

BCRW Newsletter
Spring 2009
January
Volume 17, No. 2

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

**The Politics of
Reproduction:
New Technologies of Life**

Featuring presentations by
Sarah Franklin and Debora Spar

**Women, Power and
Politics: A Rising Tide?**

Screening and discussion with
Maria Hinojosa '84

Off-Ramps and On-Ramps

Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Elizabeth Vargas



Change...

Change is in the air. President Barack Obama's recent inauguration in Washington culminates one of the most monumental and exciting presidential races in US history, a race that broke many of the existing barriers to a more representative democracy in this country. There's also reason to embrace change here on the Barnard campus, as we recently celebrated the inauguration of the College's new president, Debora Spar. A pioneer in the study of international political economy and of the economic implications of new reproductive technologies, President Spar will provide the opening presentation at this year's Scholar and Feminist Conference, "The Politics of Reproduction: New Technologies of Life." We hope this collaboration will be the first of many programs in which we're able to draw on Debora's scholarly expertise, as we were fortunate enough to be able to do with her predecessor, Judith Shapiro.

As we head into a new era—both at Barnard and in Washington—the relevance of the longstanding programs of the Barnard Center for Research on Women has only increased. The Center has always stood for lasting social change, and this semester's events fit not only with the new mood in Washington, but also with the programmatic emphases announced by President Spar in her inaugural address: especially in the areas of internationalization, greater faculty support, and newly committed approaches to encouraging leadership.

BCRW has always been committed to providing an international perspective in discussions on gender, race, and equality, and this semester is no different. Our first event of the new year, appropriately, will welcome Maria Hinojosa '84 back to Barnard to present her latest film "Women, Power, and Politics," a documentary that explores how women are increasing their political power world-wide. We'll also look at how political and social infrastructures can affect individuals, particularly in times of war or instability, in the panel discussion on "Boys and Girls in Post-Conflict Societies," an event that will feature scholars whose research spans several continents, including Barnard professors Abosede George and Nara Milanich. And we'll explore the international implications of new reproductive technologies at our Scholar and Feminist Conference this Spring, welcoming scholars, artists and activists from around the world to discuss issues of reproductive justice.

BCRW has always been a leader in moving forward challenging conversations. This Spring's line-up includes lectures by leaders on topics as wide-ranging as transgender rights, work-family balance, and biological research. In February, Dean Spade '97, legal expert on transgender issues and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, will discuss the legal issues that transgender people face and how challenging gender hierarchy in all its forms is a critical component of the feminist movement. In our on-going commitment to work-family balance issues across the economic spectrum, we present two events, including "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps," a discussion with economist Sylvia Ann Hewlett and news anchor Elizabeth Vargas about career flexibility in the professions; as well as the National Domestic Workers Alliance Congress, where domestic worker organizers from the East Coast will convene to discuss how to attain basic rights as working women. Showcasing women's leadership in the sciences, we will also host a lecture by Professor Bonnie Bassler of Princeton University's Biology Department, who will discuss her ground-breaking research on how cells communicate with each other.

Even with all of these changes happening on campus and in the world, BCRW's mission remains the same: to assure that women can live and work in dignity, autonomy, and equality. Please join us this semester in the dialogues that our events will hopefully ignite about how we can truly achieve this mission.

Sincerely,


 Janet R. Jakobsen

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Monday–Friday
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BCRW Projects



Scholar & Feminist Online

Issue 7.1/Fall 2008

Gender on Ice

Guest edited by Lisa Bloom, Elena Glasberg, Laura Kay

This new issue, arguably our most interdisciplinary to date, features interviews with scientists, essays by social scientists, geographers and cultural critics, and feminist and environmentalist art about the Poles. It features works demonstrating that historical and contemporary representations of the poles are far from gender neutral, and in fact, beg for feminist critique and perspective. This issue includes a gallery of eleven artists who have worked in both the Arctic and the Antarctic, featuring images, video, and explanatory text from and about this stellar group of pioneering artists. The included essays, interviews and artworks offer overlapping and competing visions of the polar regions, even as they challenge and engage older narratives and material histories that have shaped these regions. "Gender on Ice" presents a strong argument for the inclusion of feminist perspectives on the way we imagine the poles and the politics that surrounds these regions.

www.barnard.edu/sfonline



BCRW Podcasts

Angela Davis, Lani Guinier, Naomi Klein, and many more

Did you miss a BCRW event? Want to reflect more on the great panel or lecture you attended? Now you can access most of our past programs as podcasts! These podcasts – audio or video files – are free and can be downloaded directly to your computer or mp3 player, using iTunes (free software by Apple for either Mac or PC). You can also subscribe to our podcasts and automatically receive new programs as they are added. Recently uploaded podcasts include last semester's lecture with Angela Davis, a keynote address from the 2008 Scholar and Feminist Conference from Lani Guinier, and lectures by Josephine Ho and Naomi Klein from the 2007 "Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice" colloquium.

www.barnard.edu/bcrw



From the Collection

Gay and Lesbian Activism

Curated by Chanel Ward '08

The momentous Stonewall Riots of 1969 mark a crucial turning point in lesbian and gay rights activism in America. The riots inspired vigorous action toward social acceptance of LGBTQ people – action that would continue for years to come. The materials in this exhibit illustrate three decades of gay and lesbian activism in the US, spanning the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. These documents from the BCRW collection of ephemera highlight a variety of themes – striving for social and economic justice for lesbian mothers, young people's struggles with coming out, and the movement to build gay and lesbian communities, to name a few. Much of the material in this exhibit comes from gay and lesbian periodicals, which provided creative and political outlets not available in mainstream publications. As the struggle for political and social equality continues, these documents show how far we have come, but also how much work is left to do to achieve equal rights for all.

www.barnard.edu/bcrw

BCRW Calendar

02/

Tuesday, 02/03

6:30 PM

Women, Power and Politics: A Rising Tide?

A film screening and discussion with Maria Hinojosa '84
202 Altschul Hall

Monday, 02/09

6:30 PM

Trans Politics on a Neoliberal Landscape

A lecture with Dean Spade '97
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall



Wednesday, 02/18

12:00 PM

Pedagogy of the Dispossessed: Decolonization and the Struggle for Democracy

A lunchtime lecture with Sandy Grande
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Thursday, 02/12

6:30 PM

After Proposition 8: The Future of Marriage Politics

A panel discussion
Hemmerdinger Hall, New York University
100 Washington Square

Saturday, 02/28

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

The Politics of Reproduction: New Technologies of Life

The Scholar and Feminist Conference XXXIV
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby



Thursday, 04/02

7:00 PM

The State of Feminism: Post-Election Race and Gender Analysis

A discussion with Laura Flanders '85 and Patricia Williams
Julius Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Monday, 04/13

6:30 PM

Boys and Girls in Post-Conflict Societies

A panel discussion with Megan Callaghan, Abosede George, Jessica Leinaweaver, and Nara Milanich,
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Wednesday, 04/15

12:00 PM

Muybridge's Guatemalan Laundresses: Gender, Labor, and Aesthetics on a Coffee Plantation

A lunchtime lecture with Elizabeth Hutchinson
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



03/

Monday, 03/11

5:30 PM

Small Talk: Cell-to-Cell Communication in Bacteria

A lecture with Bonnie Bassler
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/

Wednesday, 04/01

6:30 PM

Off-Ramps and On-Ramps

A discussion with Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Elizabeth Vargas
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall



Tuesday, 04/28

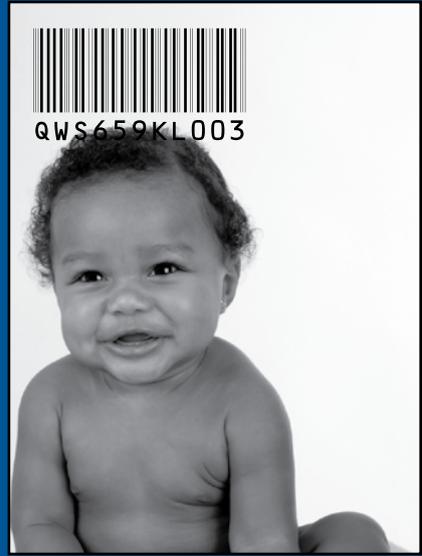
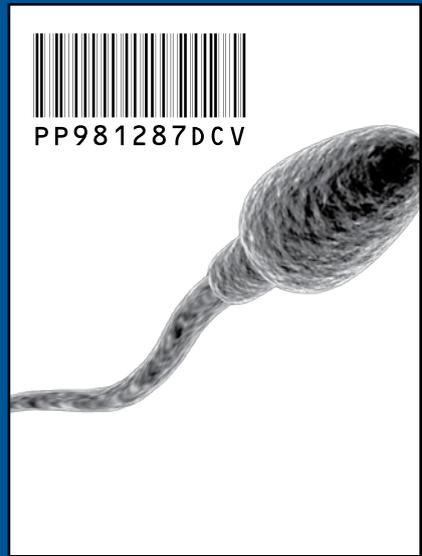
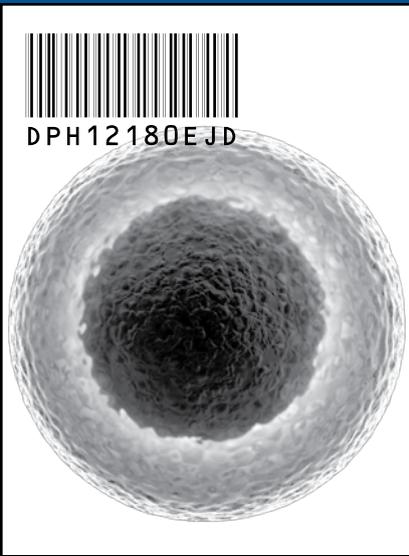
8:00 PM

Prose, Poetry and the Art of the Political

A discussion with Antjie Krog and Adrienne Rich
Location TBA

Date, time & location to be announced National Domestic Workers Alliance Conference

A conference with domestic workers from the East Coast



THE EGG TRADE

Making Sense of the Market for Human Oocytes

By Debora L Spar

THE EXPLOSION IN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ART) HAS CHANGED THE FACE OF CHILD-BEARING IN THE POST-INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, TRANSFORMING THE QUESTION OF WHO CAN HAVE CHILDREN, WHEN THEY DO SO, AND HOW. IN ADDITION TO OUR SCHOLAR AND FEMINIST CONFERENCE ON NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, HERE WE OFFER AN ESSAY BY BARNARD'S NEW PRESIDENT, DEBORA SPAR, WHO WILL ALSO SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE.

Anna Behrens is 24 years old. Tall and slim, she is working toward her Ph.D. in art history at an Ivy League school. During her undergraduate years, Anna accumulated \$27,000 in credit-card debt. In the fall of 2005, frustrated by her economic straits, Anna answered an advertisement in her university's magazine promising \$25,000 to a "tall, athletic woman" willing to "give a gift of life and love." Anna visited the agent who had placed the ad, underwent medical tests at a fertility clinic, and met the couple that was searching for eggs. Through the agent, they offered her \$20,000 plus medical expenses. Six weeks later, after 2 weeks of hormone injections, mood swings, and bloating, Anna returned to the clinic and had eight healthy oocytes removed. The couple took them, and Anna took her money. She will probably never know whether her eggs resulted in a successful pregnancy.

Then, in September 2006, Anna saw another ad seeking healthy young women for egg donation. But this time, the oocytes were for research: using somatic-cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), scientists would attempt to use her eggs to generate a line of infinitely reproducing embryonic stem cells.

Intrigued, Anna answered the ad and learned that medically, the procedure was identical to what she'd already experienced. But there was no couple to meet this time and no baby to be produced. There was also no money. Instead, Anna was told apologetically, she would be reimbursed only for actual expenses—the bus fare, in her case, for trips to the in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic.

Anna Behrens is not a real person. But her story plays out thousands of times annually in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2003, at least 5,767 babies were born after being conceived with donated eggs—an 11% increase from 2002. Since success rates for IVF using donated eggs averaged 30 to 50% in 2003, the number of IVF cycles performed that year using such eggs was considerably higher: 12,996. Some small fraction of the eggs were probably truly "donated," given by friends or family members out of love. The rest were sold, for an average of about \$5,000 per harvest.

For stem-cell science, however, the numbers and market were entirely different during the same period. Most commercial laboratories in the United States were concentrating on adult or umbilical-cord stem cells, research trajectories that don't depend on obtaining human embryos or oocytes. Most university laboratories were working either with the handful of stem-cell lines created before 2001, when the Bush administration's prohibition on federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research went into effect, or with lines created from donated embryos left over from IVF treatment. Only a few laboratories had announced their intent to use donated human oocytes to generate specific stem-cell lines.

Such reluctance is understandable, for stem-cell science in the United States has been controversial since its inception. Some opponents liken the technology to cloning and therefore reject it; others vehemently disapprove of using embryos as research material. In such a heated environment, any proposal involving the use of human eggs will be incendiary, drawing new types of opponents into the political debate.

To forestall these concerns, stem-cell scientists have been quick to promise never to purchase eggs. In April 2005, the National Academy of Sciences published its Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research, recommending that no payment be provided for donating oocytes for research. These recommendations were quickly adopted into law by states that explicitly permitted or promoted SCNT.

In theory, therefore, SCNT progress rests largely on the hope that one small segment of society will altruistically provide, free, the raw material for basic scientific research. It is a noble theory — but an implausible one. Why should young women—most of whom have not yet used their eggs to produce their own children and have little chance of benefiting directly from the research—

be expected to volunteer? And why should they categorically be denied any form of payment?

Answers to these questions typically focus on fears of exploitation, positing not reasons why women might volunteer but rather reasons why they shouldn't receive any payment. One recent publication, for example, argues that "Offering payment [to egg donors] would likely induce economically vulnerable women to sell their eggs. . . . The potential for disproportionate recruitment of low-income women, women of color, and young college women . . . is high."¹ If women were allowed to sell their eggs for research, worries another author, "[a] market in eggs for research would emerge, valuing women's reproductive tissue over their well-being."² These are legitimate concerns. But they mask the central contradiction highlighted by Anna's story: in the United States, we already allow women to "donate" their eggs for profit. How can we conclude that providing eggs for reproduction is less exploitative or dangerous than providing them for research?

We can't. Which is why, as the demand for human oocytes grows, I believe that we need to reconfigure the debate over eggs and reexamine the issues raised by egg donation.

The most critical issue is the health of the women involved. If women are going to donate eggs, we must ensure that their health is not compromised. We need, therefore, to subject egg donation to far more scientific scrutiny than it currently receives. We need more longitudinal studies of the drugs involved in ovarian hyperstimulation, for example, more long-term follow-up of egg donors, and deeper analyses of the conditions under which dangerous complications occur. A recent report by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council confirms that egg donation is relatively safe.³ But five women are known to have died as a result of the procedure in the United Kingdom, and roughly 0.5 to 5% have reportedly had side effects ranging from respiratory distress to renal failure. . . .^{4,5} We need to understand what went wrong in these cases and whether certain preconditions put women at particular risk.

Once these factors are better understood, a second obvious need is to ensure that potential donors are fully informed. Currently, there are no federal guidelines covering egg donation; donors thus learn only what their brokers, clinics, or research laboratories choose to tell them. All live organ donors, by contrast, must undergo a formal process of informed consent overseen by the congressionally established Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Blood donors and participants in federally funded studies are covered by federal regulations describing what kind of information they must receive and how their personal data will be protected. Certainly, egg donors deserve at least the same levels of information and protection, both of which could easily be provided by federal regulation regarding informed consent and by mandated insurance coverage.

A third task is to decide as a society whether we're comfortable with providing monetary compensation for any form of egg "donation." Too frequently, discussions of compensation are dismissed with facile references to other body parts. "If men can sell their sperm," proponents say, "why can't women sell their eggs?" Or, on the other side: "We don't allow people to sell their kidneys. Why should they sell eggs?" But such lines of reasoning lack logic. Rather than accepting their implications, we need seriously to consider how we want to define eggs and whether we want women to be allowed to sell them. Current policies in the United States are absurdly inconsistent, as illustrated by the case of Anna Behrens: \$20,000 for an egg used for reproduction; nothing for the same egg used for stem-cell research. Such a policy would make sense only if we deemed assisted reproduction socially more valuable than research. But this argument is not being made and perhaps could not logically stand, given that the alternative to assisted reproduction would often be adoption. Instead, opponents of egg selling tend to refer to the fears of commodification and the risks to donors — all of which, if valid, apply equally to the reproductive and research uses of eggs.

What we need, therefore, is a fresh debate on egg donation and a new set of policies. We need to consider the health risks and ways of identifying and mitigating them. We need to ensure that all potential donors are fully informed of these risks and fully protected against them. We need to make clear that the benefits of egg donation, for reproductive or research purposes, are complicated, and that few of these benefits will ever flow directly to the donor. At the moment, though, the politics of egg donation have blinded us to these real issues. We have not thought deeply about what makes sense for science, for women, and for society. Instead, we are only fighting about the price.

To learn more about these issues, attend this February's Scholar & Feminist Conference. See page 13 for more details.

-
1. SB 1260 (Ortiz/Runner): standards for egg retrieval for stem cell research. Fact sheet. 2006. (Accessed March 9, 2007, at <http://www.genetics-and-society.org/policies/california/1260.html>.)
 2. Galpern E. Beyond embryo politics: women's health and dignity in stem cell research. *Women's Health Activist*. May/June 2006. Washington, DC: National Women's Health Network.
 3. Guidice L, Santa E, Pool R, eds. Assessing the medical risks of human oocyte donation for stem cell research: workshop report. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2007.
 4. Practice Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome. *Fertil Steril* 2003;80:1309-1314.
 5. BBC News Online. Safety of egg donation 'unclear.' June 30, 2005. (Accessed March 9, 2007, at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4634625.stm>.)

WORK & FAMILY

How to Strike a Balance

WITH CARE WORK FALLING UNEVENLY ON THE SHOULDERS OF WOMEN, A HOST OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS HAVE ALSO IMPLEMENTED LEGISLATION, BARELY EVEN DISCUSSED IN THE U.S. (BEYOND FEMINIST CIRCLES) TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES. THESE LAWS PROTECT WORKERS WHO ARE PARENTS FROM BEING REFUSED JOBS OR ASSIGNED DEAD-END WORK AND ALSO MANDATE THAT PREGNANT WOMEN BE GRANTED LIGHTER DUTIES, PARENTAL LEAVE, AND BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT.

Nearly half of all Americans cannot afford to get sick, nor can they afford for their children, elderly parents, or anyone else they care for to get sick. As shocking as it may seem to those of us who enjoy this fundamental benefit, or to the millions of workers in the industrialized countries all over the world who take paid leave for granted, paid sick leave is not a federally mandated benefit for working Americans.

Paid sick leave is critical to thriving societies. Most, if not all, other countries in the global North have already figured that out, and with it, have noticed that production actually increases with better work-life balance.¹ Yet, if the 47 percent of Americans without paid sick leave² stay home to care for themselves or their loved ones, they not only lose crucial income, they also fear losing their jobs.

Unfortunately, sick leave isn't the only way in which the United States lags behind in facilitating its workers' ability to care for themselves and their families. The US has very little public care available for children under the age of five compared to other industrialized countries. We lack paid annual leave (paid vacation), along with paid leave for short and long-term illness and post-childbirth leave. The US also trails in working hours legislation that would prohibit mandatory overtime and would demand higher pay for evenings and weekends. The US similarly has no flexible hours legislation, which would allow workers to work from home when possible or alter their schedules when necessary, thus, allowing many American workers to balance their home and work lives while also helping traffic congestion in our communities.

With care work falling unevenly on the shoulders of women, a host of industrialized nations have also implemented legislation, barely even discussed in the US (beyond feminist circles) to prevent discrimination based on family responsibilities. These laws protect workers who are parents from being refused jobs or assigned dead-end work and also mandate that pregnant women be granted lighter duties, parental leave, and breastfeeding support.

Moreover, all of this extra work and failure to support care has not necessarily increased American productivity. Americans work longer hours than other industrialized countries and have the highest work hours per week standard (40 compared to 37, averaged across Europe).³ Despite the longer hours, however, Americans rank eighth in output per worker-hour.⁴

As all of these examples show, there is much that could be done to improve the conditions for both our working lives and our families in the United States. The Barnard Center for Research on Women has a long-standing commitment to raising awareness about work/family balance issues across class. Some of our recent events on this topic include our 2007 conference "The Work-Family Dilemma: A Better Balance," which brought together participants from many different backgrounds, including law, government, economics, journalism, and labor unions; our subsequent New Feminist Solutions policy report on the proceedings of this conference (available at www.barnard.edu/bcrw); and a collaboration in 2008 with the Domestic Workers Alliance, an organization working to build fair labor standards for domestic workers across the U.S. BCRW is deeply invested in facilitating conversations about work-family balance that approach the issue from a number of different vantage points. This semester's event, "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps" will focus on work-life balance issues faced by professional women, and our second conference with National Domestic Workers Alliance will address workers rights for all working women.

To learn more about these issues, attend "Off-Ramps and On-Ramps," and the "National Domestic Workers Alliance Conference." See pages 15 and 19 for more information.

¹ Barnard Center for Research on Women. *The Work-Family Dilemma: A Better Balance* (2007): 5.

² *The Work-Family Dilemma: A Better Balance*, 5.

³ Gornick, Janet, "The Government Gone Fishin': The Absence of Work/Family Reconciliation Policy in the United States," presentation for *The Work/Family Dilemma: A Better Balance*, Feb. 2, 2007.

⁴ Gornick, Janet, "The Government Gone Fishin'".

Women, Power and Politics: A Rising Tide?

Maria Hinojosa '84

Film screening and discussion

Tuesday, 02/03

6:30 PM

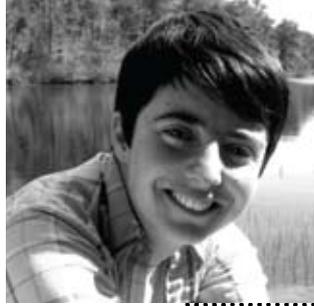
202 Altschul Hall

From a Senate race in New Hampshire to the Presidential palace in Chile; from a team of high school debaters in New York City competing to participate in the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute to the halls of Parliament in Rwanda, women are becoming empowered. What inspires them, drives them, and keeps them at the top? In this documentary, originally aired on PBS's weekly news program "NOW," Maria Hinojosa '84 embarks on her own personal journey to discover the struggles women and girls face as they embrace power and seek to change the world. The film provides an intimate behind-the-scenes look at the high-stakes risks, triumphs, and in some cases defeats, of being a woman leader today. A discussion with Hinojosa, a Barnard alum, will follow the screening.

Maria Hinojosa, an award-winning journalist and author, joined the PBS news show "NOW" as senior correspondent in 2005. Hinojosa, who formerly covered urban affairs for CNN, also serves as anchor and managing editor of National Public Radio's "Latino USA," a weekly national program reporting on news and culture in the Latino community. Hinojosa is the anchor of her own Emmy Award-winning talk show on WGBH in Boston, "One on One with Maria Hinojosa." Hinojosa has garnered many awards and honors, including an Emmy in recognition for her work covering the September 11th attacks, a lifetime achievement award in media by the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors, and a Robert F. Kennedy award in radio for her reporting on the disadvantaged. Her personal experiences as a Mexican-American career woman, wife and mother living in New York were published in 1999 in her critically acclaimed memoir, *Raising Raul: An Adventure Raising Myself and My Son*. In 1995 she published *Crews: Gang Members Talk with Maria Hinojosa*, a book based on her award-winning NPR report.

Trans Politics on a Neoliberal Landscape

Dean Spade '97



Lecture co-sponsored by Well-Woman and Q

Monday, 02/09

6:30 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Transgender, transsexual and other gender non-conforming people face persistent and severe discrimination in employment, education, health care, social and legal services, criminal justice and many other realms. Dean Spade '97, legal expert on transgender issues and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, will discuss what trans politics can mean in the current political context and how we might understand strategies for trans legal equality in these times. What role does or should radical gender politics play in a historical moment marked by trends of privatization, labor and environmental deregulation, and the elimination of health and welfare programs, all of which contribute to an overall upward distribution of wealth and decreasing life chances for the poor? Neoliberalism's hallmarks are cooptation and incorporation, meaning that the words and ideas of resistance movements are frequently recast to become legitimizing tools for oppressive political agendas. These trends have had significant impacts on social movements in the US, whose moves toward professionalization and away from radical demands for redistribution have drastically changed the context of resistance. What can trans activists and our allies learn from these trends and how can we conceptualize trans strategies that prioritize those who are the objects of the violence produced by neoliberalism? This talk will offer some examples of approaches being taken by trans activists to confront these dilemmas.

Five years after graduating from Barnard College, Dean Spade founded the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (www.srlp.org), a non-profit law collective that provides free legal services to transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people who are low-income and/or people of color. SRLP also engages in litigation, policy reform and public education on issues affecting these communities and operates on a collective governance model, prioritizing the governance and leadership of trans, intersex, and gender variant people of color. While working at SRLP, Dean taught classes focusing on sexual orientation, gender identity and law at Columbia and Harvard Law Schools. Dean is currently an assistant professor of law at Seattle University Law School. Prior to joining the faculty of Seattle University, Dean was a Williams Institute Law Teaching Fellow at UCLA Law School and Harvard Law School.

Lunchtime Lecture Series

“Pedagogy of the Dispossessed: Decolonization and the Struggle for Democracy”

With Sandy Grande

Wednesday, 02/18

12:00 PM

101 Barnard Hall

The post 9-11 deployment of unfettered neoliberalism (i.e. deregulation, privatization, downsizing, outsourcing) has led to a plethora of critiques of the US as ushering in a new rise in empire building, global imperialism, and disaster capitalism. Examining the notion of the “American Empire,” from an indigenous perspective, Sandy Grande, associate professor of education at Connecticut College and visiting associate professor and director of the education department at Barnard, argues that while it may be necessary to continually analyze the colonialist project through contemporary lenses, it is critically important to perceive its current incarnations as an extension of, rather than a departure from the historical project that began in 1492.

“Muybridge’s Guatemalan Laundresses: Gender, Labor, and Aesthetics on a Coffee Plantation”

With Elizabeth Hutchinson

Wednesday, 04/15

12:00 PM

101 Barnard Hall

In 1875, the Anglo-American landscape photographer Eadweard Muybridge traveled to Central America as a guest of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. The trip resulted in an album of luxurious views that document the impact of US involvement in the politics and economics of the region. In addition to producing picturesque views of the shady plantations in the Guatemalan highlands, Muybridge also turned his camera on the Mayan natives who worked there. Situating these pictures in the contexts of ethnographic photography and fine art from the 1870s, Elizabeth Hutchinson, assistant professor of art history at Barnard College, traces the overlapping discourses of gender, class, race, and empire that give them meaning.

The Politics of Reproduction: New Technologies of Life

Conference Opening by Debora Spar
Keynote Address by Sarah Franklin

The Scholar and Feminist Conference XXXIV

Saturday, 02/28

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

Increased demand for assisted reproductive technology (ART) and transnational adoption has been propelled by a number of factors, including the development of new technologies and changes in familial form—such as childrearing in second or third marriages; lesbian, gay, and transgendered families; and delays in childbearing and subsequent difficulties in conception—that make ART helpful. Other relevant factors include environmental changes that have negatively affected fertility levels, new levels of transnational migration and interaction that have fueled awareness of babies available for and in need of adoption, and concerns about genetic diseases and disabilities. Effectively, the various imperatives and the desires, both cultural and personal, that the use of ART fosters and responds to, have created a “baby business” that is largely unregulated and that raises a number of important social and ethical questions. Do these new technologies place women and children at risk? Should there be limits on how reproductive technologies are used? How should we respond ethically to the ability of these technologies to test for genetic illnesses? And how can we ensure that marginalized individuals, for example, people with disabilities, women of color, and low-income women, have equal access to these new technologies and adoption practices? These questions and many others on the global social, economic and political repercussions of these new forms of reproduction will be the focus of this year’s Scholar and Feminist Conference.

Conference Opening by Debora Spar, Barnard College and Keynote Address by Sarah Franklin, Lancaster University.

Participants include: Lori Andrews, Chicago-Kent College of Law; Laura Briggs, University of Arizona; Claudia Castañeda, Brandeis University; Wendy Chavkin, Columbia University; Dana-Ain Davis, State University of New York, Purchase; David Eng, University of Pennsylvania; Sarah Franklin, Lancaster University; Faye Ginsburg ’75, New York University; Michele Goodwin, University of Minnesota Schools of Law, Medicine, and Public Health; Rebecca Haimowitz, filmmaker, *Made in India*; Leith Mullings, City University of New York; Rayna Rapp, New York University; Loretta Ross, SisterSong; Lesley Sharp, Barnard College; Vaishali Sinha, filmmaker, *Made in India*; Debora Spar, Barnard College; Kalindi Vora, University of California at Berkeley; Faith Wilding, subRosa; and Hyla Willis, subRosa.

Visit www.barnard.edu/bcrw/scholarandfeminist to register.

9:00–10:00 AM

REGISTRATION

10:00–10:30 AM

OPENING REMARKS

Debora Spar

10:30 AM–12:30 PM

Panel I

ART: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Lori Andrews, Wendy Chavkin, Leith Mullings, Loretta Ross, Debora Spar

12:30–1:30 PM

Panel II

ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS

Rebecca Haimowitz, Vaishali Sinha, Faith Wilding, Hyla Willis, Rebecca Young

2:00–4:00 PM

Panel III

MARGINALITY AND EXCLUSIVITY IN ART PRACTICES

David Eng, Faye Ginsburg, Michele Goodwin, Rayna Rapp, Lesley Sharp

Panel IV

GLOBAL DIMENSIONS

Laura Briggs, Claudia Castañeda, Dana-Ain Davis, Iris Lopez, Kalindi Vora

4:00–5:00 PM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Sarah Franklin

Small Talk: Cell-to-Cell Communication in Bacteria

Bonnie Bassler

Distinguished Women in Science

Monday, 03/11

5:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Bacteria, primitive single-celled organisms, communicate with chemical languages that allow them to synchronize their behavior and thereby act as enormous multi-cellular organisms. This process is called quorum sensing and it enables bacteria to successfully infect and cause disease in plants, animals, and humans. Investigations of the molecular mechanisms underlying quorum sensing are leading to the development of novel strategies to interfere with the process and, thus, prevent disease. These strategies form the basis of new therapies that might be used as antibiotics. Bonnie Bassler, Squibb Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University and this year's Distinguished Women in Science lecturer, will present her research on quorum sensing and elaborate on how biologists are discovering new ways to prevent and treat disease.

Bonnie Bassler is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and the Squibb Professor of Molecular Biology at Princeton University, where she also chairs Princeton University's Council on Science and Technology and is the Director of Graduate Studies in the Molecular Biology Department. Bassler received a B.S. in Biochemistry from the University of California at Davis, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Johns Hopkins University. She performed postdoctoral work in Genetics at the Agouron Institute, and she joined the Princeton faculty in 1994. In 2008, she received Princeton University's President's Award for Distinguished Teaching. Bassler is an editor for *Molecular Microbiology* and *Annual Reviews of Genetics*, and she is an associate editor for the *Journal of Bacteriology*.



Off-Ramps and On-Ramps

Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Elizabeth Vargas



**Discussion co-sponsored with the Barnard Center for Toddler Development
Wednesday, 04/01**

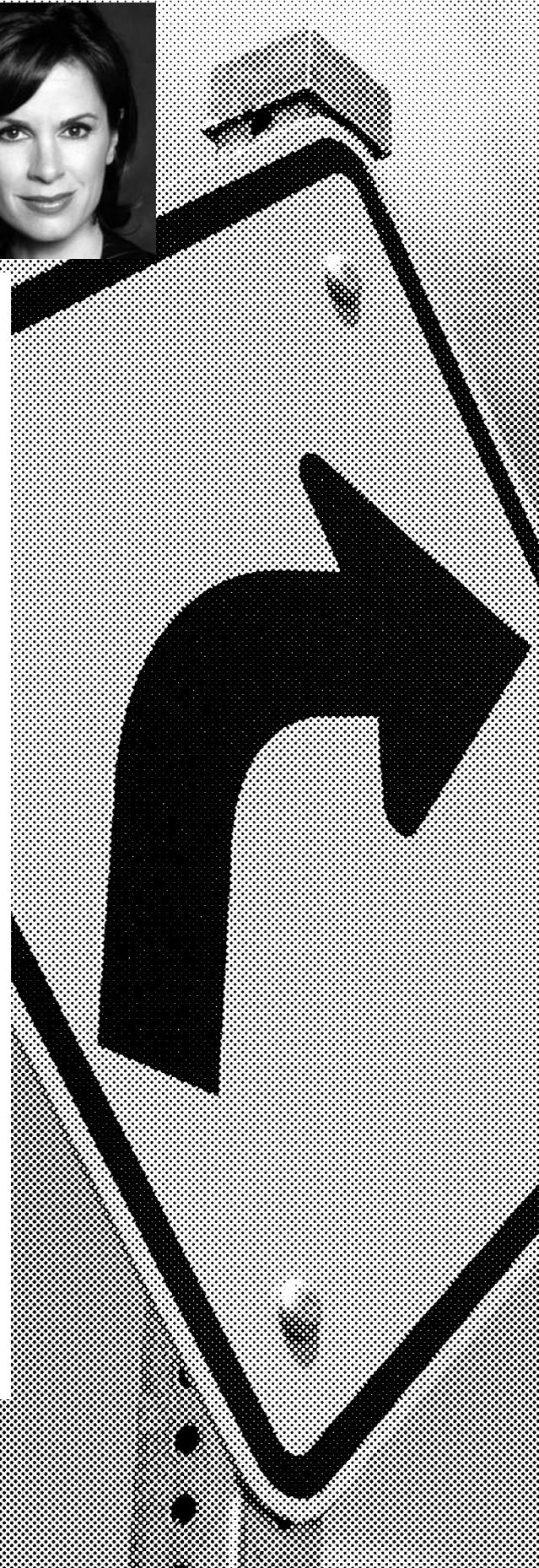
6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Economist Sylvia Ann Hewlett (above, left) and news anchor and correspondent Elizabeth Vargas (above, right) will engage in a discussion on the specific challenges facing professional women as they juggle work and family commitments. In her recent book, *Off-Ramps and On-Ramps*, Sylvia Ann Hewlett takes a critical look at how companies can attract and retain professional women while providing greater “arc-of-career” flexibility. Hewlett will share her expertise in advising companies on how to make their workplaces and career tracks more accessible to talented women at all stages in their lives, and will be joined in conversation by Elizabeth Vargas of ABC News, who will share her experiences as a professional woman balancing the demands of work and family.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett is an economist and the founding president of the Center for Work-Life Policy (a nonprofit think tank) where she leads the “Hidden Brain Drain” Task Force, a group of 47 global companies and institutions committed to fully realizing female and multicultural talent. She also directs the Gender and Policy Program at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University. She is the author of seven critically acclaimed books and has taught at Barnard College, Columbia, Cambridge and Princeton Universities and held fellowships at the Institute for Public Policy Research in London and the Center for the Study of Values in Public Life at Harvard. In the 1980s she became the first woman to head the Economic Policy Council, a think tank composed of 125 business and labor leaders. A Kennedy Scholar and graduate of Cambridge University, she earned her Ph.D. degree in economics at London University.

Elizabeth Vargas is co-anchor of ABC News’ “20/20.” As an award-winning anchor and correspondent, Vargas has traveled the world covering breaking news stories, reporting in-depth investigations and conducting newsmaker interviews. During the historic Iraqi elections in December 2005, she anchored “World News Tonight” from Baghdad. She anchored for both “World News Tonight” and “20/20” from the U.S. Gulf Coast, covering Hurricane Katrina’s devastation. Vargas was credited by the *New York Times* in November 2004 as reinvigorating the newsmagazine format with her “intellectually brave” reporting of an examination of the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young man whose murder gained national attention as an anti-gay crime. In July 2003, she hosted “In the Shadow of Laci Peterson,” an ABC News special that examined the disappearances of several young women in northern California and why their stories failed to attract significant media attention. Vargas graduated with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., where she began her broadcasting career as a reporter/anchor for KOMU-TV.



Boys and Girls in Post-Conflict Societies

Megan Callaghan, Abosede George, Jessaca Leinaweaver, and Nara Milanich

Panel discussion

Monday, 04/13

6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Long after formal peace treaties have been signed, war continues to shape social institutions and interactions. Young people who have grown up amid violent conflict often experience its lingering effects through the loss of family, estrangement from local communities, destruction of the physical environment, or the instability of the government. This panel takes an interdisciplinary look at young people's lives following conflict in various places and time periods. It will show how, in spite of the tremendous constraints placed on them, young people are social actors who have their own parts to play in social reconstruction. Furthermore, it insists on treating young people not as a homogeneous group, but as individuals whose lives are constructed through relations of social difference and inequality. Taking gender to be a critical dimension of difference, panelists will reflect on the challenges facing girls and boys in post-conflict situations, as well as their active negotiation of culturally, historically, and age-specific masculinities and femininities.

Panelists include Jessaca Leinaweaver, assistant professor of anthropology at Brown University; Megan Callaghan, visiting assistant professor of anthropology at Bard College; and Nara Milanich, assistant professor of history at Barnard College. Abosede George, assistant professor of history at Barnard College, will moderate.



Prose, Poetry and the Art of the Political

Antjie Krog and Adrienne Rich



Discussion

Tuesday, 04/28

8:00 PM

Location to be announced. Visit www.barnard.edu/bcrw for details.

For many decades, Adrienne Rich (right) and Antjie Krog (above) have been at the forefront of the dissident tradition within their respective language worlds, writing poetry and prose that pushes the limits of form while questioning the structures of political violence in which they live. Both are among the most lauded writers of their generation, receiving acclaim and prizes around the world despite but also because of their insistent critique of the status quo. Both have created works of inimitable beauty and force. Both have championed justice and equality, and each woman has read and admired the works of the other across the miles and oceans.

Antjie Krog has published 14 volumes of poetry, two of which are in English. She has also worked as a journalist and translator. She is best known for her account of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *Country of My Skull*. *Down to My Last Skin*, her first collection of poetry in English won the inaugural 2000 FNB Vita Poetry Award. Among her many other awards are the Eugene Marais Prize, the Dutch/Flemish Reina Prinsen-Geerligs Prize, the Rapport Prize for best literary work in a particular year, and the Hertzog Prize for the best poetry volume over three years. For her journalistic work Krog has received the Pringle Award as well as the Foreign Correspondent Award and has been honored by the Hiroshima Peace Foundation. She has also been the recipient of the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award.

One of America's most distinguished poets, Adrienne Rich has published more than sixteen volumes of poetry and four books of nonfiction prose. Rich's work has achieved international recognition and has been translated into German, Spanish, Swedish, Dutch, Hebrew, Greek, Italian, and Japanese. She has received numerous awards, fellowships, and prizes, including the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Lenore Marshall/Nation Prize for Poetry, the Fund for Human Dignity Award of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Lambda Book Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry, the National Book Award, the Poet's Prize, the MacArthur Fellowship, and, most recently, the Dorothea Tanning Prize of the Academy of American Poets and the Lannan Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the Institute for Comparative Literature, the Heyman Center for the Humanities, and Barnard Women Poets, with additional support from the Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Department of English, the Center for Literary Translation, and the Dutch Language Program of the Department of Germanic Languages.

Free and open to the public. Tickets and additional information will be available as of April 1, from the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society.

Visit www.columbia.edu/cu/icls/ or call 212.854.4541 for more information.



Post-Election Issues in Depth

“The State of Feminism: Post-Election Race and Gender Analysis”

A discussion with Laura Flanders '85 and Patricia Williams

Wednesday, 04/02

7:00 PM

Julius Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

BCRW's 2008 “Scholar and Feminist” Conference examined the state of democracy, and now that the election results are in and a new President has just been inaugurated, we turn to the state of feminism in the aftermath of the election. There is no question that the results of the 2008 US presidential election were monumental. For the first time in the nation's history, an African-American man has been elected to the highest political office in the country. The presidential campaigns themselves were also full of other important milestones in the fight for truly diverse political representation. Hillary Clinton obtained over 18 million votes in the Democratic primaries, and for the second time a woman was chosen as the Vice Presidential candidate for a major political party. Now that the dust has settled from last November's election, it is time for feminist scholars and activists to regroup and begin a conversation about the impact of these events and the changes they represent. Have the politics of civil rights changed fundamentally? At all? Has the meaning of feminism broadened? Or narrowed? Will these changes set the stage for future movement toward justice in the United States? To lead us in a conversation about what occurred, as well as to discuss future political alliances, possibilities, and risks, we have invited Patricia J. Williams, renowned legal scholar and expert on race in the US, to join Laura Flanders, Barnard alumna and feminist activist and journalist.

Laura Flanders is host of “GRITtv,” a daily, news, discussion and take-action program seen on Free Speech TV, and of RadioNation, the nationally-syndicated weekly radio program of *The Nation Magazine*.

Patricia J. Williams is professor of law at Columbia University, and author of numerous books, including the critically acclaimed *The Alchemy of Race & Rights*.

“After Proposition 8: The Future of Marriage Politics”

Thursday, 02/12,

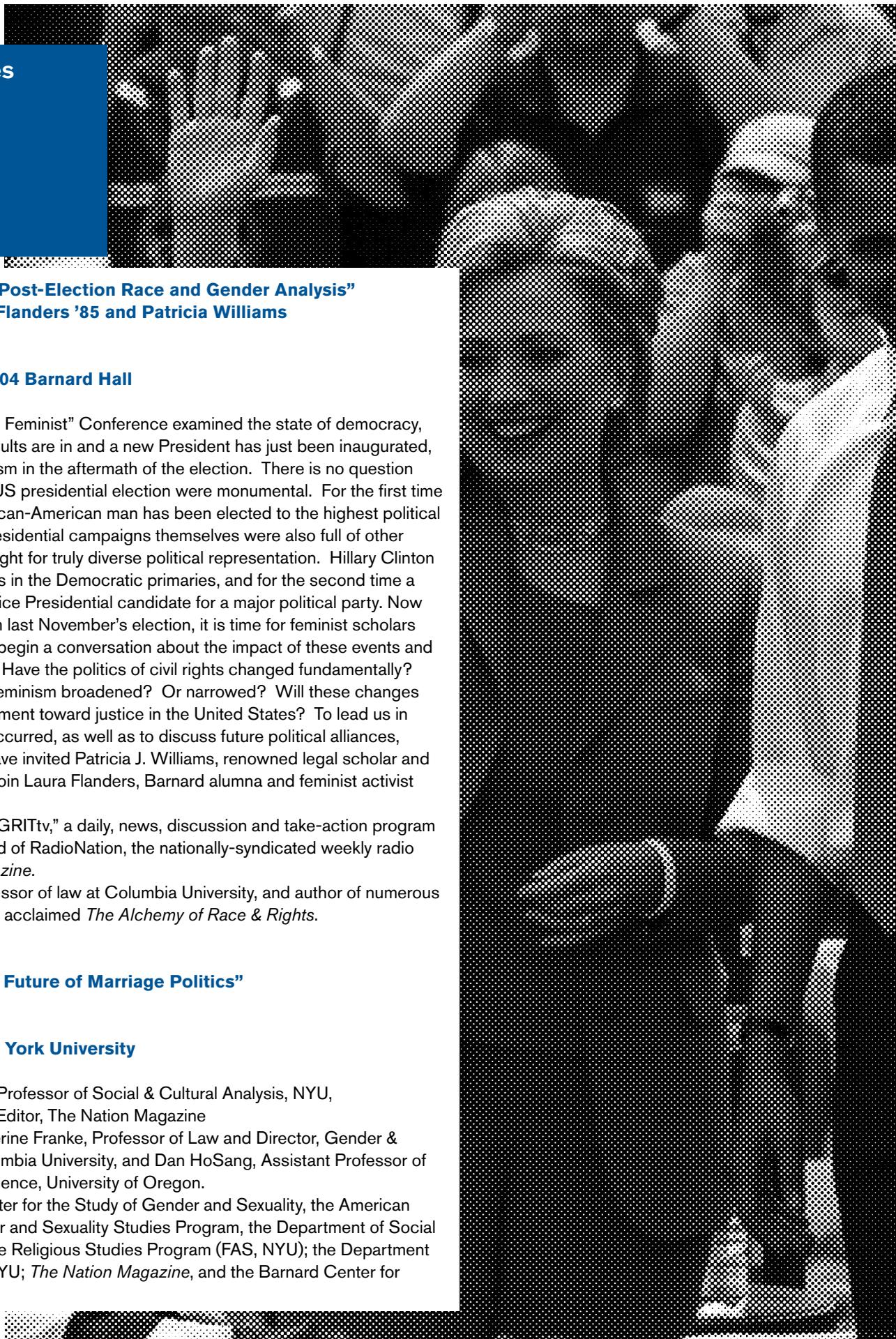
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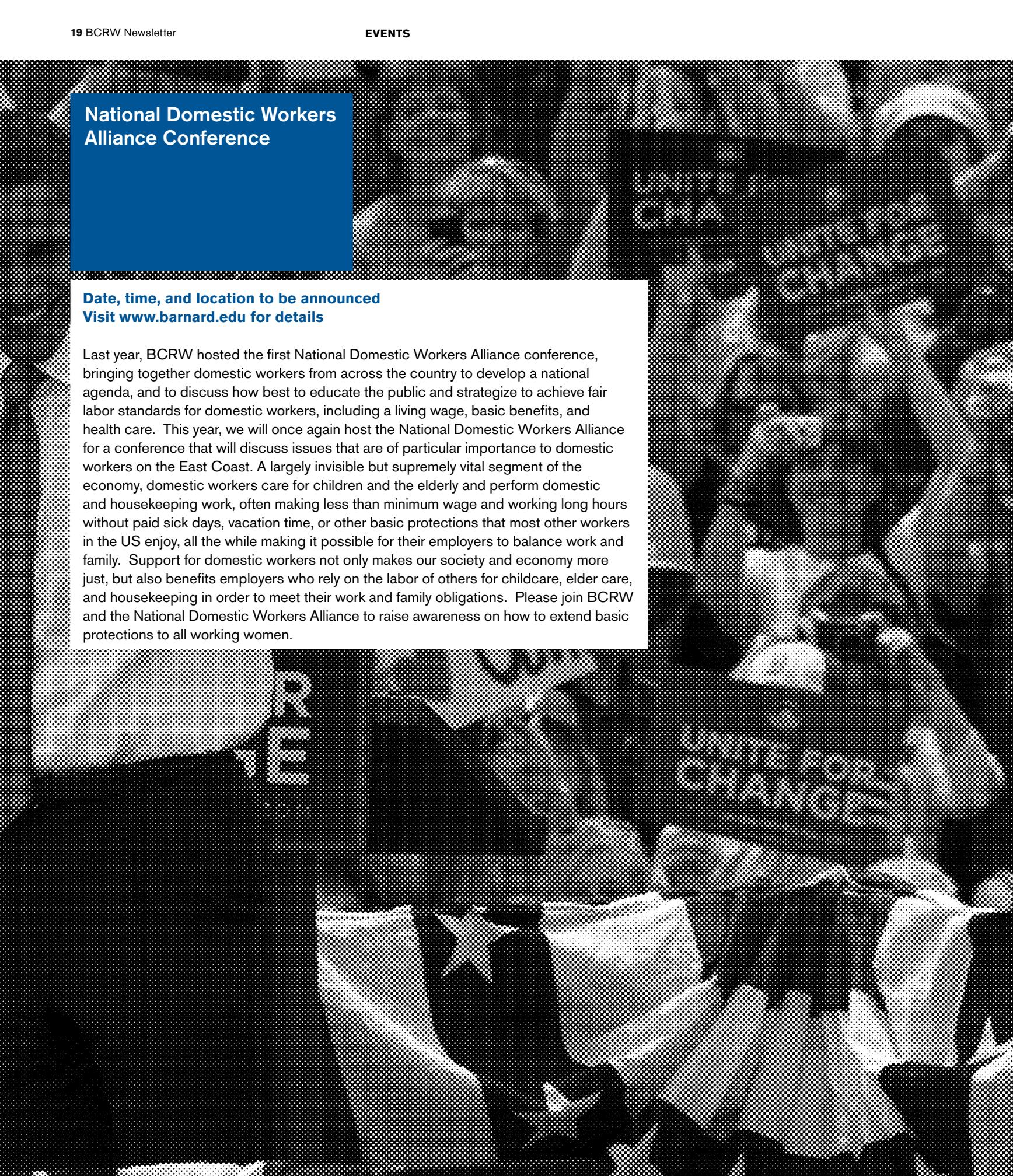
Hemmerdinger Hall, New York University

Moderated by Lisa Duggan, Professor of Social & Cultural Analysis, NYU, and Richard Kim, Associate Editor, *The Nation Magazine*

Featured Speakers: Katherine Franke, Professor of Law and Director, Gender & Sexuality Law Program, Columbia University, and Dan HoSang, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies & Political Science, University of Oregon.

Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, the American Studies Program, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, and the Religious Studies Program (FAS, NYU); the Department of Performance Studies at NYU; *The Nation Magazine*, and the Barnard Center for Research on Women.





National Domestic Workers Alliance Conference

Date, time, and location to be announced
Visit www.barnard.edu for details

Last year, BCRW hosted the first National Domestic Workers Alliance conference, bringing together domestic workers from across the country to develop a national agenda, and to discuss how best to educate the public and strategize to achieve fair labor standards for domestic workers, including a living wage, basic benefits, and health care. This year, we will once again host the National Domestic Workers Alliance for a conference that will discuss issues that are of particular importance to domestic workers on the East Coast. A largely invisible but supremely vital segment of the economy, domestic workers care for children and the elderly and perform domestic and housekeeping work, often making less than minimum wage and working long hours without paid sick days, vacation time, or other basic protections that most other workers in the US enjoy, all the while making it possible for their employers to balance work and family. Support for domestic workers not only makes our society and economy more just, but also benefits employers who rely on the labor of others for childcare, elder care, and housekeeping in order to meet their work and family obligations. Please join BCRW and the National Domestic Workers Alliance to raise awareness on how to extend basic protections to all working women.

Center Friends

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

Nicole Bufanio '06

Helen Neuhaus '68

Show the world you support the Center!

with your donation of \$100 or more, you'll receive one of BCRW's signature tee-shirts.

It's a great way to show your support of the Center and its mission—while spreading the word that Feminism matters.

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

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