



BCRW

BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2013

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The Newsletter is published biannually by
The Barnard Center for Research on Women

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Monday–Friday
10am–5pm

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ON THE COVER

Hope Dector, \$5.40, intaglio print, 2009

Letter From the Director

Utopia has a bad reputation. “Utopian” is a label you might use if you want to insult someone’s ideas as impractical, or suggest that they’re not paying attention to the complexity of a situation. The phrase “feminist utopia” evokes parodies of Amazons, or triggers its opposite by conjuring visions of dystopias portrayed by Margaret Atwood and Octavia Butler.

But when the BCRW staff and Advisory Board first started to discuss the theme of Utopia last year, we felt it was an idea whose time had come. In the midst of massive challenges, people were gathering together to move beyond the status quo to envision a better world. Inspired by contemporary actions led by young feminists and the Occupy movement and scholars like Kathi Weeks and José Muñoz, as well as earlier feminists—Marge Piercy, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Monique Wittig—we wanted to explore what feminist utopias could look like. How can such visions help to inspire and ground our current work for social justice? Suspicious of universalizing visions, we nonetheless wanted to try to offer some answers to the question “What do we want, and what would it take to get it?” To see whether working from a place not of what is possible, but what is fervently desired, might lead us to new and exciting answers about where feminism today might take us.

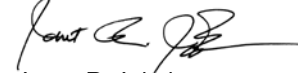
This spirit of hope and enthusiasm imbues not just our annual Scholar and Feminist Conference, which will run March 1-2, but broadly encompasses all of this semester’s programming. We kick off the year with a panel of feminists under 30 who are actively working for a movement that’s responsive, intersectional, and coalitional. In our latest *New Feminist Solutions* report, to be released this April, Vanessa Valenti and Courtney Martin '02 sketch paths for sustaining feminist activism online. THATCamp Feminisms and a day-long teach-in on The Politics of Solidarity enact grassroots methodologies of communal knowledge building. And both our Women’s History Month lecture and 3rd Annual Salon explore historic movements that re-formed

traditionally repressive regimes of media and law for community memory and identity formation.

BCRW will also co-sponsor the “Worlds of Shange” conference put on by Africana Studies February 14-15, celebrating 20 years of Africana Studies at Barnard with a focus on writer and performer Ntozake Shange '70, author of *For Colored Girls Who’ve Considered Suicide, When the Rainbow is Enuf*. Shange’s visionary work in many ways embodies our idea of what utopia might be – insisting on beauty, joy and solidarity in telling the truth about women’s lived experiences while facing the very real challenges that confront today’s society.

The Barnard Center for Research on Women will always be critical of simple answers, pushing for concrete strategies to drive feminism in activism and academia. But every once in awhile, we’re happy to step back and let ourselves imagine the “impossible” – because working together, utopic visions might make their way into tangible possibilities we can mobilize for justice.

Sincerely,



Janet R. Jakobsen

BCRW Calendar



Melanie Cervantes



Lena Chen



Ntozake Shange '70

Wednesday, January 30

6:30 PM

Feminism and Beyond: Young Feminists Take on Activism and Organizing

A panel with Lena Chen, Jessica Danforth, Sydnie Mosley '07, Dior Vargas, Julie Zeilinger '15
Event Oval, The Diana Center

Thursday, February 14 at 6 PM

Friday, February 15 from 10 AM–6 PM

Worlds of Shange

A celebration with Ntozake Shange '70, Jennifer DeVere Brody, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Alexis Pauline Gumbs '04, Dianne McIntyre, Vanessa K. Valdés, and more

Event Oval, The Diana Center

Friday, March 1–Saturday, March 2

The Scholar & Feminist: Utopia

A conference with Youngsuk Altieri, Shaowen Bardzell, K. Tempest Bradford, Melanie Cervantes, Francesca Coppa, Reina Gossett, Amber Hollibaugh, Ileana Jimenez, Simone Kolysh, Elisa Kreisinger, Victoria Law, Rickke Mananzala, Pam McMichael, Jennifer Miller, Pamela Phillips, Kavitha Rao, Marisa Rius, Dean Spade, Wu Tsang, and more

The Diana Center

Tuesday, March 5

6:30 PM

Strategic Scrapbooks: Nineteenth Century Activists Remake the Newspaper for African American History and Women's Rights

Women's History Month Lecture

by Ellen Gruber Garvey

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Saturday, March 16

10 AM–5 PM

THATCamp Feminisms East

An "unconference"

Registration in Barnard Hall

Thursday, March 28

12 PM

On Human Bondage in Ancient Egypt

A Lunchtime Lecture by Ellen Morris '91

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Monday, April 8

7 PM

The Future of Online Feminism

A *New Feminist Solutions* reading and reception

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Tuesday, April 9

9 AM–5 PM

The Politics of Solidarity: Gender, Sexuality, and Transnational Organizing

A teach-in

Registration in Barnard Hall

Tuesday, April 16

6:30 PM

BCRW's 3rd Annual Salon: Rights, Religion, and Secularity

A panel with Tanika Sarkar, Anupama Rao, Neferti Tadiar and others

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, April 18

12 PM

Teaching and Writing Transnational Hispaniola:

Haiti and the Dominican Republic

A Lunchtime Lecture by Kaiama Glover

and Maja Horn

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Updates **Projects & Announcements**



AFRICANA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA SERIES

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Africana Studies at Barnard. In celebration, the Africana Studies program is focusing its programming on Barnard alumna Ntozake Shange '70, feminist icon and Tony award-winning author of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*. In November, Shange joined Barnard Professor of English Monica Miller and Dartmouth Professor Soyica Diggs Colbert for a lively discussion on Tyler Perry's film adaptation of the play. Video of the event and reflections on *For Colored Girls* can be found at <http://bcrw.barnard.edu/videos/ntozake-shange-on-stage-and-screen/>. The celebration continues this spring with a two day conference honoring Shange's work and wide reaching influence (page 10-11).

BCRW'S TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT CONTINUES

In collaboration with Barnard faculty, BCRW has spearheaded three upcoming faculty-student intensive seminars. This January, during Barnard's winter break, six faculty and eight students will travel to Mumbai, India to participate in a weeklong interdisciplinary seminar, "Mumbai at Home and in the World: Gender, Sexuality, and the Post-Colonial City." In the spring and summer of 2013, BCRW and the African Gender Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, will collaborate on two seminars at Barnard and at the University of Cape Town on "The Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary African Contexts." These seminars will connect our faculty and students to mutual efforts and exchanges to build feminist research, knowledge, pedagogy, and activism that can be sustained and deepened over many years.

Last semester, BCRW brought legal anthropologist Ziba Mir-Hosseini to campus to explore the transnational movement of Muslim feminists to achieve gender justice. This semester, BCRW will collaborate with colleagues at NYU and Columbia on a conference on transnational feminisms across the Americas. And in March, BCRW Associate Director Catherine Sameh will travel to São Paulo, Brazil, with the Barnard Global Symposium to meet with scholars and activists in the region.

REACHING OUT ONLINE

This semester the BCRW Blog has grown, continuing to provide a space for updates, conversation and additional information on the various projects we work on and issues we pursue. Silver Science lecturer Jan Haaken provided an excellent overview of her scholarship in response to BCRW questions (<http://bcrw.barnard.edu/blog/expanding-the-scope-of-what-women-can-say/>), 2011-2012 Alumnae Fellow Sydnie Mosley '07 reflected on Ntozake Shange's reaction to the film version of *For Colored Girls* (<http://bcrw.barnard.edu/blog/what-does-shange-think/>), BCRW Advisory Board member and Barnard Librarian Vani Natarajan provided a compilation of contemporary queer political perspectives to complement the release of *A New Queer Agenda* (<http://bcrw.barnard.edu/blog/here-and-queer-the-short-list/>), BCRW student research assistants discussed our events, and much more. Join the conversation and keep up with the latest from BCRW at <http://bcrw.barnard.edu/blog/>. We also continue to post high-quality recordings of most events at <http://bcrw.barnard.edu/videos/> and welcome your comments!

GENDER AMPLIFIED RAMPS UP

Alumnae Fellow Ebonie Smith '07 has been hard at work coordinating the Gender Amplified festival. The festival, which will take place in September 2013, will bring together women and girls to celebrate women in music production and encourage more women to get involved behind the scenes in the music industry, particularly in male-dominated technical roles. Ebonie is planning workshops such as "The STEM Connection: Music Technology and Production" and "Seeking advanced education for music producers: finding the right program for you" alongside dynamic performances by women who are both artistically and technically skilled in music creation. Look out for a grassroots crowdfunding campaign from Ebonie at bcrw.barnard.edu.

FEMINIST MEDIA THEORY: ITERATIONS OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCE

Issue 10.3 of *The Scholar & Feminist Online*, guest edited by Pratt Institute Professor of Media Studies and BCRW Research Fellow Jonathan Beller, brings feminist strategies of analysis to media theory, exploring notions of power, difference and identity construction in photography, film, performance, and broadly, "technology" of all forms. From the relationship of photography and white supremacy, to visual representations of Iranian women's activism, to the curation of "physical cinema" at the Sundance Film Festival, this issue adds to a range of efforts to disrupt, as Beller writes, "the white masculine privilege in knowledge-making."

JOURNALISM PROJECT TAKES OFF

Witnessing the growing concern over the state of journalism, BCRW this year began a feminist journalism project, bringing together a number of respected media makers from around New York City. Based on the counsel of this group, we began two new initiatives this fall – a course on becoming a feminist journalist with filmmaker Nora Connor, and a new series of "journalist/scholar conversations" with some of our most timely events. These conversations are off the record meetings between distinguished speakers at BCRW and journalists in the field for in depth background and discussion. If you're a feminist journalist who would like to be involved, email bcrw@barnard.edu.

ANNOUNCING BCRW RESEARCH SCHOLAR COURTNEY HOWLAND

We are pleased to welcome Courtney Howland '75 as a BCRW Research Scholar for 2012-2014. Courtney, a legal scholar who has studied sex discrimination in athletics, the military, and international human rights policy, will use the Center as a site to build her new project, tentatively entitled *Unraveling the Misogyny of Opera Hermeneutics: A Feminist Approach to Wagner Opera*.

Events The Scholar & Feminist: Utopia

topics

remix culture	intentional housing
open education	coalition & justice
climate change	community design
feminist parenting	sci-fi/fantasy
prison abolition	ending poverty
food justice	desiring change

opening night

WILDNESS

A film screening and conversation

Friday, March 1, 6:30pm

Event Oval, The Diana Center

Set in the historic Silver Platter, a Los Angeles bar that has been a home for Latin/LGBT immigrant communities since 1963, *Wildness* follows what happens when a group of young artists create a weekly performance art/dance party called Wildness, which explodes into creativity and conflict. Filmmakers Wu Tsang and Roya Rastegar join us for a conversation following the film.

Friday, March 1–Saturday, March 2

The Diana Center

Registration online at bcrw.barnard.edu

Check in 6pm Friday, 9am Saturday

“It was part of women’s long revolution. When we were breaking all the old hierarchies.” — Marge Piercy, *Woman on the Edge of Time*

“I write because life does not appease my appetites and hunger. I write to record what others erase when I speak, to rewrite the stories others have miswritten about me, about you.” —Gloria Anzaldúa, “Speaking in Tongues: A Letter to Third World Women Writers”

“We are impossible people...We’re being told that we’re politically unviable and impossible, we’re told that constantly, and yet I think there’s a space of possibility that exists in part because we are not yet included or recognized.” —Dean Spade, “Trans Politics on a Neoliberal Landscape”

Utopia challenges us to imagine the impossible. Feminists have for years spoken of dreams, of excess, of revolution. Creating a space outside of what society makes available can be an act of survival in a culture that selectively grants and withholds the designation of full humanity. While many have shied away from the term “utopia,” wary of its uses as a cover for eugenics and other distinctly dystopian endeavors, this year’s Scholar & Feminist Conference argues that there is a consistent power that comes from confronting our desire – our “appetites and hunger” – for “spaces of possibility,” making “women’s long revolution...breaking all the old hierarchies.”

In concert with this theme, the conference format this year focuses on participation and collaboration. We’ll kick off the weekend with a screening of Wu Tsang and Roya Rastegar’s film *Wildness*, a magical and explosive exploration of “safe space,” queer community, creativity, and class, followed by a conversation with the filmmakers. In Saturday’s workshops (topics above), community leaders from a wide range of fields facilitate opportunities for creativity and organizing through discussion and brainstorming.

Plenary presentations will be collaboratively produced and will intertwine academic, activist and artistic work and presentation-styles. Shaowen Bardzell, a pioneer in the field of feminist Human Computer Interaction, pairs with visual artist Youngsuk Altieri to present a feminist vision for the future of our lived environment. Pam McMichael of the Highlander Center teams up with social justice printmaker Melanie Cervantes of Dignidad Rebelde to show us what coalitional organizing could be at its best. And Marisa Rius, Director of the Program of Gender Studies of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, comes together with director and performer Jennifer Miller of Circus Amok! to explore feminist and queer pedagogies.

And at the end of the day, we’ll gather for a reception and party. Barnard students will provide a “utopian” playlist as soundtrack. Join us to offer your thoughts and energies too.



Melanie Cervantes, "Sunday Afternoon"

participants include

Youngsuk Altieri, *Indiana University, Human Computer Interaction-Design*

Shaowen Bardzell, *Indiana University School of Informatics & Computing*

Melanie Cervantes, *Dignidad Rebelde*

Pam McMichael, *The Highlander Center*

Jennifer Miller, *Circus Amok!*

Marisa Belausteguigoitia Rius, *Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico*

Wu Tsang, *Filmmaker*

Gwendolyn Beetham, *Independent Scholar*

K. Tempest Bradford, *Writer*

Francesca Coppa, *Organization of Transformative Works*

Design for America, *Barnard College Chapter*

Reina Gossett, *Writer and activist*

Amber Hollibaugh, *Queers for Economic Justice*

Ileana Jimenez, *FeministTeacher.com*

Simone Kolysh, *CUNY Graduate Center*

Elisa Kreisinger, *PopCulturePirate.com*

Victoria Law, *Writer*

Rickke Mananzala, *Activist and former Executive Director, FIERCE*

Pamela Phillips, *Barnard Center for Research on Women*

Kavitha Rao, *The Common Fire Foundation*

Roya Rastegar, *Bryn Mawr College*

Dean Spade, *Seattle University School of Law*

...and more!

Events **Feminist Activism**



Women's History Month Lecture
STRATEGIC SCRAPBOOKS: NINETEENTH CENTURY
ACTIVISTS REMAKE THE NEWSPAPER FOR AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A lecture by Ellen Gruber Garvey

Tuesday, March 5 6:30 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Men and women 150 years ago grappled with information overload by making scrapbooks—the ancestors of Facebook and blogging. Women's rights scrapbook makers documented women's pioneering participation in the public realm and experimented with ways to present it. African Americans created massive compilation scrapbooks that acted as repositories of communal knowledge and passed along a critical, oppositional reading of newspapers. They passed along their understanding that newspapers, including "the paper of record" did not provide a simple record, but a set of voices and conversations to read critically. In this lecture, Ellen Gruber Garvey reveals a previously unexplored layer of American popular culture, where activists collected and constructed new narratives to create "unwritten histories" in books they wrote with scissors.

Ellen Gruber Garvey is a Professor of English at New Jersey City University, where she co-edits the journal *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*. Co-sponsored by the Barnard American Studies Program and the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies.



Ennipoet on Flickr, BY-NC-SA

FEMINISM AND BEYOND: YOUNG FEMINISTS TAKE ON
ACTIVISM AND ORGANIZING

A panel with Lena Chen, Jessica Danforth, Dior Vargas, Sydnie Mosley '07, Julie Zeilinger '15, and Dina Tyson '13 (moderator)

Wednesday, January 30 6:30pm

Event Oval, The Diana Center

Young feminists have long battled invisibility. Countless media articles bemoan young women's lack of activism or suggest that movements that "go viral," like SlutWalk or Occupy Wall Street, have come out of nowhere. In fact, feminism among young people is as active as ever, constantly pushing boundaries both inside and outside feminist communities and engaging with issues new (privacy in the digital age, universal healthcare) and old (racism, rape). Young feminists today are consistently building coalitions and questioning narrow interpretations of what makes a feminist issue. This activism is local and transnational; in the street, in the classroom, online. It frequently engages with multi-layered identities and challenges itself as much as it shakes up the wider culture.

In this panel, moderated by Dina Tyson '13, five feminist activists discuss their areas of interest, what they see as the major challenges for feminist movements, how organizing today compares to that by previous generations, intersections between feminism and other approaches to social justice, and how to build coalitions that can enact structural change.

Events **Digital Impact Series**



THATCamp FEMINISMS EAST

An “unconference”

Saturday, March 16 10am - 5pm

Barnard Hall

Barnard joins The Humanities And Technology Camp movement of informal, collaborative “unconferences” dedicated to exploring innovation in the digital humanities. We will help to build the strand that focuses on feminist interventions. Bringing together faculty, students, information professionals and activists from across the Northeast, THATCamp Feminisms will delve into both the technical and the theoretical questions central to the use of technology in the humanities—from how to utilize text mining or redesign the way information is communicated, to the ethical implications of digitizing archives and what it means to have assignments, classroom discussions or lectures online. THATCamp Feminisms will provide a space for participatory learning at the intersection of feminism, academia and new media through discussion, skills-based workshops, and on the spot experimentation. People of all professions and skill levels are welcome. Co-sponsored by The Barnard Library and THATCamp Theory.

Register online at <http://feminismseast2013.thatcamp.org/>



Megan Jett

THE FUTURE OF ONLINE FEMINISM

A New Feminist Solutions reading and reception

Monday, April 8 7 PM

Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Courtney Martin '02 and Vanessa Valenti present the latest *New Feminist Solutions* report, which details the development of a robust network of online feminist activism. Inspired by the current level of online activism but discouraged by high burnout rates and a lack of compensation, Martin and Valenti turned to a diverse group of activists, educators, and writers to investigate potential opportunities for sustainability in the digital world. Working with BCRW, they make the convincing case that online activity is essential to the continuation of broadly based feminist movements and offer a variety of options for helping this critical ecosystem to thrive.



Events **The Worlds of Shange**

“somebody / anybody sing / a black girl’s song... / sing the song / of her possibilities / sing a righteous gospel / let her be born / let her be born / & handled warmly.”
—Ntozake Shange, *For Colored Girls...*

PERFORMING SHANGE

**A discussion with Ntozake Shange '70
& student performances of her work
Thursday, February 14 6–8 PM
Event Oval, The Diana Center**

Playwright and poet Ntozake Shange '70 has been a defining voice of African American experience since the production of her Obie Award-winning masterwork, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, in 1975. To help kickoff the daylong conference, “The Worlds of Ntozake Shange,” Shange joins acclaimed dance artist Dianne McIntyre in a conversation about her life, work, and legacy. Barnard students round out the evening with performances of excerpts from Shange’s work, led by music producer and Barnard Center for Research on Women Alumnae Fellow Ebonie Smith '07. A conversation with Ntozake Shange will precede the performance.

Follow us on Twitter: @ShangeWorlds

WORLDS OF SHANGE

**A conference
Friday, February 15 10 AM–6 PM
Event Oval, The Diana Center**

In a culture in which black women’s stories have been consistently marginalized, Ntozake Shange unflinchingly delved into 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.

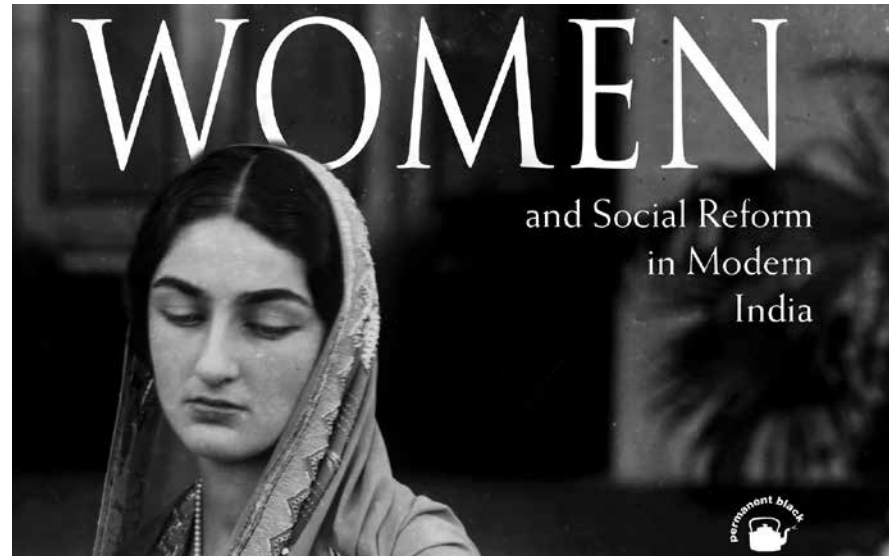
This February, the Africana Studies Program, the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), and BCRW will hold a one-day conference devoted to the life, works and legacy of Shange. Almost forty years after the first production of *For Colored Girls* Shange’s work continues to challenge and inspire. This event brings together scholars and artists from across the country who are shaping scholarly and popular conversations about African-American arts and letters as well as gender in the African Diaspora.

Featured speakers include Jennifer DeVere Brody, Professor of Dance and Theatre Performance at Stanford University and author of *Punctuation: Art, Politics and Play*; Dianne McIntyre, acclaimed dance artist and choreographer, Farah Jasmine Griffin, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies at Columbia University and author of *If You Can’t Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday*; Alexis Pauline Gumbs '04, independent scholar, poet, activist, and founder of Mobile Homecoming; and Vanessa K. Valdés, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese.

Events **Transnational Feminisms**



Marjolein Katsma, CC-SA



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THE POLITICS OF SOLIDARITY: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZING

A teach-in

Tuesday, April 9 9 AM–5 PM

Barnard College

Gender and sexuality have been central issues for activism and transnational affiliations. At the same time, they are often used by governments and non-governmental organizations alike to reinforce the very forms of hierarchy and hegemony that activists seek to break down. This teach-in will examine movement building, organizing strategies, and best practices for creating feminist, queer, and anti-racist solidarity politics that challenge, rather than reproduce, global relations of power and inequality. Following the Teach-In, activists from around the world will gather on April 10 and 11 for the Homonationalism and Pinkwashing Conference organized by the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies at CUNY. BCRW's teach-in will both help build up to the conversation at the CUNY conference and expand beyond its parameters to explore: indigenous organizing, human rights regimes, South-South alliances, transnational feminist networks, diaspora politics, settler colonialisms, occupation, and more. We will engage praxis from many different scholar-activist fields as we work through the difficulties, dilemmas, and promises of solidarity activism.

3rd Annual BCRW Salon

RIGHTS, RELIGION, AND SECULARITY

A discussion with Tanika Sarkar, Neferti Tadiar, Anupama Rao

Tuesday, April 16 6:30 PM

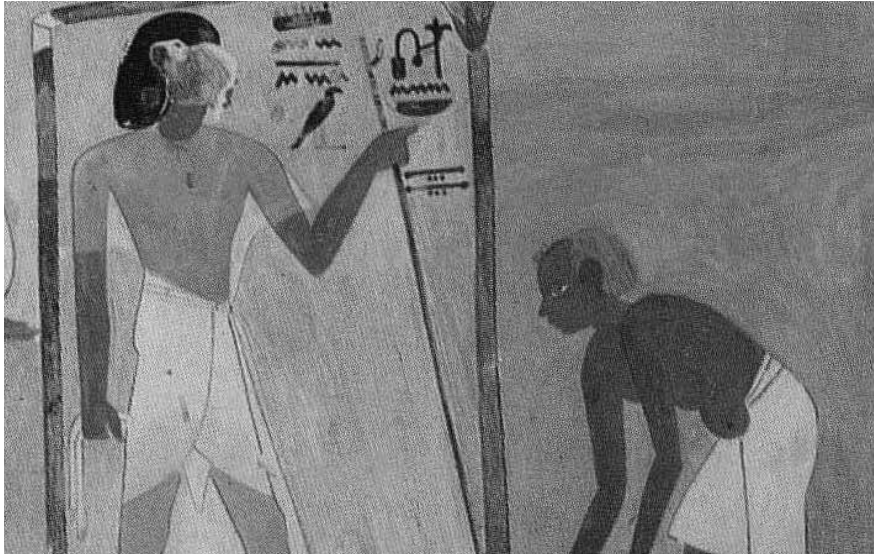
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Acclaimed scholar of history, gender and colonialism Tanika Sarkar joins BCRW for the third event in the annual Salon Series, which offers an opportunity to dive into the implications of texts that make a critical intervention in their field. A diverse group of historians and area scholars respond to Sarkar's latest work, which explores the relations among law, personhood and Hindu idioms of entangled selves in colonial India. The article discusses how gender and empire become entwined with religion and secularism as religious notions of 'sacrifice' and good widowhood interrupted British notions of the legal person.

Tanika Sarkar is a Professor of History at Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has been called "arguably the most prominent feminist historian today writing on Bengal and India." Her previous works include *Hindu Wife, Hindu Nation: Community, Religion, and Cultural Nationalism* and *Rebels, Wives, Saints: Designing Selves and Nations in Colonial Times*.



Events Lunchtime Lectures



ON HUMAN BONDAGE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

A lecture by Ellen Morris '91

Thursday, March 28 12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Around 1500 B.C.E., the subjects of this lecture first appear in the tombs of Egyptian nobles. Just a half-century prior, the Egyptian Delta had been dominated by rulers from the north, but the Egyptians had since conquered their conquerors and exerted sway as far as the Euphrates River. The sudden appearance, activities, and gradual disappearance of a specific subset of people—who Professor Morris argues were prisoners-of-war captured from Egypt's most exotic and formidable contemporary foe—reveal much about the effects of imperialism on Egypt's economy and sense of self.

Ellen Morris '91 joined Barnard's faculty this year as an Assistant Professor of Classics. Her scholarship is on ancient Egyptian social history and has focused on issues of divine kingship, sexuality and performance, state formation, and human sacrifice, along with life during periods of societal disruption. She is currently finishing her second book, *Ancient Egyptian Imperialism*, for Blackwell Publishing. In this lecture, she will discuss her latest research on the politics of slavery in an imperial context.



TEACHING AND WRITING TRANSNATIONAL HISPANIOLA: HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A lunchtime lecture by Kaiama Glover and Maja Horn

Thursday, April 18 12 PM

BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Even though popular and widely circulated images show Caribbean cultures as productively and inspiringly creolized, a fully transnational Caribbean reality has proven far more difficult to enact than to envision. Historically and contemporarily, the diverse Caribbean geographies are in many ways impermeable to one another. Almost nowhere are issues of nation-language borders and their resultant challenges to mutual legibility more striking than in the case of Haiti and the Dominican Republic – two nations that share the same 30,000 square mile island and over five centuries of interconnected history, yet that have remained deeply divided. This talk considers the dialectic of commonality and conflict that marks the relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic to address, more broadly, what it means to be a scholar and teacher of the Caribbean in the face of the region's fundamental multilingualism.

Kaiama L. Glover is an Assistant Professor of French at Barnard. She is the author of *Haiti Unbound: A Spiralist Challenge to the Postcolonial Canon*, and is currently at work on a book titled *Disorderly Women: "Narcissism," Community, and Gender in Novels of the French-Speaking Caribbean*. Maja Horn is an Assistant Professor of Spanish & Latin American Cultures at Barnard. She is currently completing a major research project exploring how Dominican artists and writers interrogate Dominican gender and sexual norms outside the language of Western identity politics.

Courses Spring 2013



BEAUVOIR AND BEYOND: PHILOSOPHY AND SEXUAL DIFFERENCE

with Abby Kluchin

in partnership with The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research

Thursdays: 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18

Location: BCRW, 101 Barnard Hall

Time: 7–9PM

Fee: \$315

Registration available online at

<http://thebrooklyninstitute.com/current-classes/#course-1824>

“But if I wish to define myself,” Simone de Beauvoir writes, “I must first of all say: ‘I am a woman’; on this truth must be based all further discussion.” With this declaration—and the publication of *The Second Sex* in 1953—the question of “woman” becomes a proper topic of philosophical investigation, as Beauvoir demystifies the “eternal feminine” and lays bare the relationship of “masculine” and “feminine” and how they function to construct woman as Other. In the wake of Beauvoir, other feminist thinkers take up many of her questions, but abandon her existentialist presuppositions. In this course, we will examine a set of twentieth century texts that insist on taking woman, gender, and sexual difference seriously. The first half of the course will center around readings from the new unabridged English edition of *The Second Sex*, in conjunction with relevant primary and secondary literature, including the work of Jean-Paul Sartre and selections from Toril Moi’s *Simone de Beauvoir: the Making of an Intellectual Woman*. The second half of the course will consider so-called “French feminism” after Beauvoir, a designation that includes figures as diverse as Julia Kristeva, Luce Irigaray, Hélène Cixous, Monique Wittig, and Michèle le Doueff. These thinkers diverge in a variety of ways from Beauvoir’s approach.

But they continue to insist on the necessity of confronting the question of sexual difference, as well as the theorization and performance of distinctly feminine writing that they term *écriture féminine* or *parler-femme*.

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