BCRW

Annual Report 2013-2015







BIRTHRIGHT CRISIS: THE POWER AND PARADOXES OF MEDIA ADVOCACY

MIRIAM NEPTUNE

THURSDAY, 10/09 12 PM BCRW, 101 BARNAR

BCRW



A Dialogue between the Sciences & Humanities

Saturday, 04/45 9:30 AM-1 PM Suizberger Parlor 3rd Floor Barnard

BCRW



REALNESS A SALON IN HONOR OF JANET MOCK

BRITTNEY COOPER
CHE GOSSETT
REINA GOSSETT
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RELIGION



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HABITUAL NEW MEDIA: EXPOSING EMPOWERMENT

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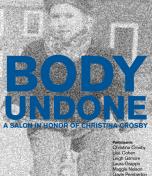


Table of Contents

Overview. BCRW Kilowieuge Center	
A Quick Look at 2013-2015	6
Transnational Feminisms Global Seminars: Cape Town & Mumbai African Women's Rights and Resilience Scholar and Feminist 2014: Locations of Learning Caribbean Feminisms on the Page	8
Gender Justice/Social Justice Gender, Justice, and Neoliberalisms Why Sex? Why Gender? No One is Disposable Natalie Kampen Lecture: Annette Gordon-Reed	11
Multi-Medial Interventions Worlds of Shange Scholar and Feminist 2015: Action on Education Alumnae Fellows Projects Dare to Use the F-Word Podcast Series	14
Localizing Change Sakhi for South Asian Women Queer Survival Economies	18
Support the Center	20
Upcoming Projects	20
Staff	20



Above right: Justice in the Home (2014), co-organized with the National Domestic Workers Alliance, brought together scholars, organizers, and domestic workers and leaders for a three-day conference for academic researchers and on-the-ground organizers to share their knowledge and experience. Nearly 350 domestic workers attended the final day of the conference, NDWA's Labor of Love Summit.



OVERVIEW

The Barnard Center for Research on Women brings together faculty, students, administrators, community members, activists, artists, and alumnae to produce and distribute feminist knowledge on campus, in New York City, nationally, and globally.

Over forty years of experience building collaborative projects, programs, and publications has distinguished us as a preeminent center for social justice feminism. In all our activities, from programming to publishing, we bring a nuanced, synthetic analysis to issues that are all too often examined through a single-issue lens or from a particular disciplinary set of research questions and methods. In this fifth decade of the BCRW's existence, we aim to build on our existing strengths in ways that both expand and redefine what it means to be a feminist research center in the 21st-century.

We are committed to vibrant and engaged educational models that stimulate research, teaching, activism, policy, and social change, which in turn, impact knowledge. BCRW affords scholars the time and space necessary for research and writing, while organizing colloquia and workshops that allow collaborating activists to participate in the production of innovative feminist practices.

We are unique among feminist research centers in bringing together scholars and activists who use innovative forms of feminist knowledge and critique to generate concrete steps toward social transformation.

The range of projects we have supported over the past forty-plus years has given us a distinctive profile – one that exceeds traditional definitions. We are a **knowledge center** that serves a unique function by formulating critical questions about what knowledge is and who is allowed or encouraged to produce it. We utilize multiple forms of engagement, including working groups, institutional collaborations, public events, the production of publications and other digital teaching materials, and individual fellowships and research scholar positions.



- 1 Presenters with members of Black Youth Project present "Girls Behind Bars: Black Girls and the School-to-Prison Pipeline" at The Scholar & Feminist: Action on Education, 2015
- **2** BCRW Research Assistants and Jennifer Miller at The Scholar & Feminist: Utopia, 2013.
- English and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Wesleyan University, and cultural critic Maggie Nelson at BCRW's fourth annual salon "Body Undone: A Salon in Honor of Christina Crosby," reflecting on memoir, disability studies, and queer theory (2015)
- 4 Ai-jen Poo, Director of National Domestic Workers Alliance and MacArthur Fellow, with domestic workers and activists at Justice in the Home 2014

Objective

The primary focus of our work is on creating meaningful interventions and conversations among our constituencies. Our aim is simple: to do work that matters and affects its participants. This means creating and disseminating forms of knowledge that reach multiple audiences and that provide useful tools for realizing different kinds of feminist practice. It involves creating interactions that allow individuals to speak at length and take seriously the interventions made by all participants.





Approach

Our approach merges research and action for feminist knowledge production by fostering generative dialogues between scholars, artists, policy makers, visionary thinkers, activists, and media makers committed to social justice feminism. Over the last five years, we have established collaborations among a diverse group of actors and agents of change in different corners of the globe, forging partnerships with scholars, students, activists, and artists in Mexico, India, South Africa, and Argentina. Whether working in New York, Cape Town, or Mumbai, we aim to create engaged and ethical learning environments for faculty, students and a broad contingent of collaborators. We embrace our role as a link between different sites of knowledge production.

Core Constituencies

BCRW's projects address the needs of our core constituencies by cultivating four primary forms of exchange:

- Scholarly dialogues
- Activist and community initiatives
- Archive-based learning
- Student-centered projects

A Quick Look at 2013-2015

Events



43
Public Events



Conferences



4,591 Attendees

Publications



Full-length publications



194,589
Pageviews of S&F Online



4,591
Unique visitors to S&F Online



179
Countries in which
S&F Online
was viewed

Videos & Social Media



3,329Twitter followers



4,267Facebook page likes



62,181Vimeo video plays



93,402 YouTube views





1 Nobel Laureate and Liberian

- 2 Participant in African Women's Rights & Resilience
- **3** A woman shops in a Cape Town market
- 4 Participants in African Women's Rights & Resilience (from left): Amina Mama, Abigail Disney, Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Sylvia Tamale, and Tina Campt
- 5 Audience members in global seminar in Mumbai
- 6 Barnard Professor of English and Africana Studies Yvette Christiansë leads a discussion
- **7** Neferti X. M. Tadiar, Professor of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Barnard College
- **8** Students in Mumbai, India register for the Barnard Global Symposium
- **9** A woman at the harbor in Mumbai

TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS

Programs challenging national boundaries by establishing collaborations among feminists transnationally. Transnational Feminisms programs focus on the critique of empire and diverse understandings of diasporic formations, and are geared toward fostering regional and transnational dialogues among and between feminist communities in the southern hemisphere.



Global Seminars: Capetown & Mumbai

BCRW's Global Seminars challenge students to explore the ways in which global education requires us to negotiate difference, connection, and power. These seminars also engage students in pedagogical, administrative, and research practices that produce long-term, collaborative, and equitable relations among seminar participants.

Believing that research, teaching, programming, and activism can be intertwined at the global scale, the seminars consider how engaging gender helps us to attend to systemic inequities as well as recurring commonalities, and consequently reshapes research, knowledge, and curricula within contemporary global conditions.

African Women's Rights & Resilience

During the 2013-14 academic year, Barnard was proud to host Nobel Laureate and Liberian peace activist Leymah Gbowee as its inaugural Distinguished Fellow in Social Justice and a Transnational Fellow at the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

Students, faculty and visitors benefited from her presence on campus, attending her classes and lectures and learning from her insights on social justice and human rights. In addition to a day-long symposium with transnational feminist activists and academics, Gbowee co-taught a distinctive adaptation of the WGSS Feminist Theory Colloquium with incoming BCRW Director, Professor Tina Campt. All materials are archived at bcrw.barnard.edu/african-resilience.



Caribbean Feminisms on the Page

Distinguished Antiguan writer Jamaica Kincaid, and debut novelist Tiphanie Yanique, who grew up on the island of St. Thomas, came together with Barnard Associate Professor Kaiama L. Glover to discuss their experiences as Caribbean women of color, their thoughts on writing about the region, and their engagement with gender and feminism in their writings.

A packed house delivered thunderous applause for the authors' readings from *Land of Love and Drowning* and *See Now Then*, as well as their humorous, poignant, and always thoughtful meditations on the meanings of home, reproductive autonomy, tourism and colonialism, and creative production.

Scholar & Feminist 2014: Locations of Learning

BCRW Associate Director Catherine Sameh teamed up with Attiya Ahmad to organize a conference on the state of the field of transnational feminist activism and research, celebrating and building on Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan's foundational 1994 publication *Scattered Hegemonies*. This day-long collaborative workshop encouraged scholars to share approaches and exchange ideas.

The conference brought together junior and senior scholars working across disciplines and regions to explore how their work on transnational feminisms has responded to recent global transformations, such as the Arab Spring, occupy movements, and other widespread protests aimed at transforming existing systems of governance.

Sessions covered: The Legacy of Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational Feminist Practices, Global Transformation, Digital Engagement in Transnational Feminisms, Critical Scholarship in Neoliberal Times, Building Interdisciplinary and Transregional Alliances, and Situating Transnational Feminism in a Changing Theoretical Landscape.



GENDER & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Programs in which gender justice is a core component for achieving social justice more broadly, including existing projects on neoliberalism, trans-activism, domestic workers and sex workers, social justice and art production.

Gender, Justice & Neoliberalism

The Gender, Justice, and Neoliberalisms Working Group develops transnational research with a synthetic approach to questions of gender justice in the current geopolitical and economic moment. Composed of researchers working across sites from New York City to Detroit, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Hong Kong, Madrid, and Amsterdam, the group undertakes multi-sited, collaborative research that produces innovative ideas about how to address social issues more effectively and contribute to just social relations.

Economic justice discussions rarely include questions of gender and sexuality. Given the centrality of gender and sexuality to both state formation and contemporary operations of statecraft, we maintain that making gender a central category of analysis is crucial to theorizing neoliberalism, particularly in relation to current transformations in the welfare state and the feminization of labor.



- 1 Janet Jakobsen, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies
- 2 Activists Dean Spade '97 and CeCe McDonald with BCRW Activist Fellow Reina Gossett
- **3** Lisa Dug gan, Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University
- **4** Louis Graham, Assistant Professor of Community Health Education at the UMass, Amherst

- **5** Participants at Why Sex? Why Gender?
- 6 At the inagural Natalie Kampen Memorial Lecture, Barnard Professor of History Herbert Sloan introduced acclaimed legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed of Harvard University

Why Sex? Why Gender?: Janet Jakobsen Symposium

Celebrating 15 years of leadership by Janet Jakobsen, BCRW assembled a distinguished group of collaborators to explore the uphill but critical struggle to integrate gender and sexuality across multiple political movements. Focusing on what it means to enact "social justice feminism," panelists proposed new possibilities for research and action.

Speakers included individuals and organizations working within academia, the arts, and community organizations—such as the Hampshire College Civil Liberties and Public Policy program, Sakhi for South Asian Women, Queer Survival Economies, the National Domestic Worker's Alliance, and the New York Women's Foundation. Topics of debate included reproductive justice, arts and activism, liberation from economic and racial oppression, and the role of religion.



No One is Disposable: Everyday Practices of Prison Abolition

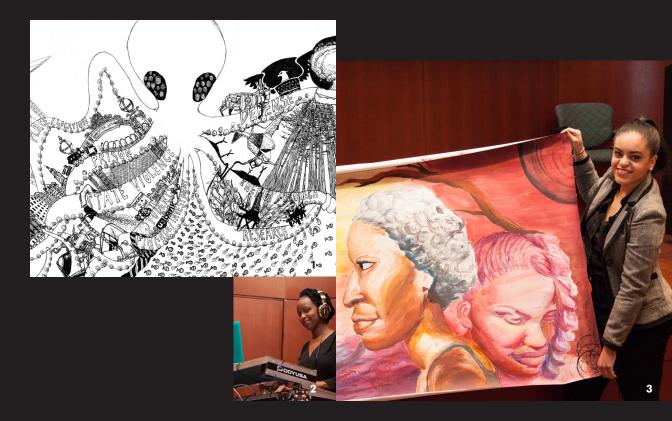
Activist Fellow Reina Gossett worked with Creative Director Hope Dector to develop a transmedia project engaging the everyday practices of prison abolition. Spanning video, social media, podcast interviews, onsite events, and a live Google Hangout, Gossett's work has produced a range of educational materials that re-centers the voices of trans women of color in the movement to abolish a penal system that works to extinguish them.

Activist Cece McDonald and Barnard alum Dean Spade joined Gossett for in depth video interviews and a live discussion with over 400 participants, during which they collectively articulated imaginative alternatives to violent state control, safety and danger, and binary gender categories that reinforce the inequities of the prison industrial complex.

Natalie Kampen Memorial Lecture: Annette Gordon-Reed

Drawing on her groundbreaking work on the domestic economies of slavery at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Pulitzer prize-winning legal historian Annette Gordon-Reed offered the inaugural Natalie Kampen Memorial Lecture in Feminist History and Criticism, tracing how the law influences the portrayal of enslaved women and their families.

The 2015 lecture honored BCRW Board member Herb Sloan, author of *Principle and Interest: Thomas Jefferson and the Problem of Debt*, who was the impetus for creating an annual lecture in Women's History. Gordon-Reed's pioneering scholarship deftly traces the complicated legacy of white supremacy and patriarchy and uses it to question how legal relationships of marriage and property ownership have shaped the way modern society has interpreted the past.



MULTI-MEDIA INTERVENTIONS

- 1 "The Octopus," drawing by Nicci Yin '14 in collaboration with Natalia Cecire and Miriam Neptune for The Scholar & Feminist: Action on Education
- **2** DJ Reborn at The Scholar & Feminist: Action on Education
- 3 Student Cheyenne Tobias at The Scholar & Feminist: Action on Education
- 4 BCRW Fellow Ntozake Shange '70

- **5** Portrait of CeCe McDonald by Molly Crabapple, commissioned for The Scholar & Feminist Online 12.1.
- **6** Participants at The Scholar & Feminist: Action on Education

Programs that produce feminist knowledge in multiple media including new media pedagogies; activism and critical education; innovative print and digital publications; and new feminist engagements with the arts, performance, sonic, and visual cultures.



Worlds of Shange

In a culture in which black women's stories have been consistently marginalized, Ntozake Shange '70 unflinchingly chronicles the experiences of "colored girls" in America, transcending genre and defying expectations with several of the most powerful and lyrical works of art in the twentieth century. With Africana Studies and the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies, BCRW co-produced a series of events to highlight the lasting impact of Shange's oeuvre.

In the spirit of Shange's genre-defying creations, this unfolding collaboration has yielded a series of performances, panels, and a double issue of BCRW's peer-reviewed web journal *The Scholar and Feminist Online* (sfonline.barnard.edu) edited by Yvette Christiansë, Kim F. Hall, and Monica Miller, which includes two original video productions to be used in classrooms and independent learning. Acclaimed scholars including Jennifer DeVere Brody, Soyica Diggs Colbert, Mecca Sullivan, and Alexis Pauline Gumbs speak to Shange's legacy in the worlds of arts and scholarship.

Scholar and Feminist XL: Action on Education

In honor of Barnard's 125 years of educating women with limited access to higher education, the 40th anniversary of BCRW's signature Scholar & Feminist Conference in 2015 articulated a feminist framework for understanding the landscape of teaching and learning.

Dynamic sessions led by artists, community activists, educators, and scholars included: Cognitive Capitalism and the University, Transformative Justice Approaches to Sexual Assault on Campus and Beyond, Radical Pedagogies in the Neoliberal University, Building Today's Freedom Schools, Black Girls and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and the POC Zine Project on Creative Expressions of Educational Pleasures and Dangers.

Alumnae Fellows Projects

Now in its third year, BCRW's Alumnae Fellows Initiative has supported three unique, creative projects focused on arts, activism, and strengthening communities. Carrying forward the work of Sydnie Mosley's Window Sex Project in 2012, which addressed gender-based street harassment, Ebonie Smith's Gender Amplified (2013) and Ali Rosa-Salas's No Such Thing as Neutral (2014) created dynamic learning spaces.

Highlighting women in music production, Smith's Festival included hands-on workshops, performances, and in-depth conversations about gender, technology, education, and music. High school and college students traveled from a range of locations as far away as Detroit to attend the event. In 2014, Ali Rosa-Salas collaborated with local movement-based artists to engage notions of subjectivity and the materiality of the body utilizing the formalities of Abstraction to produce an innovative performance-lecture demonstration.

Dare to Use the F-Word Podcasts

Engaging a diverse spectrum of topics ranging from the last abortion clinic in South Dakota to an undocumented immigrant working for gender justice in New York City, this student-led podcast series explores what feminism in action means for young people today. Episodes have included interviews with zine creators and fans at NYC's Feminist Zine Festival; discussion with Jade Foster, the founder of the salon-style Revival Poetry Tour for queer women of color; a conversation with Miriam Zoila Pérez, author of *The Radical Doula Guide*; and much more.

BCRW research assistants play an integral role in writing and producing the series. Long before "Serial" took the country by storm, BCRW led the way with audio stories about feminists often overlooked by mainstream media. Episodes are available on **bcrw.barnard.edu/podcasts** and on iTunes.

- 1 Dance Workshop with Lite Feet legend Chrybaby Cozie, hosted by Alumnae Fellow Ali Rosa-Salas
- **2** Research Assistant Carly Crane '15 recording Dare to Use the F-Word
- 3 Feminist Zine Fest. 2014
- **4** DJ Reborn at Gender Amplitied Music Festival, 2013
- 5 Research Assistants Farida Begum '12 and Eva Vaillancourt '12
- **6** Performer at No Such Thing as Neutral, 2014













Shane Lancer @ShaneLancer · Jan 24

"Let's talk about strategies for achieving social justice through dismantling hierarchy rather than ascending it #qse2015















Sonia Guiñansaca @theSoniaG · Jan 24

"Visibility" and "recognition from the state " is not the solution/end goal #QSE2015

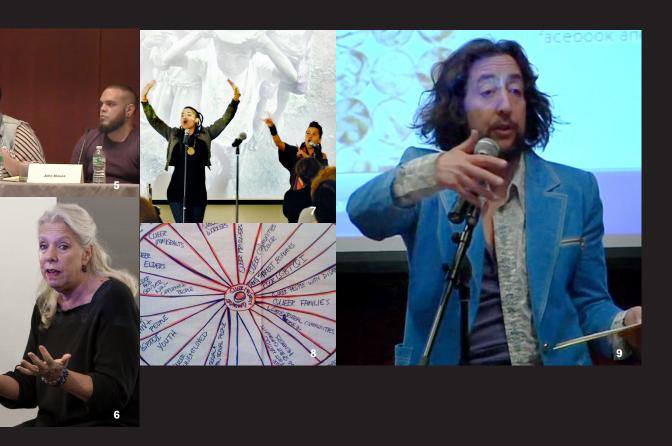
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LOCALIZING CHANGE

- 2 BCRW Transnational Seminar

- 8 Chart for Queer Survival

Projects focused on fostering feminist, activist, scholarly, and creative networks within New York City.



Sakhi for South Asian Women

Sakhi for South Asian Women brings together survivors, communities, and institutions to eradicate domestic violence, helping to create strong and healthy communities. BCRW has partnered with Sakhi over the last several years to develop the most recent report in our New Feminist Solutions series, documenting the ongoing formation of a movement that incorporates the lessons of intersectional feminism and foregrounds the experiences of women of color, queer and trans people, and others who are routinely marginalized by dominant discourses on domestic violence.

BCRW will conduct follow up interviews with those on the ground around several themes: 1) crafting authentic stories that respect the complexity of each person's experience for advocacy campaigns, 2) refusing the narrative of the "perfect victim," and 3) tracing connections between interpersonal gender based violence, state based militarism, and other transgressions against bodily integrity.

Queer Survival Economies

Led by BCRW Senior Activist Fellow Amber Hollibaugh, the Queer Survival Economies initiative organizes poor and working class people around economic justice and immigration issues. QSE explores how LGBTQ people build their lives in both recognized work environments and alternative economies, and provides capacity-building training on economic justice.

In January 2015, QSE organized "Invisible Lives, Targeted Bodies," a two-day conference that brought together organizers, scholars, activists, and community members to discuss the urgent yet frequently neglected economic justice issues that confront queer communities. More information on the project at queersurvivaleconomies.com.

SUPPORT BCRW

The Barnard Center for Research on Women relies on the support of its multiple communities and constituencies to extend its outreach both on campus and well beyond it. We welcome your support in the form of attendance at our events, participation in our conversations on social media, and engagement with our digital and print publications. We also encourage those who are able to support BCRW through financial contributions.

To make a donation, visit our electronic giving link on our website: bcrw.barnard.edu/donate.

NEW PROJECTS

In this fifth decade of BCRW's existence and coinciding with the transition to our new Director Tina Campt, we aim to capitalize on our existing strengths in ways that both expand and redefine what it means to be a feminist research center in the 21st-century. Upcoming projects will include:

- Policing the Crisis: Celebrating the Life and Work of Stuart Hall
- Practicing Refusal: Thinking Beyond Resistance
- The Harlem Semester: A Community Partnership and Pedagogical Collaboration
- New issues of The Scholar and Feminist Online on the non-profit industrial complex, feminist and queer approaches to technoscience, and the intersections of Queer and Religious Studies
- Original video productions building on the 2013 Queer Dreams, Nonprofit Blues conference

...and much more! Stay up to date at bcrw.barnard.edu.

STAFF

Janet Jakobsen, Director
Tina Campt, Director
Tami Navarro, Associate Director
Hope Dector, Creative Director
Che Gossett, Community Archivist & Student Coordinator
Anne Jonas, Program Manager
Pamela Phillips, Administrative Assistant

Research Assistants

Krish Bhatt '18 Michelle Chen '15 Carly Crane '15 Sarah DeYoung '15 Dania Lewis '17 Jessica Lempit '15 Salma Nakhlawi '17 Emma Schuster '15 Emily Shepard '16 Ruth Uruchima '15 Justina Walker '15

FELLOWS

Katherine Acey, Senior Activist Fellow
Leymah Gbowee, Distinguished Fellow
in Social Justice
Reina Gossett, Activist Fellow
Amber Hollibaugh, Senior Activist Fellow
Ali Rosa-Salas '13, Alumnae Fellow
Ntozake Shange '70, Distinguished Artist Fellow
Ebonie Smith '07, Alumnae Fellow
Nicci Yin '14, Post Baccalaureate Fellow

More on BCRW Fellows and projects can be found at: http://bcrw.barnard.edu/fellows





& WRITING **TRANSNATIONAL** ISPANIOLA:

BCRW







JOAN WALLACH SCOTT

Immigrant Experien in 19th Century NYC





BCRW BARNARD CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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