

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN



Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities

The Scholar and Feminist XXXVII

Reimagining Equality

The Helen Rodgers Reid Lecture
by Anita Hill

The Girl Who Burned the Banknotes: Rural Women, Memory, and China's Collective Past

The Women's History Month Lecture
by Gail Hershatter



Four Decades of Feminist Conversation

Fall 2011 was an exceptionally busy semester for us at the Barnard Center for Research on Women. We hosted a record-breaking number of students, alumnae, activists, colleagues, and friends at the September conference celebrating the BCRW's 40th anniversary. For those of you who were not able to join us in person, you can listen to the conference podcasts or view the conference videos on our website as they become available. Meanwhile, issue 9.3 of our webjournal, *S&F Online* has recently appeared, devoted to the topic, "Religion and the Body," and pulling together articles from a 2007 conference on "The Politics of Religion and Sexuality" cosponsored by BCRW and the Centers for Culture, Technology, and Work and for the Study of Women and Society at the CUNY Graduate Center. And the newest New Feminist Solutions report—*Desiring Change*—which documents BCRW's collaboration with Queers for Economic Justice is also available on our website and will appear in print very soon.

Spring 2012 promises to be another exciting semester at the Center. As has become customary, the centerpiece of our spring programming will be the 37th annual Scholar and Feminist Conference, which will take place on Saturday, March 3. The theme for this year's conference is "Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities," where we will explore how an understanding of shared vulnerabilities has the potential to transform our kinship structures, communities, and institutions into ones that recognize the importance of human interdependency. The conference will provide a space for thinking about how to incorporate a vision of shared vulnerability into social and political discussions. Although the theme of vulnerability emerged in our discussions a few months before the birth and expansion of the Occupy Wall Street movement, it is clear that the concepts of precariousness and vulnerability possess a particular salience at this moment in our national and international political discussions, and we hope the S&F conference will help to cast light on critical aspects of these actions and debates.

Our spring programming includes a panel on women's health, a discussion on feminist studies in Iran as part of our ongoing transnational feminisms project, and a performance choreographed by BCRW Alumna Fellow Sydnie Mosley '07 that grows out of her work this year at the Center. In addition, we look forward to lunchtime lectures given by two Barnard colleagues—Michelle R. Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Science, who is new to the College this year and who is a specialist in political theory and politics and race; and Karen Seeley, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology, who has been doing research in the College archives about Barnard during WWII.

Finally, we are very excited to welcome to Barnard's campus Brandeis University Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies Anita Hill to deliver this year's Reid Lecture. Professor Hill has recently published *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race and Finding Home*, an intersectional analysis of the current housing crisis.

I look forward to seeing you at this semester's events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Castelli".

Elizabeth A. Castelli
Chair Religion Department
Acting Director BCRW

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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SPRING 2012

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BCRW Projects



Activism and the Academy: Continuing our 40th anniversary celebration

This past fall, BCRW brought together an illustrious and diverse group of feminist activists and scholars, many of them our past and present collaborators, to celebrate forty years of feminist action and knowledge production. Over 500 students, alumnae, faculty, community members, and leaders in the field attended “Activism and the Academy,” a two-day conference exploring the relationship between scholarship and action – the key project that has always been at the center of BCRW’s mission. We’ve made video footage and podcasts from all of the conference’s panels available on our website, and we hope you’ll watch them, and use the material in your own scholarship and organizing. Videos can be found on our website at bcrw.barnard.edu/videos and podcasts can be found at bcrw.barnard.edu/podcasts or by searching for our page in iTunes.



Alumnae Fellows and Visiting Scholars

Creating connections with scholars and activists, and supporting the work that they do is a key part of our mission here at BCRW. This academic year, we are focusing this commitment in a new way by creating a unique opportunity for scholars and researchers to interact with BCRW as Alumnae Fellows and Visiting Scholars. This fall, we began work with our first Alumna Fellow, Sydnie L. Mosley '07, who spoke at the 40th anniversary conference and who has collaborated with us to present a performance of her dance piece *The Window Sex Project* on April 2. For more about the event and about her work with BCRW, please visit page 8. We’ll also be welcoming our first Visiting Scholar to BCRW in the Fall for the 2012-2013 academic year. Stay tuned for more information on these new forms of collaboration with the Barnard community!



Scholar & Feminist Online Scholar & Feminist Online: Religion and the Body

Religion, secularism, the body, and sexuality are often bound together in our national imagination, and indeed, our national conversations. As this issue vividly exposes, common assumptions about religion as the site of corporeal negation or punishment and secularism as ever-stalwart friend to the body and sexuality permeate political and cultural discourses. Ideas about morality, relationships, intimacy, health, medicine, the family, war, justice, love and the good life repeatedly hinge on these counterposed amalgamations, as if distinguishing between the religious and the secular will reveal the putative truth of our bodies and bodily practices, which will, in turn, reveal the putative truth of our lives. This journal issue ruptures these assumptions, showing both the deep inextricability of religious and secular discourses in constructing the body, as well as the ways in which such discourses alone can never tell the complete story of gendered and sexual bodies and practices.

www.barnard.edu/sfonline

BCRW Calendar

02/

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 pm

A panel discussion

Voices of a Women's Health Movement

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall



Thursday, February 23

6:30 pm

A Question of Methodology: Feminist Studies of Gender and the State in Contemporary Iran

A conversation with Shirin Saeidi and Kristin Soraya Batmanghelichi
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Monday, February 27

6:30 pm

Reimagining Equality

The Helen Rodgers Reid Lecture with Anita Hill
Event Oval, Diana Center

03/

Saturday, March 3

9 am – 5 pm

Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities

Scholar and Feminist XXXVII
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

Wednesday, March 21

6:30 pm

Private Bodies, Public Texts

A Salon in honor of Karla FC Holloway
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, March 22

12 pm

Student Life During Wartime: World War II at Barnard College

Lunchtime Lecture with Karen Seeley
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



Thursday, March 29

6:30 pm

The Girl Who Burned the Banknotes: Rural Women, Memory, and China's Collective Past

Women's History Month Lecture with Gail Hershatter
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

04/

Monday, April 2

6:30 pm

The Window Sex Project

A dance performance and discussion
Event Oval, Diana Center



Tuesday, April 3

12 pm

"To Certain of Our Philistines": Alain Locke and the Democratic Promise of Black Art

Lunchtime Lecture with Michelle R. Smith
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



WULNERABILITY

the human and the humanities

THE SCHOLAR AND FEMINIST XXXVII

*For more information about the upcoming Scholar & Feminist Conference,
hosted by BCRW on Saturday, March 3, please see page 10.*

In her classic article, “The Vulnerable Subject: Anchoring Equality in the Human Condition,” (published in the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism* in 2008), Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law and Director of the Feminism and Legal Theory Project at Emory University Martha Albertson Fineman issued a “post-identity” theoretical challenge to resituate struggles for social and political equality in a recognition of shared vulnerability. “I argue,” she writes, “that the ‘vulnerable subject’ must replace the autonomous and independent subject asserted in the liberal tradition. Far more representative of actual lived experience and the human condition, the vulnerable subject should be at the center of our political and theoretical endeavors. The vision of the state that would emerge in such an engagement would be both more responsive to and responsible for the vulnerable subject, a reimagining that is essential if we are to attain a more equal society...”

This sort of theoretical and practical reframing is linked in important ways to discourses of “precariousness” as they have been deployed, especially in European political theory and activism. Macro-economic changes in recent years have undermined the traditional security that workers in the developed world had taken for granted, producing a situation where “flexibility” and “precarity” operate as two sides of the same phenomenon. Precariousness is simultaneously a state of vulnerability but also a position from which to begin to imagine other possible social, economic, and political arrangements. Just so, a movement like the Italian San Precario Movement uses performance, iconographic representations, and hybrid religious symbolism organized around an invented saint (“Saint Precarious”) to stage series of public demonstrations and provocations aimed at realigning the imagination of both participants and audiences concerning the economic and social realities of the neo-liberal age.

Taking these perspectives to heart—replacing autonomy and independence with vulnerability and interdependence as critical terms of analysis, and considering the productive potential of “vulnerability” and “precariousness” as terms of imaginative reorientation—this year’s Scholar and Feminist Conference brings together theorists and practitioners who will explore the fruitfulness of vulnerability as a key framing device for thinking about social and political arrangements. We plan to bring together academics working primarily in humanities and the arts with activists and professionals working among especially vulnerable populations—prisoners, communities affected by environmental degradation, and so on—as well as activists who leverage vulnerability as an critical and effective organizing tool.

The day will begin with a plenary panel featuring four scholars who are pioneers in the newly emerging, interdisciplinary field of vulnerability studies. Each has approached different questions about the commonality of vulnerability in the human experience. Colin Dayan, a professor of humanities at Vanderbilt University, will speak about many of the questions she raises in her recent book, *The Law Is a White Dog: How Legal Rituals Make and Unmake Persons*, which focuses on how the law disfigures individuals and animals, and how slavery, punishment, and torture create unforeseen effects in our daily lives. Martha Fineman, director of the Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative at Emory University, will discuss the work of the Initiative and how it connects to larger questions about rights, justice, and the law. Ilaria Vanni, Professor of Cultural Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney, will share her work on the San Precario movement, and Ewa Plonowska Ziarek, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Buffalo, will comment on feminist ethics and vulnerability.

The conference will also feature four lunchtime workshops focusing on particularly vulnerable communities and how activists are engaging with an awareness of our shared vulnerabilities in their work across a number of issues. We are planning these workshops around several key issues: prisons and capital punishment; environmental justice; immigration policy; and the politics of care. Each workshop will engage with activists, scholars, and policy makers who are working locally on these issues and using frameworks of vulnerability and community in their work. The conference will conclude with an artist’s talk by feminist performance artist Coco Fusco, who will be discussing a new work entitled “The Empty Plaza.” After screening the video, Fusco will explore the importance of “the plaza” as a space for organizing social change around many of the themes that will be discussed throughout the conference.

We believe that this conference will be an opportunity to expand this emerging field of interdisciplinary studies around human vulnerability and interdependence. By using the concept of vulnerability to frame discussions around key social issues, we hope to replace autonomy and independence with vulnerability and interdependence as critical terms of analysis, and consider the productive potential of “vulnerability” and “precariousness” as terms of imaginative reorientation. “Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities” will create a space for new ways of imagining and creating a more equitable and just society.

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH DANCE

An Interview with Sydnie L. Mosley '07, BCRW Alumna Fellow

Sydnie L. Mosley '07, BCRW's first Alumna Fellow, is a New York City-based dancer and choreographer. After graduating from Barnard College with a degree in Dance and Africana Studies, she earned her MFA in Dance with an emphasis on choreography from the University of Iowa. Her most recent work, *The Window Sex Project*, is a dance performance that addresses the problem of street harassment and seeks to create a community dialogue around issues of sexuality, gender, and public space.

BCRW: Can you talk a little bit about your background in dance and how you began your career as a choreographer?

Mosley: Like a lot of little girls I started taking ballet classes when I was 4 years old. My parents were putting me in different activities and dancing is the one that stuck. I don't think I've ever really stopped dancing for any extended period of time since I started.

My training is really varied. I never trained for a long time at one particular school or studio in a singular technique like a lot of dancers. Instead I picked up a lot of styles in all of the many places I danced. For example, I started learning African dance in elementary school; I learned to tap dance and was introduced to Limon technique by my middle school dance teacher; I learned basics of Graham technique at a summer arts program in my home state of Maryland. I went to the American Dance Festival twice when I was a teenager where I sampled it all. I also have to recognize my long-time teacher Ava Fields, who through her liturgical dance troupe literally taught me everything she knew about dance, most importantly about performance. By the time I was a senior in high school I was not only president of the school dance company, but I put on my first self-produced show in Baltimore. I knew then that I wanted to make a career out of dancing and making dances.

I developed a lot technically while I was a student at Barnard. Barnard is also the place where I began to really understand making dances as a craft, with methodology and tools to bring choreography to fruition. I had the privilege of having Janet Soares as my first formal composition teacher. She worked for many years with Louis Horst who was Martha Graham's long-time accompanist and professional collaborator. My development as a dancer and choreographer continued in graduate school at the University of Iowa where I concentrated on choreography.

Within six months of returning to New York City after graduate school—and after seeing a host of really less-than-stellar dances on major stages—I decided to throw my hat in the ring of folks making and showing work. I literally said, “I can make dances better than that,” then rounded up three dancers who were down for the cause, and we started rehearsing a new trio. At the time I had no idea if or where the piece would be performed. I auditioned it for H.T. Chen and his dance center's program for emerging choreographers. After that I just kept moving forward. It's almost been two years since then and now I'm actually doing what I set out to do so many years ago.

BCRW: Where did the inspiration for creating *The Window Sex Project* come from?

Mosley: I was inspired by a simultaneous creative want to make a dance about a woman's body and sexuality, and my own daily experiences with street harassment and a need to act out against them. The title comes from feeling like I was being constantly “window shopped” as a sexual object as I walked on the street.

BCRW: What do you hope *The Window Sex Project* will accomplish?

Mosley: There are many goals of this project, those that I articulated at the outset of this work, and those that I am discovering as I go along. First of all, I just hope to create awareness around the issue of street harassment and highlight the fact that this is not “just the way it is.” We have the power to effect change. I hope the performance piece will start conversations amongst men and women, so that we can address what we feel is appropriate and respectful communication and interaction between one another. I also hope that it inspires mentoring with youth and teens. For young men, how do you respectfully interact with the opposite sex? For young women, instilling self-respect and self-confidence so that they demand the respect they deserve. The workshop model that I designed for the community participants is a great way to facilitate this.

I also would like to invite Harlem community and political leaders to our performances so that they can see how serious of an issue this is within their constituency. Policy makers need to know that this is an issue worth considering, if we ever hope to have appropriate legislation to protect the harassed.

A by-product of this work has been expanding people's

understanding of what constitutes a dance, and how trust, intimacy and community can be built through shared movement experiences.

BCRW: You describe the project as a community arts and performance initiative, and strongly connect it to the Harlem community. What does it mean for you to engage on a creative or artistic level with the community?

Mosley: It means a lot for me to engage creatively with the community in which I live. A lot of the modern dance community, particularly small companies and individual artists are focused downtown or in Brooklyn. Many artists who actually live uptown (me being one of them) commute for hours on end every day for rehearsals and performances, when there are plenty of vibrant dance spaces uptown. One of my goals as an artist is to create, nurture and participate in dance uptown.

Secondly, one of the major goals of the community workshops was for women to get to know their neighbors, to network and form new connections. Relationships mean so much, and we cannot be a community if we don't nurture them.

Lastly, I wanted to create a dance work that was authored in some part by the Harlem community, for the Harlem community. Some of the movement phrases in the performance are taken directly from what community members created in workshops, and all of the "hollas" in the sound score are direct quotes of what folks have heard. I want folks to see this dance work and see that is their own story, and that story is now being shared with a larger public.

I'm blessed that this work has been received so openly, and that community members have seen a postcard in their local coffee shop and then come to a workshop. I was able to provide a safe space that they needed to commune with others about their experiences, that maybe they hadn't found anywhere else.

BCRW: It seems as though the issue of street harassment—which is certainly something that women have been dealing with for decades, if not centuries!—has been steadily gaining more attention in recent months. Do you attribute this rise in awareness to any particular events or actions?

Mosley: Yes, it has been happening long before my time! I don't know if I can attribute any specific event to the rise in activism against it, but I think those who are affected and fed up are using their voices more, and because of new technology we are hearing them more. Organizations like Hollaback! and Stop Street Harassment are leading the way. They encourage people to share their stories via blogs, mobile applications, Twitter and Facebook, so now there is an ongoing public discussion about street harassment that is hard to ignore.

Street harassment really is a human rights issue – it prohibits women from being in public spaces as comfortably as men, and that doesn't have to be. The more we share our stories, the more solutions we can create for a safe and respectful street culture.

For more information about the upcoming performance of The Window Sex Project, hosted by BCRW on Monday, April 2, please see page 17.



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Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities

Scholar and Feminist XXXVII

Saturday, March 3

9 am – 5 pm

Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

This spring's Scholar and Feminist Conference, "Vulnerability: The Human and the Humanities," will explore the concept of vulnerability as a fundamental and universal characteristic of the human condition. We are vulnerable on many different levels – from our own embodiment; to our place within a community; to the privileges we may lack as a result of our gender, race, or class. Scholars and activists alike have explored the way in which an understanding of these common vulnerabilities has the potential to transform our kinship structures, communities, and institutions into ones that recognize the importance of human interdependency. The conference will provide a space for thinking about how to incorporate a vision of shared vulnerability into social and political discussions, bringing together academics, activists and professionals working among especially vulnerable populations—prisoners, communities affected by environmental degradation, and so on—as well as activists who leverage vulnerability as an critical and effective organizing tool. The conference will feature a plenary panel on the emerging field of vulnerability studies, as well as an afternoon artist's talk by feminist performance artist Coco Fusco. Lunchtime workshops will center around topics including prisons and capital punishment; immigration; environmental justice; and the politics of care. To view the complete program and to register for the conference, please visit bcrw.barnard.edu.

Plenary panelists: Colin Dayan, Robert Penn Warren Professor of the Humanities at Vanderbilt University.

Martha Albertson Fineman, Robert W. Woodruff Professor at Emory Law School, founder and director of the Feminism and Legal Theory Project, and co-director of Emory's Race and Difference Initiative.

Ilaria Vanni, Head of the Cultural Studies Group, and Deputy Director of the Transforming Cultures Research Centre at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Ewa Plonowska Ziarek, Julian Park Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Buffalo.

Keynote speaker: Coco Fusco, New York-based interdisciplinary artist and writer and Associate Professor of Fine Arts at the School of Art, Media, and Technology at Parsons the New School for Design.

Voices of a Women's Health Movement

A panel discussion

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Science journalist Barbara Seaman (1935-2008) spent the last forty years of her life on the front lines as a women's health advocate. Throughout her career, she was also a tireless supporter of other women's voices. The recently published anthology *Voices of a Women's Health Movement*, co-edited by Seaman and her long-time collaborator, Laura Eldridge, brings together an essential collection of essays, interviews, and commentary by leading activists, writers, doctors, and sociologists on topics ranging across reproductive rights, sex and orgasm, activism, motherhood and birth control. Contributors to the book will discuss the rich history of this movement and its continued significance in struggles for reproductive rights today. Panelists:

Laura Eldridge '01 is co-editor of *Voices of a Women's Health Movement*, and author of *In Our Control: The Complete Guide to Contraceptive Choices for Women*.

Helen Lowery has worked as a legal advocate at a rape crisis center and as an attorney in the area of reproductive rights and women's health.

Lauren Porsch '01 is a reproductive and sexual health activist, educator, and researcher with extensive experience working on access to health care for traditionally marginalized communities.

Leonore Tiefer PhD, is an author, educator, researcher, therapist and activist who has specialized in many areas of sexuality.

Irene Xanthoudakis '01 is Manager of Major Gifts for the Ms. Foundation. Her professional experience includes tenures with organizations ranging in size from grassroots groups to national foundations.



A Question of Methodology: Feminist Studies of Gender and the State in Contemporary Iran

Shirin Saeidi and Kristin Soraya
Batmanghelichi

A conversation

Thursday, February 23

6:30 pm

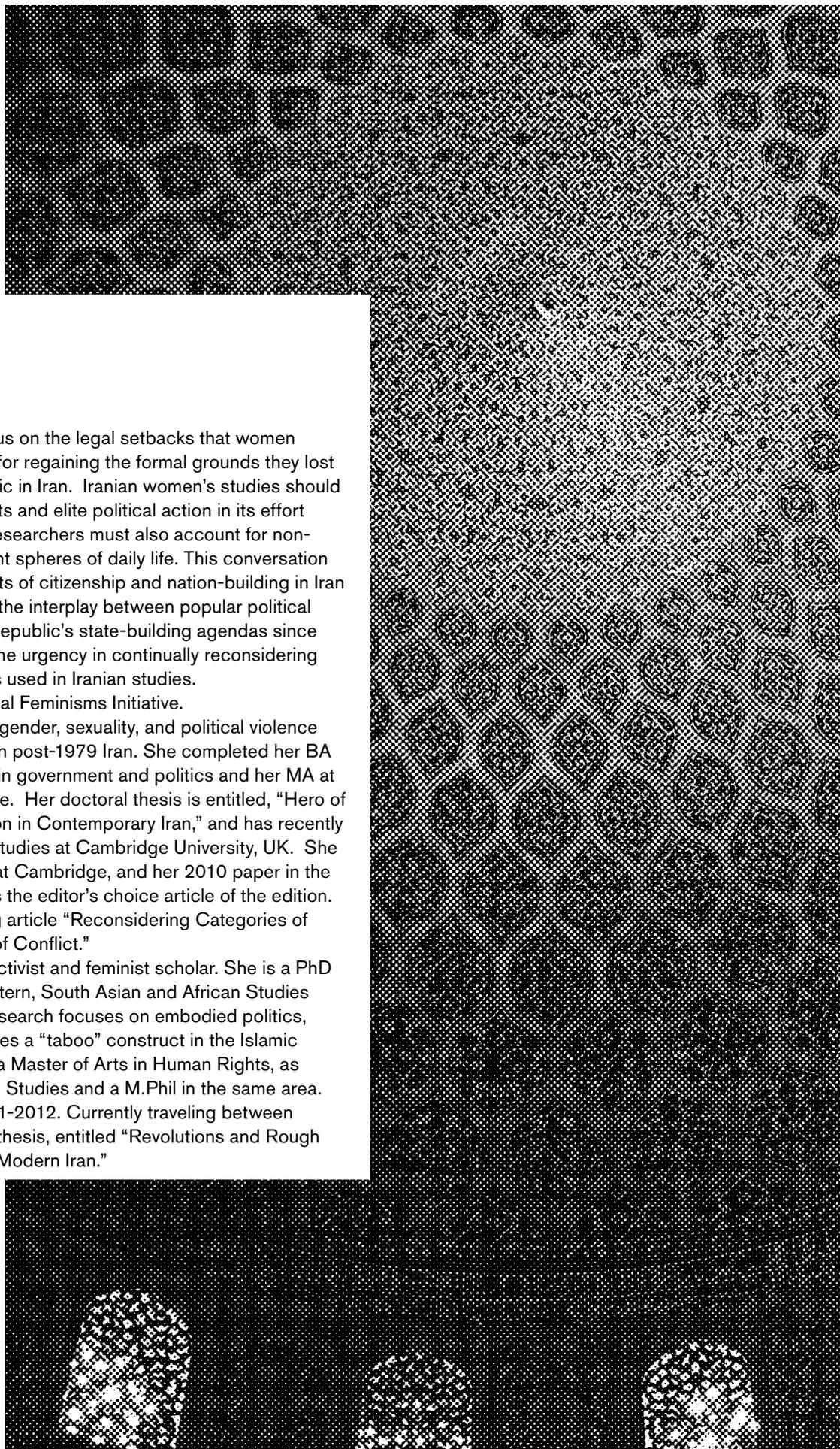
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Most feminist studies of post-1979 Iran focus on the legal setbacks that women encountered and their collective strategies for regaining the formal grounds they lost with the establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iran. Iranian women's studies should not, however, only examine social movements and elite political action in its effort to decipher the post-revolutionary state. Researchers must also account for non-elite and individual political action in different spheres of daily life. This conversation examines conceptualizations and enactments of citizenship and nation-building in Iran from the 1980s to the present, highlighting the interplay between popular political interventions in local sites and the Islamic Republic's state-building agendas since 1979 and engendering debates regarding the urgency in continually reconsidering and reinventing methodological approaches used in Iranian studies.

This event is part of BCRW's Transnational Feminisms Initiative.

Shirin Saeidi's research concentrates on gender, sexuality, and political violence in the Middle East, with a particular focus on post-1979 Iran. She completed her BA at the University of Maryland, College Park in government and politics and her MA at George Mason University in political science. Her doctoral thesis is entitled, "Hero of Her Own Story: Gender and State Formation in Contemporary Iran," and has recently been submitted to the Board of Graduate Studies at Cambridge University, UK. She is the recipient of several research awards at Cambridge, and her 2010 paper in the journal *Citizenship Studies* was selected as the editor's choice article of the edition. She is currently completing her forthcoming article "Reconsidering Categories of Analysis: Possibilities for Feminist Studies of Conflict."

K. Soraya Batmanghelichi is a women's activist and feminist scholar. She is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University in New York. Her research focuses on embodied politics, especially concerning how the body becomes a "taboo" construct in the Islamic Republic of Iran. At Columbia, she earned a Master of Arts in Human Rights, as well as a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies and a M.Phil in the same area. She is a Whiting Foundation Fellow for 2011-2012. Currently traveling between London and Tehran, she is writing her PhD thesis, entitled "Revolutions and Rough Cuts: Conceptualizing Women's Bodies in Modern Iran."



Reimagining Equality

Anita Hill

Helen Rodgers Reid Lecture

Monday, February 27

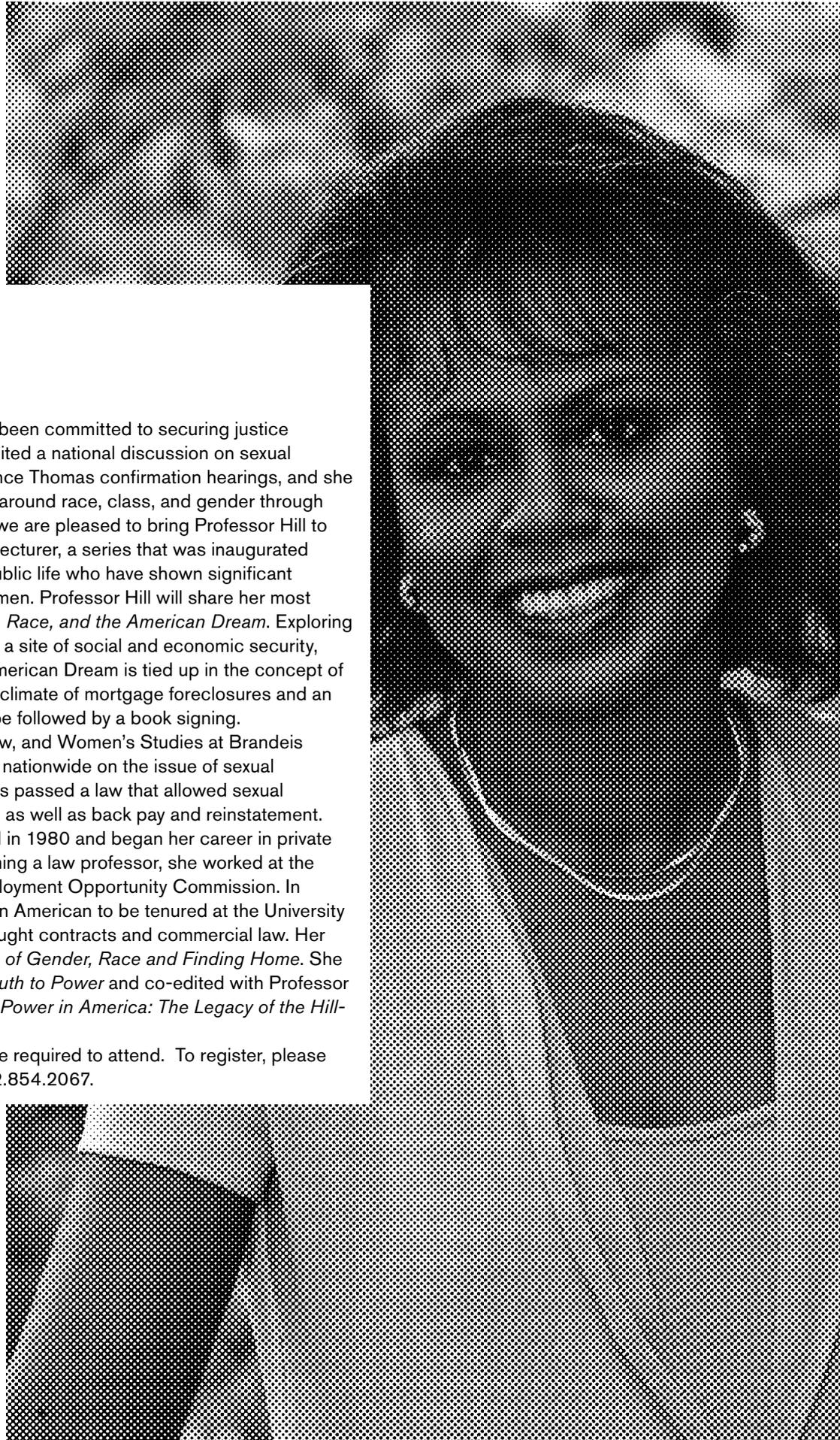
6:30 pm

Event Oval, Diana Center

For the entirety of her career, Anita Hill has been committed to securing justice and equality. Over twenty years ago she ignited a national discussion on sexual harassment with her testimony at the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings, and she has continued to broaden the conversation around race, class, and gender through her publications and teaching. This spring, we are pleased to bring Professor Hill to Barnard as the 2012 Helen Rodgers Reid Lecturer, a series that was inaugurated in 1975 to honor distinguished women in public life who have shown significant commitment to improving the lives of all women. Professor Hill will share her most recent work, *Reimagining Equality: Gender, Race, and the American Dream*. Exploring cultural ideas and ideals about the home as a site of social and economic security, she will discuss how our definition of the American Dream is tied up in the concept of “home,” and what this means in our current climate of mortgage foreclosures and an ever-widening income gap. The event will be followed by a book signing.

Anita Hill is Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies at Brandeis University. Professor Hill raised awareness nationwide on the issue of sexual harassment. Thanks to her efforts, Congress passed a law that allowed sexual harassment victims to seek damage awards as well as back pay and reinstatement. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1980 and began her career in private practice in Washington, D.C. Before becoming a law professor, she worked at the U.S. Education Department and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1989, Professor Hill became the first African American to be tenured at the University of Oklahoma, College of Law, where she taught contracts and commercial law. Her latest book is *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race and Finding Home*. She has also written her biography, *Speaking Truth to Power* and co-edited with Professor Emma Coleman Jordan, *Race, Gender and Power in America: The Legacy of the Hill-Thomas Hearings*.

This event is free of charge, but tickets are required to attend. To register, please visit bcrw.barnard.edu or call BCRW at 212.854.2067.



Private Bodies, Public Texts

A salon in honor of Karla FC Holloway

Wednesday, March 21

6:30 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

For the second event in BCRW's newly inaugurated Salon Series, we have assembled a group of scholars whose expertise lies at the cross-section of law, race, gender, and bioethics to respond to Karla FC Holloway's new book, *Private Bodies, Public Texts: Race, Gender, and a Cultural Bioethics*. This important and groundbreaking work examines instances where medical issues and information that would usually be seen as intimate, private matters are forced into the public sphere, calling for a new cultural bioethics that attends to the complex histories of race, gender, and class in the US. Join us for an engaged and thought-provoking conversation between these participants. Respondents include:

Karla FC Holloway, James B. Duke Professor of English and Professor of Law at Duke University.

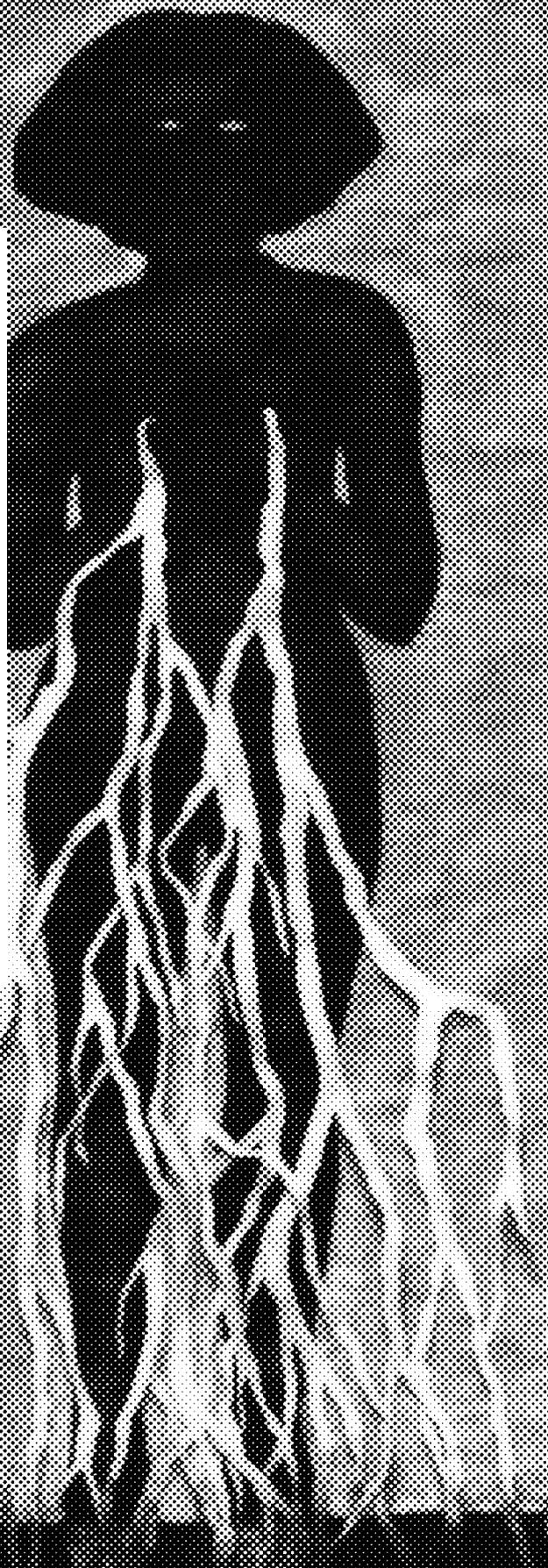
Tina Camppt, Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Africana Studies Program at Barnard College.

Farah Griffin, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University.

Saidiya Hartman, Professor of Comparative Literature and Director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Columbia University.

Rebecca Jordan-Young, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at Barnard College.

Alondra Nelson, Associate Professor of Sociology and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Columbia University.



Student Life During Wartime: World War II at Barnard College

Karen Seeley

Lunchtime Lecture Series

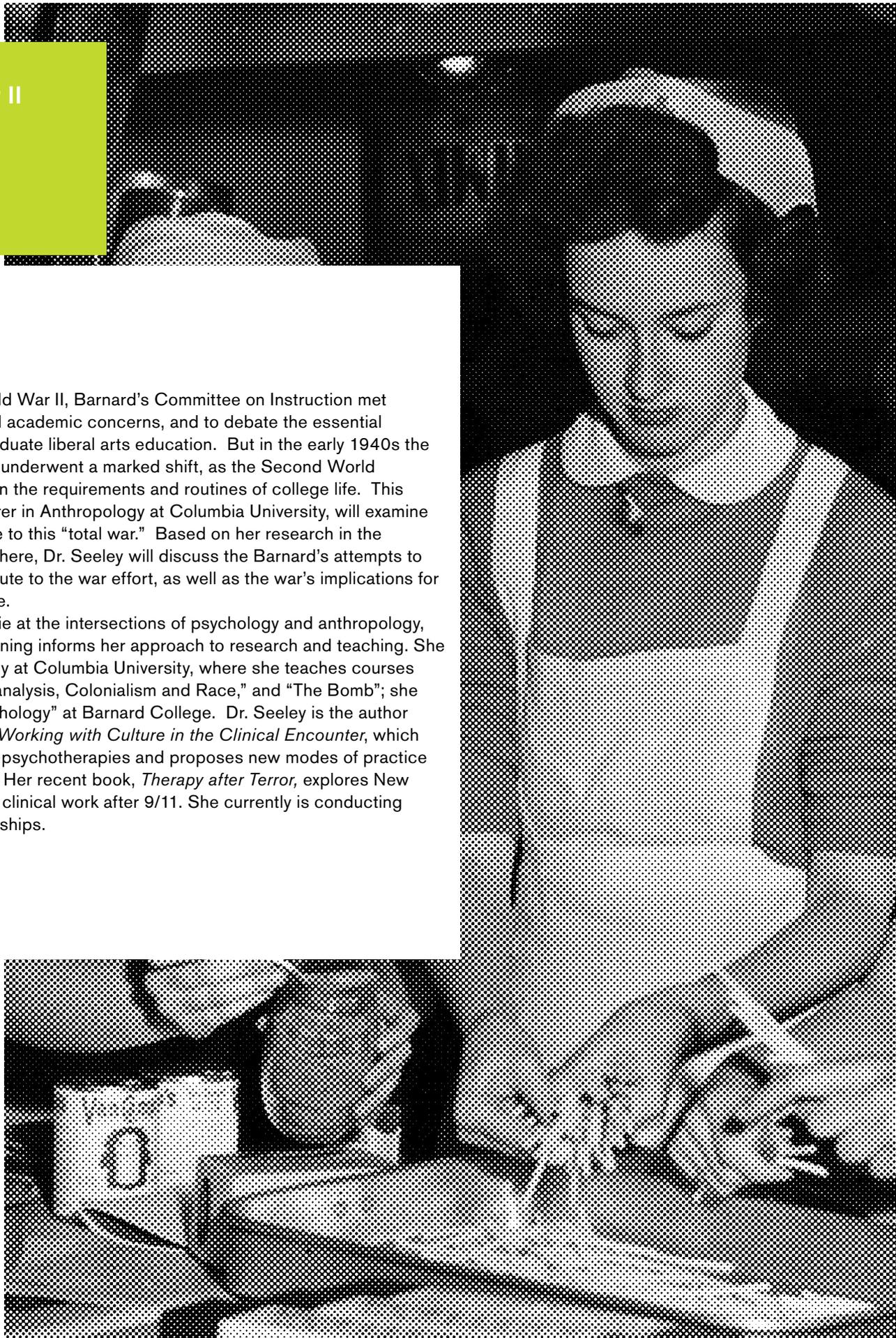
Thursday, March 22

12 pm

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Before the outbreak of World War II, Barnard's Committee on Instruction met monthly to discuss practical academic concerns, and to debate the essential components of an undergraduate liberal arts education. But in the early 1940s the Committee's conversations underwent a marked shift, as the Second World War increasingly intruded on the requirements and routines of college life. This talk by Karen Seeley, Lecturer in Anthropology at Columbia University, will examine Barnard College's response to this "total war." Based on her research in the College archives and elsewhere, Dr. Seeley will discuss the Barnard's attempts to mobilize students to contribute to the war effort, as well as the war's implications for a sheltered women's college.

Karen Seeley's interests lie at the intersections of psychology and anthropology, and her interdisciplinary training informs her approach to research and teaching. She is a Lecturer in Anthropology at Columbia University, where she teaches courses such as "Trauma," "Psychoanalysis, Colonialism and Race," and "The Bomb"; she also teaches "Cultural Psychology" at Barnard College. Dr. Seeley is the author of *Cultural Psychotherapy: Working with Culture in the Clinical Encounter*, which critically examines Western psychotherapies and proposes new modes of practice for intercultural treatments. Her recent book, *Therapy after Terror*, explores New York City psychotherapists' clinical work after 9/11. She currently is conducting research on women's friendships.



The Girl Who Burned the Banknotes: Rural Women, Memory, and China's Collective Past

Gail Hershatter

Women's History Month Lecture

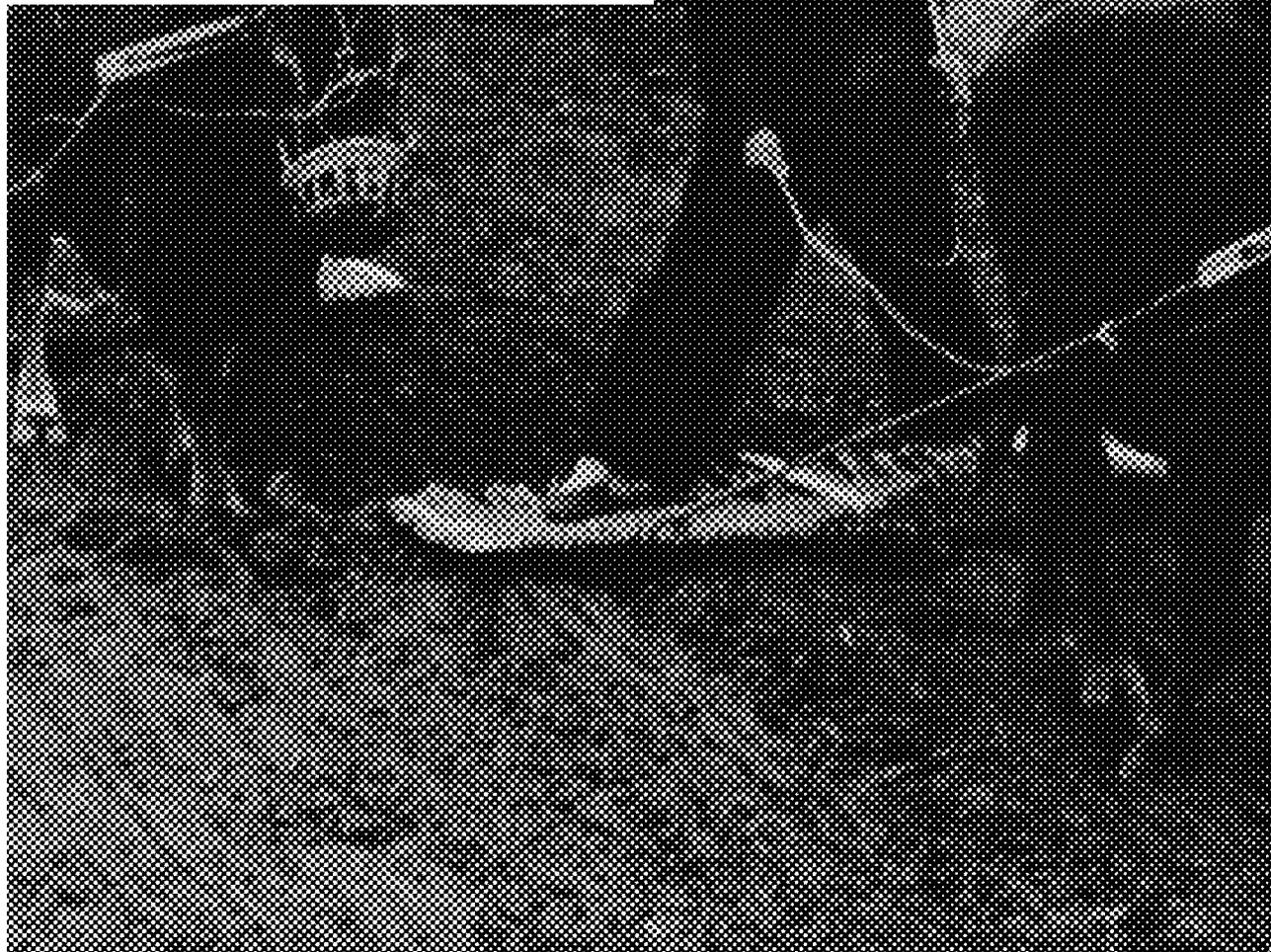
Thursday, March 29

6:30 pm

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

What can we learn about the Chinese revolution by placing a doubly marginalized group—rural women—at the center of the inquiry? This year's Women's History Month lecturer, Gail Hershatter, will explore changes in the lives of women in rural Shaanxi province during the revolutionary decades of the 1950s and 1960s. Centering on the story of Zhang Chaofeng, a former child daughter-in-law, the talk explores the question of whether women had a revolution, examining the nature of socialism and how gender figured in its creation.

Gail Hershatter is Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her books include *The Workers of Tianjin, 1900-1949*, *Personal Voices: Chinese Women in the 1980s* (with Emily Honig), *Dangerous Pleasures: Prostitution and Modernity in Twentieth-Century Shanghai*, *Women in China's Long Twentieth Century*, and *The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and China's Collective Past*. She is a past President of the Association for Asian Studies.



The Window Sex Project

A dance performance and discussion

Monday, April 2

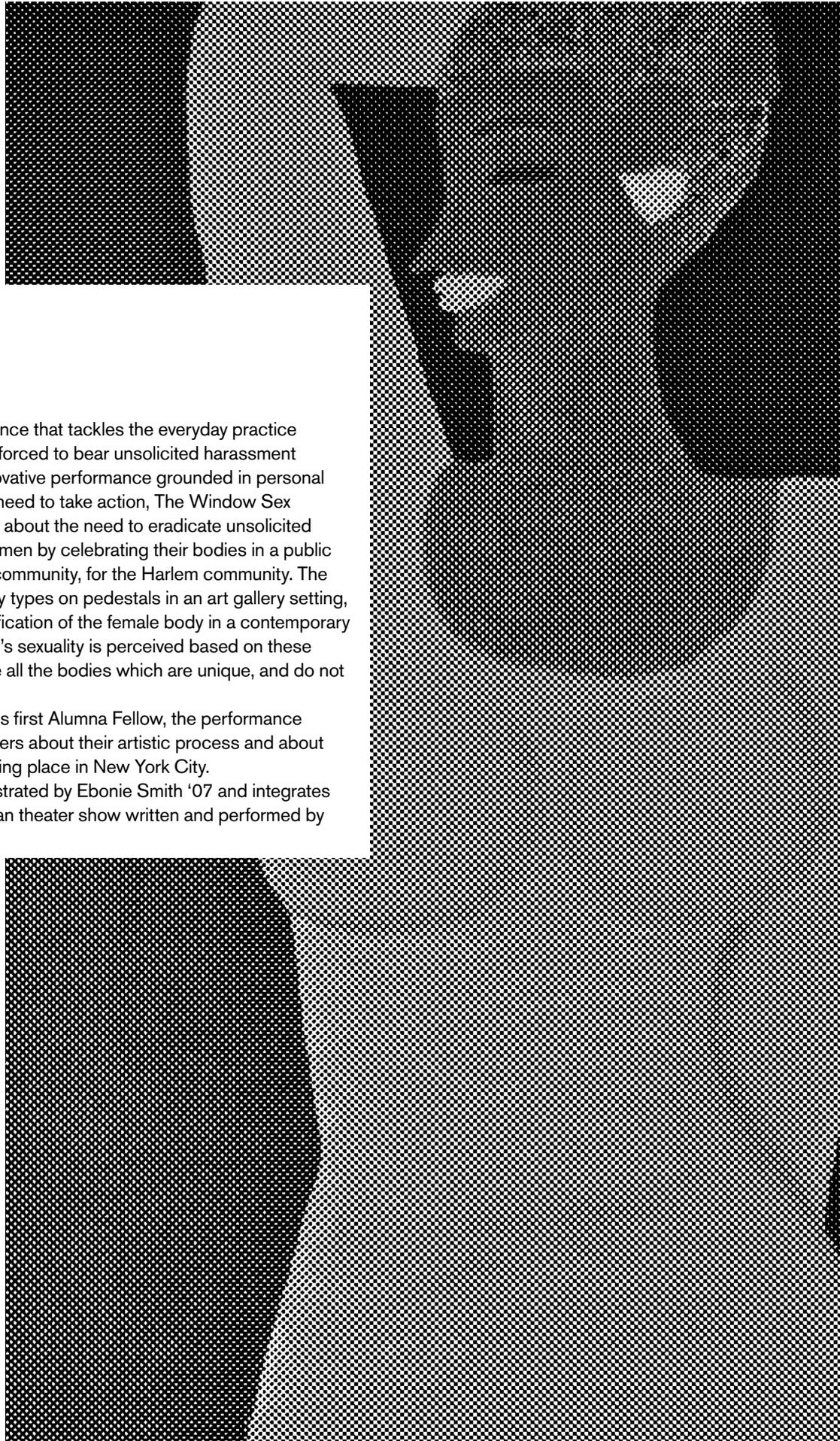
6:30 pm

Event Oval, The Diana Center

The Window Sex Project is a dance performance that tackles the everyday practice in which women are “window shopped,” – or forced to bear unsolicited harassment from men while walking on the street. An innovative performance grounded in personal experiences, feminist theory, and a collective need to take action, The Window Sex Project fosters conversation in the community about the need to eradicate unsolicited verbal harassment and restores agency to women by celebrating their bodies in a public artwork informed by members of the Harlem community, for the Harlem community. The work places women of varying races and body types on pedestals in an art gallery setting, forcing audiences to contend with the objectification of the female body in a contemporary society. The dance investigates how a woman's sexuality is perceived based on these physical attributes. It aims to equally celebrate all the bodies which are unique, and do not fit into generic models of womanhood.

Produced by Sydnie L. Mosley '07, BCRW's first Alumna Fellow, the performance will be followed by a discussion with the dancers about their artistic process and about actions against street harassment that are taking place in New York City.

The piece also includes a sound score orchestrated by Ebonie Smith '07 and integrates excerpts of “Can I Get A Smile?,” a one-woman theater show written and performed by Leah King '04.



“To Certain of Our Philistines”: Alain Locke and the Democratic Promise of Black Art

Michelle R. Smith

Lunchtime Lecture Series

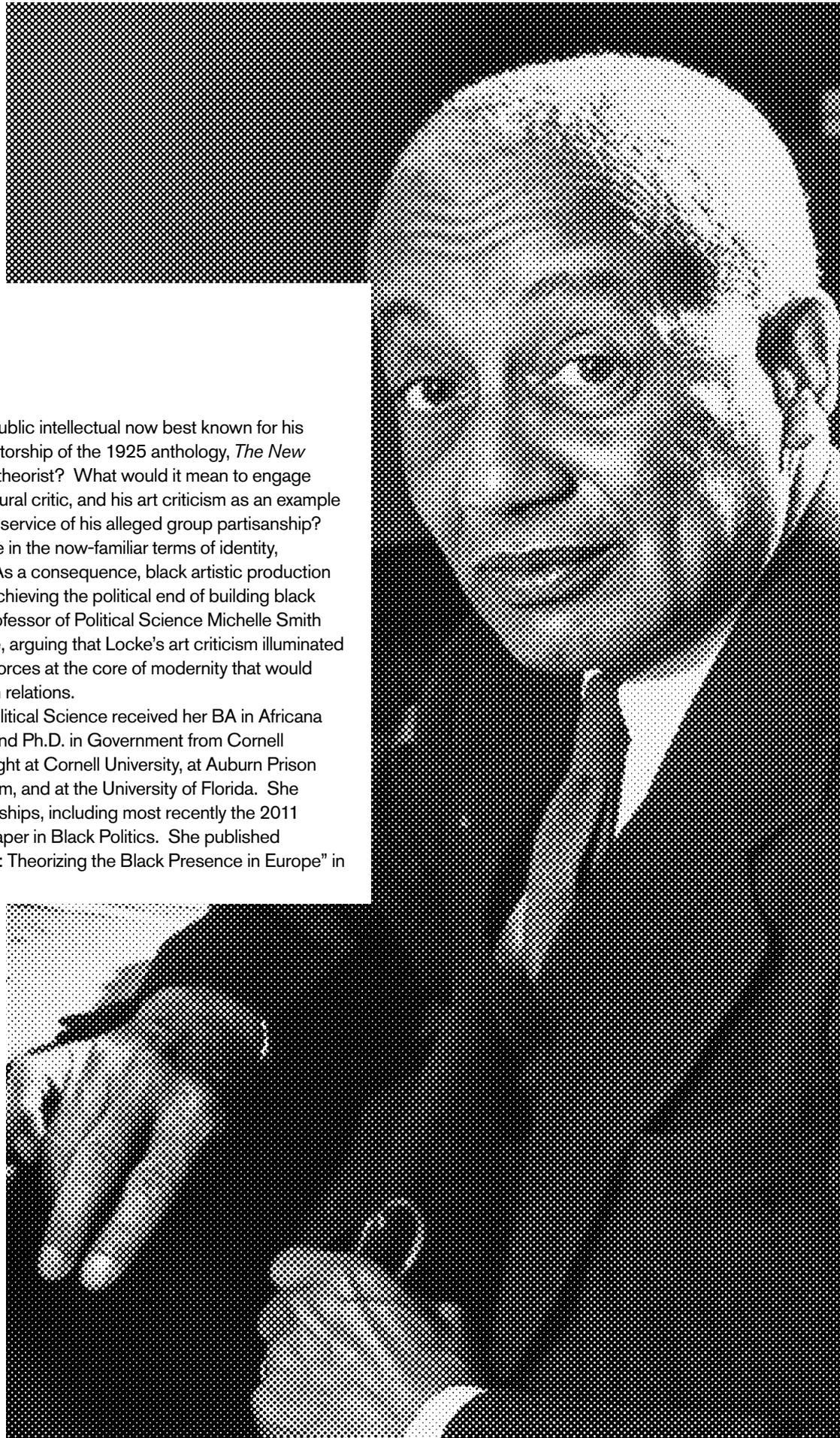
Tuesday, April 3

12 pm

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Can Alain Locke, the black cultural critic and public intellectual now best known for his lifelong commitment to black art and for his editorship of the 1925 anthology, *The New Negro: an Interpretation*, be read as a political theorist? What would it mean to engage Locke as a political theorist instead of as a cultural critic, and his art criticism as an example of black political thought instead of as a tool in service of his alleged group partisanship? Contemporary scholarship usually treats Locke in the now-familiar terms of identity, multiculturalism, or the politics of recognition. As a consequence, black artistic production comes to be reduced to a cultural means for achieving the political end of building black identity. In this lunchtime lecture, Assistant Professor of Political Science Michelle Smith seeks to move beyond this theoretical impasse, arguing that Locke’s art criticism illuminated and sought to magnify diametrically opposed forces at the core of modernity that would disrupt the structuring hold of “race” on human relations.

Michelle R. Smith, Assistant Professor of Political Science received her BA in Africana Studies from Rutgers University, and her MA and Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University. Before coming to Barnard, she taught at Cornell University, at Auburn Prison as part of the Cornell Prison Education Program, and at the University of Florida. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, including most recently the 2011 Western Political Science Association Best Paper in Black Politics. She published “Blackening Europe/Europeanising Blackness: Theorizing the Black Presence in Europe” in *Contemporary European History Journal*.



Feminist Futures Fund

Donate & Support BCRW

The Barnard Center for Research on Women just celebrated forty years of feminist action and scholarship this past fall. Help us ensure the success of the next forty years - and beyond - with a contribution to the Feminist Futures Fund, a new initiative that will allow us to continue to grow and develop the programming, special research projects, and innovative collaborations that are the hallmark of BCRW's work. With your help, we can broaden the impact of our publications and programs on the local, national, and transnational levels. Your contribution will be used to support a number of new and developing projects:

- An oral history of women with disabilities, based on work developed at last year's Scholar & Feminist conference, "Movements: Politics, Performance, and Disability."
- Our ongoing collaborations with community-based organizations that are producing groundbreaking and vital work on gender, sexuality, race, and class, including Domestic Workers United, Queers for Economic Justice, and Sakhi for South Asian Women.
- The recently created Transnational Feminisms Initiative, which will draw upon conversations embarked on at the 40th anniversary conference about women's activism and feminist thought in a transnational context.
- A new and exciting project that will survey the status and the future of "online feminism," including blogs, online journalism, and other forms of new media.
- Collaborations with alumnae and other scholars through our Alumnae Fellows and Visiting Scholars programs.

The Fund will also provide broad support for the cornerstones of our mission and programming: our events and publications, including webjournal Scholar and Feminist Online and the New Feminist Solutions series. With your support, we can increase the visibility and influence of our work, and provide crucial resources to the next generation of feminist thinkers, theorists, and activists.

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