

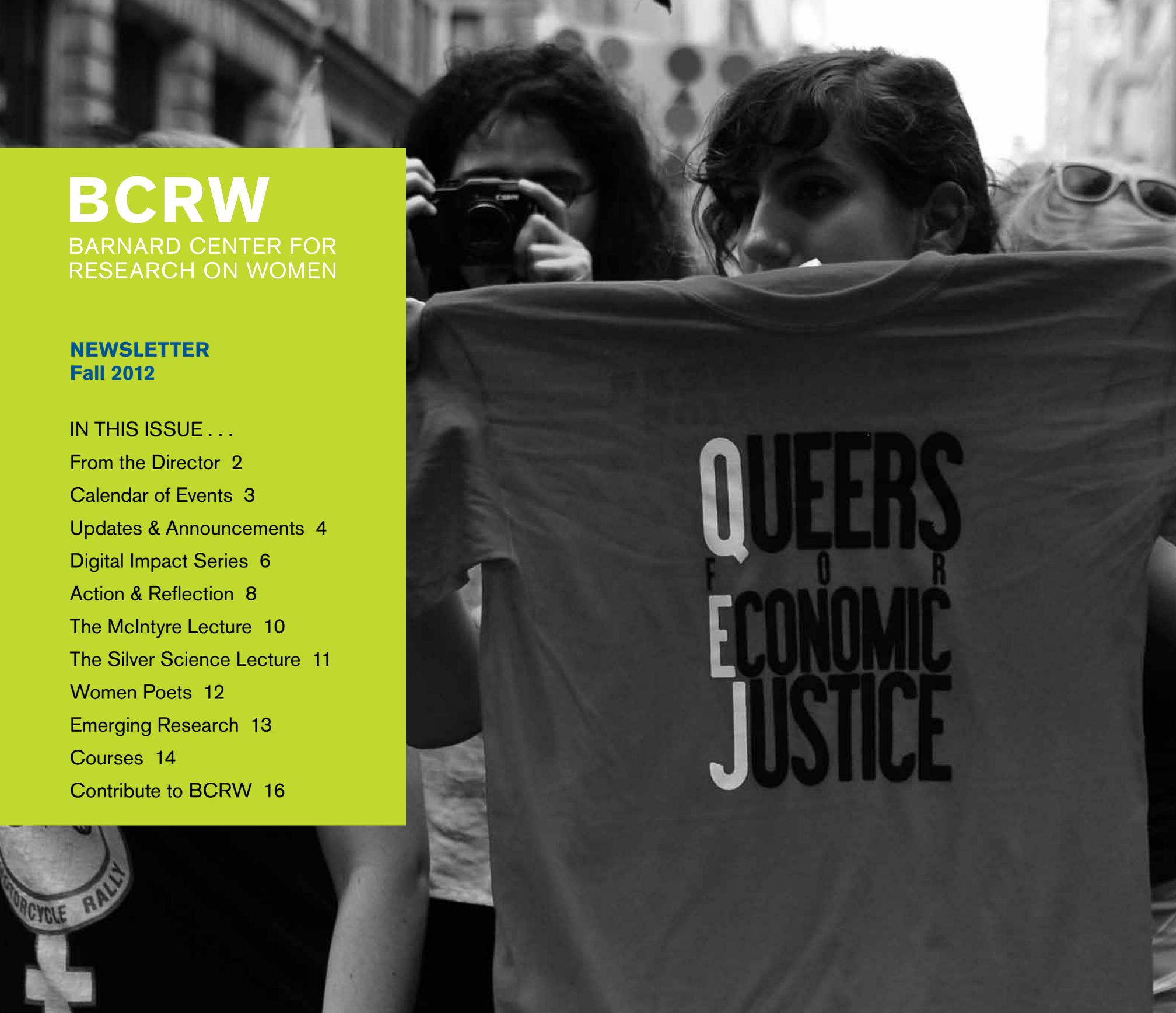
BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

NEWSLETTER Fall 2012

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- From the Director 2
- Calendar of Events 3
- Updates & Announcements 4
- Digital Impact Series 6
- Action & Reflection 8
- The McIntyre Lecture 10
- The Silver Science Lecture 11
- Women Poets 12
- Emerging Research 13
- Courses 14
- Contribute to BCRW 16



QUEERS
FOR
ECONOMIC
JUSTICE

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ON THE COVER

Photo by Syd London

Director's Letter

Last year, with our 40th anniversary, the Barnard Center for Research on Women had the invigorating opportunity to reflect on our history, our future, and our place within movements for justice. It is an exciting and exhausting process, but if there is one thing that became clear through the whirlwind of events and projects, it is that there is abundance of ideas, energy, and commitment to our mission of pursuing “dignity, autonomy, and equality” for all women. It is a broad mission, and looking out at all our discussions over this year, I can see the reason for that breadth - there is no single way to pursue the political project of feminism. Placing too much emphasis on any one practice can set the stage not just for exclusion, but also for losing sight of what is possible. We live in a moment when the focus on scarce resources is used as an excuse to veer away from truly big dreams; yet, the difficult times are exactly when we need to activate all avenues of creativity and resistance, to be curious and open to exploring.

It is in this spirit that we present this semester a slate of events and collaborations that highlight the abundance and diversity of feminist thought and action. A number of events delve into strategies for communal action, including a benefit highlighting the latest issue of *S&F Online*, “A New Queer Agenda” (read more about the issue on page 4), a lecture by legal anthropologist Ziba Mir-Hosseini on the promise of Islamic feminism, and a panel of young activists working to secure the rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent in the legacy of Sonia Pierre.

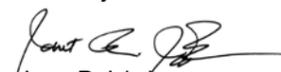
In this year's Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture, esteemed legal scholar Dorothy Roberts, who has written rigorously on race, gender, and social policy, brings her knowledge to new biotechnologies. And Janice Haaken, Professor Emerita of Psychology at Portland State University, will give the Roslyn S. Silver '27 Science Lecture, examining feminist visual representations of female trauma. In our Lunchtime Lecture Series, we will welcome two Barnard colleagues in the History Department who do transnational research: Nara Milanich, who traces the global evolution of the paternity test, and Anupama Rao, who analyzes the ways that marginalized workers in India define freedom in the face of precarious labor conditions.

We continue to explore the abundance of information and connections made possible through digital networks in our “Digital Impact Series,” which will continue throughout the year. At “Digital Community Formation: A Roundtable Discussion” we will host six public intellectuals – professors, graduate students and journalists – to reflect on how the digital landscape shapes their work and what strategies they use to collaboratively develop ideas. And in “Speak Up!: Establishing Online Voice through Blogging,” BCRW Research Assistants Julie Zeilinger '15 and Lulu Mickelson '14 will offer an introductory workshop for Barnard students on style, content and venues for feminist writing online. Finally, Ousseina Alidou, Director of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers, will lead a panel looking at how women in different Muslim contexts are using new media technologies to navigate culture and identity.

As an extension of our own digital practice, we have launched the BCRW Blog—a space for ongoing updates on our projects and collaborations, reflections and responses to events, and discussions on our core issues of concern. We look forward to engaging with you there - <http://bcrw.barnard.edu/blog/>.

Finally, I want to offer my personal thanks to Elizabeth Castelli for her excellent work as Acting Director of BCRW over the last year. Despite a number of other duties at Barnard (including serving as Chair of the Religion Department), Elizabeth led BCRW through a series of high profile events, including the 40th anniversary conference, an inspiring Scholar & Feminist Conference, and a visit from Oprah Winfrey and Gloria Steinem, while she guided the development of BCRW projects, like our blog and the establishment of the faculty and alumnae fellows programs. Her wonderful leadership of the Center enabled me to do research on my new book, “Lush Lives: An Ethics of Possibility,” and I am deeply grateful. If you see Elizabeth around campus, please say, “thank you,” on behalf of BCRW, and I hope to see all of you at BCRW events this fall.

Sincerely,



Janet R. Jakobsen

BCRW Calendar



Ziba Mir-Hosseini

Wednesday, September 19
6:00 PM

A New Queer Agenda

A celebration with Lisa Duggan, Kenyon Farrow, Amber Hollibaugh, Richard Kim and others
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, NYU
20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor
Co-sponsored by Queers for Economic Justice and The Center for Gender and Sexuality at NYU

Thursday, September 27
12 PM

A Global History of the Paternity Test

A lecture by Nara Milanich
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Thursday, October 4
6:30 PM

A Way Out of the “Dead-end” of Feminism vs Islam: The Potential & Promise of Feminist Voices in Islam

A lecture by Ziba Mir-Hosseini
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Tuesday, October 9
6:30 PM

Digital Community Formation

A roundtable discussion with Jon Beller, Brittney Cooper, Gail Drakes, Dana Goldstein, Courtney E. Martin '02, Renina Jarmon
Event Oval, The Diana Center



Amber Hollibaugh

Wednesday, October 10

6:30 PM

Speak up! Establishing Online Voice through Blogging—for Barnard Students

A workshop with Lulu Mickelson '14 and Julie Zeilinger '15
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Monday, October 15

6:30 PM

Race, Gender & the New Biocitizen

The Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture by Dorothy Roberts
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Tuesday, October 23

6:30 PM

Moving Images: Psychoanalytically-informed Methods in Documenting the Lives of Women Migrants & Asylum-seekers

The Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecture by Janice Haaken
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, November 1

7:00 PM

Anne Carson & Alice Oswald

A reading
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall
Co-sponsored by Women Poets at Barnard and the Barnard Humanities Initiative



Dorothy Roberts

Monday, November 12

12 PM

Stigma, Precarity & the Everyday Life of Outcaste Labor

A lecture by Anupama Rao
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Wednesday, November 14

6:30 PM

Muslim Women, Activism, & New Media Cultures

A panel with Ousseina Alidou and others
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, December 6

6:30 PM

Sonia Pierre & the Struggle for Citizenship in the Dominican Republic

A panel with Miriam Neptune, Manuela Pierre, Ninaj Raoul, Monisha Bajaj
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall
Co-sponsored by Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees



A NEW QUEER AGENDA AND DESIRING CHANGE

This past year, BCRW deepened our ongoing collaboration with community groups in New York City. "A New Queer Agenda," the latest issue of *The Scholar & Feminist Online* (<http://sfonline.barnard.edu/a-new-queer-agenda/>), and "Desiring Change" (<http://bcrw.barnard.edu/publications/nfs7/report/>), the most recent of our *New Feminist Solutions* reports, are two publications and projects designed to engage activists, academics and organizers around a vision and practice of cross-issue organizing. A partnership with Queers for Economic Justice, "A New Queer Agenda" and "Desiring Change" see gender and sex as central to issues like immigration, poverty, homelessness, gentrification, and drug use.

"A New Queer Agenda" and "Desiring Change" do not just assert that sex and gender are connected to a range of social issues, but show how we can work together to build larger and more effective movements for justice around such connections. These projects push beyond the vision of security and belonging offered through gay marriage to a broader politics of economic, political and sexual justice for all. As we roll out "A New Queer Agenda" and "Desiring Change," stay tuned to our website for announcements of public gatherings and events that engage the analysis offered in these publications with different audiences throughout New York and nation-wide.

Updates & Announcements

TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS INITIATIVE

In the first year of our Transnational Feminisms Initiative, BCRW formed what we hope will be ongoing relationships with scholars and activists from around the world, including South Africa, Mexico, and India. BCRW Faculty Fellows Yvette Christiansë and Kim Hall worked with Barnard's Africana Studies Program to bring Jane Bennett, Director of the African Gender Institute in Cape Town, South Africa to Barnard for a month in the spring. Jane gave guest lectures in Professor Christiansë's classes, spoke with students at a BCRW open house, and is now developing plans with Professor Christiansë and BCRW to co-teach an intensive two-week seminar on "The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African Contexts" at Barnard in the spring, and at the African Gender Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2013.

BCRW Associate Director, Catherine Sameh, travelled to Mumbai, India with a Barnard contingent of faculty, students and administrators for the 4th annual Barnard College Global Symposium. Sameh and Professor Yvette Christiansë met with scholars, artists and activists from all over Mumbai, including those from The Institute for Social Sciences (TISS), Sophia College, and Partners for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research (PUKAR). Sameh then traveled to Delhi to meet with scholars, artists, and activists, including those from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Sameh and Professor Christiansë are now working with Barnard faculty and Sophia College to develop a possible two-week winter seminar in Mumbai in January 2013.

BCRW hosted three international delegations of scholars and activists (one from India, one from Turkey, and one multi-country delegation) who participated in the State Department's International Visitors Program. In each two-hour roundtable, we discussed the possibilities for collaborations around feminist research and activism.

This year, BCRW welcomes back Professor Christiansë as a continuing Faculty Fellow and welcomes Professor Shayoni Mitra as a new Faculty Fellow. Professor

Mitra attended the Global Symposium in Mumbai. In addition, she took Sameh and six students to Sangli, a rural community in Southern India, to meet with VAMP, a group of sex workers who do political organizing through street theater. This year, Professor Mitra will work with the BCRW to bring the story of their organizing efforts to the Barnard campus.

INTRODUCING ALUMNA FELLOW EBONIE SMITH '07

We are thrilled to enter the second year of our Alumnae Fellowship program with Ebonie Smith, '07, whose project will focus on developing the Gender Amplified Festival for female music producers. This project advances the work of the 2007 conference "Women and Technological Innovation in Hip-Hop," which Ebonie coordinated with BCRW, the Africana Studies Program, and Femmixx.com. Ebonie views promoting women in music technology as not just an end in itself, but an excellent pathway for women into the wider world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), subjects in which women are traditionally underrepresented.

GOODBYE LUCY TRAINOR, HELLO ANNE JONAS

We said a fond farewell this spring to Lucy Trainor '07, who had worked her way from BCRW Research Assistant to Administrative Assistant to Program Manager over the years. Lucy has moved to Amherst, MA with her partner and is beginning new adventures as the Assistant Director of the Annual Fund at Amherst College. We will miss her careful planning, broad knowledge base, and deep passion, and wish her the best of luck in her endeavors. Our new Program Manager, Anne Jonas, comes to us from the non-profit world with a background in communications, social media, and project management. She has managed to hit the ground running, and we're delighted to have her join us.

EVENTS

Digital Impact Series

DIGITAL COMMUNITY FORMATION

A roundtable discussion with Jon Beller, Brittney Cooper, Gail Drakes, Dana Goldstein, Courtney E. Martin '02, Renina Jarmon
Tuesday, October 9th 6:30 PM
Event Oval, The Diana Center

Academics and writers alike have long worked within established processes for peer-review and editing. But both are now confronted with a rapidly shifting landscape in which online channels provide new opportunities for feedback, networking, and collaborative knowledge production. In this roundtable discussion, panelists will speak on how digital media changes their work by looking at modes of fostering productive dialogue online, the political and ethical impact of letting ideas develop in the public eye, and how blogs and other digital outlets are changing traditional methods of research, collaboration, and publication.

Jonathan Beller (moderator) is Professor of Humanities and Media Studies at Pratt Institute. He is the author of several books, including *The Cinematic Mode of Production: Attention Economy and the Society of the Spectacle*, and the editor of the forthcoming *Scholar & Feminist Online* issue, "Feminist Media Theory: Iterations of Social Difference."

Brittney Cooper is an Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University. She is co-founder of and blogger for the Crunk Feminist Collective, and is at work on her first book project, *Race Women: Gender and the Making of a Black Public Intellectual Tradition, 1831-Present*.

Gail Drakes is an interdisciplinary scholar in History and American Studies, focusing on the cultural implications of intellectual property law and African-American historical memory. She previously served as a consultant

to the social justice philanthropy portfolio at the Ford Foundation and as the Program Officer for the OUT Fund at Funding Exchange, an activist-advised fund which supported LGBTQI-led social justice organizing efforts.

Dana Goldstein is a journalist who writes about education, politics, women's issues, cities, and public health. She is also a Schwartz Fellow at the New America Foundation and a Puffin fellow at The Nation Institute. She is at work on a book about the political history of American public school teaching, and was previously an associate editor at *The Daily Beast* and *The American Prospect*.

Courtney E. Martin '02 is an author, blogger, and speaker. Her most recent book, *Project Rebirth: Survival and the Strength of the Human Spirit from 9/11 Survivors*, was published last fall. She is Editor Emeritus at Feministing.com, Founding Director of the Solutions Journalism Network, Partner at Valenti Martin Media, a social media strategy firm, and is currently collaborating with BCRW on a project to further the sustainability and impact of online feminism.

Renina Jarmon is a scholar, instructor, blogger (at newmodelminority.com) and a curator of digital black feminisms. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Women's Studies at the University of Maryland. Her research interests are women's sexuality in popular culture and the retention of Black women within STEM careers.



SPEAK UP! ESTABLISHING ONLINE VOICE THROUGH BLOGGING— FOR BARNARD STUDENTS

A conversation with Julie Zeilinger '15 and Lulu Mickelson '14
Wednesday, October 10 6:30 PM
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

In conjunction with the launch of the BCRW Blog, this evening workshop will familiarize Barnard students with the medium of blogging – providing tools, rules and examples to encourage participants to contribute their voice to the Blogosphere. It will cover the general guidelines of blog style and content by deconstructing the details of an effective post, discussing the importance of personal tone, and outlining methods for quoting, linking and connecting to current events. The workshop will also touch on the platforms, outlets and online resources available to student bloggers, encouraging blogging as an avenue for feminist writing, online activism and social change.

Lulu Mickelson '14 is a Barnard junior and Centennial Scholar majoring in Urban Studies. She is the founder of Barnard/Columbia's Design for America Studio and has blogged for the BCRW Blog, KCRW Music News, and the Huffington Post.

Julie Zeilinger '15 is a Barnard sophomore and the founder and editor of the *FBomb* (thefbomb.org), a feminist blog and community for teens and young adults. She is the author of a new book, *A Little F'd Up: Why Feminism Is Not A Dirty Word*.

MUSLIM WOMEN, ACTIVISM & NEW MEDIA CULTURES

A conversation with Ousseina Alidou and others
Wednesday, November 14 6:30 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Many scholars within a variety of disciplines have begun to examine the ways in which new media technologies in the Muslim world have helped amplify discussions and debates about the role and meaning of Islam in everyday life. This panel will consider how women in different Muslim contexts, who may or may not identify with feminism, are engaging media to explore different understandings of Islam in relation to their gendered lives and experiences.

Ousseina Alidou is Associate Professor in the Department of African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literatures, and Director of the Center for African Studies at Rutgers University. Her research focuses mainly on the study of women's discourses and literacy practices in Afro-Islamic societies, African women's agency, African women's literatures, gendered discourses of identity, and the politics of cultural production in Francophone African countries.

Her book, *Engaging Modernity: Muslim Women and the Politics of Agency in Postcolonial Niger* explores women's agency through their contributions in religious and secular education, public politics, and the performing arts.



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY PANEL: SONIA PIERRE & THE STRUGGLE FOR CITIZENSHIP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

With Miriam Neptune, Manuela Pierre, Ninaj Raoul, and Monisha Bajaj

Thursday, December 6 6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Sonia Pierre (1963-2011) mobilized communities in the Dominican Republic and around the world to advocate for citizenship and human rights for Dominicans of Haitian descent as Director of Movement for Dominican Women of Haitian Descent (MUDHA). This panel will highlight the activism of young women who are moving forward with Pierre's work, and address the question of how international pressure affects the efforts of marginalized groups that demand recognition.

Manuela (Solange) Pierre is Sonia Pierre's eldest daughter and founder of Grupo Afrodescendientes, a cultural group dedicated to raising awareness about the experience of Black Dominicans.

Ninaj Raoul is the Executive Director of Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, a Brooklyn-based group that collaborated closely with MUDHA for 15 years to organize disaster relief efforts in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Monisha Bajaj is Associate Professor of International and Comparative Education at Teachers College. A longtime friend of Sonia Pierre, she is the editor of the Encyclopedia of Peace Education and the author of a teacher-training manual on human rights education written while she was a Fulbright scholar in the Dominican Republic.

Miriam Neptune (moderator) is a video producer who documented collaborations between Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees and the Movement of Haitian Dominican Women from 2004 to 2010. Her video *Birthright Crisis* is an award-winning documentary depicting the cycle of deportation and violence faced by Dominicans of Haitian descent. She is currently an Instructional Media Specialist at Barnard College.

Co-sponsored by Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees

EVENTS

Action & Reflection

A NEW QUEER AGENDA

A journal launch and celebration with Lisa Duggan, Kenyon Farrow, Amber Hollibaugh, and Richard Kim

Wednesday, September 19 6 PM

Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, NYU
20 Cooper Square, 4th Floor

Join contributors to the recently launched "A New Queer Agenda," (see page 4) for an evening of politics, discussion, and celebration.

Lisa Duggan is a journalist, activist, and Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. She is author of *Twilight of Equality: Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics and the Attack on Democracy*, and *Sapphic Slashers: Sex, Violence and American Modernity*.

Kenyon Farrow is a Black gay activist and writer based in New York City. He is the former Executive Director of Queers for Economic Justice (QEJ), a longtime HIV/AIDS activist, and a prolific writer. Kenyon blogs at KenyonFarrow.com and is the co-editor of *Letters From Young Activists: Today's Rebels Speak Out*.

Amber Hollibaugh is the Co-Director of QEJ, and has worked at Howard Brown Health Center, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and the NYC Commission on Human Rights. A well-known activist, artist, public intellectual, and community organizer, she is the author of *My Dangerous Desires: A Queer Girl Dreaming Her Way Home*, and the director and co-producer of *The Heart of the Matter*, a documentary focusing on women's sexuality, denial, and risk for HIV/AIDS.

Richard Kim is the Executive Editor of TheNation.com and co-editor of the *New York Times* best-selling book *Going Rogue: Sarah Palin, An American Nightmare*.

Co-sponsored by Queers for Economic Justice and The Center for Gender and Sexuality at NYU

A WAY OUT OF THE "DEAD-END" OF FEMINISM VS. ISLAM: THE POTENTIAL & PROMISE OF FEMINIST VOICES IN ISLAM

A lecture by Ziba Mir-Hosseini

Thursday, October 4 6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

In the last two decades of the twentieth century, a growing confrontation between political Islam and feminism made links between theology, law, and politics transparent. The Islamist agenda of policing women's presence and gender relations in public space has led to the emergence of forms of activism that have challenged patriarchal interpretations of the Shari'a from within the Muslim tradition, a movement that has come to be known as "Islamic feminism."

This lecture will explore the movement's potential for changing the terms of debates over Islam and gender, arguing that the real battle is between patriarchy and despotism on the one hand, and gender equality and democracy on the other.

Dr. Ziba Mir-Hosseini is a legal anthropologist specializing in Islamic law, gender, and development. She is currently Professorial Research Associate at the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Law, University of London.

EVENTS

Science, Law, Policy

Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture

RACE, GENDER & THE NEW BIOCITIZEN

A lecture by Dorothy Roberts

Thursday, October 15 6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Some writers have celebrated a new biological citizenship arising from individuals' unprecedented ability to manage their health at the molecular level. In this year's Helen Pond McIntyre '48 lecture, Dorothy Roberts examines the role of race and gender in the construction of this new biocitizen in light of the current expansion of race-based, reproductive, and genetic biotechnologies along with neoliberal reliance on private resources for people's welfare. Roberts argues that science, big business, and politics are converging to support a molecularized understanding of race, health, and citizenship that ultimately preserves and furthers social inequality.

Dorothy Roberts is the Penn Integrates Knowledge/George A. Weiss University Professor, the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, and Professor of Sociology at University of Pennsylvania. An internationally recognized scholar, public intellectual, and social justice advocate, she has written and lectured extensively on the interplay of gender, race, and class in legal issues and has been a leader in transforming public thinking and policy on reproductive health, child welfare, and bioethics. Professor Roberts is the author of the award-winning books *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (Random House/Pantheon, 1997) and *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare* (Basic Books/Civitas, 2002), as well as co-editor of six books on constitutional law and gender. She has also published more than eighty articles and essays in books and scholarly journals, including *Harvard Law*

Review, Yale Law Journal, and Stanford Law Review. Her latest book, *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century*, was published by the New Press in July 2011.

Professor Roberts has been a professor at Rutgers and Northwestern University, a visiting professor at Stanford and Fordham, and a fellow at Harvard University's Program in Ethics and the Professions, Stanford's Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, and the Fulbright Program. She serves as chair of the board of directors of the Black Women's Health Imperative, on the board of directors of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform, and on the advisory boards of the Center for Genetics and Society and Family Defense Center. She also serves on a panel of five national experts that is overseeing foster care reform in Washington State and on the Standards Working Group of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (stem cell research). She recently received awards from the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the 2010 Dorothy Ann and Clarence L. Ver Steeg Distinguished Research Fellowship.

Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecture

MOVING IMAGES: PSYCHOANALYTICALLY-INFORMED METHODS IN DOCUMENTING THE LIVES OF WOMEN MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

A lecture by Janice Haaken

Tuesday, October 23 6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Many contemporary feminist projects attempt to subvert the male gaze by "bearing witness" to female trauma through visual representation. Yet these projects have tended to be under-theorized. Since visual images invoke the spectator's experience of unmediated access to the inner world of the subject, the evocative power of photographic images may readily reproduce forms of voyeurism.

This under-theorizing becomes particularly problematic in projects that document the lives of migratory and marginalized women. Drawing on several decades of prior field research and documentary film projects, Professor Haaken presents a study carried out with women refugee and asylum-seekers in the UK. In discussing photographic images from the study, Haaken provides a framework for working through a series of ethical, political, and methodological dilemmas. She draws on psychoanalytic feminist theory, critical psychology, and participatory action research methods to argue for the importance of an approach to the visual that includes the dynamics of spectatorship as well as the dynamics of the research setting itself as an affectively rich and conflicted site of knowledge production.

Janice Haaken is professor emerita of psychology at Portland State University, a clinical psychologist in private practice, and documentary filmmaker. Haaken has published extensively in the areas of the psychoanalysis and feminism, the psychology of storytelling, culture and memory, and group responses to violence and trauma. She is author of *Pillar of Salt: Gender, Memory, and the Perils of Looking Back* (1998) and *Hard Knocks: Domestic Violence and the Psychology of Storytelling* (2010), co-author of *Speaking Out: Women, War and the Global Economy* (2005) and co-editor of *Memory Matters: Understanding Recollections of Sexual Abuse* (2010).





EVENTS

Women Poets

ANNE CARSON & ALICE OSWALD

Thursday, November 1 7:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Celebrated poets Anne Carson (left) and Alice Oswald read from their recent works, followed by a reception.

Anne Carson is a poet and classics scholar. Her books of poetry include *Glass, Irony and God*; *Plainwater*; *Autobiography of Red*; *The Beauty of the Husband*, winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry in 2001; and *NOX*. She is also the author of the studies *Eros the Bittersweet* and *Economy of the Unlost*. Her classical translations include *If Not*, *Winter: Fragments of Sappho* and the recent *Antigonick*.

Alice Oswald is the author of *The Thing in the Gap-Stone Stile*; *Dart*, winner of the T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry in 2002; *Woods Etc.*; *Weeds and Flowers*; and *A Sleepwalk on the Severn*, a poem for several voices. Oswald trained as a classicist, and her most recent book is *Memorial: An Excavation of the Iliad*, which focuses by turns on Homer's extended similes and on the brief images of the minor war-dead.

Cosponsored with Women Poets at Barnard and the Barnard Humanities Initiative

EVENTS

Emerging Research

A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE PATERNITY TEST

A lunchtime lecture by Nara Milanich

Thursday, September 27 12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

For millennia, Western legal tradition relied on the assumption “pater semper incertus est” (“the father is always uncertain”). But beginning in the early twentieth century, scientists began a concerted quest for a biological marker of paternity that could unambiguously link a child to his or her progenitor. Prior to the advent of DNA testing, scientists from around the world experimented with fingerprints, dental evidence, ear shape, and blood typing. This study by Nara Milanich, Associate Professor of History at Barnard College, examines the link between the history of the paternity test and the history of gender, family, and changing ideas about kinship. Although today paternity can be determined with over 99% accuracy, biological certainty by no means displaces legal and social constructions of family, and in the age of modern biomedicine, the definition of parentage is arguably as “uncertain” as ever.

STIGMA, PRECARIETY & THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF OUTCASTE LABOR

A lunchtime lecture by Anupama Rao

Monday, November 12 12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

What forms of critical thought and cultural production are enabled by intersections between stigmatized life and the social experience of labor in twentieth-century Bombay? In her latest project, Barnard College Associate Professor of History Anupama Rao critically engages traditional approaches to labor, examining how the practices of precarious workers, such as India's Dalits, impact the ways in which citizenship and emancipation are constituted outside recognizable domains of “the political.” Rao's research and teaching interests include the history of anti-colonialism, gender and sexuality studies, caste and race, historical anthropology, social theory, and colonial genealogies of human rights and humanitarianism. Her previous book, *The Caste Question*, focuses on the role of anti-caste thought in producing alternative genealogies of political subject-formation.

Courses 2012-2013

BUILDING YOUR JOURNALISM CAREER

with Nora Connor

Tuesdays: 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/13, 12/4, 1/29, 2/19, 3/12, 4/2, 4/30, 5/21

Location: BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Fee: \$400

This course is designed for early- to mid-career nonfiction writers, reporters, filmmakers and 'digital journalists,' or anyone looking to expand their work into new formats. For women journalists, changes in the 'big media' landscape and the proliferation of new digital platforms present exciting new opportunities. Yet many of the old challenges remain: how to get career momentum behind the ideas that are most important to you, how to create more space for journalism centered on "womens' issues," how to find time and funding for bigger projects, how to advance a career in competitive markets, and how to stay aware of alternative career strategies.

Students will have the option to workshop a current project, or to design a plan for a new one and move it from the concept stage onward, developing a strategy for research, marketing and fundraising according to the needs of the topic and format. Students are free to work on any nonfiction topic in any length/medium, from pitching short reported pieces/essays to developing the perfect blog to documentary film and book proposals.

The bulk of class time will be spent presenting and work-shopping drafts, pitches or research plans. The class will review and discuss three 'case study' examples of nonfiction work in different media (print and/or book, documentary, and digital/web, depending on students' priorities), with the opportunity to meet with the authors/producers. We will also consider practical approaches to locating and pitching editors and for engaging confidently in the editing process. Beginning in the final third of the course, students will have the

opportunity to meet with experienced journalists, agents and media executives regarding options and strategies for career advancement, skill development, and navigating the commercial side of journalism.

Nora Connor is a filmmaker and multimedia journalist with a background in labor and human rights organizing. She studied religion and anthropology at Columbia and got her journalism MA at NYU. She is the 2011 Luce Fellow in International Digital Religion at The Center for Religion and Media, where she is the international assignment editor at *The Revealer*.

WOMEN'S CULTURES / WOMEN'S LIVES

with Leslie Calman

Tuesdays: 9/11, 10/16, 11/13, 12/11, 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 4/30, 6/4

Location: BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Time: 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.

Reading list:

Julie Otsuka, *The Buddha in the Attic*

Maggie O'Farrell, *The Hand That First Held Mine*

Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones*

Ali Smith, *There But for the*

Wallace Stegner, *Crossing to Safety*

Alison Bechdel, *Are You My Mother?*

Cheryl Strayed, *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail*

Nell Freudenberger, *The Newlyweds*

Julian Barnes, *The Sense of an Ending*

Kathryn Harrison, *Enchantments*

Hilary Mantel, *Bring Up the Bodies*

SEEKING YOUR VOICE: POETRY WORKSHOP

with Patricia Brody and Eva Miodownik Oppenheim

Wednesdays: 10/3, 10/17, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12, 2/13, 2/27, 3/13, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24

Location: BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

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/assignments for inspiration and challenge. Today we are seeing a rise in the number of "multi-genre" poets (e.g. flash fiction, short prose). Depending on class interest, we'll begin to experiment with these forms. We welcome writers of all levels and backgrounds.

Patricia Brody's first poetry collection, *American Desire*, was selected by Finishing Line Books for the 2009 New Women's Voices Series. 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 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.

PERSONAL HISTORIES: MULTICULTURAL MEMOIRS

& NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

with Lori Rotskoff

Wednesdays: 9/19, 10/17, 12/19, 1/16, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/15, 6/5

Location: BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Fee: \$315

This class explores memoirs and works of narrative non-fiction by writers from diverse cultural 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, migration, work, politics, friendship, sexuality, and

disability into compelling literary works? Come share your thoughts and questions with other passionate readers in our monthly seminar.

Reading list:

Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*

Mildred Armstrong Kalish, *Little Heathens*

Esmeralda Santiago, *The Turkish Lover*

Patricia Hampl, *The Florist's Daughter*

Leila Ahmed, *A Border Passage: From Cairo to America*

Alison Bechdel, *Are You My Mother?*

Terry Galloway, *Mean Little Deaf Queer*

Stacey Patton, *That Mean Old Yesterday*

Gail Caldwell, *Let's Take the Long Way Home*

Lori Rotskoff is a cultural historian and co-editor of *When We Were Free to Be: Looking Back at a Children's Classic and the Difference It Made* (November 2012). She is also 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 and has taught at the BCRW since 2005.

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Please fill in the information below and mail with registration fee to:
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Building Your Journalism Career (\$400)

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Seeking Your Voice (\$400)

Personal Histories (\$315)

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Join BCRW's Online Community!

Help BCRW cultivate a feminist space for connecting scholarship and activism online by participating in the BCRW blog. Get in touch about submitting posts and being part of the outreach team by emailing ajonas@barnard.edu.

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