



ANNUAL
REPORT
2019-2020

**BARNARD CENTER FOR
RESEARCH ON WOMEN**

STUDY-COLLABORATION-REFLECTION-ACTION



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FROM OUR DIRECTOR

The Barnard Center for Research on Women entered the 2019-2020 academic year with resolve, excitement, and an ambitious vision for what we could accomplish during the year. Our calendar of public programming was bursting at the seams as we brought a record-breaking number of world-class scholars, artists, and activists to campus. We supported and nurtured work by faculty colleagues and Barnard students, while continuing our deep engagement with colleagues and partners in the broader community, both locally and globally.

Who could have predicted that we would close out the academic year working remotely under the shadow of a global pandemic and in the midst of an ongoing national and international uprisings in defense of Black lives and in righteous protest against police violence?

Once we were scattered across the boroughs of New York (and across the river to New Jersey) because of stay-at-home orders across the region, we kept our work and many of our scheduled events going. The ingenuity and commitment of BCRW's team are unmatched, and we not only kept much of our calendar intact through the closing months of the academic year, adapting to new formats that brought our communities together online, but lent critical assistance to collaborators at Barnard and beyond as folks sought to meet the challenges and emerging needs in a changing reality.

I could not feel more grateful for all the amazing people who make BCRW what it is. First and foremost among these are the brilliant and creative people who make up the staff of the Center, each one of whom brings irreplaceable talents, dazzling intellect, and unassailable commitment to a more just world. No less important are our many faculty colleagues across the College and the University, our partners in the Barnard Library and Archives, the residents and affiliates of the BCRW Social Justice Initiative and the communities to which they connect us, and the students and community members who support and inspire our work.

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. As we look ahead to our fiftieth anniversary in 2020-2021, and as we adjust our planning for this anniversary in light of a changed and changing world, we hope you will join us in celebrating the work that has brought us here and we hope that support the work to come. To make your gift today, visit bcrw.barnard.edu/fifty, or contact us for more information and ways to give.

Thank you for celebrating our past and supporting our future.

With appreciation,

Elizabeth Castelli, BCRW Director and Professor of Religion



MISSION

STUDY – COLLABORATION – REFLECTION – ACTION

The Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW) brings scholars and activists together through its working groups, public events, publications, and multimedia projects to advance intersectional social justice feminist analyses and to promote social transformation. BCRW is committed to vibrant and engaged research, pedagogy, art, and activism, supporting the work of scholars and activists to create new knowledge and to challenge and refine how we understand the world around us.

Since our founding in 1971, BCRW has cultivated collaborative relationships with community organizations, activists, and cultural workers in New York City, across the US, and transnationally. From our signature annual **Scholar and Feminist Conference** to our peer-reviewed journal ***The Scholar and Feminist Online***, unique collection of feminist social movement ephemera housed in the Barnard College Archives, constantly expanding **video archive**, and the **Social Justice Initiative**, BCRW remains committed to critical feminist engagement with the academy and the world.





A QUICK LOOK AT 2019–2020

Programming

Public Events: 17
Conferences: 1
Co-Sponsored Events: 17
Attendees: 4,734

Publications and Video Productions

Scholar and Feminist Online: 2
Views: 144,000

Zine: 1

Original video productions: 13
Video archives of events: 15
Views: 93,863

Online Engagement

Email list: 17,270
Website views: 200,000
Twitter followers: 7,635
Facebook followers: 9,800



PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

BCRW's public programming brings faculty, students, staff, and the community together to learn from scholars and activists working on the leading edges of their fields through conferences, public lectures, book salons, literary events, film screenings, panel discussions, and workshops.

In 2019-2020, BCRW organized one conference and seventeen lectures, salons, and other events. An archive of edited event recordings is available at bcrw.barnard.edu/videos.

The 45th annual Scholar and Feminist Conference

Climate Crisis, Climate Justice

February 7-8, 2020

Hōkūlani K. Aikau, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies, University of Utah

Xiye Bastida, activist, People's Climate Movement

Robin E. Bell, Palisades Geophysical Institute/Lamont Research Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

Karen Blondel, Turning the Tide Environmental Justice Organizer, Fifth Avenue Committee and Justice Organizer, Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition

Ashley Dawson, Professor of English, CUNY Graduate Center

Paola Del Toro, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, University of Chicago and member, Dissenters

Alexa Dietrich, Program Director, Social Science Research Council

Kevin Fellezs (Kanaka Maoli), Associate Professor of Music and African American and African Diaspora Studies, Columbia University

Adriana María Garriga-López, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Kalamazoo College and Associate Faculty, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research

Jane Gilbert, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Miami

Alicia Grullón, artist, Adjunct Professor, School of Visual Arts and CUNY

Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Founder, Urban Ocean Lab, CEO Ocean Collectiv

Meg McLagan, filmmaker, Visiting Professor of Professional Practice in Film Studies, Barnard College

Mon Mohapatra, digital designer, organizer, No New Jails and Equality Labs

Marama Muru-Lanning, Senior Research Fellow and Director of the James Henare Māori Research Centre, University of Auckland

Fernando Ortiz-Baez, Climate Preparedness and Resiliency Organizer at THE POINT CDC

anaïs peterson, student activist, University of Pittsburgh

Dev Punaini, student activist, Dartmouth College

Timmy Rose, member, Dissenters and People's Response Team

Dean Itsuji Saranillio, Associate Professor, Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University

Brett Story, filmmaker, Assistant Professor of Image Arts, Ryerson University

Julie Sze, Professor of American Studies, University of California, Davis
Lynnell Thomas, Associate Professor of American Studies, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Juslene Tyresias, Program Director, Executive Committee Member, Mouvman Peyizan Papay/Papaye Peasant Movement

Paige West, Claire Tow Professor of Anthropology, Barnard College, Director, Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University

Kei Francis Williams, organizer, People's Climate Movement NYC and Marsha P. Johnson Institute

Thanu Yakupitiyage, U.S. Communications Director, 350.org

Ashley Dawson, Xiye Bastida, and Alicia Grullón speaking at the 45th Annual Scholar and Feminist Conference: Climate Crisis, Climate Justice, February 7-8, 2020.



Endowed Lectures

Helen Pond McIntyre '48 Lecture

"If We Forget Ourselves, Who Will Be Left to Remember Us?"

Thursday, September 12, 2019

Cherríe Moraga, author, Professor of English, University of California, Santa Barbara with **Nancy Worman**, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Classics, Barnard College

Roslyn Silver '27 Science Lecture

Discovery to Action: Change from the Poles to Our Shores

February 8, 2020

Robin E. Bell, Palisades Geophysical Institute/Lamont Research Professor, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University

Natalie Boymel Kampen Memorial Lecture in Feminist Criticism and History

The Haunted House of Classics

March 5, 2020

Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Associate Professor of Classics, Princeton University

Cherríe Moraga, author of Native Country of the Heart.



Film Screenings

The Rest I Make Up

A film about Cuban American playwright Maria Irene Fornés

January 27, 2020

Michelle Memran, filmmaker, with **Alice Reagan**, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Theatre, Barnard College, and **Gabri Christa**, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Dance, Barnard College

The Hottest August

A film about climate crisis and racial capitalism

February 7, 2020

Brett Story, filmmaker, with **Meg McLagan**, Visiting Professor of Professional Practice, English, Film Studies, Barnard College

Decade of Fire: Stay, Fight, Build

A film about city abandonment and community resilience in 1970s South Bronx

November 11, 2019

Vivian Vázquez Irizarry, filmmaker

Fitzroy Christian, Organizer, Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA)

Marc Dones, Executive Director, National Innovation Service

Moderated by **Gregory Jost**, Adjunct Professor, Sociology, Fordham University

Fitzroy Christian, Vivian Vázquez Irizarry, and Marc Dones during a Q&A following the screening of Decade of Fire: Stay, Fight, Build.



Lectures, Panels, Readings

A Gendered Brain? Shattering Sexist Science

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Gina Rippon, Professor of Cognitive Neuroimaging and Psychology,
Aston University

Daphna Joel, Professor, Psychological Sciences, Tel Aviv University

Giordana Grossi, Professor of Psychology, SUNY-New Paltz

Moderated by **Rebecca Jordan-Young**, Associate Professor, Women's,
Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

Engaging the Archival Record of Danish Colonial Rule: A Conversation

Thursday, September 26, 2019

La Vaughn Belle, artist, Artist-in-Residence, BCRW

Helle Stenum, filmmaker, Lecturer, Roskilde University

Tiphonie Yanique, writer, Associate Professor of English Creative
Writing, Emory University

Moderated by **Tami Navarro**, Associate Director, BCRW

Social Justice Institute Lunchtime Conversation

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

La Vaughn Belle, Artist-in-Residence, BCRW

Mariame Kaba, Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW

CeCe McDonald, Activist-in-Residence, BCRW

Andrea Ritchie, Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW

Moderated by **Helen Jiang**, BCRW Research Assistant and **Eve Kausch**,
BCRW Post-Baccalaureate Fellow

What We Mean When We Say Free Them All: Lessons from the Social Justice Initiative

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

La Vaughn Belle, Artist-in-Residence, BCRW

Mariame Kaba, Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW

CeCe McDonald, Activist-in-Residence, BCRW

Andrea Ritchie, Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW

Moderated by **Katherine Acey**, Senior Activist-in-Residence Emerita,
BCRW

On the Road to Abolition: Archiving Resistance to the Carceral State

Monday, October 21, 2019

Simon Balto, Assistant Professor of African American History,
University of Iowa

Emily Thuma, Assistant Professor of Politics, Philosophy, and Public
Affairs, University of Washington-Tacoma

Moderated by **Mariame Kaba**, founder, Project NIA and Researcher-
in-Residence, BCRW

Transforming Harm: Experiments in Accountability

Friday, October 25, 2019

Mariame Kaba, founder, Project NIA and Researcher-in-Residence,
BCRW

Nastassja "Stas" Schmeidt, co-founder, Spring Up

A. Lea Roth, co-founder, Spring Up

**The View from Somewhere: Transgender Journalists Resisting
"Objectivity"**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Meredith Talusan, journalist

Lewis Wallace, journalist

Moderated by **Hope Dector**, BCRW Creative Director

Critical Caribbean Feminisms

February 11, 2020

Staceyann Chin, writer and performer

Alexis Pauline Gumbs, BC '04, writer

Moderated by **Kaiama L. Glover**, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of French
and Africana Studies, Barnard College

*Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Staceyann
Chin, and Kaiama Glover at a
Critical Caribbean Feminisms
reading on February 11, 2020.*



What Does It Mean When We Say “Safety”?

February 26, 2020

Mariame Kaba, founder, Project NIA and Researcher-in-Residence,
BCRW

Ariana González Stokas, Vice President, Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion, Barnard College

Moving at the Speed of Trust: Disability Justice, Transformative Justice

March 27, 2020

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, writer, disability/transformative
justice worker

Elliott Fukui, Director of Community Engagement, CA Public Education
Campaign, Transgender Law Center

*Audience member at Decade
of Fire: Stay, Fight, Build on
November 11, 2019.*



Trans*Revolutions Virtual Symposium

April 10, 2020

Elliot Montague, Visiting Lecturer of Film Media Theater, Mount Holyoke College

Emma Frankland, artist

Texas Isaiah, artist

Tourmaline, artist

Vick Quezada, artist

Past as Prologue: Storytelling about Resistance to the Brutality of Incarceration

May 8, 2020

Kathy Boudin, Co-Director and Co-Founder of the Center for Justice at Columbia University

Monica Cosby, Co-Director of Organizing with Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration, and Community Organizer at Westside Justice Center

Laura McTighe, Assistant Professor of Religion, Florida State University

Toussaint Losier, Assistant Professor of Afro-American Studies, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Mariame Kaba, founder, Project NIA and Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW

Audience member at Decade of Fire: Stay, Fight, Build on November 11, 2019.



Co-Sponsored Events

Kashmir: Resist to Exist

September 20, 2019

Film Screening of *Khoon Diy Baarav* (“Blood Leaves its Trail”), directed by **Iffat Fatima**, followed by a conversation with **Hafsa Kanjwal** and **Samia Shafi**

Co-sponsored with Barnard Library, Barnard DHC, and Stand with Kashmir

#MeToo: One Year After Christine Blasey Ford

October 9, 2019

Sheila Orta, editor of *Indelible in the Hippocampus: Writings from the MeToo Movement*

Co-sponsored with Center for the Study of Social Difference, Women Creating Change, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, and IRWGS

New Books Series at Society of Fellows/Heyman Center

September 26, 2019

Featuring **Nara Milanich**, Professor of History, Barnard College, and author of *Paternity: The Elusive Quest for the Father* (Harvard University Press, 2019)

Ambedkar Lectures: Race, Caste, and American Pragmatism

Organized by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University

October 17, 2019

Fred Harris, Dean of Social Science, Columbia University, **Melvin Rogers**, Brown University, **Chris Lebron**, Johns Hopkins University, **Meena Krishnamurthy**, Queen’s University, comments by **Ira Katznelson**, Interim Provost, Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, and Deputy Director, Columbia World Projects, Department of Political Science, Columbia University, and **Michelle Moody-Adams**, Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, Columbia University

Ambedkar Lectures: Remaking Publics: Gender, Affect, Insurgence, Presence

Organized by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University

October 18, 2019

Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Equality Labs, **Asha Kowtal**, All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch (AIDMAM); **Mabel Wilson**, Nancy and George Rupp Professor of Architecture Planning and Preservation, Columbia University, **Kajri Jain**, Associate Professor of Indian Visual Culture and Contemporary Art, University of Toronto, **Farah Jasmine Griffin**, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies, Columbia University

Book Launch for *Testosterone: An Unauthorized Biography*

Organized by the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

October 28, 2019

Rebecca Jordan-Young, Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College, and **Katrina Karkazis**, Carol Zicklin Endowed Chair in the Honors Academy at Brooklyn College, City University of New York

From Criminalization to Liberation: Organizing Migrant Asian Sex Workers Across Oceans

December 2, 2019

Khokhoi de la Vida, member, Walang Hiya (NYC), **Elene Lam**, founder, **Zi Teng** (Hong Kong and China), **Chanelle Gallant**, co-founder, Migrant Sex Workers Project (Canada), **Kate Zen**, founder, Red Canary Song (Flushing, Queens), and **Elena Shih**, Manning Assistant Professor of American Studies, Brown University, moderated by **Yin Q**, artist-in-residence, PS1 MoMA, introduced by **Mae Ngai**, Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History, Columbia University

Cosponsored with the Department of History, the Department of Sociology, the Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender Studies, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and the Institute for Social and Economic Research Policy at Columbia University.

Feminists Coming of Age: The Magic of Ntozake Shange at Barnard College

Organized by **Kim F. Hall**, Lucyle Hook Professor of English and Africana Studies, Barnard College, co-sponsored by **Barnard Library**
2019-2020 academic year

Emergency Care for Wounds That Cannot Be Seen: Healing Justice and Ntozake Shange

October 1, 2019

Cara Page, lead organizer/curator, *Changing Frequencies*,
Ebony Noelle Golden, founder and principal strategist, *Betty's Daughter Arts Collaborative*, **Tiffany Lenoir Jones**, healer and leadership circle member, *Harriet's Apothecary*

"A Woman Who Knows Her Magic": An Immersive Shange Experience

February 10, 2020

Co-sponsored by the #ShangeMagic project, BCRW, and the Movement Lab

A multimedia experience of words, sounds, and images from Ntozake Shange's works and influences built by Barnard College students, faculty, and staff

Shange Salon

February 10, 2020

Co-sponsored by the #ShangeMagic project, BCRW, and the Movement Lab



In All My Dreams: Exhibition and Book Event

February – March 2020

Organized by **Kaiama L. Glover**, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of French and Africana Studies, **Laurent Dubois**, Marcello Lotti Professor of Romance Studies and History and founder of the Forum for Scholars & Publics, Duke University, and **Tessa Mars**, artist, **Mafalda Mondestin**, artist, and **Nathalie Jolivert**, artist

KWELI: The Color of Children’s Literature Conference

April 3-4, 2020

Organized by *Kweli Journal*

Featuring **Debbie Reese**, **Jean Mendoza**, **Linda Sue Park**, **Vanessa Brantley-Newton**, **Kacen Callender**, **Roshani Chokshi**, **Michaela Goade**, **Raul the Third**, **Nikki Grimes**, **Adib Khorram**, **Minh Le**, **Nilah Bagrunder**, **Aida Salazar**, **Traci Sorell**, **Duncan Tonatiuh**, **Ibi Zoboi**, and others

INCITE 20th Anniversary Gathering

April 30, 2020

Angela Y. Davis, Professor Emerita, Political Science, University of California, Santa Cruz, **Beth E. Richie**, Professor of Department of African American Studies, Criminology, Law, and Justice, University of Illinois, Chicago, **Mimi Kim**, Assistant Professor of Social Work, **Nadine Naber**, Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies and Global Asian Studies, University of Illinois, Chicago, **Cara Page**, California State University, Long Beach, lead organizer/curator, *Changing Frequencies*, **Shana Griffin**, Associate Director, Antennae, and **Kiri Saliata**, Post-Doctoral Fellow, American Studies, Macalester College

Collaborations

Digital Humanities Summer Institute

Co-sponsorship
Summer 2019

Women and Work Research Group Reunion Meeting at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association

Co-sponsored by the *Barnard College Archives*
Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Graduate Seminar with Cherríe Moraga at the CUNY Graduate Center

September 13, 2019

Project NIA Community Accountability Institute

Friday, October 11, 2019





PROJECTS

Projects

BCRW at 50: A Genealogical Trip through the Barnard Archives

Eve Marie Kausch '18, BCRW Post-Baccalaureate Fellow and
Alex Volgyesi '22, BCRW Research Assistant

BCRW is collaborating with the Barnard Archives and Special Collections to trace the genealogies of the contemporary issues in intersectional, social justice feminism that animate the work of BCRW today. The project will culminate in an online exhibit that will launch in spring 2021 as the opening event in a series of celebrations of BCRW's fiftieth anniversary.

Changing the Narrative: A Public Housing Project

Pamela Phillips, Senior Program Assistant, BCRW

In 2016, BCRW launched the **Poverty and Housing Working Group** and, within it, the resident centered, place-based community engagement project, **Changing the Narrative**.

Dyane Harvey performing in "PURPLE: Things Take Time," a dance co-created with Sydnie L. Mosley. Photograph by Scott Shaw.



In 2019–2020, BCRW worked with other activists and community organizations to create a comprehensive timeline of public housing for archival documentation and to be used as an anchor for discussion in participatory workshops. Participants will be able to examine the ways that policy and community responses have shaped the public housing narrative, from the formation of the program in the 1930s, to the present trend toward privatization.

Allegra Romita and Brittany Grier performing in "PURPLE: Duets of Care," a dance co-created with Sydnie L. Mosley. Photograph by Jules Slutsky.



Working with the Digital Humanities Center at Barnard College, Phillips is building a website to archive public housing interviews and other digital materials produced by the project. Phillips presented Changing the Narrative in **Gendered Controversies: Women's Bodies and Global Conflicts**, a seminar at Barnard College.

In collaboration with public housing residents, **Sydney Mosley Dances**, and Lincoln Center Education, Phillips organized the Collaborative Oral Testimony Project, which was held at Lincoln Center on June 19, 2019.

This project has been developed in collaboration with **Ariana Faye Allensworth**, artist-in-resident at the Laundromat Project, **Assamese Diaby**, an organizer with the Black Youth Project, and **Krystal Portalatin**, co-founder of FIERCE!

Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action

Organized by **Mariame Kaba** and **Andrea J. Ritchie**, Researchers-in-Residence, BCRW Social Justice Initiative

Participants: **Woods Ervin**, **Eva Nagao**

Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action is an initiative launched in fall 2018 through the BCRW Social Justice Institute. The project aims to interrupt and end the growing criminalization and incarceration of women and LGBTQ people of color for criminalized acts related to public order, poverty, child welfare, drug use, survival and self-defense, including criminalization and incarceration of survivors of violence. This project combines participatory research, data analysis, and systemic advocacy toward local campaigns and grassroots organizing efforts. You can learn more about the initiative at interruptingcriminalization.com or by following @interruptcrim on Twitter and Instagram.

Graphic by Emily Simons



Interrupting Criminalization in the Media

Police Accountability, *Justice in America Podcast*

Interview with Mariame Kaba
February 26, 2020

We Need a People's Bailout to Confront Coronavirus, *Intercepted Podcast*

Interview with Mariame Kaba
March 19, 2020

Black Communities Need Support, Not a Coronavirus Police State, *Vice*

By Andrea Ritchie and Robyn Maynard
April 9, 2020

What is Prison Abolition? How Would it work? *GQ*

Interview with Woods Ervin
April 27, 2020

Police Abolition, *Call Your Girlfriend Podcast*

Featuring Mariame Kaba
June 5, 2020

Calls to Reform, Defund, Dismantle, Abolish Police Explained, *NBC News*

Ben Kessler
June 8, 2020

Yes, We Mean Literally Abolish the Police, *The New York Times Op-Ed*

by Mariame Kaba
June 15, 2020

Join the Abolitionist Movement with Mariame Kaba, *Rebel Steps Podcast*

Interview with Mariame Kaba
June 24, 2020

Author: Black Women's Experiences with Police Brutality Must Be 'Invisible No More', *NPR*

Interview with Andrea Ritchie
July 16, 2020

We Want More Justice For Breonna Taylor Than The System That Killed Her Can Deliver, *Essence*

by Mariame Kaba and Andrea J. Ritchie
July 16, 2020

In Calling to Defund Police, Don't Fixate on Costs of Police Settlements, *Truthout*

By Andrea Ritchie and Maurice BP-Weeks

Virgin Islands Studies Collective (VISCO)

The Virgin Island Study Collective (VISCO) is a working group of academics, artists, and activists who are committed to centering the Virgin Islands as a site of inquiry and theorization.

Tami Navarro, BCRW Associate Director, **LaVaughn Belle**, SJI Artist-in-Residence, **Tiphonie Yanique**, Associate Professor, English and Creative Writing, Emory University, and **Hadiya Sewer**, Research Fellow, African and African American Studies, Stanford University

VISCO presented on the Danish and American colonial occupation of the US Virgin Islands at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture through the Lapidus Center in October 2019.

Members co-authored "Reflections on the Prison Records of the Rebel Queens of the 1878 Fireburn in St. Croix, USVI (formerly the Danish West Indies)," an article published in "Archives that Matter," a special issue of the Danish journal, *Nordisk Tidsskrift for Informationsvidenskab og Kulturformidling* (February 25, 2020).

VISCO members Tiphonie Yanique, LaVaughn Belle, Tami Navarro, Hadiya Sewer, with Cynthia Oliver, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation--University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



Radical Thinking in Religious Contexts: Medieval Women on Self-Knowledge, Truth and Nature

Christia Mercer, Gustave M. Berne Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for New Narratives in Philosophy, Columbia University, **Elizabeth Castelli**, BCRW Director and Professor of Religion, Barnard College, and **Clémence Boulouque**, Carl and Bernice Witten Assistant Professor of Religion, Columbia University

This project is part of a broader collective effort to rewrite the history of philosophy and expand the canon—not merely adding women’s intellectual work to the mix, but expanding and transforming the frameworks for understanding the history of philosophical inquiry itself. Though primarily a historical project, “Radical Thinking in Religious Contexts” also contributes to contemporary discussions of the role that religious ideas, practices, and communities can create spaces in which epistemic and social justice can arise.

The Project hosted a conference in February 2020 at Columbia, *Seeking Authority: Women, Genre, and Philosophical Reflection in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*.

This project is supported by a research grant from the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia for 2019-2020. BCRW serves as an institutional co-sponsor.

PUBLICATIONS



Image from *Unraveling Criminalizing Webs: Building Police-Free Futures*, ed. Andrea J. Ritchie and Levi Craske BC '18

The Scholar and Feminist Online

The Scholar and Feminist Online is BCRW's signature peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal edited by **Tami Navarro**, BCRW Associate Director. *S&F Online* publishes 2-3 issues per year. The issues are thematic, guest edited, and used widely, nationally and internationally, by scholars, activists, and teachers incorporating intersectional, social justice feminist scholarship into their work.

Issue 15.3: Unraveling Criminalizing Webs: Building Police-Free Futures, ed. Andrea J. Ritchie and Levi Craske BC '18

With contributors LeeAnn Adkins, Mizue Aizeki, Gabriel Arkles, Erin Miles Cloud, Ejeris Dixon, Jeanne Flavin, Cassandra Frederique, LaLa Holston-Zanell, Chaumtoli Huq, Simone John, Mariame Kaba, Joo-Hyun Kang, Alexis Yeboah-Kodie, Robyn Maynard, Meryleen Mena, Kate Mogulescu, Victoria Law, Dinah Ortiz, Cara Page, Lynn Paltrow, Dorothy Roberts, Dean Spade, and K.B. White

This issue of S&F Online invited us to contemplate the question: If not police, then what? How must our everyday conversations, celebrations, and community creations lead us on a path toward transformative approaches to safety and healing?

Tackling "broken windows" policing, the war on drugs, immigration enforcement, policing of gender, sexuality, pregnancy and parenthood, and police responses to gender-based violence through the lens of women, trans and gender nonconforming people's experiences, through first person narratives, poetry, essays, and video clips from the conference, contributors come together to issue a clarion call for dismantling criminalizing webs and working toward police free futures where ongoing police killings and violence targeting Black women, trans and gender nonconforming people and women would not be possible.

"Unraveling Criminalizing Webs: Building Police Free Futures" brings together contributions from speakers who presented their work during BCRW's 2017 conference, *Invisible No More: Resisting Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color in Troubled Times*, which explored and built on themes from BCRW Researcher-in-Residence Andrea J. Ritchie's book *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color* (Beacon 2017).

Issue 16.1: Caribbean Feminisms: Interventions in Scholarship, Art, and Activism Across the Region, ed. Tami Navarro and Tonya Haynes

With contributors Andaiye, Kaiama L. Glover, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Tonya Haynes, Gabrielle Jamela Hosein, Kelly Baker Josephs, Kamala Kempadoo, Tami Navarro, Debra Providence, Shivane Ramlochan, Alissa Trotz, and Tiphonie Yanique

This issue of Scholar and Feminist Online, "Caribbean Feminisms: Interventions in Scholarship, Art, and Activism across the Region," edited by Tonya Haynes and Tami Navarro, offers multiple ways to engage with feminist thought and action in the Caribbean through prose, poetry, and personal reflection by artists, academics, and activists.

This issue extends the offerings of the Barnard Center for Research on Women literary series "Caribbean Feminisms on the Page," which began in 2015 and pairs Caribbean authors in conversation, and features a selection of videos from the series. It also includes poetry and powerful imagery related to the region. This issue engages deeply with both foundational and emergent Caribbean scholarship, and has been shaped by loss – in particular the recent passing of several important Caribbean feminist thinkers, among them Michelle Cliff and Andaiye. To mark that loss and honor their memories, this issue features their original work and reflections on it from scholars and artists.

"Virulence is not a Virtue" by Simone Asia



Zine

Open Letter to the Anti-Rape Movement

Created by Mariame Kaba, designed by Hope Dector

I first read the "Letter to the Anti-Rape Movement" from Santa Cruz Women Against Rape in the mid-1990s. It was a balm. I was already becoming disenchanted with the funded anti gender-based violence field. The survivors I was working with consistently rejected what we were offering, which were mainly legal solutions. That open letter sent me down a rabbit hole to learn more about the actual history of anti-rape and anti-domestic violence organizing. I learned that at every point in history ideas were contested. One side won and others lost. History did not play out as a series of waves but rather as contests and fights.

Currently in this #MeToo moment, there is a renewed interest in sexual violence by some members of the public. I welcome the interest. It's important however to learn from the past and to avoid past mistakes. We will not end rape through criminalization. The women of Santa Cruz Women Against Rape warned us of this in 1977. I wanted to make this zine to introduce the open letter to a new generation of activists, organizers, and workers who may not yet have encountered it. I invite everyone who encounters this publication to read the letter and discuss it with your communities. What resonates with you about the letter? What is surprising to you? What is still relevant today? What feels dated to you? If you were to write an open letter to the anti-rape movement today, what would you say?

- Mariame Kaba

View the zine online at

issuu.com/projectnia/docs/letter-to-the-antirape-movement



Video Productions

Building Accountable Communities:

The *Building Accountable Communities* video series is an ongoing project led by BCRW Creative Director Hope Dector. This year, BCRW released a series of nine original videos about community accountability and transformative justice. These videos are part of the **Building Accountable Communities Project**, created with **Mariame Kaba** and **Project NIA** to promote non-punitive responses to harm by developing resources for transformative justice practitioners and organizing convenings and workshops that educate the public. The videos feature people with years of experience facilitating transformative, restorative, and community accountability processes between survivors of harm and people who have done harm, who share their wisdom.

In the Series:

What is Transformative Justice?

What Does Justice Look Like for Survivors?

Centering the Needs of Survivors (Parts 1 & 2)

Intersections of Disability Justice and Transformative Justice

What are Obstacles to Accountability?

How to Support Harm Doers in Being Accountable

How Shame can Block Accountability

Consent is Accountability



WHAT IS
TRANSFORMATIVE
JUSTICE?

Videos in the **Building Accountable Communities** series were featured in the **Envisioning Justice Exhibition** at the Sullivan Galleries, School of the Art Institute of Chicago on August 6 - October 12, 2019. This event was sponsored by Illinois Humanities.

Footage from the series was also shown on *The Laura Flanders Show*, on the episode "Mutual Aid Justice: Beyond Survival," which aired on April 7, 2020.

The series was also featured in "How Shame Blocks Accountability," an article in *Yes! Magazine* by Ayu Sutriasa, published on July 29, 2020.

BCRW's ever-expanding body of video work can be viewed on the Center's website at bcrw.barnard.edu/videos.

Podcast

Writing Home: American Voices from the Caribbean

BCRW has partnered with the Digital Humanities Center and the Barnard Library to produce the podcast, **Writing Home: American Voices from the Caribbean**. BCRW Associate Director **Tami Navarro** and DHC Director **Kaiama L. Glover** host this podcast, featuring conversations with authors and cultural producers about their work and lives. The series launched in August 2020 with four episodes featuring interviews with **Naomi Jackson**, **Alexis Pauline Gumbs BC '04**, and **Staceyann Chin**.



The creative team producing this podcast includes **Miriam Neptune**, Director of Teaching, Learning and Digital Scholarship, Interim Co-Dean of the Library, and **Rachel James**, Associate Director, IMATS.



PRISON IS NOT FEMINIST

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The Social Justice Initiative was formed in 2016 and marked a new formation in BCRW's scholar-activist collaborations in New York City and beyond. Through the initiative, BCRW has been able to provide multi-year support in the form of fellowship funding, fiscal sponsorship, research and material support to visionary feminist activists, artists, and thinkers.

About the Social Justice Initiative Residents



La Vaughn Belle
Artist-in-Residence

La Vaughn Belle makes visible the unremembered. Borrowing from elements of architecture, history and archeology Belle creates narratives that challenge colonial hierarchies and invisibility. Belle explores the material culture of coloniality and her work presents countervisualities and narratives. Working in a variety of disciplines her practice includes: painting, installation, photography, writing, video and public interventions. Her work with colonial era pottery led to a commission with the renowned brand of porcelain products, the Royal Copenhagen. She has exhibited her work in the Caribbean, the USA and Europe in institutions such as the Museo del Barrio (NY), Casa de las Americas (Cuba), the Museum of the African Diaspora (CA) and Christiansborg Palace (DK). Her art is in the collections of the National Photography Museum and the Vestsjælland Museum in Denmark.

She is the co-creator of "I Am Queen Mary," the artist-led groundbreaking monument that confronted the Danish colonial amnesia while commemorating the legacies of resistance of the African people who were brought to the former Danish West Indies. The project was featured in over 100 media outlets around the world including *The New York Times*, *Politiken*, *VICE*, *the BBC*, and *Le Monde*.

Belle holds an MFA from the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba and an MA and BA from Columbia University in New York. She was a finalist for the She Built NYC project to develop a monument to memorialize the legacy of Shirley Chisholm and for the Inequality in Bronze project in Philadelphia to redesign one of the first monuments to an enslaved woman at the Stenton historic house museum. As a 2018-2020 fellow at the Social Justice Institute at the Barnard Center for Research on Women, she worked on a project about the 'citizenless' Virgin Islanders in the Harlem Renaissance. Her studio is based in the Virgin Islands.



Mariame Kaba

Researcher-in-Residence

Mariame Kaba is an organizer, educator and curator who is active in movements for racial, gender, and transformative justice. She is the founder and director of Project NIA, a grassroots organization with a vision to end youth incarceration. She has co-founded multiple organizations and projects over the years including We Charge Genocide, the Chicago Freedom School, the Chicago Taskforce on Violence against Girls and Young Women, Love & Protect and most recently Survived & Punished. Mariame is also a co-organizer of the Just Practice Collaborative, a training and mentoring group focused on sustaining a community of practitioners that provide community-based accountability and support structures for all parties involved with incidents and patterns of sexual, domestic, relationship, and intimate community violence. She is on the advisory boards of the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, Critical Resistance and the Chicago Community Bond Fund. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications including *The Nation Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *In These Times*, *Teen Vogue*, *The New Inquiry* and more. She runs *Prison Culture* blog. Mariame's work has been recognized with several honors and awards.

Kaba was a Researcher-in-Residence through the BCRW Social Justice Initiative from 2018-2020, where she worked with Andrea J. Ritchie, fellow Researcher-in-Residence, on a new initiative called Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action. BCRW is delighted to continue hosting this work, which is supported by generous foundation funding.



CeCe McDonald

Activist-in-Residence

CeCe McDonald is an artist and activist committed to dismantling the prison-industrial complex and winning the liberation of all oppressed people. These issues are central to McDonald's experience as a black trans woman and survivor of racist and transphobic violence, and the compounding violence of incarceration. These experiences have inspired her vision for freedom.

In September 2019, McDonald was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship. The highly competitive Soros Fellowship program is supported by the Open Society Foundations and provides living expenses and project-related funding for activists working to advance social justice.

Over the last two years, McDonald has been working on scaling up her work to develop a grassroots education curriculum called "More Than Cisters: Building a Trans Queer Feminist Perspective." This curriculum focuses on building community support and power for trans women, particularly trans women of color, in cultural, activist, and community projects, and building solidarity between and among trans, queer, gender-nonconforming, and cis people in the project of feminist liberation.

McDonald's approach builds on established models of consciousness-raising and the use of culture for the transmission of political knowledge. Since becoming a BCRW Activist-in-Residence in 2018, she has begun implementing these courses with small groups of activists in key Midwestern cities, including Minneapolis-St. Paul. As a Soros Fellow, she will expand these gatherings to Chicago; Green Bay, Madison, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and elsewhere. McDonald focuses on the Midwest because it is often overlooked by projects of this nature. Prioritizing small-scale and face-to-face engagement, McDonald's project recognizes the centrality of relationship building and mutual exchanges for building and sustaining community power.

McDonald has been invited to speak on her experiences with incarceration, her political education in prison and in freedom, and her approach to building liberation movements at colleges and universities, including Barnard College, Columbia University, Macalester College, The New School, UC Berkeley, and UCLA. Her story — surviving a racist and transphobic attack, being sentenced to prison, and connecting with activists across prison walls — became the subject of the documentary *Free CeCe*, produced by Laverne Cox, which continues to screen nationally and internationally.



Cara Page

Cara Page is a Black Queer Feminist cultural/memory worker, curator, and organizer. For the past thirty-plus years, she has organized with LGBTQGNCI, People of Color, and Indigenous liberation movements in the US & Global South at the intersections of racial, gender, and economic justice, healing justice and transformative justice. She is co-founder of the Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective; and the former ED of The Audre Lorde Project. She continues to work with many organizations nationally and internationally, including Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Project South, INCITE!, the Young Women's Empowerment Project, and the Committee on Women, Population and the Environment. Page has been working in affiliation with BCRW since her role as an Activist-in-Residence from 2016-2018, and continues her affiliation through the Social Justice Initiative.

In September 2019, Page was awarded a Soros Equality Fellowship. The highly competitive Soros Fellowship program is supported by the Open Society Foundations and provides living expenses and project-related funding for activists working to advance social justice.

Her current project, *Changing Frequencies*, an archival, memory, and cultural change project that intervenes on the generational trauma caused by the medical industrial complex. Among the features of *Changing Frequencies* is a digital timeline of the medical-industrial complex, designed with co-curators, Anjali Taneja and Susan Raffo. This timeline documents historical and contemporary medical abuses and their ideological roots in the U.S. medical system, including scientific testing, experimentation, medical exploitation, and the genetic policing and surveillance of black people, people of color, indigenous people, queer and trans people, women, and working-class people. The timeline also focuses on resistance, highlighting community struggles and interventions. The timeline has been shared in webinars and community gatherings to transform the medical-industrial complex.

Page also continues work building community care and safety strategies within global movements, which she began at the US Social Forum in Atlanta in 2007; and at the Health & Healing Justice People's Movement Assembly at the US Social Forum in Detroit in 2010. She is one of the architects of the healing justice political strategy which is deeply rooted in Black Feminist traditions and shaped by Southern Black radical traditions.

Page's work was recently featured in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, on *Good Morning America* with *ABC News*, and by the Minnesota Museum of American Art.



Andrea J. Ritchie

Andrea J. Ritchie is a Black lesbian immigrant police misconduct attorney whose writing, litigation, organizing and advocacy has focused on policing and criminalization of women and LGBT people of color for the past two decades. She is currently Researcher in Residence on Race, Gender, Sexuality and Criminalization at the Barnard Center for Research on Women, where she recently launched the Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action initiative. She is the author of *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color* (Beacon Press 2017), "Say Her Name: What it Means to Center Black Women's Experiences of Police Violence" in *Who Do You Serve? Who Do You Protect?: Police Violence and Resistance in the United States* (Haymarket Press 2016), and "Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color," in *The Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology* (South End Press 2006); co-author of *Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women* (AAPF 2015); and *Queer (In)Justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States* (Beacon Press 2011), and has published numerous articles, policy reports and research studies. As a member of the national collective of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence from 2003 – 2008, she served on the editorial collective for the *Color of Violence Anthology*, and coordinated the development of the *INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence Organizer's Toolkit on Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color and Transgender People of Color*.

She is a nationally recognized expert and sought after commentator on policing issues, and works with groups across the country to support campaigns to end profiling, police violence criminalization, mass incarceration, and deportation. She has testified before the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, the White House Council on Women and Girls, the Prison Rape Elimination Commission, and a number of United Nations treaty bodies. She is a member of the Movement for Black Lives Policy Table, and was a founding member of the Steering Committee of New York City's Communities United for Police Reform, a city-wide campaign to challenge discriminatory, unlawful and abusive policing practices in New York City led by grassroots community groups, legal organizations, policy advocates and researchers from all five boroughs. She was appointed to the New York City Council Young Women's Initiative in 2015, where she co-chaired the Anti-Violence and Criminalization Working Group. She was a 2014 Senior Soros Justice fellow, a founder of the National LGBT HIV Criminal Justice Working Group and chair of its policing subgroup. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the Invisible Institute. Her articles and opinion pieces have been published in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Teen Vogue*, *Essence*, *The Guardian*, *The Root*, *The Lily*, *Rewire*, *Think Progress*, and *TruthOUT*, and she regularly appears in national media outlets, including *HBO*, *BET*, *MSNBC*, and *NPR*.



NEWS

'I Am Queen Mary': Original Sculpture on Long-Term Loan to Barnard College

'I Am Queen Mary,' a human-scale monument memorializing resistance to Danish colonialism in the Caribbean, was installed at Barnard College on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. The sculpture is part of a transnational collaboration between artists **La Vaughn Belle** and **Jeannette Ehlers** sparking necessary dialogues about public art, representations of black women, and the impacts of colonialism and slavery. Belle, originally from the U.S. Virgin Islands, was a 2018-2020 BCRW Artist-in-Residence. Ehlers is based in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The sculpture features an allegorical representation of Mary Thomas, one of four women who, on October 1, 1878, led the largest labor revolt in Danish colonial history. Dubbed "Fireburn," the rebellion involved burning most of the western town of Frederiksted in St. Croix, as well as sugarcane mills and fields on more than 50 of St. Croix's plantations. The revolt was a protest against the contractual servitude that continued to bind workers to the plantation system and enabled the continuation of abusive and violent working conditions thirty years after slavery had been abolished in the Danish West Indies.

Artists La Vaughn Belle and Jeannette Ehlers with "I Am Queen Mary" statue outside the West Indian Warehouse in Copenhagen at an event marking the 100th anniversary of the sale and transfer of the Danish West Indies, now known as the U.S. Virgin Islands, from Denmark to the United States, on March 31, 2018.

Although abusive working conditions continued after the revolt, it is remembered as a powerful statement about workers' dignity and protest. Thomas and the three other resistance leaders, Axeline "Agnes" Elizabeth Salomon, Matilde McBean, and Susanna "Bottom Belly" Abrahamsson, are revered in U.S. Virgin Islands cultural mythology



as the Queens of the Fireburn. Folk songs were dedicated to Queen Mary, and a highway was named in her honor. "Queen Mary" was not a posthumous title created by the artists but, according to Belle, "the title bestowed upon her by the people for her leadership."

The sculpture's base is composed of coral stones excavated from Belle's property in Christiansted, St. Croix, and encased in plexiglass. Originally harvested from the ocean by enslaved Africans, such stones form the foundations of most colonial-era buildings and, in a metaphorical sense, the foundations of colonial wealth. Reconstructed as a plinth, the stones draw attention to the people whose lives and labor were systematically erased, as well as the hidden inner workings of colonization, making visible the colonial extraction and the colonizer's debts to those who perished, survived, and resisted.

"I Am Queen Mary" also makes symbolic references to histories of black resistance in modern history and their representations in culture. Mary Thomas' pose, seated in a chair and holding a cane bill in one hand and a flaming torch in the other, mirrors a famous photograph of Black Panther Party leader Huey P. Newton seated in a chair with a shotgun and a spear. The title of the work makes reference to the clarion call "I AM A MAN," printed on protest placards in the infamous 1968 sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee, and recalls Spike Lee's 1992 film *Malcolm X*, which ends with children around the world chanting, "I am Malcolm X." The statue's location, Barnard Hall, was also the location of Malcolm X's final speech, "The Black Revolution and its Effect upon the Negro of the Western Hemisphere," on February 18, 1965, three days before his assassination.

The "I Am Queen Mary" installation at Barnard is a scaled-down iteration of the original 23-foot monument, which debuted March 31, 2018, in front of the West Indian Warehouse in Copenhagen to mark the 100th anniversary of the sale and transfer of the Danish West Indies, now known as the U.S. Virgin Islands, from Denmark to the United States.

The Barnard community welcomed the sculpture in a brief ceremony on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 attended by co-creator La Vaughn Belle and Lisa Kim '96, director of the Ford Foundation Gallery.

The project has received international press coverage since its unveiling, including features in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *VICE*, and *Le Monde*, and on the *BBC World News*. On long-term loan to the College, the statue comes to Barnard courtesy of the artists and the Ford Foundation, which first commissioned and displayed the piece as part of the Radical Love exhibition at the Ford Foundation Gallery in summer 2019.

Salacia, original film by Tourmaline, acquired by MoMA

Salacia, an original 16 millimeter short film written and directed by Tourmaline, Activist-in-Residence at BCRW from 2014–2018, starring Rowin Amone, and produced by Hope Dector, Creative Director at BCRW, and Nina MacIntosh, was acquired by MoMA for their permanent collection.

Salacia tells the story of a day in the life of Mary Jones (born in 1803), a black trans sex worker and outlaw in New York City in 1836. The film takes place in Seneca Village, a free Black land-owning community and underground railroad stop in Upper Manhattan, which was destroyed to build Central Park. A refuge for Black people and a threat to the white political establishment, Seneca Village existed from 1825 until 1857, when residents were forced out and displaced. Jones lived, worked, survived, and dreamed in the face of brutally enforced anti-Black racism and transphobia, and yet, as Tourmaline says, she made “a wayward way out of no way.”

Film still from “Salacia,” an original film directed by Tourmaline.



Salacia screened on the High Line in the spring/summer of 2019 and at the Brooklyn Museum as part of the exhibit Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years after Stonewall, from May–December 2019. The film was co-commissioned by the Brooklyn Museum and High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

Additional production credits:

Directed, written, and produced by Tourmaline; executive produced by Keanu Reeves; produced by BCRW Creative Director Hope Dector and Nina Macintosh. With production support from BCRW Research Assistants Asha Futterman, Em Chu Ying He, Sophie Kreitzberg, Emily Reed, and David Sierra, and administrative support from BCRW Senior Programs Assistant Pamela Phillips. This project received additional material, development, and administrative support from the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

CO-SPONSORS

Thank you to our many generous co-sponsors.

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Since 1971, BCRW has brought together scholars and activists, artists, and cultural workers committed to intersectional feminist analysis and transformative social change.

From the beginning, our work has been supported by generous contributions from individuals, organizations, college and university sponsors, and foundations committed to intersectional feminist social change.

Join us today in celebrating the last fifty years, and supporting BCRW's future.

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