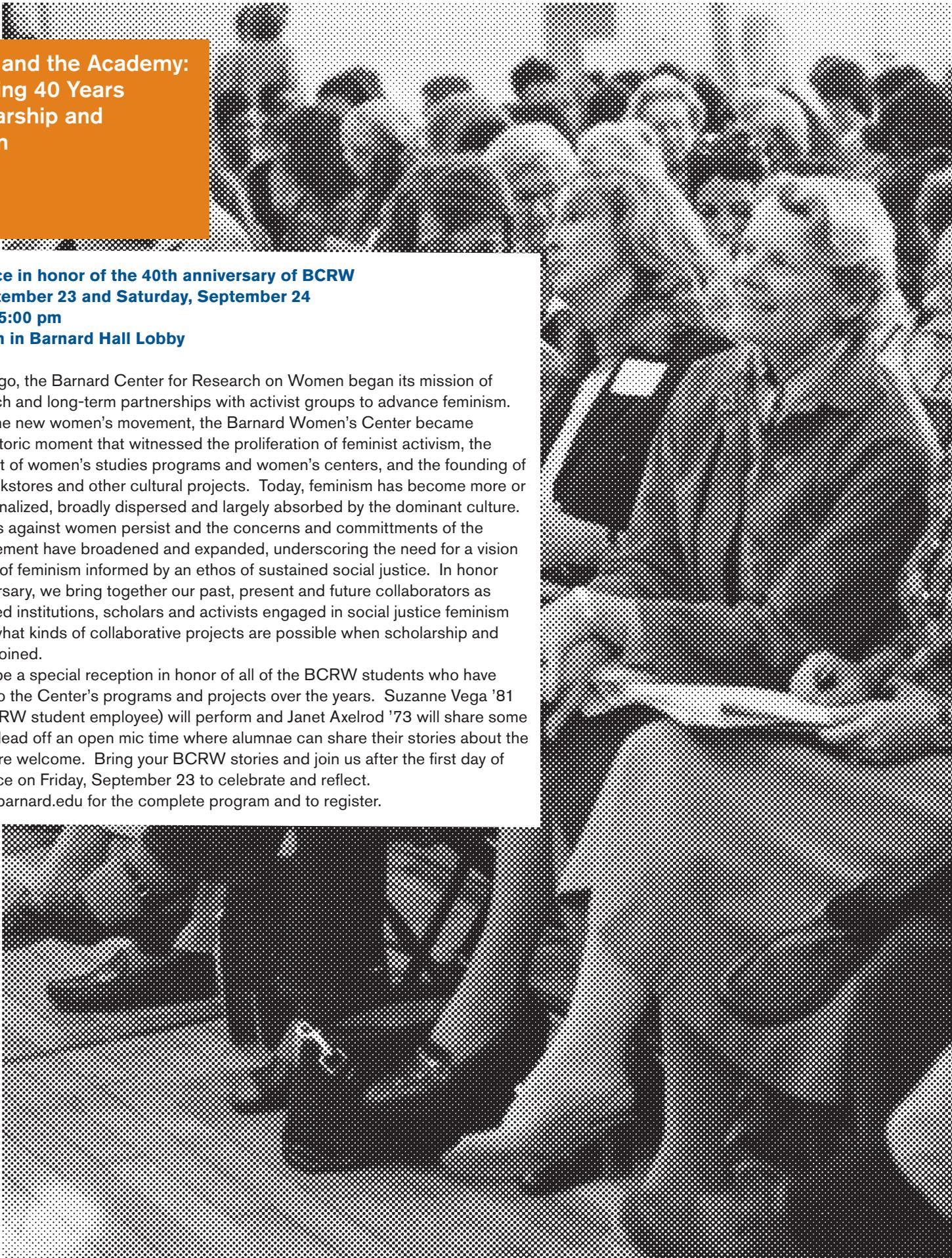
Kim F. Hall

BCRW Faculty Fellows

In honor of BCRW's 40th anniversary and looking forward to the next phase of our work, BCRW has started a new Faculty Fellows Initiative, which will honor faculty members who have contributed to the Center and enable them to be further involved in Center projects. The first two Faculty Fellows are Kim F. Hall, Lucyle Hook Chair and Professor of English and Africana Studies, and Yvette Christiansë, Professor of Africana Studies and English, who will lead the development of the BCRW transnational project.

Professor Hall specializes in early modern British Literature and Culture, Visual Culture and Food Studies. She wrote the groundbreaking book, *Things of Darkness: Economies of Race and Gender in Early Modern England*, and her current research project examines race, gender, and labor in the Anglo-Caribbean sugar trade in the 17th century.

Professor Christiansë is a South African-born poet, novelist and author, whose award-winning poetry has been published in the U.S., South Africa, Australia, Canada, France and Italy. She is also the author of *Toni Morrison: An Ethical Poetics* (forthcoming, Fordham University Press, Fall 2011). Her current project focuses on representations of Liberated Africans or Recaptives between 1807 and the close of the Nineteenth Century.



Activism and the Academy: Celebrating 40 Years of Scholarship and Feminism

**A conference in honor of the 40th anniversary of BCRW
Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24
10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby**

Forty years ago, the Barnard Center for Research on Women began its mission of using research and long-term partnerships with activist groups to advance feminism. Inspired by the new women's movement, the Barnard Women's Center became part of an historic moment that witnessed the proliferation of feminist activism, the establishment of women's studies programs and women's centers, and the founding of women's bookstores and other cultural projects. Today, feminism has become more or less institutionalized, broadly dispersed and largely absorbed by the dominant culture. Yet, injustices against women persist and the concerns and commitments of the feminist movement have broadened and expanded, underscoring the need for a vision and practice of feminism informed by an ethos of sustained social justice. In honor of our anniversary, we bring together our past, present and future collaborators as well as kindred institutions, scholars and activists engaged in social justice feminism to consider what kinds of collaborative projects are possible when scholarship and activism are joined.

There will be a special reception in honor of all of the BCRW students who have contributed to the Center's programs and projects over the years. Suzanne Vega '81 (a former BCRW student employee) will perform and Janet Axelrod '73 will share some remarks and lead off an open mic time where alumnae can share their stories about the Center. All are welcome. Bring your BCRW stories and join us after the first day of the conference on Friday, September 23 to celebrate and reflect.

Visit bcrw.barnard.edu for the complete program and to register.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

10–10:30 AM

Opening remarks*Janet Jakobsen*

10:30 AM– 12 PM

Keynote address*Sonia Alvarez*

12:15–1:30 PM

Concurrent panels I

- A. The Multiple Futures of Gender and Sexuality Studies
- B. Writing, New Media, and Feminist Activism
- C. Living and Working in the Borderlands

1:45–3:00 PM

Concurrent panels II

- A. Women's Literature and Feminist Learning
- B. Archives & Activism: The Contemporary Turn
- C. Transnational Feminisms Across the Americas

3:30–5:00 PM

Plenary panel: "Expanding Feminism: Collaborations for Social Justice"

5–6:30 PM

Reception*Performance by Suzanne Vega '81***SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

10:30 AM–12 PM

Keynote address*Mamphela Ramphele*

12:15–1:30 PM

Concurrent panels III

- A. Social Justice and Civic Engagement in the Classroom
- B. Using Knowledge, Advancing Activism
- C. Academic / Activist Partnerships in Mexico

1:45–3:00 PM

Concurrent panels IV

- A. Campus Activism
- B. Activist Research: Working in Communities
- C. The Feminist Ethnographer's Dilemma

3:30–5:00 PM

Plenary panel: "Building and Rebuilding Societies in Africa"

States of Exception: Children's Human Rights and the Humanities

Wendy S. Hesford

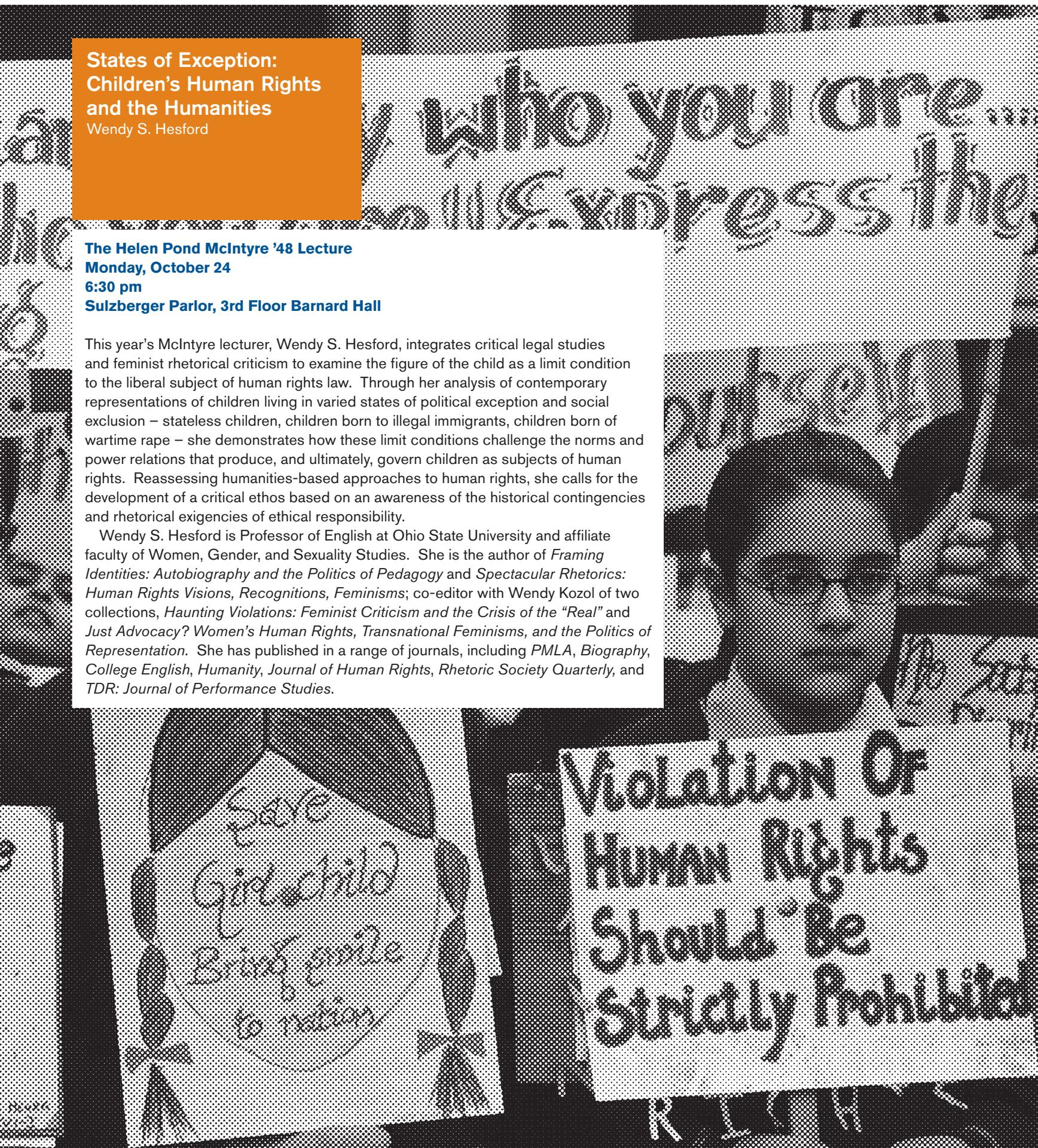
**The Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture
Monday, October 24**

6:30 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

This year's McIntyre lecturer, Wendy S. Hesford, integrates critical legal studies and feminist rhetorical criticism to examine the figure of the child as a limit condition to the liberal subject of human rights law. Through her analysis of contemporary representations of children living in varied states of political exception and social exclusion – stateless children, children born to illegal immigrants, children born of wartime rape – she demonstrates how these limit conditions challenge the norms and power relations that produce, and ultimately, govern children as subjects of human rights. Reassessing humanities-based approaches to human rights, she calls for the development of a critical ethos based on an awareness of the historical contingencies and rhetorical exigencies of ethical responsibility.

Wendy S. Hesford is Professor of English at Ohio State University and affiliate faculty of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is the author of *Framing Identities: Autobiography and the Politics of Pedagogy* and *Spectacular Rhetorics: Human Rights Visions, Recognitions, Feminisms*; co-editor with Wendy Kozol of two collections, *Haunting Violations: Feminist Criticism and the Crisis of the "Real"* and *Just Advocacy? Women's Human Rights, Transnational Feminisms, and the Politics of Representation*. She has published in a range of journals, including *PMLA*, *Biography*, *College English*, *Humanity*, *Journal of Human Rights*, *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, and *TDR: Journal of Performance Studies*.



“Sex” is Not a Mechanism: Making “Sex-Specific Medicine” More Scientific

Rebecca Jordan-Young



The Roslyn S. Silver '27 Science Lecture

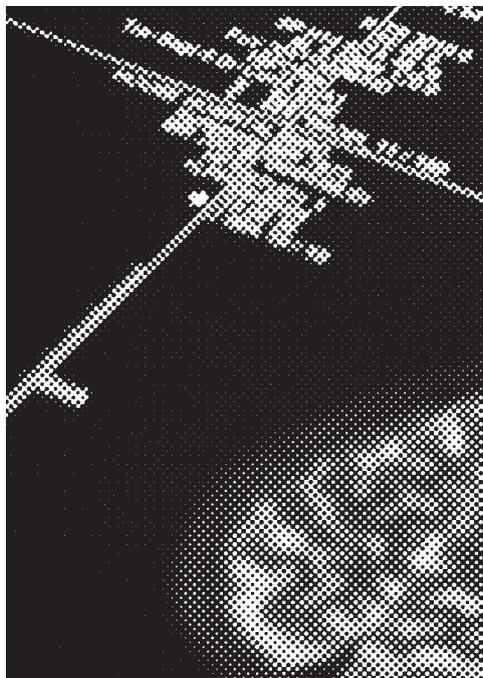
Tuesday, October 11

6:30 pm

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Since the women's health movement blossomed in the 1970s, there has been an ever-increasing trend toward examining all aspects of human health for evidence of sex differences. But some of the movement's major achievements - such as a federal mandate to collect and analyze data by sex in all health research - may paradoxically turn out to be obstacles for understanding health differences between and within sex/gender groups. Building on her earlier work in *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences* and using examples from both physical and mental health research, this year's Silver Science lecture by Rebecca Jordan-Young will review some basic questions about measurement in “sex-specific” medicine that could revolutionize the field and yield research and clinical practice that is actually far more specific and scientific than the current approach. What kind of variable is “sex,” and can it be measured separately from “gender”? When we have information on specific biological mechanisms underlying health differences, what does the variable “sex” add to our analyses?

Rebecca Jordan-Young received her A.B. in political science and women's studies from Bryn Mawr College and her Doctorate in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University. A specialist in study design and measurement, she conducted epidemiological research on HIV/AIDS, urban health, and drug use before joining the Barnard faculty in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department in 2004. She has been a Health Disparities Research Scholar supported by the NIH. She is author of *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences*.



What's on Your Plate? The History and Politics of Food

Hilary Callahan, Kim F. Hall,
Deborah Valenze, and Paige West

A panel discussion

Tuesday, November 1

6:30 pm

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

How much do you know about the food you eat? Food production and the politics surrounding it have an enormous impact on our environment and economy. In recent years, scientists and activists have raised concerns about the sustainability and security of our food systems here in the US and around the world, but food has always been a driving force in international and domestic policy. Barnard faculty members Hilary Callahan, Kim F. Hall, Deborah Valenze, and Paige West will join us for an interdisciplinary conversation about the past and present social, geopolitical, rhetorical, and environmental factors that influence how food – including items as seemingly ordinary as sugar, coffee, milk, and corn – shapes culture and politics.

Hilary Callahan, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, teaches courses in Plant Evolution and Diversity, Applied Ecology and Evolution, Global Change Ecology, and Evolutionary Genetics and oversees the living collections of the Arthur Ross Greenhouse on the roof of Milbank Hall.

Kim F. Hall, Lucyle Hook Chair and Professor of English, is currently working on a book, tentatively entitled *Sweet Taste of Empire*, which examines women, labor, and race in the Anglo-Caribbean sugar trade during the seventeenth century.

Deborah Valenze, Professor of History, has received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, among other scholarships and awards. Her most recent book, *Milk: A Local and Global History*, has been published by Yale University Press.

Paige West, Associate Professor of Anthropology, researches and writes about the relationship between society and the environment. Her most recent books are *From Modern Production to Imagined Primitive: The World of Coffee from Papua New Guinea*, *Conservation is our Government now: The Politics of Ecology in Papua New Guinea*, and, co-edited with James G. Carrier, *Virtualism, Governance, and Practice: Vision and Execution in Environmental Conservation*.



North American Biodiversity, Territorial Dispossession, and Indigenous Women's Responses

A conference

Tuesday, October 18 and Wednesday, October 19

**King Juan Carlos of Spain Center at New York University
53 Washington Square South**

The overlap between bio-diverse and indigenous geographical areas of the world has led to a new wave of territorial dispossession. This conference will explore new forms of indigenous feminism and feminist agency being forged in the current round of struggles for the protection of territory and autonomy in Mexico and other parts of the world. Indigenous women's leadership in Mexico is transforming gendered relations within their communities, as well as race relations among indigenous activists and feminists. This conference will bring together indigenous legal scholars, feminist activists, anthropologists, geographers, and economists from all over Mexico and will also expand the reach of conversation and analysis to other parts of Latin America, the United States and places like Canada, Papua New Guinea, Australia and Africa.

Co-sponsored with New York University's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Latino Studies, and Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, and the Institute for Latin American Studies at Columbia University.



Preventing Violence, Promoting Justice

Alisa Del Tufo, Loretta J. Ross,
and Karen Morgaine

A conference

Monday, October 10 and Tuesday, October 11
Kimmel Center, New York University

Sakhi for South Asian Women exists to end violence against women. They unite survivors, communities, and institutions to eradicate domestic violence, working to create strong and healthy communities. Sakhi uses an integrated approach that combines support and empowerment through service delivery, community engagement, media advocacy, and policy initiatives. This conference, the first in their twenty-plus years of existence, will provide the opportunity to explore the intersections among domestic violence, immigration, economic justice, health and other related movements for social justice and to mobilize action between and beyond current frameworks. Speakers include:

Alisa Del Tufo, Founder and Director of Threshold Collaborative, an organization that uses narrative and community opinion gathering to develop place-based solutions that privilege the voices of marginalized people. She is the Founder and former Director of CONNECT, as well as of Sanctuary for Families. Through transformative education, Ms. Del Tufo has pioneered programs that help victims, children, community members, service providers, clergy, social workers, and batterers examine and change the assumptions that perpetuate family violence.

Loretta J. Ross, National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective. One of the first African American women to direct a rape crisis center in the United States in the 1970s, she also founded the national Center for Human Rights Education based in Atlanta, Georgia. In 2004, Ms. Ross was the leading force behind the 'March for Women's Lives'—the largest protest march in U.S. history with more than one million participants. Ms. Ross has also been a keynote speaker at numerous statewide and national conferences focusing on human rights, reproductive justice, and sexual and domestic violence. She lectures frequently on human rights, women's rights, hate groups and right wing organizations.

Karen Morgaine, Professor of Sociology at California State University. She conducts extensive research on the intersections of Domestic Violence and Human Rights in the United States. Dr. Morgaine uses qualitative and participatory action research methods to examine power and privilege, particularly racial/ethnic privilege, in social movements.

Hosted by the Women of Color Policy Network at the New York University Wagner School of Public Service. Co-sponsored with Sakhi for South Asian Women.

For more information, please visit www.sakhiconference2011.eventbrite.com or www.sakhi.org



Injured Cities, Urban Afterlives

A conference

Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15

Miller Theater and Wood Auditorium, Columbia University

What are the effects of catastrophe on cities, their inhabitants, and the larger world? How can we address the politics of terror with which states react to their vulnerability? This conference, convened ten years after September 11, 2001, aims to explore the effects of catastrophe and to imagine more life-affirming modes of redress and reinvention. In a series of presentations and conversations, an international group of artists, writers, and activists will imagine creative responses to disaster and initiate a new collective memory of the events of September 11. Speakers include Ariella Azoulay, Nina Bernstein, Hazel Carby, Teddy Cruz, Ann Jones, Dinh Q. Lê, Shirin Neshat, Walid Raad, Saskia Sassen, Karen Till, Clive van den Berg, Eyal Weizman, and narrators from the September 11, 2001 Oral History Project at Columbia.

Co-sponsored with the Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference at Columbia University.

To register, please visit <http://socialdifference.org/injuredcities>



Julia Ward Howe's
Hippolytus: Remaking
Greek Tragedy for
Nineteenth-Century
America

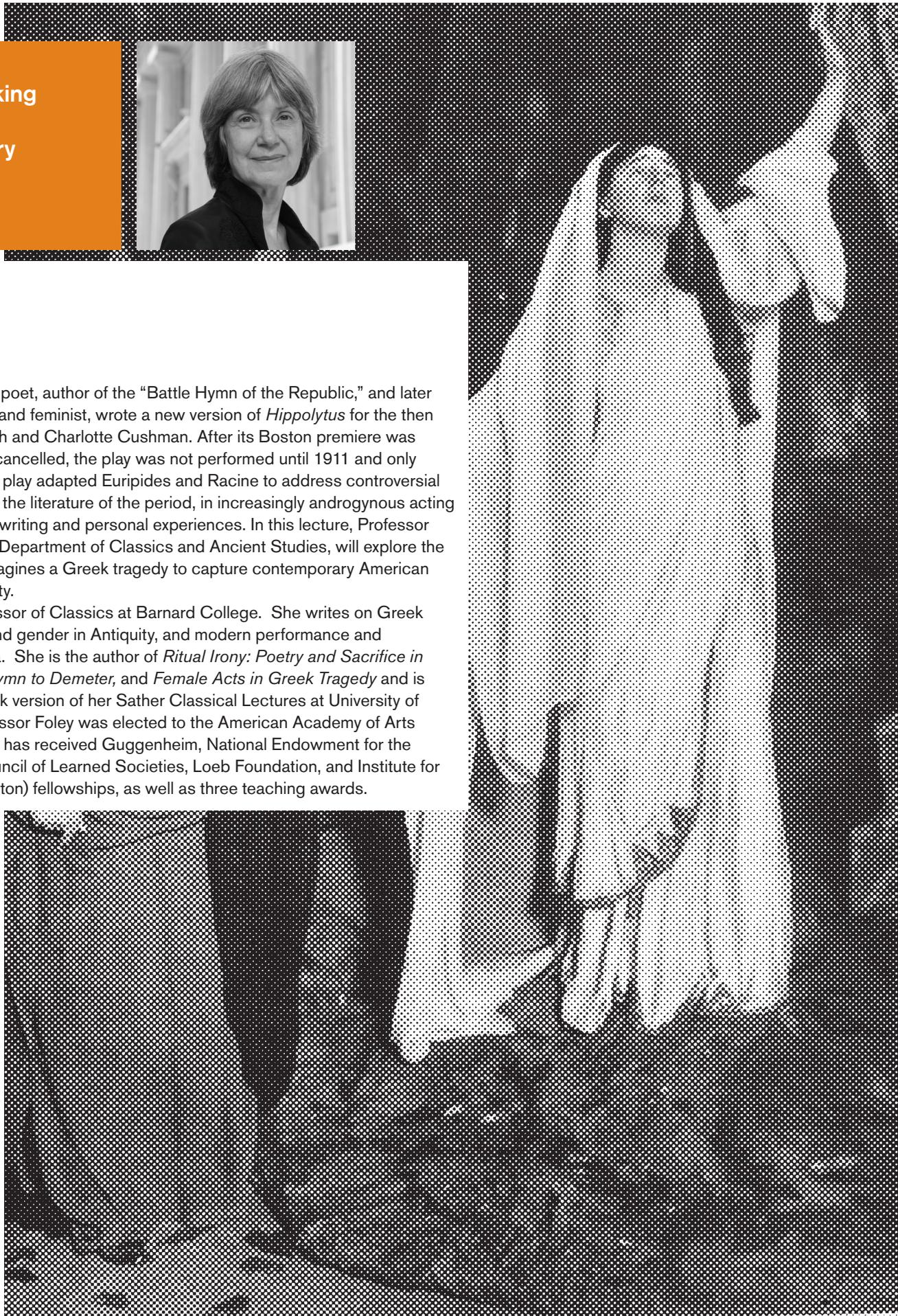
Helene Foley



A lunchtime lecture
Monday, October 3
12:00 pm
101 Barnard Hall

In 1857, Julia Ward Howe, poet, author of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” and later a prominent social activist and feminist, wrote a new version of *Hippolytus* for the then famous actors Edwin Booth and Charlotte Cushman. After its Boston premiere was abruptly and mysteriously cancelled, the play was not performed until 1911 and only published in 1941. Howe’s play adapted Euripides and Racine to address controversial gender issues emerging in the literature of the period, in increasingly androgynous acting styles, and in Howe’s own writing and personal experiences. In this lecture, Professor Helene Foley of Barnard’s Department of Classics and Ancient Studies, will explore the ways in which Howe re-imagines a Greek tragedy to capture contemporary American conflicts concerning identity.

Helene P. Foley is Professor of Classics at Barnard College. She writes on Greek epic and drama, women and gender in Antiquity, and modern performance and adaptation of Greek drama. She is the author of *Ritual Irony: Poetry and Sacrifice in Euripides*, *The Homeric Hymn to Demeter*, and *Female Acts in Greek Tragedy* and is currently completing a book version of her Sather Classical Lectures at University of California, Berkeley. Professor Foley was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008 and has received Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, Loeb Foundation, and Institute for Advanced Study (at Princeton) fellowships, as well as three teaching awards.



Seeing Like a Peacebuilder: an Ethnography of International Intervention

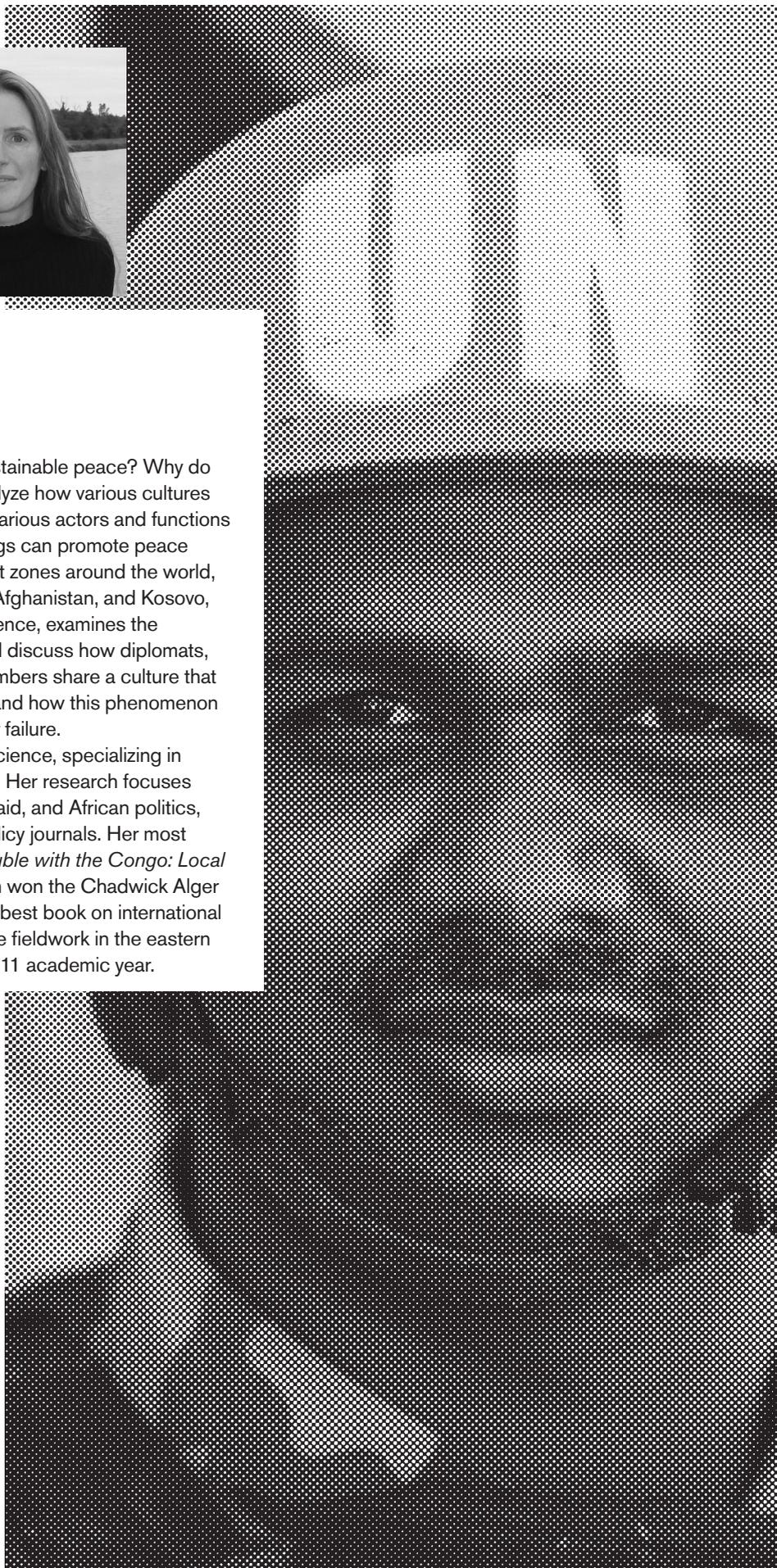
Séverine Autesserre



A lunchtime lecture
Tuesday, November 15
12:00 pm
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Why do international interventions so often fail to secure a sustainable peace? Why do others succeed? To answer these questions, we need to analyze how various cultures influence non-military peacebuilders on the ground, how the various actors and functions of peace interventions interact, and how shared understandings can promote peace intervention success. Based on qualitative research in conflict zones around the world, notably the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, Séverine Autesserre, of Barnard's Department of Political Science, examines the various cultures that shape peacebuilding in the field. She will discuss how diplomats, peacekeepers, and non-governmental organizations' staff members share a culture that shapes their understandings of war, peace, and intervention, and how this phenomenon significantly affects the likelihood of peacebuilding success or failure.

Séverine Autesserre is an Assistant Professor of Political Science, specializing in international relations and African studies, at Barnard College. Her research focuses on civil wars, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and African politics, and her findings have appeared in numerous scholarly and policy journals. Her most recent research project culminated in a book entitled *The Trouble with the Congo: Local Violence and the Failure of International Peacebuilding*, which won the Chadwick Alger Prize, awarded by the International Studies Association to the best book on international organizations published in 2010. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in the eastern Congo since 2001, and was based there during the 2010–2011 academic year.



BCRW Courses: 2011 Fall

Storytelling Life

with Elizabeth Whitney

**Mondays: 10/10, 11/14, 12/5, 1/23,
2/20, 3/19, 4/16, 5/7**

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Fee: \$260

There is no such thing as a person without stories, because there is no such thing as a life without experience. If you are ready to begin telling your stories, and you aren't quite sure how or where to begin writing, this is an excellent opportunity to draw from your personal experience in a supportive environment.

Our goal will be to create accessible narratives that are also compelling—narratives that invite the reader into the world of the writer's experience. Brainstorming writing assignments will be given to generate ideas and monthly writings will be shared with the class. Short, inspirational readings will be drawn from work by Dorothy Allison, Judith Barrington, Natalie Goldberg, Lisa Kron, Anne Lamott, and others.

Elizabeth Whitney is a writer/performer and actor who has toured internationally with her original solo performance work. She has taught courses in gender and performance at BCRW, Emerson College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Utah.

Women's Cultures/ Women's Lives

with Leslie Calman

**Tuesdays: 9/20, 10/18, 11/15, 12/13,
1/10, 2/7, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 6/5**

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Fee: \$350

Women's Cultures/Women's Lives is a reading group that explores contemporary fiction and memoir by women of many cultures – with the inclusion of a classic or two and, to round things out, an occasional male author writing about women. Be prepared for spirited and insightful discussion, laughter and lively debate. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Women's Cultures/Women's Lives, BCRW's longest running course, and newcomers are always welcome. Join us!

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: Andrea Levy, *The Long Song*; Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*; David Mitchell, *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*; Karen Tei Yamashita, *Hotel*; Jaimy Gordon, *Lord of Misrule*; Heidi Darrow, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*; Stacy Schiff, *Cleopatra: A Life*; Tea Obreht, *The Tiger's Wife*; Banana Yoshimoto, *The Lake*; Ludmila Ulitskaya, *Daniel Stein, Interpreter*.

Seeking Your Voice: A Poetry Workshop

with Patricia Brody and Eva Miodownik Oppenheim

**Wednesdays: 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16,
11/30, 12/14, 2/15, 2/29, 3/14, 3/28,
4/11, 4/25**

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Fee: \$400

This workshop offers both passion for the observation and writing of poetry, as well as support for each student's journey, in each new poem. We seek new ways to open up the voice, bring breath and space to your poems. We encourage risk taking and careful listening. We'll also explore the works of three contemporary poets and suggest exercises and assignments for inspiration and challenge. Depending on class interest, we'll also begin to experiment with forms like flash fiction and short prose.

We welcome and have successfully engaged poets of all levels and backgrounds: graduate students steeped in literature studies-- to physicians and lawyers just starting to write.

Patricia Brody's first poetry collection, *American Desire*, was selected by Finishing Line Books for the 2009 New Women's Voices award. Her poems have appeared in *Big City Lit*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Barrow Street*, *The Paris Review* and on *Poetry Daily*. Brody practices family therapy in NYC. Her new book, *Dangerous to Know*, is due out from the Irish publisher Salmon Poetry in 2012.

Eva Miodownik Oppenheim is the author of two books of poems, *Things as They Are*, and *Through the Loop of Time* and a memoir, *The Stork*. Her poems have appeared in *Animus*, *The Comstock Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Mobius*,

Poetica, Off the Coast, Live Poets Society, and Full Moon Rising. An editor and PR writer, Oppenheim served as a senior administrator in alumnae affairs at Barnard College for 18 years.

Multicultural Memoirs: Personal Histories of Family, Politics, and Identity with Lori Rotskoff

Wednesdays: 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/13

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Fee: \$315

This class explores contemporary memoirs by writers from diverse cultural and national backgrounds. Personal narratives are profoundly shaped by differences in race, class, ethnicity, and geography—as well as the specific historical context in which a life unfolds. How do authors translate lived experiences of family life, work, education, politics, and immigration into compelling works of literary non-fiction? How do memoirs contribute to our understanding of social history? Come share your thoughts and questions with other passionate readers in our monthly seminar.

Reading list: Melissa Coleman, *This Life is In Your Hands*; Kelly McMasters,

Welcome to Shirley; Cheri Register, *Packinghouse Daughter*; Michele Norris, *The Grace of Silence*; Said Sayrefiezadeh, *When Skateboards Will Be Free*; Honor Moore, *The Bishop's Daughter*; Endesha Ida Mae Holland, *From The Mississippi Delta*; Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, *Outlaw Woman*; Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, *Among the White Moon Faces*; Madhur Jaffrey, *Climbing the Mango Trees*.

Lori Rotskoff is a cultural historian and the author of *Love on the Rocks: Men, Women, and Alcohol in Post-World War II America*. She holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University. She is currently working on a study of feminism and childhood during the 1970s.

Self/Portraits: Women Artists in Modern America with Lori Rotskoff

Wednesdays: 12/21, 1/18, 2/8, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2

6:45 – 8:45 pm

Fee: \$200

How do women become artists? How do they use art as a form of self-expression? As a vehicle for political commentary or social change? How do women artists challenge conventional ideas and aesthetic forms at various moments through their

contributions to painting, dance, sculpture, photography, drawing, and other media? To what extent do they embrace or reject the category “woman artist” and how does gender inform (or not inform) their work? We will focus on the complex interplay between an artist’s personal biography, her artistic vision, and the historical context in which her creativity flourished.

Class materials will include films, biographies, memoirs, websites, essays, and optional visits to local museums and / or performances, with discussion of artists like Louise Nevelson, Margaret Sargent, Lee Krasner, Elizabeth Streb, Cindy Sherman, and Kara Walker. In our lively discussion format, you will both learn from and share ideas with others interested in art, creativity, women’s issues, and cultural history. Participants of all ages and professional backgrounds are welcome.

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.

- Storytelling Life (\$260)**
- Women’s Cultures / Women’s Lives (\$350)**
- Seeking Your Voice (\$400)**
- Multicultural Memoirs (\$315)**
- Self/Portraits (\$200)**

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that Feminism matters.

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\$50 BENEFACTOR **\$25 FRIEND** **OTHER AMOUNT \$** _____

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