

BCRW Newsletter
Spring 2008
January
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BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN



**The State of Democracy:
Gender and Political
Participation**

With keynote addresses by Lani Guinier
and Vandana Shiva

**Coming of Age
at Barnard, 1968**

Estelle Freedman '69

Fear of Flying

Erica Jong '63



Want Democracy? Participate.

January 2008: the beginning of a presidential election year in the United States. Billed by some pundits as “the most important election in a generation,” this year offers the opportunity for an historic milestone, as either the first woman or the first African-American might be elected to this highest national office. If previous elections are any indication, however, all of the hype will not be enough to overcome voter apathy. While the 2004 election was also billed critically important, less than half of all eligible voters came to the polls.

Feminists have always been at the forefront of movements for democracy, including movements to gain the franchise and expand women’s representation in positions of political leadership. Feminists have also repeatedly sought out means of creating democratic movements that extend well beyond electoral politics. Some of the most exciting social movements in the world today depend on these participatory forms of democracy. This spring’s Scholar & Feminist Conference, “The State of Democracy: Gender and Political Participation,” asks critical questions in this election year about how we can work to make equal political participation for all a reality. Keynote speaker Lani Guinier will address the ways in which political participation in the U.S. can be more just and more expansive, while Vandana Shiva will present the ways in which people’s democracy movements in India are changing the political and the environmental landscape.

We bring you a series of events and projects this semester that are tied together by these crucial themes of participation, action, and leadership. We’ll celebrate the great tradition that exists here at Barnard of women directly participating in movements that change the rights and expectations of women in our society, highlighting the work of those who took part in the social movements of the 1960s and ‘70s with a lecture by Estelle Freedman ’68 on the 1968 student protests and a conference in honor of Erica Jong ’63, noted feminist writer and author of the groundbreaking novel *Fear of Flying*. We also pay tribute to more recent contributors to social change, like the students, professors, and alumnae who’ve sustained the Africana Studies Program at the College, now in its 15th year, and Domestic Workers United, a group working for fair labor standards for domestic workers in New York. We also have the great pleasure of honoring Barnard College President Judith Shapiro, who steps down this year after 14 years of leadership.

It gives me great pleasure to take on the role of Acting Director of BCRW while Janet Jakobsen is on leave. In the short time that I’ve been at Barnard I have greatly enjoyed taking part in the projects of the Center, and I’ve found it to be a place of tremendous political energy and intellectual excitement. This semester’s events will reflect and generate this energy and excitement as we engage with the importance of political and social action in these critical times. Join me in recognizing those who have paved the way to social change, and in collaborating with each other on new visions for democracy and justice.

Sincerely,

Neferti Tadiar
Acting Director

BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

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Anupama Rao and Paul Scolieri / Asiya Khaki.

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BCRW Projects



Scholar & Feminist Online

Issue 6.1-6.2: Fall 2007/Spring 2008

Josephine Baker: a Century in the Spotlight

Guest Edited by Kaiama L. Glover

This double issue of the *Scholar & Feminist Online* celebrates the life and legacy of Josephine Baker, one of the most important artists of the twentieth century. Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1906, Baker managed to enrapture Paris during the Roaring Twenties and beyond through her unique styles of dancing and acting, creating new expressions of colonial otherness and changing ideas of nationhood and “Frenchness.” This issue includes the work of sixteen scholars from diverse disciplines who trace and analyze this American black girl turned chorus girl and music hall diva, turned movie star and business woman, and the fluidity with which she moved between identities and arenas as she continually re-invented herself. The issue includes still photographs, clips from her films, as well as Baker inspired performances by the Studio Museum in Harlem’s “Hooper’s House” dancers.

www.barnard.edu/sfonline



From the Collection

Spring 2008

Women and Militarism

Curated by Lucy Trainor '07

Women’s movements and anti-militarism movements have a long history of collaboration in the US and worldwide. This exhibit from the BCRW collection highlights some of the linkages between women’s activism and protest against war and militarism from a wide range of contexts – from anti-nuclear activism in the United Kingdom, to movements for peace and human rights in El Salvador, to freedom from US imperialism in Japan and many more global efforts to draw attention to and organize around anti-war and anti-militarism causes. From these documents, which provide a glimpse into over 20 years of activism, from 1972-1995, we can see that movements directed by women – which don’t necessarily always define themselves as “feminist” movements – have often been at the forefront of broader citizen-led actions for peace and justice.

www.barnard.edu/bcrw



New Feminist Solutions

Volume 4

Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice

Last November, BCRW hosted a highly successful lecture by Josephine Ho and Naomi Klein, as well as a follow-up colloquium which brought together twenty scholars and feminists who work on understanding and promoting sexual and economic justice. Thought papers prepared by the colloquium participants, as well as the footage and text from the lectures by Ho and Klein are now available on our website under New Feminist Solutions. A report based on this colloquium will also be published in the fall. We would like to thank the Overbrook Foundation for their generous funding of the public lecture and the Ford Foundation for their funding of the colloquium and of the publication of the forthcoming New Feminist Solutions report.

Free Electronic Copies

Download PDF versions of the first three reports by visiting www.barnard.edu/bcrw and clicking on New Feminist Solutions.

Free Printed Copies

To request printed copies email us at bcrw@barnard.edu

02/

Thursday, 02/07 6:00 PM

Shifting the Terrain for Diaspora Studies: Democracy, the Rule of Law, and the 'New' Souls of Black Folk

A lecture with Kamari M. Clarke
Elliott Parlor, Elliott Hall

Wednesday, 02/20 Noon

Choreographing Women's History: Aztec Ritual Dance

A lecture with Paul Scolieri
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall



Monday, 02/25 6:00 PM

The Prize of the Pole

A film screening and discussion
202 Altschul Hall

Tuesday, 02/26 6:00 PM

A Love During the War

A film screening and discussion
324 Milbank Hall

03/

Saturday, 03/01 Registration at 9:00 AM

The State of Democracy: Gender and Political Participation

A conference with keynote addresses by Lani Guinier and Vandana Shiva
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby



Tuesday, 03/04 5:30 PM

Black Youth & Empowerment: Politics and Rap Music

A lecture with Cathy Cohen
Elliott Parlor, Elliott Hall

Wednesday, 03/12 5:00 PM

Epigenetics & The Wiring & Re-Wiring of Genomic Information

A lecture with Laura Landweber
Sulzberger Parlor,
3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Wednesday, 03/26 6:00 PM

Coming of Age at Barnard, 1968

A lecture with Estelle Freedman '69
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Friday, 03/28 2:00 PM

Fear Of Flying

A conference featuring a conversation with Erica Jong '63
Social Hall, UTS
3041 Broadway at 121st Street

04/

Tuesday, 04/01 Noon

The Biopolitics of Caste

A lecture with Anupama Rao
BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Thursday, 04/04 6:00 PM

Africana Studies 15th Anniversary Banquet

A celebration

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, 04/10 5:30 PM

Impossible Homecomings: Women Ethnographers & the Places They Left Behind

A lecture with Ruth Behar
Elliott Lounge, Elliott Hall

Monday, 04/28 5:30 PM

Looking to the Future: A Panel Discussion in Honor of Judith Shapiro

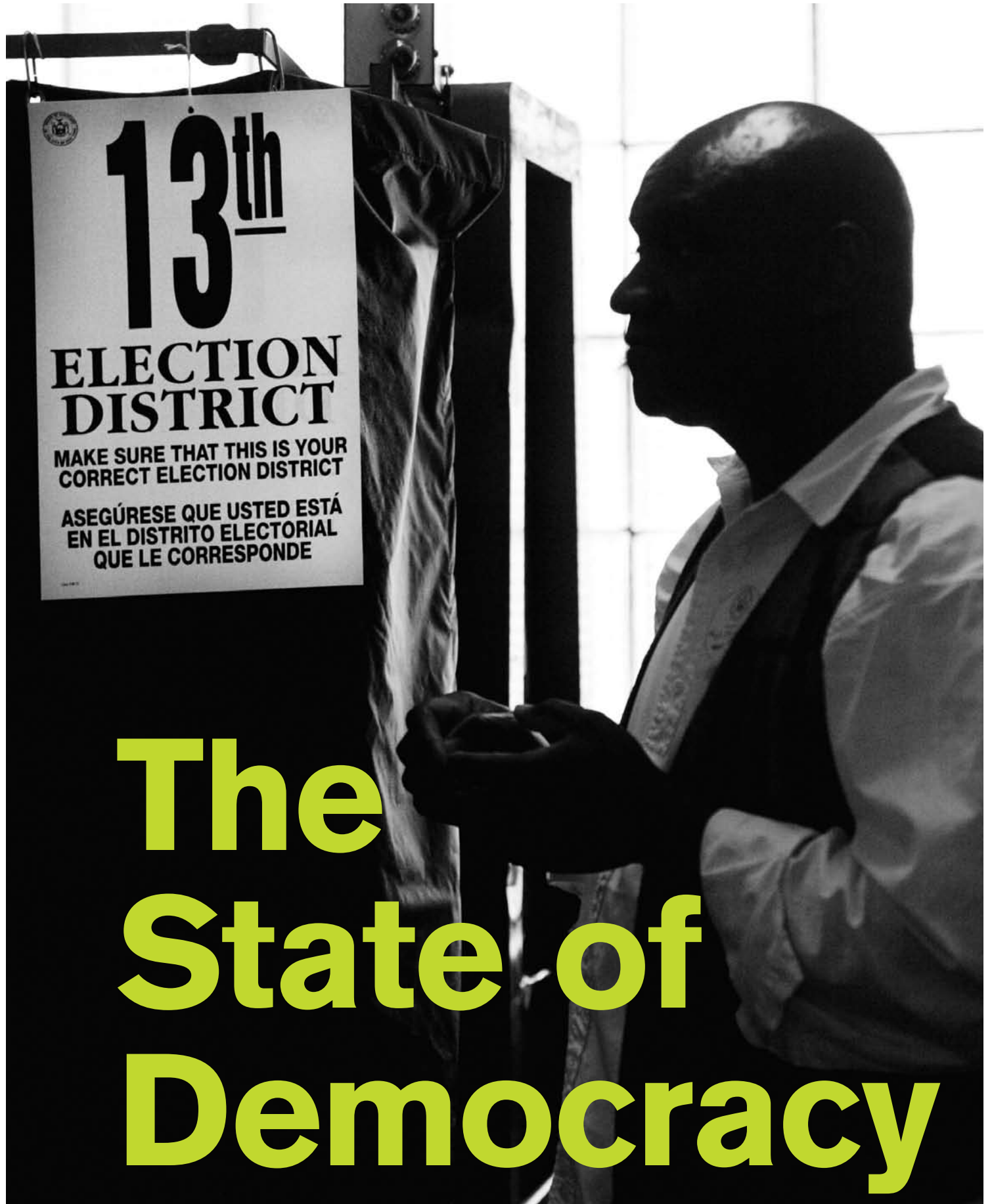
Including Alison Bernstein, Anna Quindlen, and Diana Chapman Walsh
Sulzberger Parlor,
3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday – Friday, 06/05 – 06/06

National Domestic Workers Alliance Conference

Co-sponsored by Domestic Workers United
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall





13th
ELECTION DISTRICT
MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS YOUR
CORRECT ELECTION DISTRICT
ASEGÚRESE QUE USTED ESTÁ
EN EL DISTRITO ELECTORIAL
QUE LE CORRESPONDE

The State of Democracy

As we begin the year 2008, many people in the United States are wondering if, for the first time, a president will be elected who is not white and male. Three candidates to be the Democratic Party's nominee for President, New York Senator Hillary Clinton, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, do not fit this description, while the rest of the Democratic field does. All of the candidates for the Republican nomination are both white and male. With an overheated primary season and an increased number of early primaries, the question of the nominees should be decided very early in the year. Yet, even remembering the historic candidacy of Shirley Chisholm, as well as Geraldine Ferraro's candidacy for the vice presidency, whoever is nominated in 2008 will face a campaign in which issues of race and gender will be at play in new and possibly intensified ways.

How did we get to this point, 220 years after the first Presidential elections, that only now any kind of gendered or racial diversity appears even possible for the Presidency? And, why is the choice among the early frontrunners in the race to become the Democratic nominee one between a white woman, a black man and a (rich) white man—John Edwards—who has made fighting poverty his distinctive issue? Certainly, it is disheartening that such profound barriers of gender and race exist in American politics that the identity, rather than the politics, of the candidates remains a central issue. There are, however, a few encouraging signs that this campaign has been an opportunity to move beyond the presumption of a direct relation between identity and politics. Particularly with the endorsement of Oprah Winfrey, Senator Obama has been unwilling to cede the “women's vote” to Senator Clinton, just as Senator Clinton has actively (and successfully) campaigned in the black community. On the one hand, this type of active attention to the votes and politics of both women and African Americans, and even African American women, is a refreshing change from the idea so popular only four years ago that the only way to win an election in the United States was by courting the sympathies of the so-called “Nascar dad,” the presumed white and male everyman of American politics and of American life. On the other hand, why should voters face this kind of choice and this kind of campaign, when one can at least imagine a political landscape in which there would be gender and racial diversity among candidates and enough focus on economic inequality that every candidate for President would seriously address the lives of all Americans, including those who are impoverished? Instead, the reality of American politics is that when compared with the rest of the world the United States has produced a democracy that is often less representative than other parts of the world. For example, just on the question of the gender distribution of elected officials, only 16.3% of the members of the U.S. Congress are women, while the national legislative bodies of European democracies have an average of 30.3% women, and in Latin America women comprise 18.9% of democratic legislatures.

In other words, there could not be a better time for feminists to take a look at the state of democracy in America—and around the world. Unfortunately, the traditionally feminist issues of gender, race, and class in this election run much deeper than the individual candidacies of either Senator Clinton or Senator Obama. Despite the excitement over Senator Obama's candidacy, the question of racial exclusion from American politics is more urgent now than it has been at virtually anytime since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. While 67.2% of white citizens who are eligible to vote cast a ballot in the 2004 presidential election, only 60% of the black electorate, 47.2% of Hispanic voters, and 44.1% of eligible Asian citizens voted. Various types of requirements for voter identification have been proposed



or instituted in states like Georgia, Arizona and Indiana with the effect of making it less likely that those on the margins of society will vote. Moreover, an increasing rate of incarceration over the last twenty years, once again particularly in impoverished and minority communities, has also meant that a substantial portion of potential voters are, as convicted felons, barred for life from exercising the right to vote even after they are released from prison.

Not only is it the case that many people in the United States are variously barred from voting, but even those who can vote seem deeply uninterested in the whole process. Of 172 countries in the world that hold some kind of democratic elections, the U.S. ranks 138th in voter turnout. On average in U.S. elections only 48.3% of eligible voters—less than half—actually vote in U.S. elections. The fact that over half of the electorate does not vote in the United States, while anywhere from nearly 70 to over 80 percent of eligible voters take part in elections in other industrialized countries such as Argentina, France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom suggests problems that run deeper than simple apathy. These numbers suggest a deep level of alienation from the political process. They suggest that something about democracy in the United States is profoundly broken.

Apparently, most people in the United States think that democracy offers them little in the way of solving the problems of their everyday lives. And, while democracy seems to be faring better in other parts of the world, certainly in Europe and Latin America, there is disillusionment in these areas as well, as reformers of various political stripes are elected and yet the changes that do occur rarely seem to help ordinary people. For newly democratic and newly democratizing nations, the problem of whether democracy actually helps people has become especially acute as the increasing force of globalization has meant that individual national governments have had little power in the face of international institutions like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. Activist and writer Naomi Klein has written, “In these conditions, modern activists are not so naïve as to believe that change will come from electoral politics.” Klein argues that “globalization is in essence a crisis in representative democracy,” a crisis caused by the way power and decision-making have been handed along to points ever further away from citizens: from local to provincial, from provincial to national, from national to international institutions that lack all transparency or accountability. And the answer to this problem, Klein suggests, is to move toward new forms of participatory, rather than simply representative, democracy.

The movement for participatory democracy, for forms of democracy that depend on the participation of ordinary people as a means of ensuring that a society's decisions are made in a way that takes their interests into account, has been growing in a number of areas of the world. In Brazil, several communities have taken up a process called community budgeting in which the decisions about how monies are allocated—some of the most crucial decisions made by any government—are made over a number of months through rounds of increasingly broad participation by community members. Although the process is long and sometimes unwieldy, one could say the same thing about budget processes in U.S. government. Community projects for control of local land and community gardens, similarly involve people in making decisions about how to produce food and make use of joint land, rather than ceding these decisions to governmental bodies. Many movements for participatory democracy are led by women, and they take up women's concerns in new ways. In India, the Save Narmada Movement (or Narmada Bachao Andolan)—came together to resist the building of a major dam project on the Narmada River that would have displaced thousands of people. Through protests, often peopled nearly two-thirds by women and developed by a local decision-making apparatus, the NBA forced the World Bank to withdraw its loans in support of the project. While these initiatives and victories are scattered throughout the world, together they make a strong case that the questions faced by proponents of democracy in the year 2008 go beyond whether an historic milestone will *finally* be reached in the U.S. Presidential elections. They point to the idea that feminists need to look to the state of democracy itself.

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Africana Studies: Then & Now



In celebration of the 15th anniversary of Africana Studies at Barnard College, alumnae Nomaduma Masilela '07 and Ebonie Smith '07, both Africana Studies majors, interviewed Kim F. Hall, Director of Africana Studies and Professor of English, on behalf of BCRW.

BCRW: How does the study of the diaspora affect or impact gender studies and gender relations as they play themselves out within the classroom and on a day to day level in students' lives?

KFH: It's both a challenge and a huge opportunity to have Africana studies at a women's college. The challenge is that, at so many of these women's colleges, gender means white women. It's like the title of that first black women's studies anthology – *All the Women are White, All the Men Are Black, but Some of Us Are Brave*. In that association of white women with gender, and black men with race, black women just get left out. I think for Barnard, and for a lot of women's colleges, this is an opportunity to develop new ways of knowledge that take into account how gender, race, class and sexuality affect each other. I don't know that that's happened so much yet, but I've been working with both Women's Studies and the Center for Research on Women to try to make that happen. Also, a lot of Africana Studies programs that are not at women's colleges are very male dominated and really exclude the study of black women globally, and so I think that Africana Studies programs and Diaspora programs at women's colleges can actually lead the way to a study of the diaspora that takes into account all of the black diaspora. For example, when most of us think about slavery and the Middle Passage, especially in the earlier years, we only think about male slaves. But in the earliest years of the Passage, most of the enslaved were women and children – that's a vision of slavery that nobody ever conceives. It has been women working on the diaspora who have drawn attention to that. Some men have looked at the numbers and noted the difference, and they don't think that it changes anything, but it changes everything. It changes the gender and sex dynamic on the plantations. It makes you envision how these women thought about themselves and the communities they must have formed.

BCRW: I don't think we can talk about Barnard without mentioning Harlem and Manhattanville. What's your perception of the Columbia development there and how the campus is reacting to it?

KFH: There is a kind of "glass wall" around Barnard that keeps Harlem out and is deliberately excluded out of concerns for students' safety. That is not unusual for an urban campus. A lot of urban schools like to advertise that they are in a city but yet are not

continued on page 22

Revisiting the Revolution

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the 1968 student protests at Columbia University, which included the participation of many Barnard students. The following excerpt, taken from Barnard history professor Rosalind Rosenberg's 2004 book, *Changing the Subject: How the Women of Columbia Shaped the Way We Think About Sex and Politics*, discusses some of the 1968 activities on campus.

The [1968] takeover [of key buildings on Columbia's campus], which paralyzed the university for a week, also launched a series of debates on campus that soon moved beyond the gym and defense research to include other issues: the faculty's responsibility for university governance, the university's responsibilities toward the community and toward minority students, and, most startling at the time, the place of women within the university and, more generally, in society.

Ever since 1964, women in SDS [Students for a Democratic Society] had protested their male colleagues' failure to live up to their egalitarian beliefs where women were concerned. With the escalation of the Vietnam War and the increase in harassment by the FBI, the men turned increasingly militant and strident... Judging from later arrest records, about one-third of the protesters were women, mostly from Barnard, but SDS did not welcome women into the leadership ranks. Rusti (Carolyn) Eisenberg, a graduate student who earned an M.A. in 1969 and a Ph.D. in 1971, was the only woman on the strike coordinating committee during the occupation. Even she felt marginalized. Although older than most of the men and long accustomed to exercising leadership in left-wing causes, she later remembered how difficult it was to exert authority in the context of the occupation. "It was the first time as a political activist that I was aware of gender affecting debate," Eisenberg recalled. "If you didn't have a loud voice, you did not get heard."

Black women, disgruntled about being largely ignored by the male leaders of Columbia College's Society of African American Students [SAAS], were among the first to break free from male control. They established their own organization, the Barnard Organization of Soul Sisters (BOSS), in the fall of 1968. The founders of BOSS came from the class of 1969, a class that entered with eighteen black women, and were quickly joined by younger, more numerous students. BOSS enabled black women at Barnard to focus on the issues that mattered most to them and to speak out with their own voices without being drowned out by the men of SAAS... Feminism was not at that point an issue for them. As one black student asked, "How can I fight for white women to get jobs that black men still can't get?" They wanted more black women on campus. They wanted to read about blacks in their courses. Increasingly alienated from campus life, they demanded the right to live on an all-black floor in the dorm.

Black students were not the only ones feeling alienated in 1968... [M]any others – black and white, men and women – were so estranged from academic life that continued participation in the university became impossible for them. But for the women who remained, the events of 1968 led to new ways of thinking about women's place in American society broadly and at Columbia in particular. –©2004 Columbia University Press. Used with permission.

Interested in learning more? Join us for Coming of Age at Barnard, 1968. page 15

1 Graduation speaker Eleanor Holmes Norton, commencement ceremonies (spring 1972) **2** Barnard students and others marching in protest up Broadway near West 116th Street during student strike (William Megalos/November 18, 1972) **3** Professor Julius Held stands in front of Geer Gates, inviting students back to class with a handmade sign (Spring 1968) **4** Three students talk in dorm room. (Joseph Gazdak/circa 1968) **5** President Peterson talking with three students (Dorothy S. Urman '70, first from left) over coffee in Millicent McIntosh Center lounge (Joseph Gazdak/September 25, 1969) **6** Student protesters outside of Milbank Hall (circa 1968) **7** Row of mounted police, NYC (circa 1968) **7 A** A fight breaks out during student protests (circa 1968) **9** Students on Low Plaza (circa 1970). All images courtesy of Barnard College Archives.





The State of Democracy: Gender & Political Participation

Lani Guinier and Vandana Shiva,
keynote speakers

The Scholar & Feminist Conference
Saturday, 03/01 Registration at 9:00 AM
Barnard Hall Lobby

The state of democracy in the United States is undeniably troubling. In the last Presidential election, only 55.27% of the voting-age American population cast their ballots. Amazingly, a participation rate of less than two-thirds is still the highest turnout since 1968. Our representational political system represents few, particularly when we acknowledge the lines of race, class, and gender.

This year's Scholar & Feminist Conference, *The State of Democracy: Gender and Political Participation*, is particularly timely, as we enter a Presidential election year with especially high stakes. We feel that there is no better time to examine not just who gets elected and how elections work, but the entire state of democracy in the United States. The conference will explore questions about representative and participatory democracy, about alternative models of democracy offered in various social movements and in other areas of the world, and about how to build a democracy that might involve all Americans at all levels. To help us tackle these questions, we've invited a number of political scholars, activists, and policy-makers, including New York State Senator Liz Krueger, Nancy Abudu, staff counsel with the ACLU Voting Rights Project, political cartoonist Signe Wilkinson, director of the Movement Vision Project Sally Kohn, and academic Christine Marie Sierra. Representatives from Code Pink, The White House Project, Make the Road New York, and Activist Response Team (ART) will run lunchtime workshops. Keynote addresses for this year's conference will be delivered by Lani Guinier, the first black woman tenured professor in Harvard Law School's history and author of several books on both race and gender in the political system and voter rights and democratic theory, and Vandana Shiva, a physicist, ecologist, activist, editor, and founder of Navdanya, a participatory grassroots movement for biodiversity conservation and farmers' rights in India.

Voting in the United States

Of the 435 members of the House of Representatives in the 110th US Congress, 86 are women. Of those 86 women, 11 are African American, 7 are Latina, and 2 are Asian Pacific Islander. **There remains only one woman of color ever to be elected to the US Senate in its 220 year history.**

In an international comparison of voter turnout rates in 172 countries with democratic elections since 1945, the US ranks number 139, with an average of only **48.3% of eligible citizens voting.**

The US **bars nearly 5.3 million American citizens from voting.** US disenfranchisement policies for convicted felons determine which groups have more access to political participation through voting. For instance, while disenfranchisement policies prevent 2.5% of the total population from voting, they prevent 13% of the total population of African American men from casting a ballot.



Looking to the Future: A Panel Discussion in Honor of Judith Shapiro

Alison Bernstein, Anna Quindlen
and Diana Chapman Walsh

Monday, 04/28 5:30 PM
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

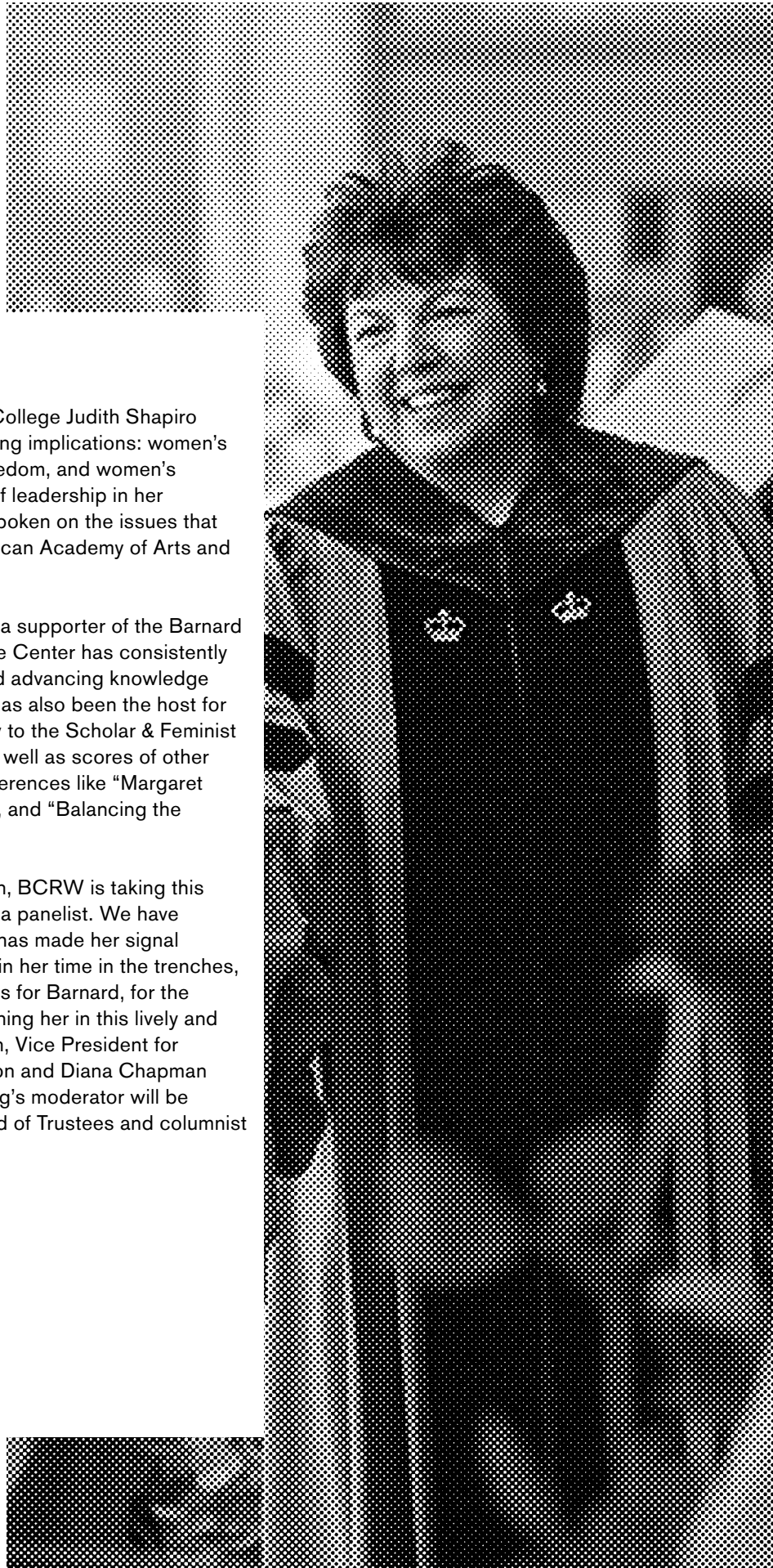
Since the beginning of her time as President of Barnard College Judith Shapiro has made her mark on a number of issues with wide ranging implications: women's education, to be sure, but also academic integrity and freedom, and women's leadership. She herself has embodied the best qualities of leadership in her guidance of the College and in her willingness to be outspoken on the issues that matter. It is no surprise that she was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2007.

Throughout her presidency, Judith Shapiro has also been a supporter of the Barnard Center for Research on Women. She has ensured that the Center has consistently been able to carry out its mission of promoting inquiry and advancing knowledge about women among scholars, activists and artists. She has also been the host for our most important events, welcoming audiences annually to the Scholar & Feminist Conference and the Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture, as well as scores of other events. She moderated panels with wit and verve for conferences like "Margaret Mead's Legacy" in honor of the centenary of Mead's birth, and "Balancing the Equation," on women and girls in science and technology.

To show our appreciation for her support and participation, BCRW is taking this opportunity to involve Judith Shapiro in a Center event as a panelist. We have asked her to speak directly to those issues on which she has made her signal contributions, to look back and tell us what she's learned in her time in the trenches, and more importantly, to look forward to future possibilities for Barnard, for the issues about which she cares so much, and for herself. Joining her in this lively and important discussion will be co-panelists Alison Bernstein, Vice President for Knowledge, Creativity and Freedom at the Ford Foundation and Diana Chapman Walsh, former president of Wellesley College. The evening's moderator will be Barnard's own Anna Quindlen, Chair of the Barnard Board of Trustees and columnist for *Newsweek* magazine.



Judith Shapiro



Race, Gender, Community & Rights: Celebrating 15 Years of Africana Studies at Barnard

Since its founding as Pan-African Studies in 1992, Africana Studies at Barnard has been an important home for students who wanted their Barnard education to include radically different ways of viewing the world and knowledge that was connected to a drive for social justice.

The story of this program is, like so many black endeavors, a story of survival and achievement by dedicated, enormously talented people. With support from the Gildersleeve fund, we honor that history with a series of events that celebrate the impact of Africana Studies at Barnard and black studies worldwide: a lecture series featuring three of the most impressive scholars in the field; an exhibit on Africana Studies at Barnard; a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Zora Neale Hurston's graduation from Barnard; and a reunion banquet for students, alumnae and faculty.

Virginia C. Gildersleeve Lecture Series

Shifting the Terrain for Diaspora Studies:

**Democracy, the Rule of Law, and the 'New' Souls of Black Folk
A lecture with Kamari M. Clarke, Associate Professor of Anthropology,
Yale University**

Thursday, 02/07 6:00 PM

Elliot Parlor, Elliott Hall

Black Youth & Empowerment: Politics and Rap Music

**A lecture with Cathy Cohen, Director of the Center for the Study of Race,
Politics, and Culture, University of Chicago**

Tuesday, 03/04 5:30 PM

Elliott Parlor, Elliott Hall

Rethinking Gender in African Universities

**A lecture with Amina Mama, Barbara Lee Distinguished Professor,
Mills College**

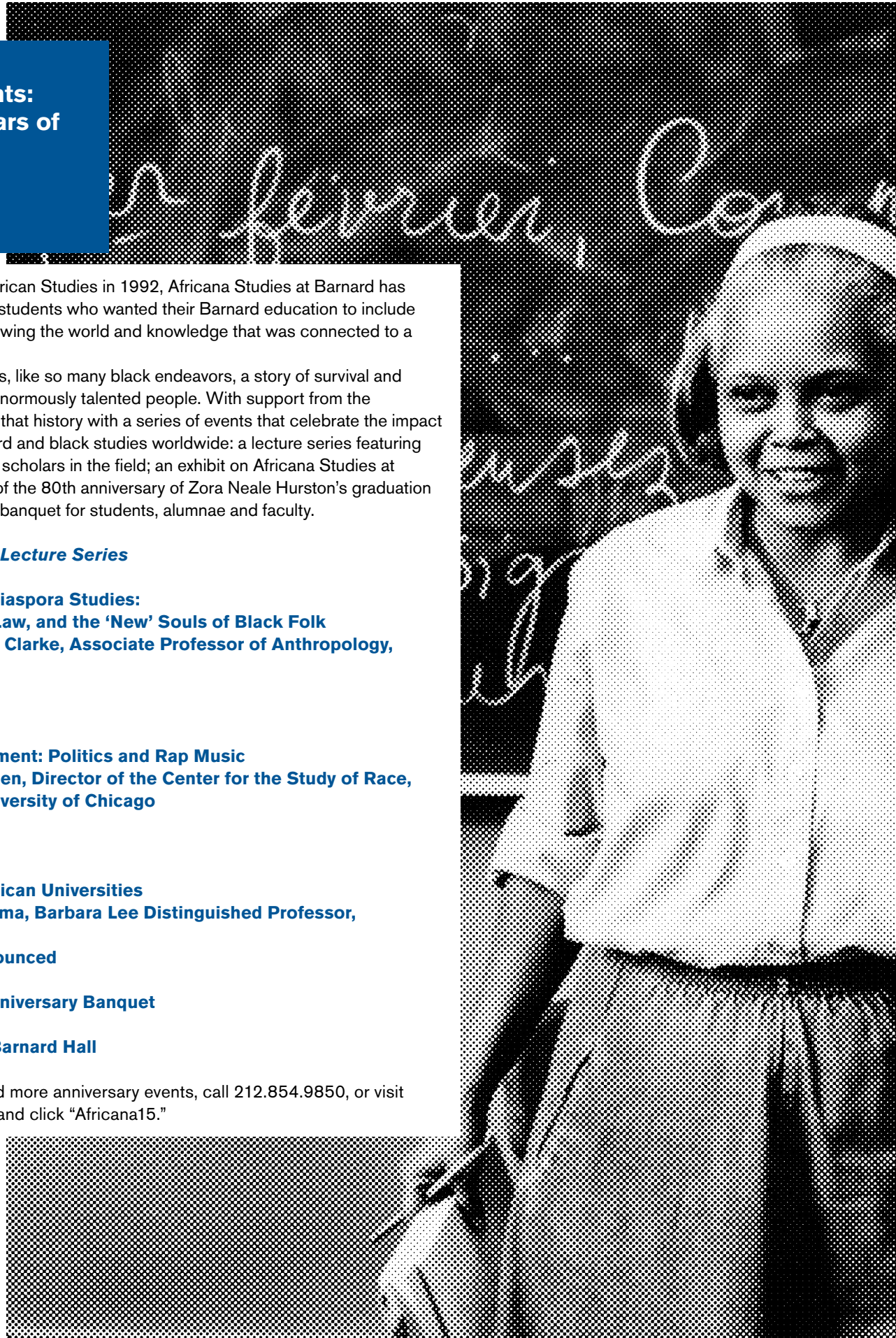
Date and time to be announced

Africana Studies 15th Anniversary Banquet

Friday, 04/04 6:00 PM

James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

For information on these and more anniversary events, call 212.854.9850, or visit www.barnard.edu/Africana and click "Africana15."



Coming of Age at Barnard, 1968

Estelle Freedman '69

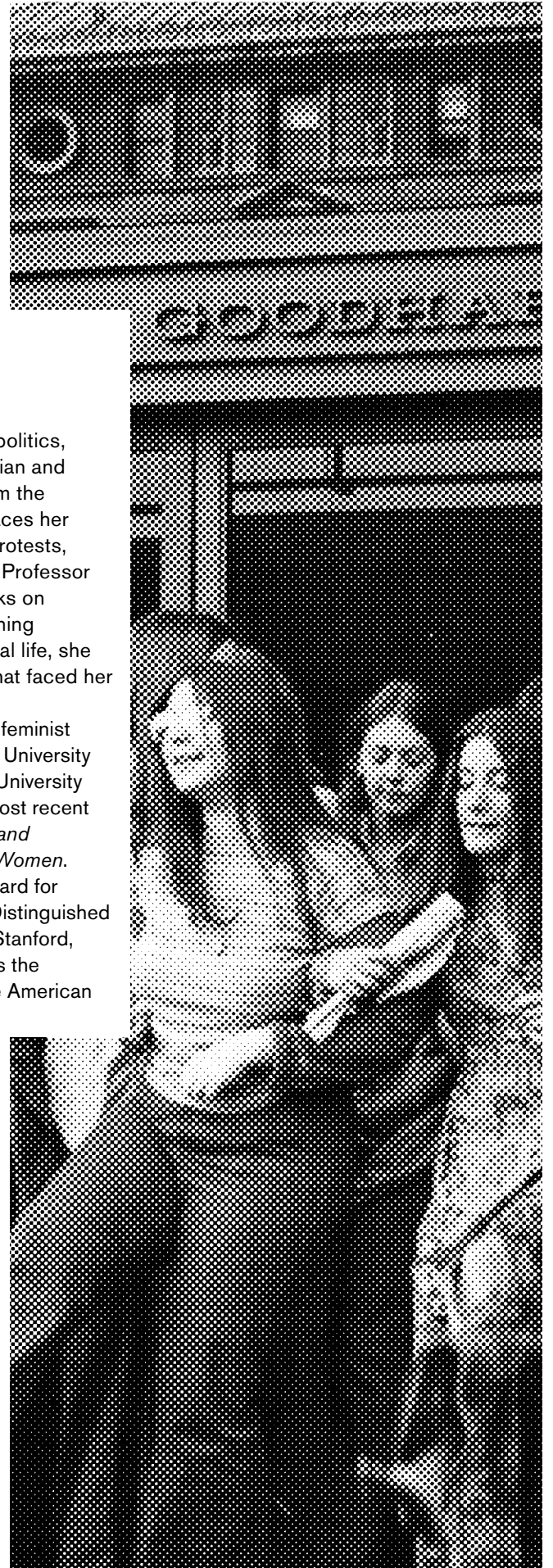


Estelle Freedman

The Virginia C. Gildersleeve Lecture
Wednesday, 03/26 6:00 PM
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

1968 was a pivotal year in the history of Columbia University, American politics, and youth movements internationally. Estelle Freedman, American historian and a student at Barnard during that tumultuous era, looks back on 1968 from the perspective of subsequent events and historical interpretations. She places her experience of coming of age at Barnard within the contexts of anti-war protests, racial and ethnic identities, and shifting sexual mores. Freedman, now a Professor of History at Stanford University and the author of several influential books on feminism and on sexuality, explores the life-changing process of questioning authority. Drawing on events on campus, in the world, and in her personal life, she evaluates the liberating opportunities as well as the new vulnerabilities that faced her generation of Barnard students.

Estelle Freedman is a U.S. historian specializing in women's history and feminist studies. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in history from Columbia University and her B.A. in history from Barnard College. She has taught at Stanford University since 1976 and is a co-founder of the Program in Feminist Studies. Her most recent publications include *The Essential Feminist Reader*; *Feminism, Sexuality and Politics*; and *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*. Her contributions to teaching have been recognized by the Dinkelspiel Award for Outstanding Service to Undergraduate Education, the Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Rhodes Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Stanford, and the Kahn-Van Slyke Graduate Mentoring Award at Stanford, as well as the Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award for graduate mentorship from the American Historical Association.



Impossible Homecomings: Women Ethnographers and the Places They Left Behind

Ruth Behar

The Ingeborg, Tamara & Yonina Rennert Women in Judaism Forum
Thursday, 04/10 5:30 PM
Elliott Parlor, Elliott Hall

In this year's Rennert Forum on Women in Judaism, Ruth Behar, Jewish Cuban American anthropologist, writer, and noted feminist, will reflect on the recent literature being produced by diasporic women ethnographers, journalists, and writers, addressing their contradictory and often pained relationships to their home countries. Focusing on the work of Latin American and Caribbean women, she will also include an account of her own return to Cuba and her complicated search for home.

Ruth Behar is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. Since 1991 her research and writing have largely focused on her native country, Cuba, which she left at the age of four. Her research on the dwindling yet vibrant Jewish community in Cuba is the focus of her film *Adio Kerida* (2002). Jewish Cuba is also the topic of her latest book, *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba* (2007).



Ruth Behar



Lunchtime Lecture Series

Choreographing Women's History: Aztec Ritual Dance

A lecture with Paul Scolieri

Wednesday, 02/20 Noon

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Choreography memorializes women's history. In this lecture, Paul Scolieri, Assistant Professor of Dance at Barnard, explores this idea with his interpretations of ancient Aztec women's ritual dances. He will argue that the configuration of dance, death and femininity in the visual and written descriptions of women's dances throughout indigenous and colonial discourses uniquely represents the experiences, conditions and performances of gender and sexuality in the ancient world.

The Biopolitics of Caste

A lecture with Anupama Rao

Tuesday, 04/01 Noon

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

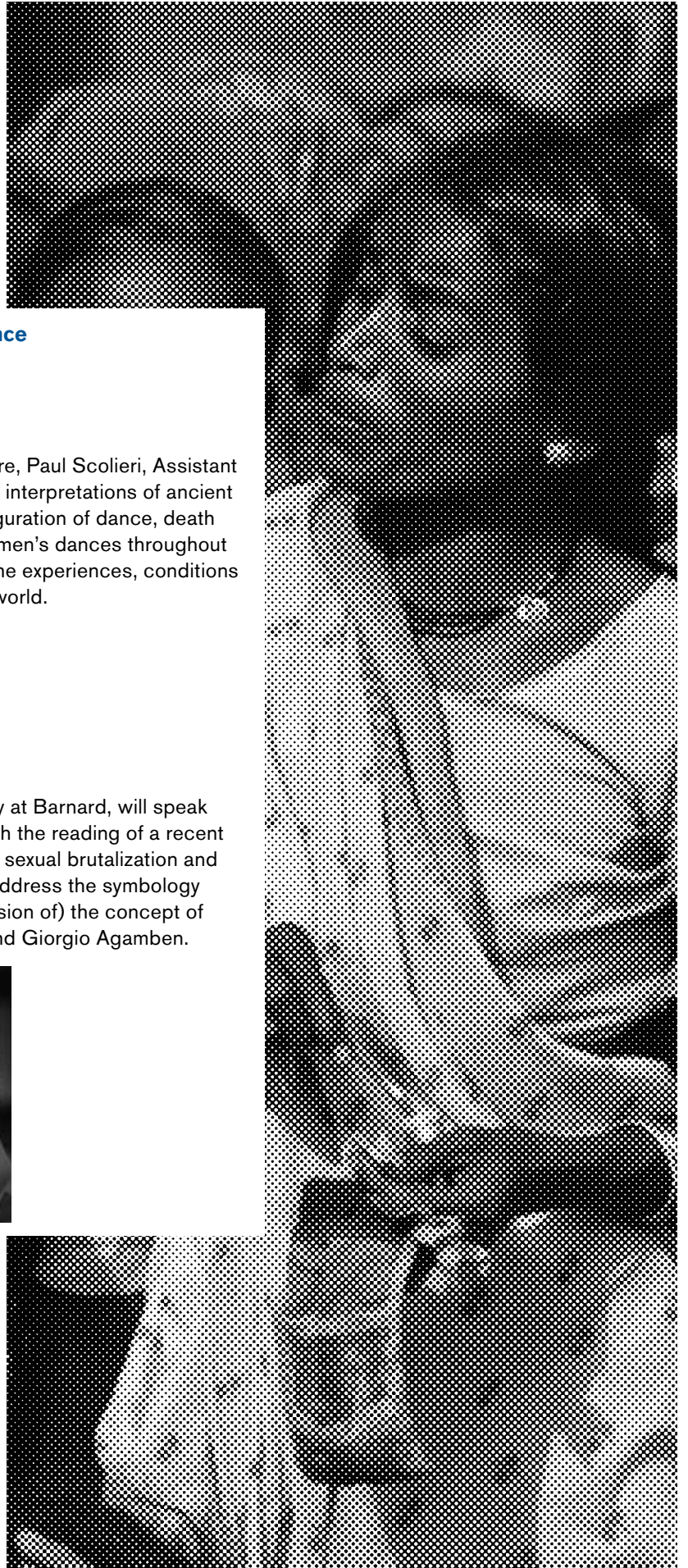
Anupama Rao, Assistant Professor of South Asian History at Barnard, will speak about what she terms the "violence of recognition" through the reading of a recent "caste atrocity" that occurred in 2006, which involved the sexual brutalization and murder of a Dalit family in western India. Her lecture will address the symbology of caste violence through an engagement with (and extension of) the concept of biopolitics associated with the work of Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben.



Anupama Rao



Paul Scolieri



Epigenetics and the Writing and Re-writing of Genomic Information

Laura Landweber

Distinguished Women in Science Lecture

Wednesday, 03/12 5:00 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Global DNA rearrangements occur in many cells but are most exaggerated in ciliated protozoa, a type of single-celled organism. During development of the somatic nucleus, these protozoa destroy 95% of their germline genome, severely fragmenting their chromosomes, and then sort and reorder hundreds of thousands of remaining pieces. Professor Landweber's research shows that RNA molecules provide a scaffold to orchestrate DNA rearrangements during development, unveiling a new role for RNA, normally thought of as a passive messenger in gene expression. As an example that inheritance takes place beyond the conventional DNA genome, her work demonstrates that RNA may epigenetically transfer information across generations, hinting at the power of RNA molecules to sculpt the information in our genes.

Laura Landweber is Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University. Her research seeks to shed light on how cells and nature "compute," read, and rewrite DNA, by processes that modify sequences at the DNA or RNA level. She was named "Distinguished Scientist of the DNA Computing Community" in 2001 at the meeting of DNA Based Computers and in 2005 was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Film Screenings

The Prize of the Pole

A screening and discussion with Lisa Bloom and Elaine Charnov '85

Monday, 02/25 6:00 PM

202 Altschul Hall

On a hot summer day in 1897, Robert E. Peary—the most famed explorer of his day—docked in Brooklyn with the outrageous cargo he'd brought for his financiers at the American Museum of Natural History: six living Inuit, including six-year-old Minik. A century later Peary's great grandchild attempts to rediscover the connections between himself, his great grandfather, and Minik. Staffan Julén's fascinating *The Prize of the Pole* is a disturbing yet beautiful story that combines archival materials and the breathtaking wonders of Greenland to show the heart-wrenching costs of American expansionism. The screening will be followed by a discussion examining the sexual and gendered fault lines that have been written out of Julén's script but nevertheless were an integral part of the erotics of what constituted Victorian "science" at the end of the 19th century.

Lisa Bloom is the author of three books, including *Gender on Ice: American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions*, to date the only critical book on the Arctic and Antarctic written from a feminist perspective. Elaine Charnov is the Director of Public Programs and the Artistic Director of the Margaret Mead Film & Video Festival at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

A Love During the War

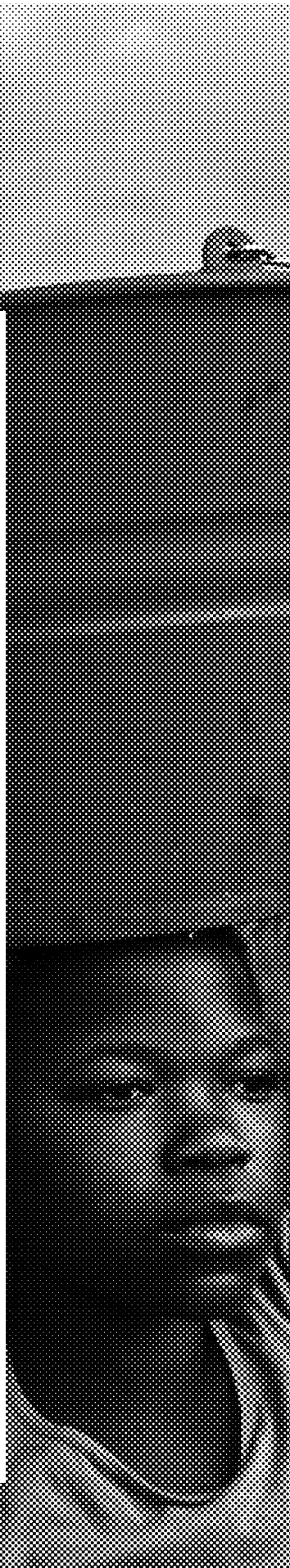
A screening and discussion with director Osvalde Lewat-Hallade

Tuesday, 02/26 6:00 PM

324 Milbank Hall

A Love During the War is a docudrama following the experiences of Aziza, a journalist who is separated from her husband when the Democratic Republic of Congo erupts into civil war. Aziza reunites with her husband in Kinshasa, but the memory of the horrors suffered by other women during the war still haunts her. Despite her husband's protests, she returns to Eastern Congo to find that the legacy of violence continues to infect the lives of women young and old. However, not everyone remains a victim as women have started denouncing the abuses they suffered.

Osvalde Lewat-Hallade started her career as a journalist. She produced her first documentary, *Upsa Yimoowin or The Pipe of Hope*, in Toronto in 2001. That film denounces the sidelining of Native Americans. Her second film, *Beyond the Pains*, was made in 2003 and is based on the life of a prisoner who was sentenced to four years in jail for a minor crime and ends up being imprisoned for 33 years. *Beyond the Pains* was the recipient of the TV Film Prize at the Avanca City Festival and of the Human Rights Prize at the Vues d'Afrique Festival in Montreal. *A Love During the War*, her latest documentary film, won two jury mentions in Fespaco and the Montreal Film Festival. She has just completed a feature film, *Black Business*.



National Domestic Workers Alliance Conference

Thursday – Friday, 06/05 – 06/06
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

This June, BCRW joins Domestic Workers United in their educational efforts on fair labor standards for domestic workers in New York, including a living wage, basic benefits and health care. The first National Domestic Workers Alliance conference brings organizations from across the country together to discuss how best to protect the 200,000 domestic workers in New York, including a New York Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights is but one step in a long path towards the social, economic and political change needed to address the root causes for the conditions facing domestic workers today, including nannies, housekeepers, elder caregivers and anyone working in the private home for individual heads of households. The conference seeks to bring recognition to the domestic workforce as a real workforce (rather than dismissing domestic work as “women’s work”), address the generations of unjust exclusions from basic labor laws, and account for the reality of the isolated, vulnerable working conditions that have been the breeding ground for some of the most egregious labor violations in the history of this country.

BCRW Courses:

2008 Spring Semester

Translating Silences: An Expanded Poetry Workshop

with Charlotte Mandel

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8:15 PM

02/20, 03/05, 03/19, 04/02, 04/16,
04/30

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Fee: \$ 200

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

Thanks to enthusiastic response, the poetry workshop “Translating Silences” will continue to open each session with an additional half hour to focus upon the work of a well-known contemporary “poet of the month.”

This semester’s reading list is as follows:

District and Circle by Seamus Heaney.

Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2007.

The Sleeping Beauty by Hayden Carruth.

In *Collected Longer Poems* by Hayden Carruth, Copper Canyon Press, 1993.

Also published as a single volume, Harper Colophon, 1982; revised 2nd edition Copper Canyon Press, 1990.

A book (or selected texts) by the “poet of the month” will be assigned to be read in advance, and discussed during the first half hour. The hour and a half “Translating Silences” workshop will follow with exchanges of creative work by participants. Optional assignments and

imaginative exercises will be offered.

Charlotte Mandel is the author of six books of poetry, including *Sight Lines*, *The Life of Mary* and *The Marriages of Jacob*. She edited *Saturday’s Women*, an award-winning anthology of women poets. Her poems, short fiction and critical essays have been published in many journals nationwide.

NEW COURSE

Gender and Social Change in Turkey through Cinema

with Ayça Alemdaroglu

Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

02/14, 03/20, 04/17, 05/08

324 Milbank Hall

Fee: \$ 120

Film provides a rich lens through which culture can be analyzed and debated. This course will look at gender relations

and social change in Turkey through cinema. Films that represent gender relations and women’s living conditions in rural and urban contexts will be viewed and discussed. Among the themes for our conversation will be rural to urban migration, the politics of modernization, consumption culture, “individualization” and feminist movements. Film, gender and Near Eastern studies enthusiasts are all welcome. Please join us!

Ayça Alemdaroglu is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Cambridge and a visiting scholar at New York University. She studies gender, youth, culture and politics in Turkey and the wider Middle East.

Register for Center Courses

Please fill in the information below and mail with registration fee to:

Barnard Center for Research on Women, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

Check should be made to Barnard College.

- Translating Silences: An Expanded Poetry Workshop (\$200)**
 Gender and Social Change through Cinema (\$120)

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