

# SPRING 2007

BCRW Newsletter  
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# BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

## FASHIONING CITIZENSHIP:

### Gender & Immigration

The Scholar & Feminist Conference XXXII  
*03/23 – 03/24, Barnard College*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Scholar & Feminist Conference examines why vociferous debates and uprisings around the issue of immigration are breaking out in so many areas of the world. In particular, by looking at the roles that gender and sexuality play in these conflicts, the conference promises a provocative analysis of contemporary debates over immigration and careful consideration of the political implications of today's activist responses. **PAGE 4**



## THE WORK/FAMILY DILEMMA:

### A Better Balance

A Lecture by Betsy Gotbaum  
*02/01 7:00 pm, James Room, 4th floor Barnard Hall*

NYC Public Advocate Gotbaum presents policy recommendations to help all New Yorkers, regardless of their income, strike a better balance between work and family. **PAGE 7**

## GENDER AMPLIFIED:

### Women & Technological Innovation in Hip-hop

The Student-Initiated Events Fund  
*04/13 – 04/14, Barnard Hall*

Moving beyond critiques of misogyny in hip-hop, this conference explores the innovative ways in which women use technology to create nothing short of revolutionary social spaces.

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## BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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# From the Director

Dear Friends,

The spring semester reminds us, as always,  
of change.

A new year. And so much that is new at the  
Center. In November, we said a reluctant  
good-bye to our Associate Director, David  
Hopson, who served nine years at the Center,  
and will continue his fine work at Barnard  
as the College's new (and first) Academic  
Design and Communications Director. We  
also welcomed our new Associate Director,  
Gisela Fosado, who comes to us from the  
American Museum of Natural History, where  
she coordinated the Margaret Mead Film  
Festival. We're very excited to have Gisela on  
board, and know that her contributions and  
talents will help the Center continue to thrive.

In the midst of all this change, we turn to  
questions that are perennially on our minds:  
what does it take to change society? What  
are the ways that the very process of change  
might be transformed so as to have the most  
far-reaching impact?

Given that Barnard has always sought to  
provide its students with the skills needed to  
change the world for the better, it comes as  
no surprise that the college had the foresight  
to found a Center devoted to connecting the  
work of the academy with that of activists. For  
more than 35 years, BCRW has served as  
exactly that sort of crucible for change,  
a space where scholars and activists come  
together to transform feminist thought and  
action. Here, we take the broad view that  
virtually all issues are women's issues.  
We believe that by making changes for  
women in all segments of society, society as  
a whole will benefit.

To underscore the expansive implications  
of a feminist agenda, I want to take a moment  
to highlight three of our spring events that  
reflect our vision. First, New York City Public  
Advocate Betsy Gotbaum's lecture helps  
us to rethink a project of social import that  
certainly affects us all: balancing life and work.  
Although undeniable progress has been made  
on this issue, much of it has separated the  
concerns of professional and working class

women. Gotbaum illuminates not only how  
much more needs to be done, but also how  
much swifter change might be made with an  
agenda that address the needs of women  
across the economic spectrum.

From these pressing economic concerns,  
we turn to questions of women's cultural  
production with a conference on gender in hip-  
hop. Featuring women who are technological  
innovators in this field, who everyday shatter  
sexist perceptions about women in both the  
music industry and in technology, this event  
celebrates and promotes the burgeoning  
successes of women in the field.

You also won't want to miss our annual  
Scholar and Feminist Conference. This year,  
we take on one of the biggest issues of social  
change, one that often sparks vociferous  
debate: immigration. Women migrate to the  
United States at nearly the same rate as men.  
And yet, the debate on immigration policy  
rarely includes discussion of gender. Current  
immigration policies leave women, and  
millions of other immigrants, on the periphery  
of the very country they help to build. And  
so, we bring together an outstanding group  
of scholars to examine how gender affects  
immigration policy, to analyze why immigrants  
find themselves scapegoated and  
marginalized, and to explore activist  
responses to this hotly contested issue.

In the spirit of igniting new conversations that  
clarify our thinking and identify new pathways  
for lasting social change, I hope you will join  
us for one or more of these exciting events.  
We look forward to your active involvement  
in these conversations.

Sincerely,

Janet R. Jakobsen, Director

## IN MEMORIAM

# Eleanor Thomas Elliott '48

The Barnard community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of alumna, trustee emerita, and longtime friend of the College Eleanor Thomas Elliott '48. Even among the many bright lights of second-wave feminists, Elly shone with rare intensity. As chair of the Barnard Board of Trustees, she fought fiercely to preserve Barnard's autonomy and keep the College from being incorporated into Columbia. We, at the Center, are particularly indebted to Elly for her support. Without her, not only would there be no annual Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture, a series that Elly endowed in 2002 to honor her friend and alumnae by highlighting outstanding contributions to the field of women's studies. Without her, there would likely be no Center, at all. She was a member of the Taskforce that founded the Center, and from that moment on, she has been a guiding force for all of our work.

Elly was among the few women with enough clarity of vision to understand very early the ways in which a center dedicated to advancing knowledge about women could be an asset to a women's college. In the issue of the *Barnard Magazine* commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center, Elly shared a memory of those heady days of change:



Eleanor Thomas Elliott at BCRW's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, 2001

*I think of the summer of 1970. August 26th: the fiftieth anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment. I remember running into Kate Stimpson up here. I asked her if she was going to march in the parade down Fifth Avenue. I remember her startled reply: "Are you going to march?" Obviously, she was alarmed that someone of my advanced years would be up to it.*

*I was forty-four years old.*

*Kate told me that a number of Barnard faculty would be marching, and that I should join them by the Plaza fountain near the abortion placards. I said I'd bring signs we could wear around our necks—to free our hands for pocketbooks. I got big, Barnard-blue paper plates and hung them on ribbons. I painted "Academic Equality" on them—with red nail polish....*

*After the parade, by prior arrangement, I met Lola Haverstick at a restaurant to discuss ideas for the Center.*

*As things got going, people would ask our little task force, "Why do you need a women's center when you are a women's college?" We felt: What better place than Barnard to highlight academic equality for faculty and students? What better place than Barnard to highlight women's remarkable history and accomplishments?*

*Barnard's then president, Martha Peterson, asked a good question: "It's okay to start your project, and I'll give you a bit of space, but what are you going to do for money?" Fate soon provided the answer.*

*Helen Rogers Reid, one of Barnard's great women, had left the College money in her will. I asked her children how they thought she would have felt about starting the Women's Center with her bequest. They said, "She'd love it."*

*We were off and running.*

Like Helen Rogers Ried before her, Elly was undoubtedly "one of Barnard's great women." A feminist and a friend, possessed of a sharp mind, a generous heart, and the courage to use them both, Elly embodied not only a willingness to confront the world's wrongs, but the imagination and tenacity to set them right. We, at the Center, will now do our best to carry forward Elly's legacy, and to do so with her grace, wit and wisdom.

We will think of her often, and miss her greatly.

**03/23**  
**7:00 pm**

**Conference Kick-off Event:  
Immigration & Performance  
Altschul Atrium, Altschul Hall**

Professor Amy Trompetter's Alternative Theatre Lab uses puppetry and performance to give unique voice to the conference themes. Join us for a thoughtful, provocative, and moving prelude to Saturday's conversation.

This performance is free and open to the public. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

**03/24**  
**9:00 am**

**Conference Registration  
Barnard Hall Lobby**

For a complete program, visit [www.barnard.edu/bcrw](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw)

Reservation materials will be mailed by post and available online in early March.

THE SCHOLAR & FEMINIST CONFERENCE XXXII

# FASHIONING CITIZENSHIP: Gender & Immigration

In the spring of 2006, hundreds of thousands of protesters rallied for justice for immigrants in cities and small towns across America. They raised their voices in opposition to the virulent prejudice, intolerance, and violence that has increasingly targeted immigrants not only in the United States but around the globe. In the U.S., we have witnessed a rampant, unapologetic trend toward the criminalization of Muslim immigrants since the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Our nation's borders with Mexico have become a zone marked by escalating vigilantism and militarization. The end of 2005 saw Paris aflame as the young and unemployed rioted against France's systematic inequities and discrimination, particularly against the country's North African immigrants; while in Côte D'Ivoire, concepts of citizenship and "Ivoirite" have been mobilized in opposition to that of the "immigrant" in the ongoing Ivorian crisis. The injustices don't end with these examples.

These vociferous debates and uprisings throughout the world are the focus of the 2007 Scholar & Feminist Conference. Why, we ask, do immigrant populations in an ever-rising number of cultural contexts become scapegoats for the social ills of the world, from unemployment to national security? What are the true motivating factors behind the draconian legislative initiatives that in every way seem to prevent immigrants from living and functioning as citizens? What roles do gender and sexuality play in these conflicts? To answer these questions, we'll look at a range of issues—from economic factors to political imperatives, from the exploitation of national "security" concerns to the cultural and symbolic importance of what it means to "belong." "Fashioning Citizenship" promises a provocative analysis of gender in contemporary conflicts over immigration, and careful consideration of the political implications of today's activist responses.

The annual Scholar & Feminist Conference is committed to bringing gender-based analyses to bear on issues of major importance in both the academic and public arena. For 32 years, the Center has welcomed visionary scholars, artists and activists, including Anna Deavere Smith, Winona LaDuke, Barbara Ehrenreich, Staceyann Chin, Elaine Pagels, Faye Ginsburg, Dorothy Alison, and Maria Hinojosa, whose work not only invites us to think, but also challenges us to act. Sometimes controversial, always ambitious, the Scholar & Feminist provides a forum for cutting-edge feminist theories, as well as a space for imagining how we might use those theories to effect progressive and lasting social change.



Immigration riots, Toulouse, France.



**02/01**  
**7:00 pm**

**James Room,  
4th floor Barnard Hall**

Betsy Gotbaum, who attended Barnard, is Public Advocate for New York City. But, to anyone even vaguely familiar with NYC politics, she needs no introduction. Her commitment to both New York City's families and workforce is evident in the strides she has made on their behalf, from fighting to preserve preventive services that allow families to keep their children out of foster care to playing a decisive role in food stamp reforms that have enabled thousands of families to put food on their tables. There is, perhaps, no one better to help us imagine how we might reconcile the competing, sometimes seemingly irreconcilable responsibilities of work and family, thereby creating more livable lives for *all* New Yorkers.



Betsy Gotbaum

# **THE WORK/FAMILY DILEMMA: A Better Balance**

A keynote address by Betsy Gotbaum

In their May 14, 2006 *New York Times* *Op-Ed* piece, "The Other Mothers," Betsy Gotbaum and Nancy Rankin point out that while much public discussion about work and family has focused on "highly educated women choosing to take time out from their careers to raise a family...little attention has been given to the challenges facing women at the opposite end of the payscale." Certainly, we all remember Lisa Belkin's much-discussed "Opt-Out Revolution" (*New York Times*, 2003), which chronicles the lives of ivy-educated MBA's turned stay-at-home moms, while quietly insisting that we not "look at [these women] as something out of *The Bell Jar*... [They] are not trapped," Belkin goes on to say, "This is a choice."

But what about the low-income women whose jobs fail to provide the paid sick leave or vacation they would need in order to stay at home with a sick child? What of women who have no access to subsidized daycare, whose wages make it impossible for them to invest in after-school or summer programs, who raise their families without the safety net of health insurance? What about the millions of women who are, in fact, trapped? Who have no choice? How might their concerns be brought together with those of more well off women so that we begin to see issues surrounding work and family as a topic of universal concern?

This spring, BCRW moves toward answering these questions by joining the Barnard Center for Toddler Development, A Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center, and the Center for Work Life Law at the University of California at Hastings in a project to explore how issues of work and family manifest themselves across the economic spectrum. We'll consider and develop strategies for securing a universal agenda that includes the concerns of both low-income and professional women. On Thursday, February 1 we kick off this endeavor with a keynote address by New York City Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum.

**03/01**  
**5:30 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor,  
3rd floor Barnard Hall**

Amber Hollibaugh is Senior Strategist at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. A well-known activist, artist, writer, and community organizer, Amber has been working on cutting edge issues of the LGBT liberation movement since its beginnings in 1969.

Surina Khan is Program Director of the Women's Foundation of California, the only statewide public foundation that is investing in women and girls throughout California to build a more just and equitable society for all.

Scot Nakagawa, Grants and Program Director at the Social Justice Fund, has nearly 27 years of experience as a community organizer and activist on a broad array of progressive issues, and has previously served as the Field Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and was a founder and staff person of the Coalition for Human Dignity.

**SOCIAL CHANGE WORKSHOP**

# **DESIRING CHANGE:**

## **Sexuality in Multi-issue Organizing**

A panel with Amber Hollibaugh, Surina Khan,  
& Scot Nakagawa

In the BCRW-commissioned, short documentary, *Feminism*, activist Amber Hollibaugh asks a deceptively simple question to everyone who struggles to make the world a better place: "Why don't you just commit to changing the world totally? Not a little. Not maybe a little more than your mother. Completely... Why don't you actually make a decision that in your own life you're not going to agree to less?" Despite our deepest activist commitments, though, the project of "changing the world totally" can often leave us feeling daunted, overwhelmed, or, perhaps worst of all, stalled. What, then, can we do? Given the great inequities and injustices in the world today, how do we proceed? How do we move to secure economic and racial justice, advance gender- and sexuality-based rights, halt (or even reverse) looming environmental disaster, disable violent military regimes?

The desire to find coherent, lasting solutions to such complex problems leads us, on Thursday, 1 March, to assemble a panel of activists whose most successful work stems from their ability to connect social issues and movements that, at first, might seem unrelated. The bridges they've built, the unexpected and productive coalitions they've made, are the result of their work as feminists and as thinkers about sexuality. We'll look specifically at how these disciplines contribute to the larger project of linking people and their projects, of sharing strategies and making connections, of developing better models for organizing across issues and identities, and of taking bold steps toward a broad movement for social change.



**03/01**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor,  
3rd floor Barnard Hall**

Tara J. Yosso is the author of *Critical Race Counterstories along the Chicana/ Chicano Educational Pipeline*, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

This lecture is sponsored by the Barnard College Education Program, the Teachers College Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Columbia University Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, and the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

The event is free and open to the public. Booksigning and reception to follow.

For more information contact:  
Lee Anne Bell  
Director of the Barnard Education Program  
212.854.237  
email lbell@barnard.edu

**SOCIAL CHANGE WORKSHOP**  
**ISSUES IN URBAN EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES**

# **CHALLENGING RACISM: The Use of Critical Race Counterstories**

A lecture with Tara J. Yosso



In the United States, it is estimated that for every 100 Chicana and Chicano students enrolled in elementary school, only 46 will go on to receive their high school diplomas. Eight will earn a bachelor's degree. No more than two will go on to the graduate-level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Despite the fact that Chicanas/os are among the largest and fastest growing populations in the country, their educational outcomes are the lowest of any "minority" group in America. Chicana and Chicano children are, most definitely, being left behind.

On Thursday, March 1, Dr. Tara J. Yosso, one of the foremost contributors to critical race theory in education, uncovers the racialized (and just plain racist) mythologies that are so often used to explain and excuse this disturbing trend. Using a "counterstorytelling" methodology, Yosso troubles these victim-blaming narratives, and turns our attention to the historical and systematic institutional neglect that is the real root of the inequalities. It's a humanizing and much-needed study of the urgent need to transform America's educational system.

**03/28**  
**6:00 pm**

**Altschul Atrium, Altschul Hall**

Elaine Fuchs is Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development at Rockefeller University, and Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The Distinguished Women in Science Lecture series is made possible by generous funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute —one of America's leading funders of scientific research and education at the undergraduate level— which supports Barnard's Hughes Science Pipeline Project, and allows us to bring to Barnard scientists of the highest caliber, whose work and research represent the cutting-edge of scientific inquiry.

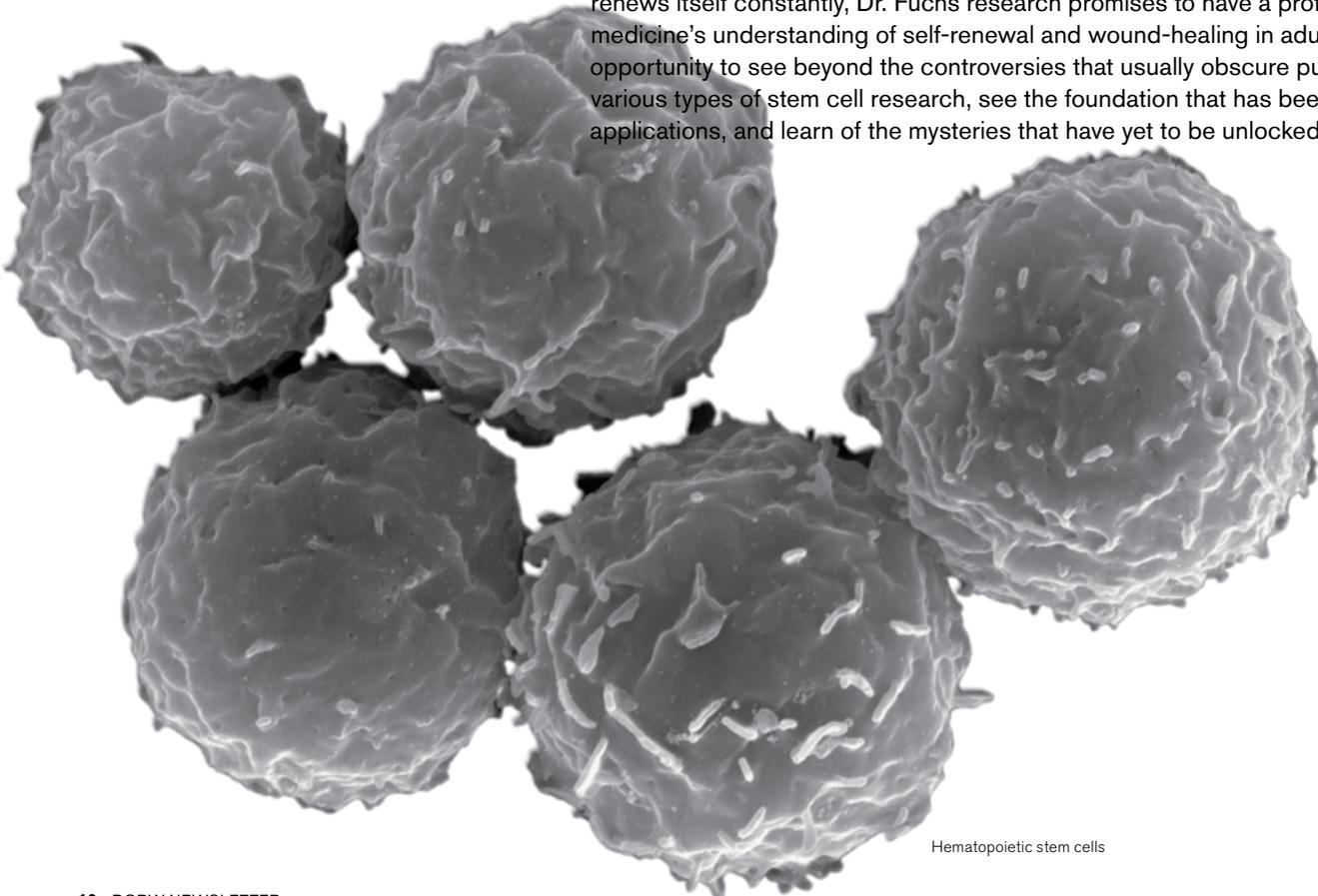
**DISTINGUISHED WOMEN IN SCIENCE LECTURE**

# **STEM CELLS OF THE SKIN: Biology & the Potential for Regenerative Medicine**

**A lecture with Elaine Fuchs**

Like many geneticists whose research relies on human stem cells, Elaine Fuchs is no stranger to controversy. In a 2002 interview with Dorian Devins, Dr. Fuchs describes a familiar gulf between scientists who strive to produce the groundwork that may lead to welcome medical advances and a public that, understandably, may question the pace, ethics, and uncertain outcome of their efforts. "It's frustrating to all of us," says Fuchs, "that science sometimes takes so long to set up that groundwork," but the importance of research cannot be underestimated. Our very lives depend on it. And it is patience and (perhaps even faith) in the process of scientific inquiry that ultimately allows the scientist and the sometimes skeptical public to bridge the divide between them.

"There's a lot of biology," Professor Fuchs muses, "and nature is very clever, and has been creative for millions and millions of years. And in the small lifetimes of human beings, we're just getting to the stage where we can even crack a few of the mysteries she's set up over the eons." On Wednesday, March 28, Elaine Fuchs shares with us the cutting-edge knowledge her studies of stem cells of the skin have produced. Because skin epithelium renews itself constantly, Dr. Fuchs research promises to have a profound impact on medicine's understanding of self-renewal and wound-healing in adults. Join us for this rare opportunity to see beyond the controversies that usually obscure public discussions of various types of stem cell research, see the foundation that has been established for future applications, and learn of the mysteries that have yet to be unlocked.



Hematopoietic stem cells

**04/13**  
**7:00 pm**  
**04/14**  
**10:00 am**

**Barnard Hall**

Tricia Rose is a professor of American Studies at Brown University. She is the author of *Longing to Tell: Black Women Talk About Sexuality and Intimacy* and *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America*, which was awarded the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. More information available at [www.triciarose.com](http://www.triciarose.com).

"Gender Amplified" is free and open to the public, though pre-registration is suggested. For a complete conference program or to register, please visit [www.barnard.edu/bcrw](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw) in mid-March.

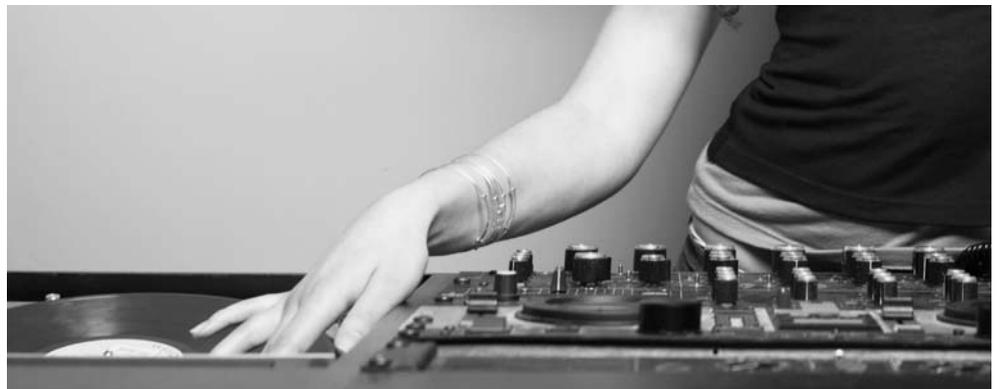


Tricia Rose

STUDENT-INITIATED EVENTS FUND

# **GENDER AMPLIFIED: Women & Technological Innovation in Hip-hop**

Keynote address by Tricia Rose



When it comes to the subject of hip-hop, feminists are seldom at a loss of words. Some, like Tipper Gore, have come dangerously close to infringing on First Amendment rights in their zeal to make misogynistic lyrics simply disappear, while others, like Sarah Jones, set out to turn the genre's often troublesome take on women on its head. For them, the "bling bling, bitches-and-hos formula that dominates hip-hop today" marks not only a fantastically adolescent digression from reality (and a hyper-masculine digression at that), but also a refusal to acknowledge women's participation in and radical influence on a historically male-dominated corner of the music industry (*Ms. magazine*, October/November 2001).

In "Your Revolution," a satiric corrective to the self-proclaimed bad boys of hip-hop who delight in treating women badly, Jones sings: "your revolution will not happen / between these thighs... / because the revolution, / when it finally comes, is gon' be real."

On April 13–14, BCRW joins the Africana Studies Program in sponsoring a conference developed in conjunction with Barnard senior Ebonie Smith to address the very real ways in which women are carving out space for themselves and their projects within a traditionally male-dominated industry. More and more women are taking up the mantles of record producers, deejays, emcees and sound engineers, effectively reshaping what has been a long-standing and important medium for chronicling urban life in America into a vibrant and, yes, revolutionary platform for women artists and technological innovators.

By bringing together scholars in the fields of women's and music studies, female artists and feminist activists, "Gender Amplified" aims to move beyond familiar discussions of misogyny in hip-hop to show how women are using technology to redefine the very boundaries of music-making, not to mention their own roles in the process. Whether you're in the industry and looking to network with like-minded artists, or a music aficionado who wants a more nuanced understanding of one of the country's most exciting art forms, this is a conference you won't want to miss.

**03/21**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor**  
**3rd floor Barnard Hall**

Panelists include Elizabeth Castelli, Associate Professor of Religion; Kim Hall, Visiting Professor of English and Director of Africana Studies; Natalie Kampen, Professor of Women's Studies; Anupama Rao, Assistant Professor of History; and Neferti Tadiar, Visiting Associate Professor of Women's Studies.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LECTURE

# **EMPIRES OLD & NEW: Feminist Perspectives**

A panel discussion with Elizabeth Castelli, Kim Hall, Natalie Kampen, Anupama Rao & Neferti Tadiar

These days, it's difficult to avoid the word empire. Its reach, like that of the ancient and fallen dominions it describes, is vast. More and more, we see it peppering the titles of today's non-fiction bestsellers; more and more it punctuates political speeches on both sides of the aisle. For some, like journalist George Packer, what links modern-day America to the empires of old is "a blend of aggressive nationalism and incompetent imperialism, led by people who want dominance without responsibility." For most, though, the analogy is evoked not to caution against U.S. dominance, but to lament its supposed decline.

In one of his troubling meditations on the subject, historian Niall Ferguson likens not only America but the whole of Western culture to fourth century Rome: in the average American's fascination with "pornography and NASCAR," he sees the decadent "orgies and circuses" that foretold the decline and fall of Roman rule. In fact, Ferguson's "Empire Falls," published in the October 2006 issue of *Vanity Fair*, is nothing less than a roadmap to the West's ruin. That little American "girls no longer play with dolls"; that "otherwise intelligent people" in the atheistic vortex of "post-Christian Europe" practice "feng shui" more often than they attend church; that feminism — worst of all! — that feminism, by giving western women "unprecedented control over their own fertility," has disabled white Christians from keeping up with the "birthrate" of their Muslim neighbors is, for Ferguson, very bad news.

On March 21, we'll assemble a panel with some of Barnard's best and brightest feminist faculty to push the discussion of empire beyond the not-so-oblique sexism, racism, and xenophobia that often attends it. By looking at an array of empires from the ancient and modern world, and by investigating the various ways in which those empires are constructed, preserved, justified, and passed on, we hope to understand better the imperial logic that so captivates the American imagination and, currently, characterizes its foreign policy.



**04/12**  
**7:00 pm**

**Altschul Atrium, Altschul Hall**

Rogaia Abusharaf is director of the Pembroke Center's research initiative on Gender and "Traditional" Muslim Practices, a three-year project including faculty workshops, roundtables, and conferences. Among Abusharaf's publications is *Wanderings: Sudanese Migrants and Exiles in North America*, one of the first books devoted to the experience of Sudanese immigrants and exiles in the United States. She is also editor of the forthcoming *Female Circumcision: Multicultural Perspectives*. Her work has received support from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Royal Anthropological Institute and Durham University Anthropology Department in England, the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study Center, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and the MIT Center for International Studies.

This lecture is supported by Barnard's "Difficult Dialogues" project and made possible by the generous support of The Ford Foundation.

DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

# **BECOMING DISPLACED: Gender, Politics & Sexuality in a Sudanese Squatter Settlement**

A lecture with Rogaia Abusharaf



In February 2007, the crisis in Darfur will enter its fourth year. In that time, more than 400,000 people have died and 250,000 have been displaced in a calculated military campaign designed to rid Darfur of a number of ethnic groups—among them the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa tribes—whose populations, in seeking to compel the Sudanese government to address underdevelopment and the political marginalization of their respective regions, were cast as a threat to the political status quo. Described by António Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as “the largest and most complex humanitarian problem on the globe,” the atrocities in Darfur have taken a profound toll on the region’s women. Used by the Janjawid militias as a particularly crippling weapon of war, women and girls in alarming numbers have suffered abduction, rape, torture, murder, and forced displacement at the hands of their countrymen. On Thursday, April 12, join us as Rogaia Abusharaf addresses the human rights issues that must be at the heart of any discussion of political violence in the Sudan and the incalculable effects of that violence on the selfhood and identity of Darfur’s women.

**02/14**  
**Noon**

**BCRW,**  
**101 Barnard Hall**

Maja Horn received her B.A. from Smith College, her M.A. in Performance Studies from New York University, and her Ph.D. in Romance Studies from Cornell University in 2005; her dissertation is entitled: "Sounding Out: Gender, Sexuality, and Performance in Hispanic Caribbean and Caribbean American Writing." From 2005–2006 she was a research associate at FLACSO, the Latin American Social Science Institute, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Her research and teaching interests include Latin American and Caribbean literatures and cultures, Performance Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies.

LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

# **BETWEEN COLONIAL LEGACIES & GLOBAL IMPULSES: Contemporary Queer Dominican Cultures**

A lecture with Maja Horn

The perceived progressiveness (or backwardness) of Latin American countries with regard to LGBTQ issues and communities tends to be gauged through the presence (or absence) of LGBTQ social movements, political and policy activism, and public manifestations, such as gay pride marches; according to these parameters the Dominican Republic appears as a particularly homophobic and "backward" country. Yet, this prevalent perspective hardly leads to a better understanding of contemporary Dominican gay and lesbian lives and the socio-cultural context that shapes them. On Wednesday, February 14, Maja Horn, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American Cultures at Barnard, discusses some of the historical and cultural conditions out of which queer Dominican cultures and practices have emerged, and explores what other perspectives and parameters—beyond tropes of teleological development—might better account for them.



Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**03/27**  
**Noon**

**BCRW,**  
**101 Barnard Hall**

Christine Cynn is a Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in Women's Studies at Barnard College. From 2005–2006, she was a Fulbright Lecturer/Researcher in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where she taught at the University of Cocody and shot a documentary video with women living with HIV (currently in post-production). She has also directed, edited, and co-produced an HIV prevention video for Brookdale Hospital and Diaspora Community Services, and co-produced a documentary on the Raboteau trial in Haiti. She received her Ph.D. in English from Columbia University in 2005.

LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES

**PRACTICE  
ABSTINENCE,  
BE FAITHFUL,  
DON'T MENTION  
CONDOMS  
(OR SEXWORK)!:  
The ABCs of U.S. Policy  
in the Côte d'Ivoire**

A lecture with Christine Cynn



February 2007 marks the fourth year since the Bush administration announced its 5-year, \$15 billion President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which Bush described as "a work of mercy" initially targeting 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. On March 27, Christine Cynn, Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's Studies at Barnard College, examines PEPFAR, especially its New Partners Initiative, and the critical perspectives of activists and policymakers who argue that PEPFAR undermines other international initiatives and programs combating HIV/AIDS, imposes rigidly normative conceptions of gender and sexuality, and ineffectively emphasizes abstinence and fidelity instead of condom use. Specifically, Professor Cynn will analyze how organizations of women living with HIV have responded to PEPFAR and its funding directives in one of PEPFAR's "focus" countries, Côte d'Ivoire.

Readings are free, open to the public,  
and followed by receptions and booksales.  
The series is sponsored, in part,  
by the Francis Q. O'Neill Foundation.  
For more information, call 212.854.2721.

**02/15**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor,  
3rd floor Barnard Hall**

**03/06**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor,  
3rd floor Barnard Hall**

**04/17**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sulzberger Parlor,  
3rd floor Barnard Hall**

# WOMEN POETS AT BARNARD

SPRING 2007



## Frances Richard, Karen Swenson & Karen Weiser

Frances Richard “courts the sexy anonymous,” Eileen Myles writes of the poems in her first book, *see through*. “These are elegant and sculpted poems that manage to scare me.” She is the recipient of the 1999 Marlboro Review Prize and a grant from the Barbara Deming/Money for Women Fund. Karen Swenson, poet and journalist, is a world traveler whose extensive journeys into Southeast Asia have produced four volumes of poetry: *An Attic of Ideals*, *East-West*, *A Sense of Direction*, and *The Landlady in Bangkok*, which won a National Poetry Series prize. Karen Weiser’s chapbooks include *Heads Up Fever Pile*, *Eight Positive Trees*, *Placefulness*, and the forthcoming *Pitching Woo*. She is the editor and publisher of *Hop hop hop press*.

## Rosanna Warren, Andrew McNeillie & Peg Boyers

Rosanna Warren is a poet “beyond the achievement of all but a double handful of living American poets” (Harold Bloom). She is the author of *Departure*, *Stained Glass*, which was the Lamont Poetry Selection by the Academy of American Poets, *Each Leaf Shines Separate*, and *Snow Day*. She is the Metcalf Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. Andrew McNeillie’s third book, *Slower*, is a series of poem sequences that meditate on personal and natural history, nation states and mental states. His other collections of poems include *Nevermore*, shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, and *Now, Then*. His “pristine and effervescent” prose memoir, *An Aran Keening*, tells of his stay on Inis Mór, just short of a year through 1968-69 (Irish Times). Peg Boyers’s first book of poetry, *Hard Bread*, was published in 2002. The poems are “unapologetic in their devotion to subject, clarity, precision, and accessibility” (*Poetry*). Her second book, *Honey with Bread*, is forthcoming in March 2007. She is Executive Editor of *Salmagundi* at Skidmore College.

## Cathy Park Hong

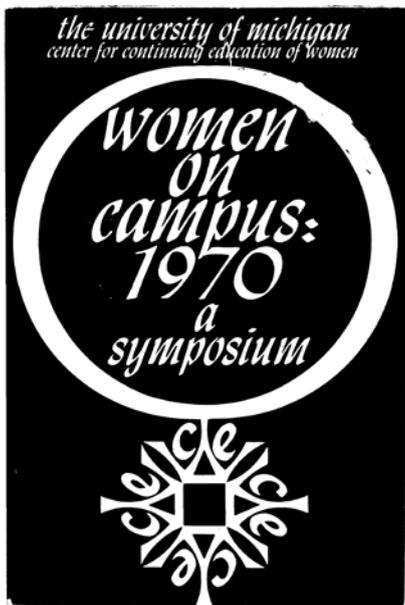
Cathy Park Hong’s second book, *Dance Dance Revolution*, was chosen by Adrienne Rich as the winner of the 2006 Barnard Women Poets Prize. In her citation, Rich writes, “Hong’s work is passionate, artful, worldly. It makes a reader feel and think simultaneously, and rather than implying a nihilistic or negative vision of the future, it leaves this reader, at least, revitalized.” Hong was born in 1976 and grew up in Los Angeles. Her first collection, *Translating Mo’um*, was published in 2002 by Hanging Loose Press. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Hong has worked as a journalist for the *Village Voice*, *New York Times Magazine*, and *Salon*. She teaches at New School University.

# BCRW ON THE WEB

## From the Collection

Feminism & Sexual Health Exhibit

Curated by Laurie Sugatan '06



A major theme of continuing importance to feminism is a woman's right to her own body, particularly to make decisions about her own health and wellbeing. Access to information is integral to a woman's ability to take control of her life and livelihood in this way. The documents assembled in this exhibit—the second online archive of materials curated from the Center's collection of ephemera—date from 1970–1999, and demonstrate how women's organizations have worked over the last thirty years to distribute much-needed information about women's sexual health. Information that was, before the dawn of America's second-wave movement, otherwise unavailable or inadequate became accessible in resource guides, newsletters and pamphlets written for (and by) diverse groups of women. Addressing such issues as safe sex, teenage pregnancy, lesbians and AIDS, advancements in reproductive technologies, contraceptives, reproductive health, and forced sterilization by the government, these publications have empowered women to make well-informed decisions about their own bodies.

## The Scholar & Feminist Online

ISSUE 5.1 | FALL 2006

### Jewish Women Changing America: Cross-Generational Conversations

This newest issue of the *Scholar & Feminist Online* takes as its point of departure the October 2005 Ingeborg, Tamara & Yonina Rennert Women in Judaism Conference. Assembling the work of more than 20 scholars, artists, and social activists, "Jewish Women Changing America: Cross-Generational Conversations" examines the richness, variety, and multiple meanings of American Jewish women's activism in fighting for progressive social change. By bringing together second- and third-wave Jewish feminists to discuss the changes they've made in their scholarly, artistic, religious, and secular communities, the journal also honors BCRW's commitment to understanding how feminism itself, from the strategies it employs to the challenges it faces, evolves over generations. Read the issue online at [www.barnard.edu/sfonline](http://www.barnard.edu/sfonline).



# SPRING 2007

## FEBRUARY

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## MARCH

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25	26	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	29	30	31

## APRIL

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## FEBRUARY

/01

### THE WORK/FAMILY DILEMMA: A Better Balance

*7:00 pm, James Room, 4th floor Barnard Hall*

NYC Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum presents policy recommendations to help New Yorkers of all income levels strike a better balance between work and family.

/14

### BETWEEN COLONIAL LEGACIES & GLOBAL IMPULSES: Contemporary Queer Dominican Cultures

*Noon, BCRW*

Maja Horn discusses some of the historical and cultural conditions out of which queer Dominican cultures and practices have emerged.

## MARCH

/01

### SEXUALITY IN MULTI-ISSUE ORGANIZING

*5:30 pm, Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd floor Barnard Hall*

Amber Hollibaugh, Surina Khan, and Scot Nakagawa imagine ways in which organizing around sexuality might be used as a bridge between progressive social causes.

/01

### CHALLENGING RACISM: Use of Critical Race Counterstories

*7:00 pm, Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd floor Barnard Hall*

Dr. Tara J. Yosso uncovers the racist mythologies that are so often used to hinder the advancement of Chicano and Chicana students in the U.S. educational system.

/21

### EMPIRES OLD & NEW: Feminist Perspectives

*7:00 pm, Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd floor Barnard Hall*

Barnard professors Elizabeth Castelli, Kim Hall, Natalie Kampen, Anupama Rao, and Neferti Tadiar provide valuable insight into America's current foreign policy by revisiting the empires of old.

/23-24

*The Scholar & Feminist Conference XXXII*

### FASHIONING CITIZENSHIP: Gender & Immigration

*Friday, 7:00 pm, Altschul Atrium, Altschul Hall*

*Saturday, 9:00 am, Barnard Hall Lobby*

This year's S&F Conference examines why vociferous debates and uprisings around the issue of immigration are breaking out in so many areas of the world, paying particular attention to the roles that gender and sexuality play.

/27

### PRACTICE ABSTINENCE, BE FAITHFUL, DON'T MENTION CONDOMS (OR SEXWORK)!: ABC's of U.S. Policy in the Côte d'Ivoire

*Noon, BCRW*

Christine Cynn offers a critical analysis of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief as it applies in Africa's Côte d'Ivoire.

/28

### STEM CELLS OF THE SKIN: Biology & the Potential for Regenerative Medicine

*6:00 pm, Altschul Atrium*

Cell biologist Elaine Fuchs discusses her groundbreaking discoveries on skin stem cells and the exciting promises they hold for medical applications.

## APRIL

/12

### DISPLACED IN DARFUR

*7:00 pm, Altschul Atrium*

Rogaia Abusharaf helps us come to terms with what is at stake when women are used as targets of war in the Sudan.

/13-14

### GENDER AMPLIFIED: Women & Technological Innovation in Hip-hop

*Keynote address by Tricia Rose*

*Friday, 7:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am, Barnard Hall*

Moving beyond critiques of misogyny in hip-hop, this event explores the impressive ways in which women use technology to create revolutionary social spaces.

# BCRW Courses 2007

## TRANSLATING SILENCES: An Expanded Poetry Workshop

with Charlotte Mandel

02/07, 02/21, 03/07, 03/21, 04/11, 04/25  
6:15–8:15 pm, BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall  
Fee: \$200

Going into an eleventh enthusiastic year, the poetry workshop "Translating Silences" will continue to open each session with an additional half hour to focus upon the work of a well-known contemporary "poet of the month." This semester, we will concentrate for the first three sessions on the masterwork titled *Trilogy* by H. D. (Hilda Doolittle). H. D. wrote this epic poem during the bombings of London, 1942 to 1944. *Trilogy* is available in paperback, with Introduction and Readers' Notes by Alike Barnstone; New Directions, 1998.

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

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

## WRITING & BEING: Taking Back Our Lives Through the Power of Language

with Meg Giles

01/25, 02/08, 02/22, 03/08, 03/22, 04/05  
6:15–8:15 pm, BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall  
Fee: \$200

Through directed journal writing and exercises, this workshop is designed to reclaim what N. Scott Momaday refers to as "the word as an instrument of creation." We will explore the practice of writing our lives as a daily habit, and how to transform the personal into meaningful public writing.

This is, in fact, a writing workshop, and like any writing workshop, we will discuss craft and the elements of powerful writing. All are welcome.

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

DVD

## FEMINISM: Controversies, Challenges, Actions

To those who claim that feminism has had its day, BCRW offers a brief, fascinating, and irrefutable rebuttal. In *Feminism: Controversies, Challenges, Actions*, filmmaker Rebecca Haimowitz interviews some of the most exciting voices in feminist scholarship and activism.

Commissioned in 2005 to reflect the first 30 years of the Scholar & Feminist conference, the cornerstone of BCRW's public programming, the half-hour documentary asks feminists across generations about past controversies, current challenges, and future actions of a feminist movement that remains as vibrant as it is varied.

The film features interviews with:

Jennifer Baumgardner, Ana Liza Caballes, Leslie Calman, Lisa Duggan, Jane Gould, Hester Eisenstein, Amber Hollibaugh, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Janet Jakobsen, Temma Kaplan, Vivien Labaton, Dawn Lundy Martin, Andrée Nicola McLaughlin, Sunita Mehta, Nancy K. Miller, Elizabeth Minnich, Debra O'Gara, Riya Ortiz, Ann Pellegrini, Amy Richards, Susan Reimer Sacks, Dean Spade, Emily Woo Yamasaki.



## 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.

- TRANSLATING SILENCES: AN EXPANDED POETRY WORKSHOP (\$200)**  
 **WRITING & BEING: TAKING BACK OUR LIVES THROUGH LANGUAGE (\$200)**

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