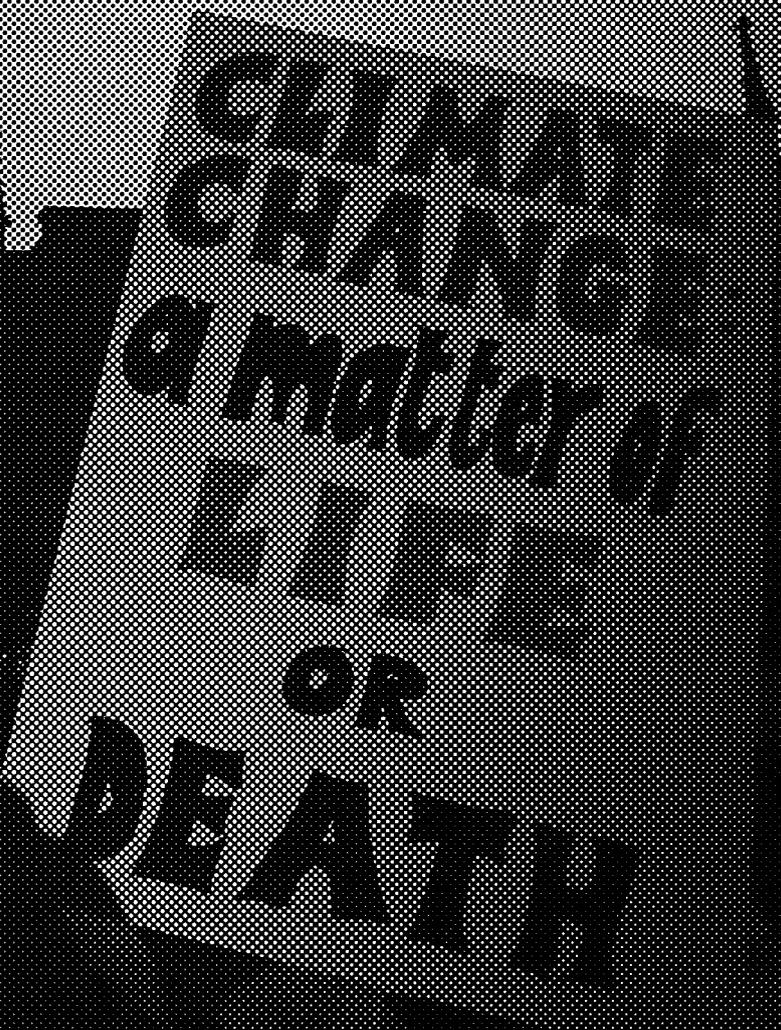
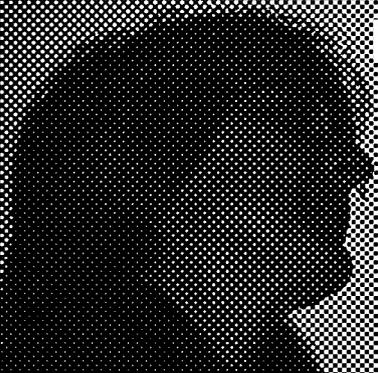


BCRW Newsletter  
Spring 2010  
January  
Volume 18, No. 2

# BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN



## **Feminism and Climate Change**

The Scholar and Feminist Conference  
featuring keynote addresses by  
Majora Carter and Joni Seager

## **Women's History as Personal & Political: Honoring Jane S. Gould '40**

A panel featuring Louise Bernikow '61,  
Christina Greene, Temma Kaplan,  
Elizabeth Minnich, Fanette Pollack '71,  
and Catharine R. Stimpson

## **International Human Rights**

A panel with Yvette Christiansë, Helen  
Lieberman, Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi,  
and Jody Williams



## The Personal Is Political

“The personal is political”: this was the rallying cry of the second wave feminist movement in the U.S., and that sentiment and the social and political context from which it emerged is worth revisiting today. This spring, we will have an event celebrating the life of Jane S. Gould '40, the first director of the Women's Center, as part of Women's History Month. Thinking about Jane's contributions to Barnard, to the Center and to the movement has led us to spend some time looking back at the history of the women's movement, as well as considering how the movement has expanded. Issues we've taken up here at the Center in recent semesters, including domestic workers' rights, work-family balance, and new reproductive technologies, are all issues that are traditionally thought of as “personal” or “private” questions, but that have crucial public, political repercussions. At the same time, our individual decisions can have global impact. We've seen this most recently in movements for environmental sustainability and justice, where we've come to understand that our seemingly personal actions have larger significance.

In keeping with this theme of the connection between the personal action and global impact, this semester's events will honor women whose commitments to feminism and social justice made visible changes in their communities and in larger movements for rights and justice. We'll present a photographic exhibit chronicling the life and work of Helen Suzman, a prominent South African anti-apartheid activist. The Helen Suzman exhibit, which we're pleased to host in the College's new Diana Center, will kick-off with a panel on international human rights, featuring four distinguished human rights activists, including Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams. We'll also take up one of the most personal issues around – childbirth and reproductive choice – with a panel discussion featuring four young reproductive justice activists who are working to incorporate an analysis of the connections between social justice and childbirth into the traditional reproductive rights movement.

This spring's Scholar and Feminist Conference, “Feminism and Climate Change,” brings together an esteemed group of speakers and panelists to discuss how global climate change poses not just a disproportionate threat to women and communities of color, but also how the analysis of gender and race can help to build an effective response. The conference, which will feature keynote addresses from some of the leading figures in the environmental justice movement, including Majora Carter and Joni Seager, will be a groundbreaking conversation that brings not just women's lives but an analysis of intersecting power relations to the center of thinking about the environment. In doing so, we hope to make some fundamental connections between the environment and that which is personal, political and feminist.

I hope you'll join us for another great semester.

Sincerely,

  
Janet R. Jakobsen

# BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR  
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Monday–Friday  
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# BCRW Projects



## New Feminist Solutions

Volume 4

### Towards a Vision of Sexual & Economic Justice

Based on the November 2007 series, "Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice," a public lecture and colloquium featuring sexuality scholar Josephine Ho and anti-globalization activist Naomi Klein, the most recent New Feminist Solutions project is now complete. The colloquium brought together scholars and activists from across the globe to discuss how to bridge debates between globalization studies and sexuality studies, asking how concerns for economic and sexual justice can best be connected. Free copies of the report based on the colloquium are available on our website at the link below. With the generous support of the Ford Foundation, we have also translated the report into Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish, allowing us to share this important work with scholars, activists, and organizations all around the world. We have also extended the analysis to a companion issue of our webjournal, *The Scholar & Feminist Online*, which has just been published.

[www.barnard.edu/bcrw/newfeministsolutions](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw/newfeministsolutions)

[www.barnard.edu/sfonline/sexecon](http://www.barnard.edu/sfonline/sexecon)



## Feminist Activists in Conversation Polyphonic Feminism

This past fall, BCRW invited eight young feminist activists who work at the intersection of feminist and social justice movements to participate in a day-long colloquium. Colloquium participants explored how feminist activists are building alliances with those involved in other progressive movements for social justice and change, and how they see the relationship between their activism and the feminist movement. They also discussed how they each became involved in different movements, the challenges and successes they've encountered, and what resources they need to continue doing their work. The results of the conversation will be incorporated into an upcoming issue of *The Scholar & Feminist Online* on "polyphonic feminism," which will highlight the importance of multiple voices to building a new feminist movement. In the spring we will host a second conversation with activists working at the feminist-social justice intersection. The spring conversation will focus on creating new alliances among organizations.



## From the Collection

### Taking the Archive Online

The collection of ephemera at the Barnard Center for Research on Women contains hundreds of rare, difficult-to-find feminist materials dating back to the early Second Wave of American women's movements. This public archive of fliers, reports, newsletters, pamphlets, and conference programs provides an exciting glimpse into one of the most vibrant moments in the history of activism. Internet exhibits from the archive, curated by our student research assistants, are available online, but we are also embarking on a new project that will make the collection even more accessible to the public. With the help of Pratt Institute library student Katie Giari, we are building a complete database that will allow users to search our archives online. Eventually, scholars, researchers, and activists from around the world will be able to browse our archives from their own computers. The database will launch to the public in 2010, so watch our website for updates and to view past archival exhibits.

[www.barnard.edu/bcrw/archive](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw/archive)

# BCRW Calendar

## 02/

Tuesday, 02/09

6:30 pm

### International Human Rights

A panel discussion with Yvette Christiansë, Helen Lieberman, Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi and Jody Williams  
Diana Center Event Oval



Tuesday, 02/09–Thursday, 03/25

### Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights

A photographic exhibit  
Diana Center

Thursday, 02/11

12:00 pm

### White Rights: What Apartheid South Africa Learned from the United States

A lecture with Elizabeth Esch  
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Tuesday, 02/16

12:00 pm

### Quiet Revolutions: Postcolonial Women's Writings and Structures of Solidarity

A lecture with Alison Donnell  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Saturday, 02/27

9:00 am–6:00 pm

### The Scholar and Feminist Conference: Feminism and Climate Change

Keynote Addresses by Majora Carter and Joni Seager  
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

## 03/

Wednesday, 03/03

6:30 pm

### Reproductive Justice in Action

A panel discussion with Aisha Domingue, Mary Mahoney, Lauren Mitchell, and Miriam Pérez  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall



Wednesday, 03/10

5:30 pm

### Implications of Host and Vector Diversity for the Spread of Plant Viruses

A lecture with Alison "Sunny" Power  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall



Thursday, 03/25

7:00 pm

### Women's History As Personal & Political: An Event in Honor of Jane S. Gould '40

A panel discussion with Louise Bernikow '61, Christina Greene, Temma Kaplan, Elizabeth Minnich, Fanette Pollack '71, and Catharine R. Stimpson  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

## 04/

Tuesday, 04/13

12:00 pm

### Activists Who Yearn For Art That Transforms: Parallels in the Black Arts and Feminist Art Movements in the United States

A lecture with Lisa Collins  
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



# AN INTERVIEW WITH MAJORA CARTER

Majora Carter, one of the keynote speakers at this year's Scholar and Feminist Conference on Feminism and Climate Change, is a lifetime resident of the Bronx and founder of Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx), a community organization dedicated to environmental justice and economic sustainability, which she led from 2001 to 2008. SSBx transformed the Bronx by guiding the federally funded development of the projected South Bronx Greenway, and transforming illegal dumps and disused industrial spaces into popular, multi-purpose green infrastructure. SSBx also developed a pioneering "green roof" installation and maintenance company in the South Bronx, created a "green-collar" vocational training and placement system in 2003, and spearheaded policy solutions that have become law in NYC and New York State. Now the president of the Majora Carter Group, LLC, she continues to innovate using environmental justice goals to identify opportunity costs alongside vibrant green-business potential everywhere. Too often, marginalized people (including racial minorities and women) bear the vast majority of the costs for pollution and other environmental hazards that produce profits for a very few. Majora helps communities like the South Bronx, from Appalachia to Australia, unlock the potential in every place.

*Continued on page 19*

# PERSONAL HISTORY & POLITICAL CHANGE In Memory Of Jane S. Gould '40

A Barnard alumna, Jane S. Gould '40 returned to her alma mater in 1965 as the director of the Barnard Placement and Career Planning Office and helped change women students' perceptions about their work options. Jane's interest in women and work brought her into the women's movement, and she became part of a working group at the College, which in 1971 succeeded in establishing the Women's Center. Jane became the first permanent director of the Center in 1973, following Acting Director Catharine Stimpson. Under her leadership, the Center became a resource for students, faculty, scholars, and the larger community. The first public program held by the Center was entitled "Is There Male Chauvinism at Columbia University?" and Gould described it in her memoir *Juggling* as "a spirited panel discussion." With a dry wit, she concluded, "It turned out to be an evening of high comedy." The Center then began hosting major conferences; the first was held "on a bleak February day in 1973" and brought close to 1,000 women to Barnard's gates to consider issues like the range of human sexual expression, parenting, ageism, the media and self image, power structures and access to information, and many other feminist topics. The success of this conference was followed by the initiation of the signature event of the Center, the annual conference known as "The Scholar and Feminist," now in its 35th year, which continues to draw crowds and further feminist knowledge.

*continued on page 19*



1 Jane Gould at the Center's 30th anniversary celebration in 2001 2 Scholar and Feminist Conference attendees congregate outside Lehman Hall 3 Women's Center student representative 4 Conference attendees in LeFrak Gymnasium at the Scholar and Feminist IX: Towards a Politics of Sexuality, 1982 5 Participants in a conference workshop 6 Jane Gould, a Barnard student, Leslie Calman, and Janie Kritzman in the Women's Center library in Barnard Hall 7 Workshop participant at the Scholar and Feminist VI: The Future of Difference, 1979 8 Jane Gould at work in the Center



## International Human Rights

Yvette Christiansë, Helen Lieberman, Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi and Jody Williams

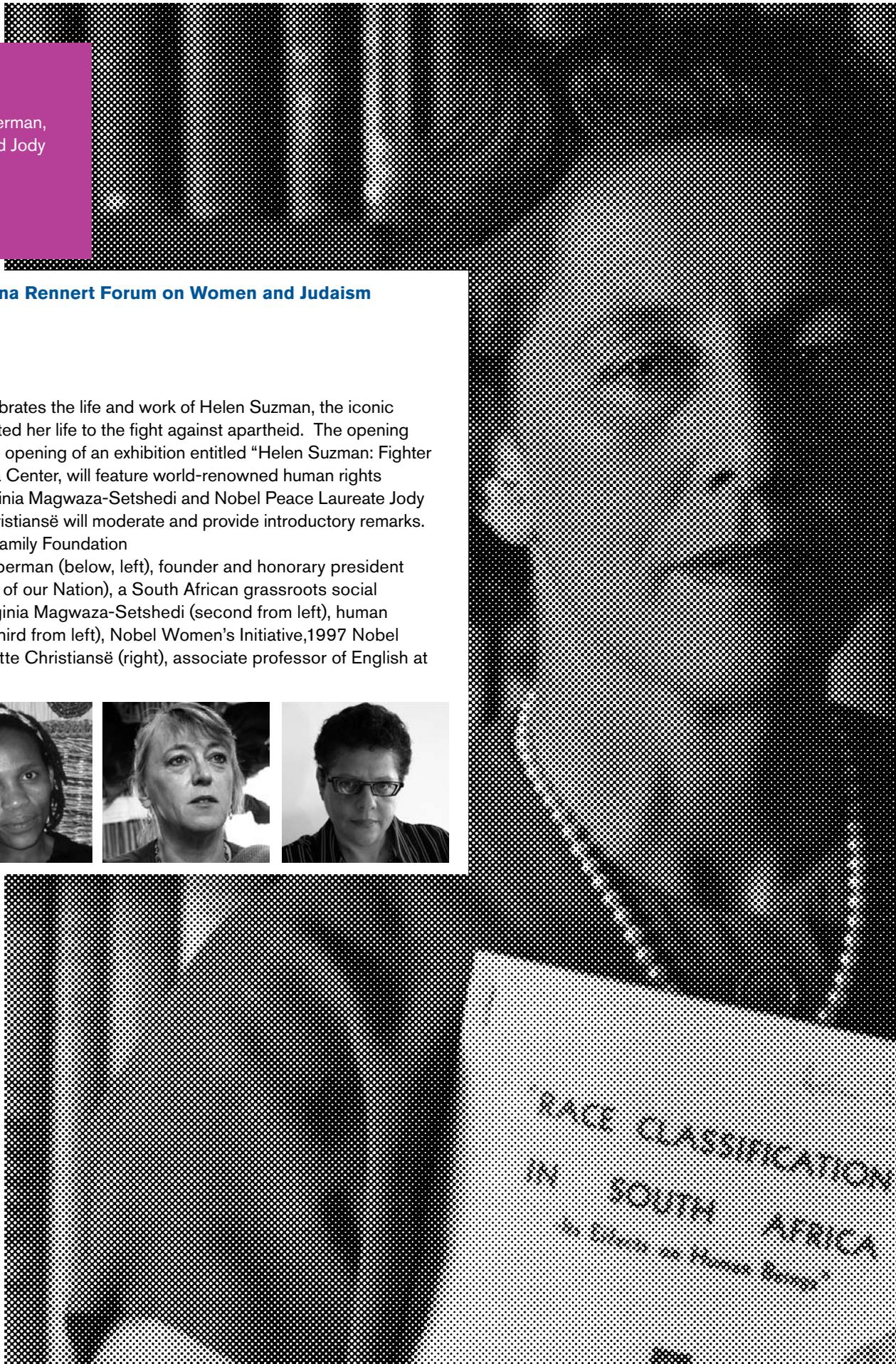
### Ingeborg, Tamara and Yonina Rennert Forum on Women and Judaism Tuesday, 02/09

6:30 pm

Diana Center Event Oval

This year's Rennert Forum celebrates the life and work of Helen Suzman, the iconic South African leader who devoted her life to the fight against apartheid. The opening event, which coincides with the opening of an exhibition entitled "Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights," in the Diana Center, will feature world-renowned human rights activists Helen Lieberman, Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi and Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams. Professor Yvette Christiansë will moderate and provide introductory remarks. Co-sponsored by the Dobkin Family Foundation

Panelists include: Helen Lieberman (below, left), founder and honorary president of Ikamva Labantu (The Future of our Nation), a South African grassroots social development organization; Virginia Magwaza-Setshedi (second from left), human rights activist; Jody Williams (third from left), Nobel Women's Initiative, 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; and Yvette Christiansë (right), associate professor of English at Fordham University.



## Helen Suzman: Fighter for Human Rights

**A photographic exhibit**  
**Tuesday, 02/09 – Thursday, 03/25**  
**Diana Center**

Helen Suzman was a member of the South African Parliament for 36 years, from 1953-1989. She was the sole opposition voice condemning apartheid during the 13-year period (1961-1974) when she was the governing body's only member of the Progressive Party. The exhibition explores nearly four decades of Suzman's life and vision through photographs, personal letters, quotations from speeches and news articles. Suzman was nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her contribution to the pursuit of justice in South Africa. She received the United Nations Award of the International League for Human Rights in 1978. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth made her an Honorary Dame Commander (Civil Division) of the Order of the British Empire. Suzman died on January 1, 2009, at the age of 91. Flags across South Africa were flown at half-mast in her honor. The exhibit will open to the public on February 9 in conjunction with a panel discussion on International Human Rights and will continue through March 25.

**“White Rights: What Apartheid South Africa Learned from the United States”**  
**A lunchtime lecture with Elizabeth Esch**  
**Thursday, 02/11**  
**12:00 pm**  
**BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall**

Though widely regarded as the most racist regime on earth, the apartheid government in South Africa learned from policies and practices long extant in the United States. Before apartheid was institutionalized, South African social scientists, educators and politicians were among the most astute observers of racial segregation and white supremacy in the U.S. In this lunchtime lecture, Professor Esch shows how white South Africans studied U.S. history and mimicked its practices in implementing apartheid, from so-called anti-miscegenation laws to the pass-book and homeland systems.

Elizabeth Esch is assistant professor of History and American Studies at Barnard College, where she teaches classes on the history of the United States, race and empire. Her work has appeared in *Souls: a Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society*; *Cabinet: a Quarterly Journal of Art and Culture*; and *Historical Materialism*.

## Feminism and Climate Change

Keynote Addresses by Majora Carter and Joni Seager

### Scholar and Feminist Conference XXXV

Saturday, 02/27

Registration begins at 9:00 am

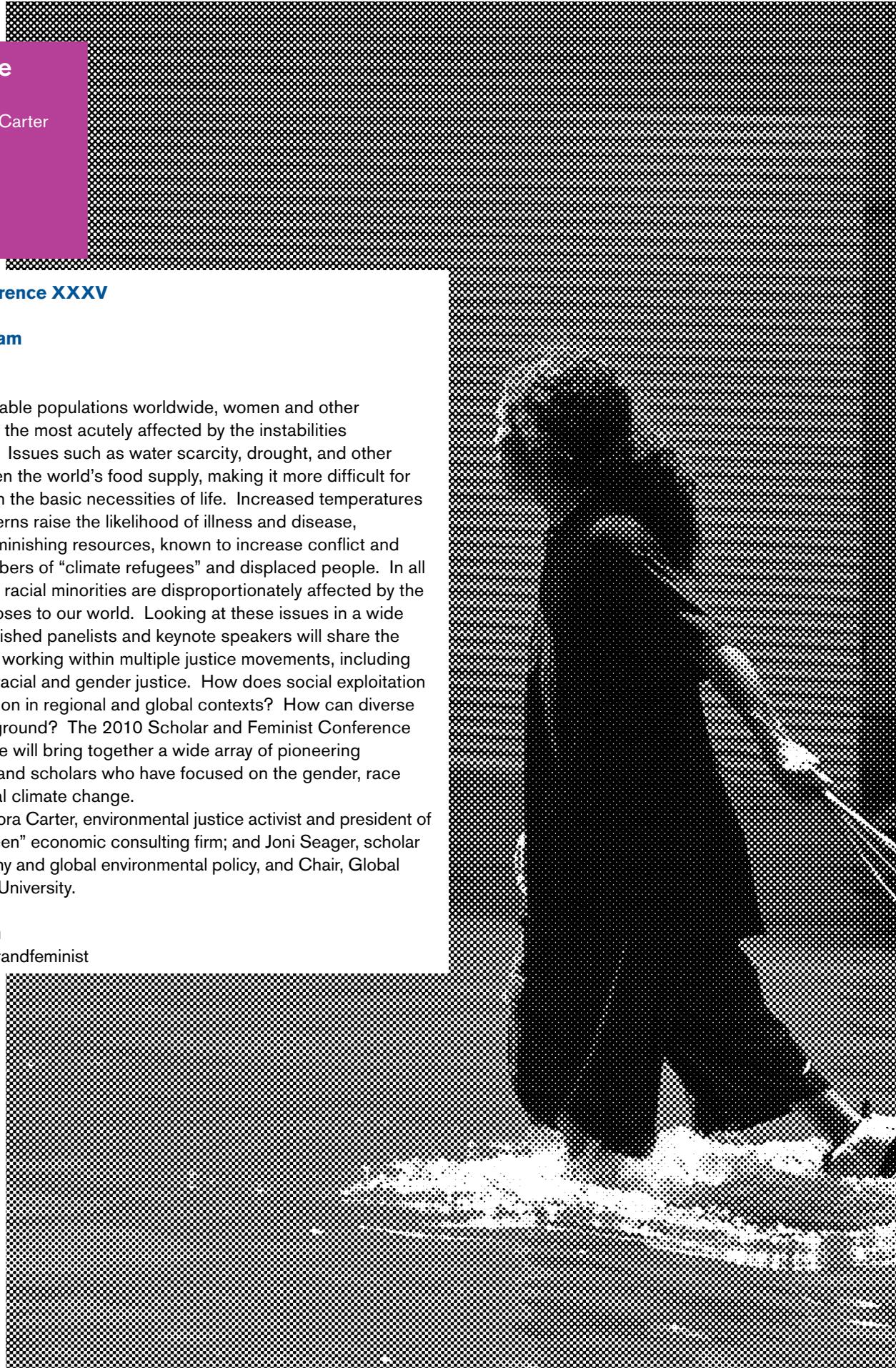
Barnard Hall Lobby

Already among the most vulnerable populations worldwide, women and other marginalized groups have been the most acutely affected by the instabilities propagated by climate change. Issues such as water scarcity, drought, and other environmental problems threaten the world's food supply, making it more difficult for disadvantaged groups to obtain the basic necessities of life. Increased temperatures and more intense weather patterns raise the likelihood of illness and disease, especially among the poor. Diminishing resources, known to increase conflict and war, are leading to greater numbers of "climate refugees" and displaced people. In all of these situations, women and racial minorities are disproportionately affected by the dangers that climate change poses to our world. Looking at these issues in a wide variety of contexts, our distinguished panelists and keynote speakers will share the challenges and complexities of working within multiple justice movements, including movements for environmental, racial and gender justice. How does social exploitation parallel environmental exploitation in regional and global contexts? How can diverse affected groups find common ground? The 2010 Scholar and Feminist Conference on feminism and climate change will bring together a wide array of pioneering environmental activists, artists and scholars who have focused on the gender, race and class components of global climate change.

Keynote speakers will be Majora Carter, environmental justice activist and president of the Majora Carter Group, a "green" economic consulting firm; and Joni Seager, scholar and activist in feminist geography and global environmental policy, and Chair, Global Studies Department at Bentley University.

### Information and registration

[www.barnard.edu/bcrw/scholarandfeminist](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw/scholarandfeminist)



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:00-10:00 am

### Registration

10:00 - 10:30 am

### Opening Remarks

10:30 - 11:20 am

### Keynote Address by Majora Carter

Coffee Break

11:30 AM-1:00 pm

### Panel 1: Economic, Health and Social Justice

Laila Iskandar Kamel, community development consultant and trustee, International Institute for Environment and Development

Winona LaDuke, activist and executive director, Honor the Earth

Susan Shaw, founder and director, Marine Environmental Research Institute

Peggy Shepard, executive director and co-founder of WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Anene Ejikeme, assistant professor, Trinity University Department of History

1:00-2:00 pm

### Lunchtime Film Session

Screening of "Story of Stuff" by Annie Leonard '86 and clip from "Sun Come Up" by Jennifer Redfearn

2:00-3:30 pm

### Panel 2: Development and Sustainability

Nancy Biberman, president, Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDCo)

Rachel Harris '03, U.S. Climate Change Campaign Coordinator, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Eleanor Sterling, director, American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodiversity and Conservation

Marcela Vásquez-León, assistant professor, University of Arizona Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and Center for Latin American Studies

Cynthia Rosenzweig, adjunct professor, Barnard College Department of Environmental Science, and senior research scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies

Coffee Break

3:45-5:00 pm

### Closing Keynote Address by Joni Seager

5:00-6:00 pm

### Reception



## Women's History as Personal and Political: An Event in Honor of Jane S. Gould '40

Louise Bernikow '61, Christina Greene,  
Temma Kaplan, Elizabeth Minnich,  
Fanette Pollack '71, and Catharine R.  
Stimpson

### A panel

Thursday, 03/25

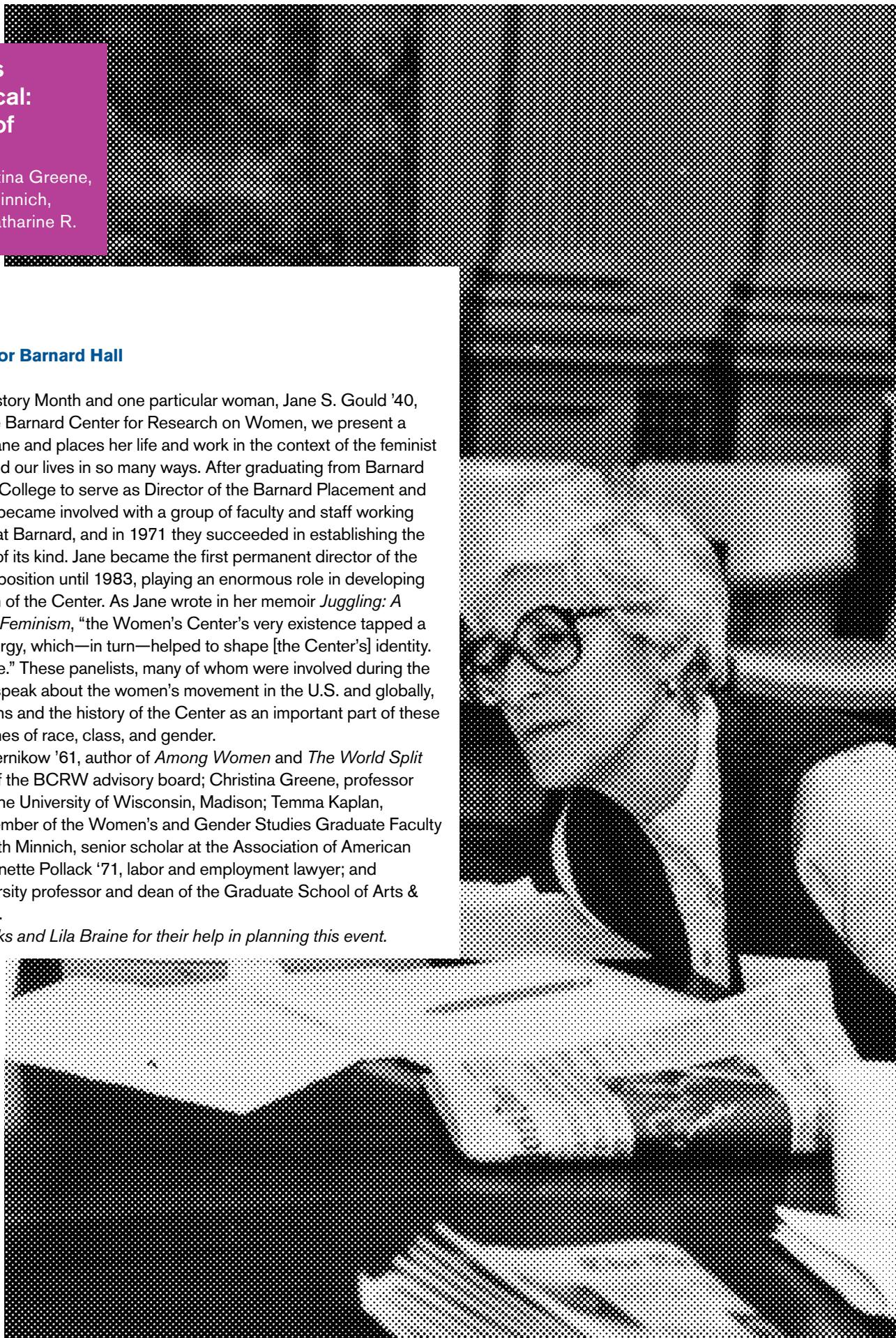
7:00 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

In honor of both Women's History Month and one particular woman, Jane S. Gould '40, first permanent director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women, we present a discussion that remembers Jane and places her life and work in the context of the feminist movements that have improved our lives in so many ways. After graduating from Barnard in 1940, Jane returned to the College to serve as Director of the Barnard Placement and Career Planning Office. She became involved with a group of faculty and staff working to create a Women's Center at Barnard, and in 1971 they succeeded in establishing the Center, the first organization of its kind. Jane became the first permanent director of the Center in 1973 and held this position until 1983, playing an enormous role in developing the programming and mission of the Center. As Jane wrote in her memoir *Juggling: A Memoir of Work, Family, and Feminism*, "the Women's Center's very existence tapped a great reservoir of feminist energy, which—in turn—helped to shape [the Center's] identity. It was like opening a floodgate." These panelists, many of whom were involved during the early days of the Center, will speak about the women's movement in the U.S. and globally, and situate Jane's contributions and the history of the Center as an important part of these struggles for justice across lines of race, class, and gender.

Panelists include Louise Bernikow '61, author of *Among Women* and *The World Split Open*, and original member of the BCRW advisory board; Christina Greene, professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; Temma Kaplan, professor of History and a member of the Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Faculty at Rutgers University; Elizabeth Minnich, senior scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities; Fanette Pollack '71, labor and employment lawyer; and Catharine R. Stimpson, university professor and dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Science, New York University.

*Special thanks to Sue Sacks and Lila Braine for their help in planning this event.*



## Reproductive Justice in Action

Aisha Domingue, Mary Mahoney,  
Lauren Mitchell, and Miriam Pérez

### A panel

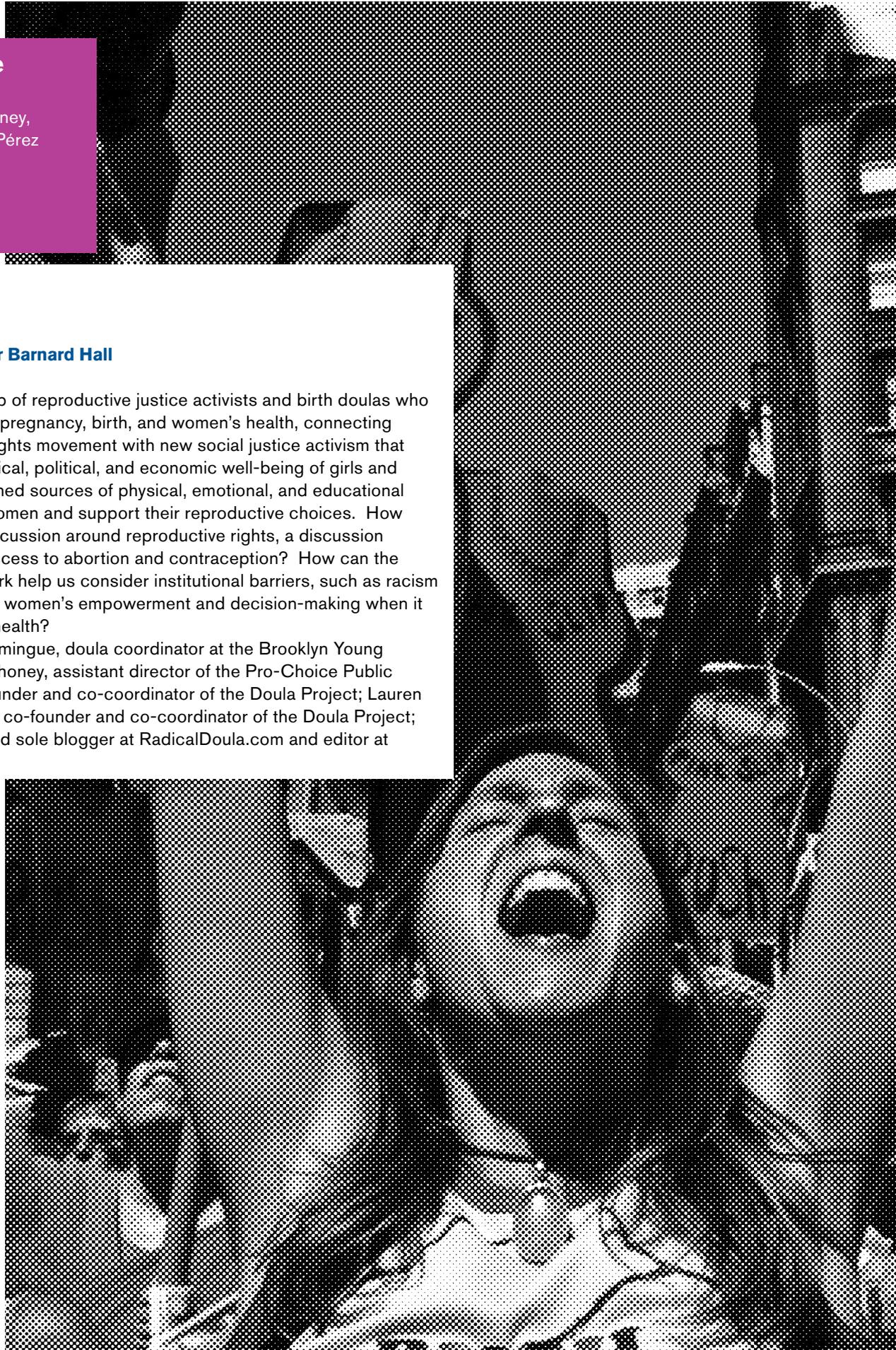
Wednesday, 03/03

6:30 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

This panel will feature a group of reproductive justice activists and birth doulas who work across the spectrum of pregnancy, birth, and women's health, connecting the traditional reproductive rights movement with new social justice activism that considers the complete physical, political, and economic well-being of girls and women. Birth doulas, as trained sources of physical, emotional, and educational support, work to empower women and support their reproductive choices. How does childbirth fit into the discussion around reproductive rights, a discussion that is often based around access to abortion and contraception? How can the reproductive justice framework help us consider institutional barriers, such as racism and poverty, that have limited women's empowerment and decision-making when it comes to their reproductive health?

Panelists include Aisha Domingue, doula coordinator at the Brooklyn Young Mothers Collective; Mary Mahoney, assistant director of the Pro-Choice Public Education Project and co-founder and co-coordinator of the Doula Project; Lauren Mitchell, health educator and co-founder and co-coordinator of the Doula Project; and Miriam Pérez, founder and sole blogger at [RadicalDoula.com](http://RadicalDoula.com) and editor at [Feministing.com](http://Feministing.com)



## Implications of Host and Vector Diversity for the Spread of Plant Viruses

Alison "Sunny" Power

### Distinguished Women in Science Lecture

A lecture with Alison "Sunny" Power

Wednesday, 03/10

5:30 pm

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Competitive interactions between host plants are mediated by disease, while the effects of disease on hosts are strongly influenced by the community context. This lecture will present findings from field studies of the barley yellow dwarf virus exploring the influence of host and vector diversity on the spread of the virus and its effects on plant communities. These studies show that in natural grasslands, the temporal and spatial distribution of viruses reflect the vector community, while host competence, pathogen spillover, and pathogen dilution vary among host species. These processes have the potential to shape the structure of plant communities.

Alison "Sunny" Power is a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Cornell University, and is a member of the Graduate Fields of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Entomology, International Agriculture, Conservation and Sustainable Development, and the Latin American Studies Program. She is also currently serving as dean of the Graduate School. Her research focuses on biodiversity conservation in managed ecosystems, interactions between agricultural and natural ecosystems, agroecology, the ecology and evolution of plant pathogens, invasive species, and tropical ecology. She is currently leading a working group on the roles of natural enemies and mutualists in plant invasions at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS).

Sponsored by the Hughes Science Pipeline Project.

## Lunchtime Lectures



### **“Quiet Revolutions: Postcolonial Women’s Writings and Structures of Solidarity”**

**A lecture with Alison Donnell**

**Tuesday, 02/16**

**12:00 pm**

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

This talk offers a new reading of postcolonial women's writings. The conventional model since the 1980s has been to emphasize issues of silence and invisibility, the desire for voice and narrative space, and self-representation as a form of empowerment and transformation. What is often eclipsed as a result is a valuable political ethic based on coalition and solidarity with oppressed and marginalized figures. By working across an expansive literary archive, stretching from Mary Prince's slave narrative to more recent works by Miriama Bâ, Bapsi Sidhwa, Edwidge Danticat and Shani Mootoo, Professor Donnell will identify an alternative framework for reading postcolonial women's writing, presenting a new model of feminist criticism rooted in solidarity and coalitional ethics.

Alison Donnell (above) is reader in the Department of English and American Studies at the University of Reading, UK. She is the author of *Twentieth Century Caribbean Literature: Critical Moments in Anglophone Literary and Critical History* and has been a Joint Editor of *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* since its founding in 1998.

### **“Activists Who Yearn for Art that Transforms: Parallels in the Black Arts and Feminist Art Movements in the United States”**

**A lecture with Lisa Collins**

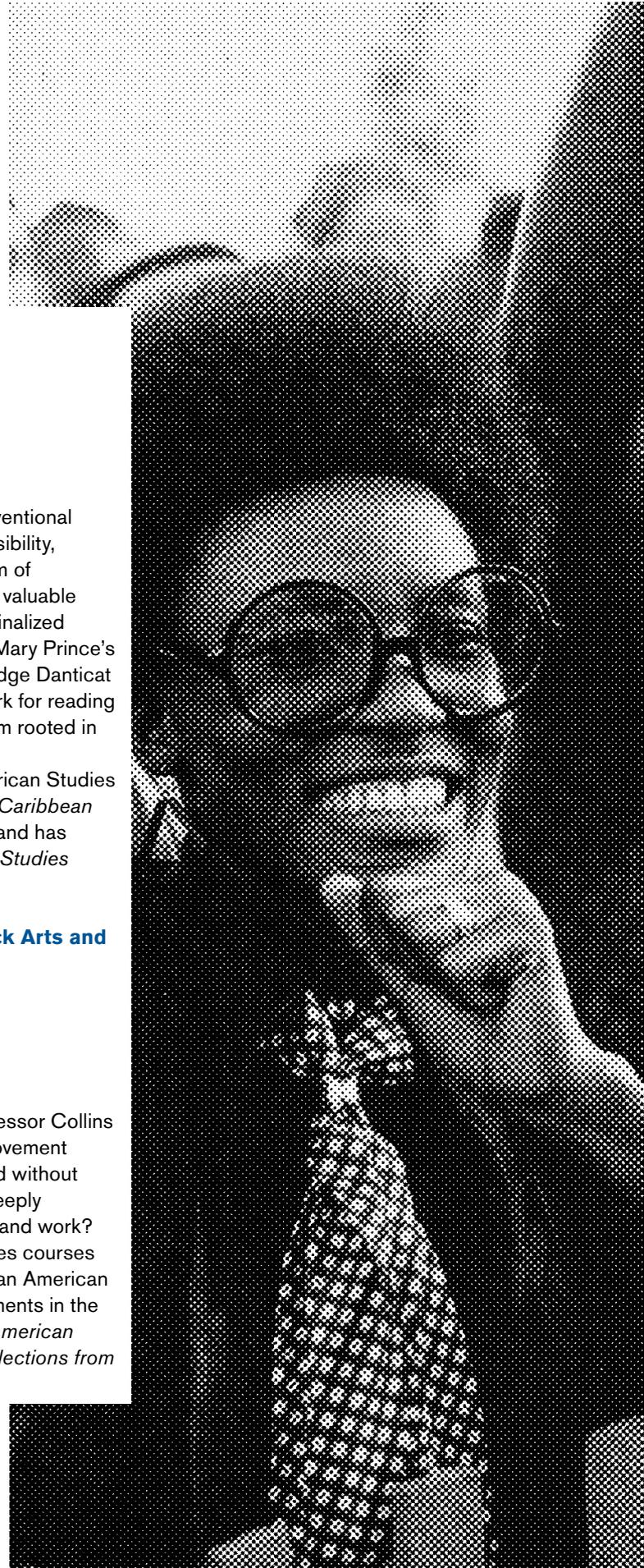
**Tuesday, 04/13**

**12:00 pm**

**BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall**

Through this offering of comparative cultural and intellectual history, Professor Collins exposes links between the Black Arts Movement and the Feminist Art Movement in the United States to address a critical question that is too often tackled without seeing these movements as central: How did postwar cultural workers deeply immersed in sociopolitical movements in the United States see their role and work?

Lisa Gail Collins, who joined the Vassar College faculty in 1998, teaches courses on African American visual art and material culture, interdisciplinary African American history, feminist thought, and twentieth-century social and cultural movements in the United States. Professor Collins is author of *The Art of History: African American Women Artists Engage the Past* and *Art by African-American Artists: Selections from the 20th Century*.



## Rescheduled Events

The following events have been rescheduled from last semester. New dates are below. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.barnard.edu/bcrw](http://www.barnard.edu/bcrw).

### “Erotohistoriography”

**A lecture with Elizabeth Freeman**

**Tuesday, 02/23**

**7:00 pm**

**Great Room, New York University**

**19 University Place, 1st Floor**

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

### “Negotiating ‘Illegality’ in New Immigrant Destinations”

**A lunchtime lecture with Jacqueline Olvera**

**Thursday, 03/04**

**12:00 pm**

**101 Barnard Hall**

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

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



## PERSONAL AS POLITICAL

*continued from page 8*

Jane Gould changed the women's movement and the movement changed her; she wrote, "Learning to understand the powerlessness women feel as women, sharing experiences and perceptions and connecting with other women—both individually and collectively, both professionally and personally—not only changed the way I worked but also the way I related to other women. Besides the satisfaction of having worked in a field I believe in deeply, I think that I am a happier person today because I interact with other women more openly and honestly than I once did." Even after retirement, Jane Gould continued to make her mark on the women's movement by writing and participating in critical meetings. She participated in the Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice at Seneca Falls in 1983 and in the United Nations NGO Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985. She wrote for *Women's Studies Quarterly* and for two anthologies on women in higher education. She also served on the board of the Center for Constitutional Rights from 1984-1992. In 1997, she published her well-received memoir, *Juggling: A Memoir of Work, Family and Feminism*. It provides an important record of the connections between an individual woman's life and the larger movements that make for change in our society.

Jane Gould believed that "the women's movement is a necessary component of our aspirations for an egalitarian, democratic, and more humane society," and she felt privileged to be a part of this work. In turn, we here at the Center are indebted to her commitment and passion in establishing the Center and guiding it to a position of leadership in the field.

**Please join us on Thursday, March 25 as we celebrate Jane Gould's life and work with an event in her honor. See page 14 for more details.**

## MAJORA CARTER

*continued from page 7*

**BCRW:** Many of us are familiar with the types of environmental justice projects that you undertook in the South Bronx. What types of new projects are you involved in now?

**Carter:** We are very excited about prospects for large-scale wetland restoration in the New Orleans delta area, a new green investment fund meant to spark economic development in American inner cities, and we are still active with our very first clients at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina. A historically black college that is now part of the North Carolina state university system and is located near the coast of North Carolina, ECSU faces both environmental and economic challenges. They have chosen to respond to these challenges through an innovative approach that links smart growth with energy conservation, erosion control and water management, as well as the dramatic greenhouse gas reductions that will eventually provide economic as well as environmental savings.

**BCRW:** What are some of the projects that incorporate an environmental justice framework that are being initiated in the areas of the Gulf region that were affected by Hurricane Katrina?

**Carter:** Well, the idea of "environmental justice" is that no group of people should suffer from environmental burdens that others can avoid. The recent federal court decision regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "MR. GO" (Mississippi River Gulf Outlet) project found that wetlands were removed to make this shipping channel and their removal led directly to increased pressure on the levees that broke in the Lower 9th Ward. So, this is an example of an environmental justice process starting. What residents do with this ruling is going to be very important with regard to how compensation is used to restore their wetlands and to implement new storm water management techniques that also make for more beautiful communities. Ideally, this process will also create stable jobs at the city's Public Works Department. This is not a complete list of the current work done in the Katrina-affected areas—there are

other important environmental justice efforts underway, but these are the ones I am most familiar with.

**BCRW:** Has the women's movement been inclusive of environmental justice in their struggles? Why should women be concerned about environmental justice?

**Carter:** I think most social justice movements have been very slow to see the connection their work has with environmental issues; however, I am sure there are many individuals who can be described as both women's and environmental justice advocates.

Unfortunately, children are often the most sensitive to environmentally borne diseases, and the care for these children is primarily provided by women, usually their moms. For instance, a child's asthma attack at 3:00 am caused largely by a local concentration of fossil fuel emission sources like power plants, sewerage treatment plants, or diesel trucking will mean that her mother will be late for work the next day, or possibly fired. But the jobs created to repair environmental justice concerns all around us can benefit all people, including women.

**BCRW:** As you have noted in the past, "green is the new black": people in our society in general are concerned about and have adopted recycling and other energy-saving practices fairly widely. A fundamental understanding of the way minorities bear the burden of climate change, however, is less accepted. Similarly, the way capitalism, consumerism and globalization are all tied together to create many of our environmental problems is not understood. How can we raise awareness of these linkages and make this understanding part of the new vogue about recycling?

**Carter:** It's important that this message is received, and that starts with "likeable" messengers. Different ones work for different audiences. A key factor is understanding and respecting where your audience is—and not just where you want them to be—and adapting accordingly.

**Join us on Saturday, February 27 for the Scholar and Feminist Conference on feminism and climate change. See page 12.**

## Center Friends

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