CONTENTS

From Our Director 2
Mission 4
A Quick Look at 2020–2021 5
BCRW Programs 6
Co-Sponsored Programs 20
Multimedia Publications 31
Projects 37
News 50
Staff 53
Support 55
When I sat down to write the 2019–20 Director’s Letter not quite a year ago, we had only two or three months earlier begun to experience the world-changing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Barnard’s campus emptied out, businesses were shuttered, theatres and museums and arts spaces and community organizations closed their doors to stem the spread of the virus. As the weeks and months unfolded after that initial systemic shock, we witnessed the pandemic exacerbate existing inequities in our society to deadly effects. Hospitalizations and deaths grew at an incomprehensible rate, while the burden of serious illness and mortality fell disproportionately on Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities; and the economic, social, and psychic burdens of stay-at-home orders weighed most heavily on women—across economic classes but especially working-class women and essential workers, women of color, parents of young children, and caregivers in families. The pandemic intensified the precarity of many elders, incarcerated people, unhoused members of our communities, and migrants and undocumented people. As many experienced losses in the extreme, deaths of family members, friends, and members of extended communities, we also felt the losses of daily life, in-person interactions, ritual, communal, and casual experiences. We pivoted. We sought to embody resilience. And still, I feel compelled to acknowledge the profundity of what the pandemic has extracted from us all.

As the COVID pandemic continues to devastate the world, so too does the relentless violence of racism and capitalist brutality. The murders of Black people at the hands of police, the surge of anti-Asian hate violence, recurring white supremacist mass shootings, the government’s deadly neglect in responding to the pandemic, and attacks on democratic institutions grounded in long legacies of authoritarianism and Jim Crow politics all coalesce into a situation of deep crisis for our society.

Everything we did at BCRW during the 2020–21 academic year sought to respond to the current situation by engaging the intellectual, political, and creative work of scholars, activists, and artists whose interventions and contributions help us analyze and critique what is, while imagining what could be. From book talks and teach-ins to artists’ talks and musical performances and academic exchanges, from The Scholar & Feminist Online scholarly journal to videos featuring activists thinking through transformative justice and mutual aid projects, from cosponsored events to ongoing collaborations across the College and the University, we remained committed to intersectional feminist analysis and solidarity with individuals and communities most affected by the stresses and injustices of our current society.
I am astonished by how much we had managed to accomplish while still working remotely, still separated by the protocols of pandemic living, still absorbing the shocks and losses of the last year and more. I continue to be grateful beyond words for everyone who works at BCRW, the professional staff and the student research assistants, as well as our many collaborators and partners at Barnard and Columbia and beyond. Without their creativity, commitment, and labor, none of this work could have happened.

What a year to celebrate it, and yet 2021 is BCRW’s 50th anniversary! Before the pandemic, we had planned a big in-person celebration of a half-century of the Center’s work. While such a celebration remains an aspiration, we close out this year with the launch of a digital exhibit of the Center’s first fifty years, a project led by Eve Marie Kausch (BC ’18), BCRW’s post-baccalaureate fellow from 2019 to 2021, and Alex Volgyesi (BC ’22), BCRW student research assistant. The exhibit has been the labor of many at BCRW, but special gratitude goes to Eve and Alex for their archival research, critical engagement, and production of the exhibit, which you can find on the BCRW website come fall 2021.

Special congratulations to Eve, whose post-baccalaureate fellowship came to an end this summer. In August, Eve will head west to begin a graduate program in Library and Information Sciences at the University of Washington, Seattle. Congratulations, Eve! And warmest welcome to our new post-baccalaureate fellow, Sophie Kreitzberg (BC ’19).

In more news of congratulations and farewells, Associate Director Tami Navarro leaves us this summer to begin a position as Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Drew University following a stint as Visiting Scholar at the University of the Virgin Islands for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are thrilled for her next chapter and will miss her dearly. We also look forward to celebrating the publication of her first book, *Virgin Capital: Race, Gender, and Financialization in the US Virgin Islands*, coming out in November from SUNY Press. Congratulations Tami!

Thank you for being part of BCRW’s extended community. We look forward to seeing you in person before too long.

With appreciation,

Elizabeth Castelli
BCRW Director and Professor of Religion, Barnard College
MISSION

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, our ephemera collection 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 2020–2021

Programming

BCRW programs: 12
Conferences: 1
Co-sponsored programs: 17

Publications and Video Productions

Scholar and Feminist Online: 3
Views: 170,931

Original video productions: 3
Video archives of events: 14
Views: 63,672

Online Engagement

Email list: 17,270
Email list: 23,000
Website views: 277,235
Twitter followers: 8,550
Facebook followers: 10,000
BCRW programs bring 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.

An archive of edited event recordings is available at bcrw.barnard.edu/videos.
Disability Accessibility

BCRW has gratefully received feedback from disabled community members and disability justice organizers on ways to improve the accessibility of our programming and resources. Online programming and archived videos now include ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation, live transcription, and edited captions.

For ASL interpretation, thank you to Marianne Brown and Felice Shays form All Hands in Motion; Brandon Kazen-Maddox, Carllee James, Gregorio Nieto, Nora-Joy Rodriguez, Kathleen Taylor, Jinah Lee W from Body Language Productions; and Tricia Vazquez and Gloshanda Lawyer.

For live transcription, thank you to Rebekah Coster, Cory Dostie, Joshua Edwards, Mirabai Knight, Katelynn Mory, Missy Smith, Becky VanAuken, Rivka Woonteiler from TotalCaption, and Sarah Nixon.

Thank you to the many community members and organizers who have offered us feedback and support.
The Sex Obsession: Perversity and Possibility in American Politics

October 1, 2020 | Video views: 8,800

Janet Jakobsen (Claire Tow Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College) in conversation with Sydnie Mosley (dancer), Ann Pellegrini (Professor of Performance Studies and Social and Cultural Analysis, NYU), Pamela Phillips (Senior Program Assistant, BCRW), Dean Spade (Associate Professor, Seattle University School of Law), and Tourmaline (filmmaker)

Janet R. Jakobsen’s new book, The Sex Obsession: Perversity and Possibility in American Politics (2020), is a study of the ways in which debates over religion and sexuality in American politics are embedded in a wide range of political struggles, including but not limited to those over secularism and religious freedom. Gender and sexuality are also in play in debates over healthcare, immigration, police violence and war, implicated in the politics of housing and the environment, and critical to struggles against racial capitalism. The Sex Obsession shows how sexual politics are part of kaleidoscopic shifts that are supposed to instantiate progress, even as very little actually changes. The progress narrative claims that democracy expands, but instead injustice remains intransigent. The book connects interdisciplinary scholarship to what Jakobsen learned from collaborative projects with activists, artists and other scholars during her time as director of BCRW. These collaborations and continuing projects like them provide inspiration for utopian possibilities even in these dangerous and melancholy times. Reimagining perversity and possibility can animate action on behalf of a world that might be otherwise.
This virtual event celebrated the publication of *The Sex Obsession* through discussions with some of the many collaborative partners who contributed so much to the book, led off by Ann Pellegrini on religion, secularism and religious freedom; Pamela Phillips, on the Poverty and Public Housing Working group at BCRW; an excerpt from Sydnie L. Mosley Dances’ “Purple”; and a preview of a new series, “Continuing Conversations,” beginning with Tourmaline and Dean Spade.

Cosponsored by Center for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies, the Department of Africana Studies, and the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Barnard College; and Consortium of Studies in Race, Migration, and Sexuality, Dartmouth College

**Transformative Justice in the Era of #DefundPolice: Lessons from the Past, Strategizing for the Future**

October 21, 2020  |  Video views: 3,500

A conversation with Shira Hassan (consultant and coach, Just Practice) and Mimi Kim (Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at California State University Long Beach)

Ongoing worldwide protests against police violence vividly demonstrate the growing demand to end policing and develop real strategies for keeping people and communities safe. Longtime anti-violence organizers and transformative justice practitioners Shira Hassan and Mimi Kim joined us for a conversation about the history and development of transformative justice, its importance in current movements towards liberation, and everyday practices.

This conversation was part of the Building Accountable Communities series developed in collaboration with Project NIA and BCRW Researcher-in-Residence Mariame Kaba. Three short videos were produced ahead of the event as points of entry for the conversation. Videos may be accessed at bcrw.barnard.edu/videos
We Keep Each Other Safe: Mutual Aid for Survival and Solidarity
November 12, 2020 | Video views: 12,000
A conversation with Ejeris Dixon (Founding Director, Vision Change Win Consulting), Mariame Kaba (Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW), and Dean Spade (Associate Professor, Seattle University School of Law)

“Being more engaged with the complex and painful realities we face, and with thoughtful, committed action alongside others for justice, feels much better than numbing out or making token, self-consoling charity gestures. It feels good to let our values guide every part of our lives.” —Dean Spade

In 2020, Dean Spade published, Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During this Crisis (and the Next) offering a theoretical understanding of mutual aid and practical tools for sustaining this crucial movement work. The book reminds readers that mutual aid has been central to powerful social movements, from the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the 1950s, to the Black Panther Party’s survival programs in the 60s and 70s, to the Occupy encampments in 2011 and onward.

Spade was joined by anti-violence organizers Mariame Kaba and Ejeris Dixon to discuss the necessity of mutual aid in our times, making a case for how and why to frame it as an abolitionist project. How does mutual aid relate to transformative justice and other anti-violence frameworks and practices? How can mutual aid help us to reimagine responding to harm and violence without relying on police? Why is mutual aid key to practicing abolition? The speakers called for a commitment and recommitment to mutual aid practices as we proceed through our time of endless wars and occupations, intensifying poverty, growing racial wealth divides, a global pandemic, disasters of climate crisis, and migrations that arise from many of these forces, met by border violence.

Taking Children: A History of American Terror
December 1, 2020 | Video views: 1,000 views
A conversation with Laura Briggs (Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Dina Francesca Haynes (Professor of Law at New England Law, Boston), Valeria Luiselli (novelist, author of Lost Children Archive)

This event brought together historian Laura Briggs in conversation with novelist Valeria Luiselli and law professor Dina Francesca Haynes. The three panelists addressed the long history of policies of family separation in light of the current anti-migrant federal policy on the southern border of the United States. They highlighted modes of organizing and resistance to such policies—through activism, legal strategies, storytelling and culture-making, and mutual aid.

**Teach-in: Money Handling and Taxes for Mutual Aid Groups**
February 9, 2021 | Video views: 2,400 views  
Mike Haber (Professor, Hofstra Law School) and Dean Spade (Associate Professor, Seattle University School of Law)

New mutual aid groups have emerged in powerful numbers since the Coronavirus pandemic swept the globe. Many in these groups were facing critical nuts and bolts questions: How has your group been funnelling money to people in need, and what are the tax consequences? How should we store money we raise? Do we need to consider incorporating, having a fiscal
sponsor, or becoming a non-profit? What are the costs and benefits of each potential approach? What should we do now if we didn’t think about this in 2020 and now one of our members got a big tax bill because they took in all the money through their personal Venmo or Paypal account? What should mutual aid groups know about banking? Dean Spade and Mike Haber hosted a webinar to offer practical advice for mutual aid groups continuing this vital work.

Mike Haber is the author of *Legal Issues in Mutual Aid Operations: A Preliminary Guide* (2020). Dean Spade is the author of *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During this Crisis (and the Next)* (2020).

**Transformative Justice in the Apocalypse: Beyond Survival One Year Later**
March 11, 2021 | Video views: 1,900

Ejeris Dixon (Founding Director, Vision Change Win Consulting), Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha (artist, Sins Invalid, author, *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*), RJ Maccani (teacher, generative somatics, Assistant Director of Intervention, Common Justice in Brooklyn), India Harris (Director of Programs, Audre Lorde Project), YaliniDream (Consultant, Vision Change Win), and Woods Ervin (member, Critical Resistance), moderated by Kenyon Farrow (Co-Executive Director, Partners for Dignity and Rights)

The year following the publication of *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement* saw tremendous abolitionist resistance in the midst of a global pandemic and untold crises.

*Beyond Survival* editors, artists and organizers Ejeris Dixon and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, were joined by New York–based contributors Woods Ervin, RJ Maccani, YaliniDream, and India Harris for a “fireside chat” moderated by Kenyon Farrow to reflect on the types of work needed in this moment of transformative justice and abolitionist movement. Drawing on decades of experience, they shared tools for holding transformative justice processes; intersections between violence, accountability, patriarchy, and harm; and how to build community safety in order to address violence, overdoses, and medical emergencies within an abolitionist framework.
“Prisons Make Us Safer”: And 20 Other Myths About Mass Incarceration
May 4, 2021 | Video views: 1,432
Victoria Law (writer and activist) and Andrea J. Ritchie (Researcher-in-Residence, BCRW)

“Prisons Make Us Safer”: And 20 Other Myths About Mass Incarceration (April 2021) is the newest publication by journalist and activist Victoria Law. The book offers a synthesis of the massive problem of prisons and policing by tracing the rise and cause of mass incarceration, myths about incarceration, misconceptions about incarcerated people, and steps to end mass incarceration on the way to abolition.

Through carefully conducted research and interviews with incarcerated people, Law identifies the twenty key myths that propel and maintain mass incarceration, including: the system is broken and we simply need some reforms to fix it; incarceration is necessary to keep our society safe; prison is an effective way to get people into drug treatment; private prison corporations drive mass incarceration; mass incarceration only affects Black cisgender men; and bringing up a history of abuse and violence is simply an “abuse excuse.”

Victoria Law was joined in conversation by researcher, legal scholar, and activist Andrea J. Ritchie, codirector of the Interrupting Criminalization project hosted at BCRW.
46th Annual Scholar & Feminist Conference

Art & Political Imagination
March - April, 2021 | Streaming online at bcrw.barnard.edu

Monday, 3/15
Screening by Filmmaker Cauleen Smith in conversation with Tina Campt

Thursday, 3/18
Nicole Fleetwood on Visions of Abolition: Black Women’s Fight to End Mass Incarceration

Thursday, 4/1
“And what shall we do, we who did not die?” A Reckoning with June Jordan

Asha Futterman, Conor Tomas Reed, Talia Shalev, Evie Shockley, & Mecca Jamilah Sullivan

Monday, 4/5
Artists Scherezade Garcia & Nadir Souirgi in conversation with Kaiama Glover

Friday, 4/16
Livestreamed concert by Rhiannon Giddens

Details at bcrw.barnard.edu/events

All events are free and open to the public. Streamed online with live transcription and ASL interpretation.
Questions? Email ekausch@barnard.edu
The 46th Annual Scholar and Feminist Conference: Art and Political Imagination

The 46th annual Scholar and Feminist Conference: Art and Political Imagination presented a series of film screenings, conversations with artists and curators, a poetry and prose reading, and a live music performance to explore urgent questions about political tyranny, geopolitical crises, modes of freedom, and mutuality in artistic creation.

Why now? Living through a global pandemic, our communities endured disruption, fear, incalculable losses, and changes that we will be analyzing and reckoning with for years to come. We have rallied resources and mutual support, from community fridges to bail funds, formed new habits to check in on our neighbors, family, and friends, and shared safe practices for political action in changed circumstances. Over the spring and summer, faced with the routine and ritual horror of anti-Black police violence, communities across the country and internationally erupted in protest. The generations-deep demand to abolish the police and linked institutions of brutality grew louder than many anticipated it would in our lifetimes.

In this time of crisis and upheaval, why turn to art? Music, dance, theatrical performances, film, visual art, poetry, and literature have long legacies as expressive modes for articulating and manifesting political critique, representation, emotion—rage, joy, grief, lament, hope—and imagination. Art is also a medium of provocation or controversy, expressing views that may be socially forbidden or outright criminalized. Art fuels social change and is an expression of that change. As Audre Lorde wrote decades ago, “Poetry is not a luxury.”

With the circumstances of the ongoing pandemic and the need to continue to hold events virtually, the traditional two-day conference was replaced with a festival of events over a series of weeks in the spring of 2021.
“Pilgrim” and “Crow Requiem”: Screening and Conversation
March 15, 2021 | Video views: 550 views
Cauleen Smith (filmmaker, Professor, California Institute of the Arts) and Tina Campt (Owen F. Walker Professor of Humanities and Modern Culture and Media, Brown University)

Cauleen Smith’s short films “Pilgrim” (2016) and “Crow Requiem” (2015) offer two journeys through Black presence and history, provoking viewers into an experience of time and place that exceeds habitual borders.

In “Pilgrim,” viewers experience a live recording of an Alice Coltrane piano performance accompanied by a visual track that documents a pilgrimage across the U.S. taken by Cauleen Smith, tracing historic sites of creativity and generosity that were an inspiration to her: Alice Coltrane’s Sai Anantam Ashram; the Watts Towers; and the Watervliet Shaker Historic District.

“Crow Requiem” opens up a poetic narrative space to reckon with anti-Black violence through an homage to crows, commonly known as tricksters and harbingers of death, and less known for their remarkable intelligence and complex social lives. Cauleen Smith pays homage to a particular population of crows she encountered on their migration path between Syracuse and Auburn, New York, cities that were key stations on the Underground Railroad, and the birthplace of stereoscopic photography.
Following the screening was a conversation between Cauleen Smith and Tina Campt on non-linear temporalities, disrupting grammars, modes of relation, (un)recognizability, poetic density, and more.

**Visions of Abolition: Black Women’s Fight to End Mass Incarceration**
March 18, 2021  |  Video views: 900 views
Lecture by Nicole Fleetwood (Professor of American Studies and Art History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick)

Nicole Fleetwood’s recent 2021 National Book Critics Circle Award winning book, *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* (2020), engages the aesthetic practices and media of incarcerated artists who use penal space, penal matter, and penal time to produce art about carcerality and work toward the abolition of prisons. In conjunction with the publication, Fleetwood curated an exhibit of the same title at MoMA PS1, on view from September 2020 to April 2021, exploring the work of artists within U.S. prisons and the centrality of incarceration to contemporary art and culture. Featuring art made by people in prisons and work by nonincarcerated artists concerned with state repression, erasure, and imprisonment, the exhibit highlighted more than 35 artists, including American Artist, Tameca Cole, Russell Craig, James “Yaya” Hough, Jesse Krimes, Mark Loughney, Gilberto Rivera, and Sable Elyse Smith. The exhibition has been updated to reflect the growing COVID-19 crisis in US prisons, featuring new works by exhibition artists made in response to this ongoing emergency.

In her lecture at the Scholar and Feminist Conference, Fleetwood expanded on this new book and exhibition to discuss Black women’s centrality to the movement for prison abolition, sharing key selections from a visual archive of U.S. prisons researched over a decade.

'And what shall we do, we who did not die?: A Reckoning with June Jordan

April 1, 2021  |  Video views: 1,000 views

Asha Futterman ’21, Conor Tomás Reed (Professor of Africana Studies and American Studies, Brooklyn College, CUNY), Talia Shalev (Lecturer, Stevens Institute of Technology), Evie Shockley (Professor of English at Rutgers University, poet), and Mecca Jamilah Sullivan (Assistant Professor of English at Bryn Mawr College, writer)

During this harrowing year, many have returned to June Jordan and her contemporaries in search of wisdom and provocations to guide us through the calamities of our time.

The title of this event comes from the title essay of June Jordan’s acclaimed collection, *Some of Us Did Not Die* (2002), adapted from the keynote lecture she delivered at BCRW’s 30th anniversary conference in November 2001. This year, at the 50 year anniversary of BCRW’s founding, we found Jordan’s words as prescient as ever.

Asha Futterman ’21, Conor Tomas Reed, Talia Shalev, Evie Shockley, and Mecca Jamilah Sullivan read from Jordan’s work and reckoned with its enduring significance.

Soft Borders

April 5, 2021  |  Video views: 500

Conversation with Scherezade Garcia (artist) and Nadir Souirgi (artist) with Kaiama L. Glover (Ann Whitney Olin Professor of French and Africana Studies, Barnard College)

Visual artists Scherezade García and Nadir Souirgi were joined in conversation with Kaiama L. Glover to discuss migration, colonialism, memory, and identity in their artistic work and practice.

García’s talk, entitled “Let’s Pretend That it is Sunny and Exercise Utopia,” showcased a selection of her work from 1996 to 2021, reflecting on her engagement with history, ethnography, tradition, and the tension between marginal and dominant narratives.
Sourigi’s talk, “Soft Borders,” dwelled in the ambiguities of colonial histories and presents. For Sourigi, the term ‘soft borders’ offered a way to think through the entanglements between Atlantic history, conservation science, and Creole identities, and reflected on the mutual influences between his pedagogy, performative work, and studio practice.

Live in concert with Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi
April 16, 2021 | Video views: 2,400

Rhiannon Giddens is a celebrated artist who excavates the past to reveal truths about our present. A MacArthur “Genius Grant” recipient, Giddens has been Grammy-nominated six times, and won once, for her work with the Carolina Chocolate Drops, a group she co-founded. She was most recently nominated for her collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi, there is no Other (2019).

At their BCRW concert, Giddens and Turrisi shared songs from their new album, They’re Calling Me Home, released the same week as the BCRW concert. The album features songs of her heritage, sung to console her while unable to travel home to her native North Carolina because of the ongoing pandemic.
Co-Sponsored Programs

BCRW frequently co-sponsors programming organized by colleagues across Barnard and Columbia, as well as organizational and individual collaborators outside the university.

Geri Allen, late 1970s, Detroit, Michigan. Photo by ©2020 Barbara Weinberg Barefield
Janine Soleil Abolitionist Institute
Organized by Project Nia and EFA Project Space
July 2020

The Abolitionist Youth Organizing institute (AYO, NYC)—a collaboration between Project NIA and EFA Project Space—was an immersive training experience for young people in NYC, ages 16–24, interested in and/or working towards social justice. The training introduced participants to the concepts of organizing, campaign development, direct action, mutual aid, creative resistance, prison industrial complex (PIC) abolition and transformative/healing justice. The institute covered the basics of organizing from an abolitionist framework, with the goal of helping participants find, define, and sustain their role within movements for social justice and change. Participants also focused on the destructive power of violence and learned restorative and transformative practices such as peace circles and de-escalation strategies that interrupt and repair such harms. Project NIA's founder and director Mariame Kaba co-directs the Interrupting Criminalization project hosted at BCRW.

#unsilencedpast
A conversation series moderated by Kaiama L. Glover (Ann Whitney Olin Professor of French and Africana Studies, Barnard College)
Organized by the Digital Humanities Center
July 2020

How have Black women scholars deployed the digital humanities to make historically grounded interventions in our contemporary moment? How have they mobilized social and other media to amplify too-often silenced pasts of struggle against anti-blackness and white supremacy? This series discussed these questions and more.

Episode 1: Marlene L. Daut (Professor and Associate Director, The Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, University of Virginia) and Annette Joseph-Gabriel (Assistant Professor, French, University of Michigan)

Professors Daut and Joseph-Gabriel discussed what a refusal to be silenced looks like in real time. The Black feminist bibliography constituted over the course of this hour is but one of the treasures to be gleaned in the wide-ranging and insightful discussion of history, pedagogy, and the digital.
**Episode 2:** Kim Gallon (Associate Professor, History, Purdue University) and Marisa Parham (Professor, English, Amherst College)

Professors Marisa Parham and Kim Gallon discussed the work of building a digital world that is anti-racist at its core—in ethics, aesthetics, and code.

**Episode 3:** Mame-Fatou Niang (Associate Professor, French and Francophone Studies, Carnegie Mellon University) and Maboula Soumahoro (Associate Professor, English, Université François-Rabelais-Tours, France)

Professors Maboula Soumahoro and Mame-Fatou Niang talked about their work in Black Studies in France and the politics of pleasure and companionship.

**Episode 4:** Jessica Marie Johnson (Assistant Professor, History, Johns Hopkins University) and Martha Jones (Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professor, Professor of History, and Professor at the SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University)

Professors Martha Jones and Jessica Marie Johnson shared interventions in the public sphere, in institutions, and in their classrooms.

Co-sponsors: The Barnard Center for Research on Women; The Barnard College Africana Studies Department; The Barnard College French Department; The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University; The Columbia University African American and African Diaspora Studies Department; The Columbia University Department of French and Romance Philology; The Society of Fellows and Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University; The Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Columbia University.

**Monday Assembly for Racial Justice: Building Community Safety without Policing at Barnard**

Eve Marie Kausch ’18 BCRW Post-Baccalaureate Fellow), Lena Harris ’22, and Denise Mantey ’21

*Organized by the Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

July 6, 2020
In 2020, in response to the police murders of Black people, mass mobilizations against policing, prisons, and anti-Black violence swept the country. On the Barnard campus, many joined the calls to defund the police and end policing, build alternative practices for safety and accountability, and reckon with the meaning of justice for Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, and so many others whose precious lives were taken by state violence.

In spring and summer 2020, the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion called weekly Monday Assemblies for Racial Justice. In July, Barnard Library and BCRW staff organized an assembly presented by Eve Kausch, Lena Harris, and Denise Mantey to engage the community in a conversation on Barnard’s histories of policing and public safety. What is the purpose of the office of Public Safety at Barnard? Who calls Public Safety seeking assistance? Who gets reported to Public Safety as a disturbance or threat? What alternatives to policing grounded in abolitionist principles can be practiced here at Barnard? The discussion at this assembly contributed to recent changes in Barnard’s policies concerning community safety.

Queer Asylum: ‘This Is Who I Am’ – LGBTQI+ Experiences of the UK Asylum Process
Organized by the Digital Humanities Initiative
October 14, 2020

“Then they separated us. We tried to say no, we applied for asylum as a couple. They say we don’t have any civil evidence that we are a couple. And we’re like—how can we show you any civil evidence if homosexuality is forbidden in my country?”

In this long 2020 moment, as the world continues to show its most absurd and cruel face, the Digital Humanities Center hosted its first event in the Queer Asylum Initiative. In “This is Who I AM’ – LGBTQI+ Experiences of the UK Asylum Process,” performers read first-hand accounts of the particular challenges faced by LGBTQI+ individuals seeking sanctuary and basic human rights in the UK. The performance was followed by a panel conversation.

Co-sponsored by: The Barnard Center for Research on
Women, Ice & Fire, Actors for Human Rights, and Queer European Asylum Network.

Navigating the Obstacle Course of Abortion Access
Carol J. Joffe (Professor, Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco) and David S. Cohen (Professor of Law at Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law)
Organized by Columbia Population Research Center
October 20, 2020

Obstacle Course: The Everyday Struggle to Get an Abortion (2020) tells the story of abortion in America, capturing a disturbing reality of insurmountable barriers people face when trying to exercise their legal rights to medical services. Authors David S. Cohen and Carole Joffe discussed this work, laying bare the often arduous and unnecessarily burdensome process of terminating a pregnancy: the sabotaged decision-making, clinics in remote locations, insurance bans, harassing protesters, forced ultrasounds and dishonest medical information, arbitrary waiting periods, and unjustified procedure limitations.

Feed the Fire: A Cyber Symposium in Honor of Geri Allen
Terri Lyne Carrington (musician, Professor, Berklee College of Music), Angela Davis (Distinguished Professor Emerita, History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz), Gina Dent (Associate Professor, Feminist Studies Department, University of California, Santa Cruz), Farah Jasmine Griffin (William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Columbia University), Fred Moten (Professor, Department of Performance Studies, NYU), and more
Organized by Professors Ellie Hisama (Columbia University) and Michael Heller
Feed the Fire: A Cyber Symposium in Honor of Geri Allen celebrated the work of the late pianist, composer, improvisor, and educator. The event also launched a special issue of the journal Jazz and Culture, “The Power of Geri Allen.”

Feed the Fire focused on Allen’s work in music as a performer, composer, teacher, activist, and mentor, featuring a keynote event with Terri Lyne Carrington (Berklee College of Music), Angela Davis (University of California, Santa Cruz), Gina Dent (University of California, Santa Cruz), and Farah Jasmine Griffin (Columbia University).

This event was part of a week-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Pitt Jazz Seminar.

Ecologies Entrelacées: Unearthing and Reimagining Gender and Environment in the Francophone Caribbean: Sugar
Myriam Chancy (Professor, Humanities, Scripps College, novelist) and Andrea Chung (visual artist)
Organized by Ecologies Entrelacées
November 19, 2020

What can we learn about the artistic representation of the consumption and production of sugar? What are the gendered implications of this representation? How have women artists disordered and resisted the ecological effects of sugar consumption and production through their art?

Crafting Objects, Crafting Community: Gender and Material Culture in American Religion
Jodi Eichler-Levine (Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Lehigh University) and Alyssa J. Maldonado-Estrada (Assistant Professor, Religion, Kalamazoo College); Moderated by Gale Kenny (Assistant Professor, Religion, Barnard College)
Organized by the Department of Religion, Barnard College and BCRW
January 21, 2021

Jodi Eichler-Levine, author of Jews Craft Resilience and Create Community (UNC Press, 2020), and Alyssa Maldonado-Estrada, author of Lifeblood of the Parish: Men and Catholic
Devotion in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (NYU Press, 2020), joined to discuss their new books examining the role of material culture in shaping gender, memory, community, and identity in American Judaism and Catholicism.

Co-sponsors: Columbia University Religion Department, Columbia Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, and the Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies.

Travesti and Trans Latina Activism: From the Streets to the Screen

Aconchego da tua Mãe/Your Mother’s Comfort
Indianarae Siqueira (Founder of Casa Nem, Rio de Janeiro) and Daniel da Silva (Professor of Portuguese, Rutgers University)
Organized by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality
February 25, 2021

Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story
Bamby Salcedo (CEO, TransLatin@ Coalition) with Macarena Gómez-Barris (Chair of Social Science & Cultural Studies, Pratt Institute)
March 11, 2021

This two-part mini-lecture and film series explored the connections among social movements led by travestis, trans Latinas and transgender and gender non-binary people across the Americas. The series featured keynote speakers and activists Indianarae Siqueira and Bamby Salcedo alongside two films that reflect upon their experiences: Aconchego da tua Mãe/Your Mother’s Comfort (2020) and Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story (2014).

Co-sponsors: The Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Queer Aqui Working Group at the Columbia Center for the Study of Social Difference, the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures at Columbia University, the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University, Global South Center at Pratt Institute, & Columbia Global Centers, Rio de Janeiro
Unsung Stories: Women at Columbia’s Computer Music Center
Organized by Computer Music Center, Columbia University
April 9–10, 2021

Unsung Stories: Women at Columbia’s Computer Music Center was a three-part project, led by Professors Ellie Hisama and Zosha Di Castri: a symposium, a podcast series, and a concert focusing on women who have studied and worked at the renowned Columbia–Princeton Electronic Music Center (now named the Computer Music Center).

Unsung Stories highlighted work of women, including the work of BIPOC, LGBTQ+ composers and musicians at the Center, with a series of at least five podcasts released in March and April, a symposium on April 9–10, 2021, and a concert to follow in Fall 2021.

This project received a public outreach grant from the Center for Science and Society, an anti-racism seed grant from the Office of the Provost, and a Diversity Matters grant from the Arts & Sciences’ Committee on Equity and Diversity, and was cosponsored by the Fritz Reiner Center for Contemporary Music, the Department of Music, The Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality (IRWGS), the Computer Music Center at Columbia University (CMC), the Sound Art Program at Columbia University, and the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW).

Special thanks to the Society of Fellows/Heyman Center for the Humanities for sponsoring and hosting the symposium portion of this project.

Kweli: The Color of Children’s Literature Conference
Elizabeth Acevedo, Thanhha Lai, Marie Myung-Ok Lee, and more
Organized by Kweli Journal
April 9–11, 2021

The annual Kweli Conference offered BIPOC writers and illustrators opportunities to meet other writers and illustrators, top editors, agents, authors and illustrators in the children’s book publishing world. Tracks included: publishing,
community, and culture; novels and memoir; picture books and nonfiction; and intensives on craft.

The conference featured award-winning and New York Times bestselling authors and illustrators Derrick Barnes, Carole Boston Weatherford, Brandy Colbert, Jerry Craft, Michaela Goade, Veera Hiranandani, Minh Lê, Cynthia Leitich Smith, Juana Martinez-Neal, Meg Medina, Aida Salazar, Kelly Starling Lyons, Javaka Steptoe, Jasmine Warga, Renee Watson, Alicia Williams, Rita Williams Garcia and Ibi Zoboi; keynote addresses by Angeline Boulley and Safia Elhillo, and a closing keynote conversation between Newberry Award winners, Meg Medina and Jerry Craft.

Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility: Series

**Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility**

*April 9, 2021*

How do states leverage LGBTQ rights to advance right-wing agendas?

This speaker series featured four events with contributors to “Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility,” a forthcoming special issue of Ethnic and Racial Studies, to be published in spring 2022.

“Queer Liberalisms and Marginal Mobility” addressed queer migration through the intersectional lens of queer liberalisms, authoritarianism, and marginal mobilities. Globally, LGBTIQ+ rights form an inherent part of human rights discourse and politics. At the same time, this very human rights language is increasingly used by nation-states to defend their borders, control migration flows, and intensify discrimination and prejudice against designated “others.” Using a socio-legal lens, this event series examined the interconnectedness of queer mobilities across and within different geographical, social and political contexts.
Labour, Precarity, Survival, and Lived Experiences
April 16, 2021
Moderated by Bridget Anderson
Ailsa Winton (Independent Researcher): “Queer mobilities, labour precarity and messy survival”
Razan Ghazzawi (University of Sussex): “Everyday racism and the precarious mobilities of asylum seekers and migrants in Lebanon”

Humanitarianism, Representation, Subjectivity, Photography
April 23, 2021
Moderated by Fadi Saleh
Anna Carastathis (Panteion University) and Myrto Tsilimpoundi (Panteion University): “Methodological Heteronormativity and Photography: A Queer Feminist Approach to Reproductions of the ‘Refugee Crisis’”
Martha Balguera (University of Toronto-Mississauga): “Seeking refuge while trans: how legal and humanitarian orders contain nonbinary subjectivities in Mexico and the United States”

Inner Border Flight/Refugee
April 30, 2021
Moderated by Mengia Tschalaer
Eithne Luibheid (University of Arizona): “Sexual Citizenship, Pride Parades, and Queer Migrant Im/Mobilities”
Samuel Ritholtz (University of Oxford): “Queer/Trans displacement in the United States and the theoretical borders of forced migration studies”

What is Racial Melancholia: Discussing Anti-Asian Racism and Violence
Guo Jue (Assistant Professor of Pre-Modern Chinese Civilization and Humanities, Barnard College) and Nick Bartlett (Assistant Professor, Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College)
Organized by the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, Barnard College
April 26, 2021

and material processes of Asian American immigration, assimilation, and racialization. Emerging from the authors’ interactions with Columbia University students as well as their readings of Asian American cultural productions (literature and film), the article explores intergenerational conflicts and lost ideals of whiteness, Asianness, home, and language. The conversation connected themes present in the article to challenges faced by Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the United States in the present moment.

Survival and Resistance: Mutual Aid in Disastrous Times
adrienne maree brown (writer, organizer), Dean Spade
(Associate Professor, Seattle University School of Law), Klee Benally
(musician, writer, artist, activist), and Naomi Klein (author of The Shock Doctrine), moderated by Chandan Reddy (Associate Professor, Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Washington)
Organized by Red May, a month-long event series in Seattle, Washington
May 7, 2021

As our world faces cascading crises caused by the extractive systems that still determine the material conditions of our lives, mutual aid has been proliferating and drawing more people into resistance work. The growth of mutual aid projects, alongside the worsening climate crisis, the brutal failures of government responses to COVID-19 (particularly under the U.S.’s for-profit healthcare system), and the increasing calls for border, police, and prison abolition have been surfacing long-standing debates about the role of government in producing and responding to crises. This panel conversation explored these questions using the current moments as a jumping off point.
The Scholar and Feminist Online

Masthead
Tami Navarro, Editor
Elizabeth Castelli, Editor
Avi Cummings, Managing Editor (2020-Present)
Tylar Ann Colleluori, Managing Editor (2019-2020)
Kali Handelman, Copyeditor

The Scholar and Feminist Online is BCRW’s signature peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal. 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.

Fall 2020

Caribbean Feminisms: Interventions in Art, Scholarship, and Activism Across the Region
Guest edited by Tonya Haynes and Tami Navarro
Issue 16.1


This issue offers multiple ways to engage with feminist thought and action in the Caribbean through prose, poetry, and personal reflection by artists, academics, and activists. The issue extends the offerings of the BCRW literary series “Caribbean Feminisms on the Page,” featuring a selection of videos from the series. It also includes poetry and powerful imagery related to the region. This issue engages foundational and emergent Caribbean scholarship, and has been shaped by the loss 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.
Undiminished Blackness: Zora Neale Hurston as Theory and Practice
Guest edited by Monica L. Miller and Tami Navarro
Issue 16.2

Essays by Alex Alston, Adriana María Garriga-López, Alexis Pauline Gumbs, John L. Jackson, Jr., Monica L. Miller, Tami Navarro, Mariel Rodney, Patricia Stuelke, Deborah A. Thomas, and Autumn Womack.

Videos featuring Alex Alston, Tina Campt, Adriana Garriga-López, John L. Jackson, Jr., Monica Miller, Tami Navarro, N.Y. Nathiri, Mariel Rodney, Patricia Stuelke, Deborah A. Thomas, Sarah E. Vaughn, Paige West, Bianaca Williams, and Autumn Womack.

This issue celebrates the work of Zora Neale Hurston and engages with scholarship made possible by her innovations in theory, method, and practice. Emerging from the ZNH@125 symposium held at Barnard College in 2017, contributions to this issue push disciplinary boundaries and take up Hurston’s legacy as an anthropologist and ethnographer. As Monica L. Miller writes, Hurston’s work was grounded in “a sense of Black people as complete, complex, undiminished human beings.” The essays and videos in this issue have been curated in that spirit, and insist upon the full humanity of Black people as the starting point for intellectual inquiry and intervention.

Transnational Feminisms: Contexts, Topics, Forms
Guest edited by Catherine Sameh and Attiya Ahmad
Issue 17.1

Transnational Feminisms: Contexts, Topics, Forms,” co-edited by Attiya Ahmad and Catherine Sameh, emerged out of a 2014 conference held at Barnard College to mark the twentieth anniversary of Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan’s seminal work, Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational Feminist Practice.

This issue captures the dynamism and major themes of the conference, reanimating the provocations of Scattered Hegemonies. Contributors locate the importance of this genealogy in feminist
thought and elaborate upon its outgrowths. Through essays, visual materials, and videos, this issue demonstrates the rippling effects of transnational feminist frameworks on scholarship across time.

Forthcoming Issues

Race-ing Queens
Guest edited by Mira Assaf Kafantaris, Sonja Drimmer, and Treva Lindsey

Aging Women on Screen: Image and Society
Guest edited by Gabri Christa and Sheril Antonio

Celebrating the work of Dana-Ain Davis: Reflections on Reproductive Injustice
Guest edited by Tami Navarro

Podcasts

Writing Home: Podcast
Organized by Kaiama L. Glover (Ann Whitney Olin Professor of French and Africana Studies, Barnard College) and Tami Navarro (Associate Director, BCRW) with support from Rachel James (Associate Director of IMATS and the Media Center at Barnard College) and Miriam Neptune (Barnard Library and Information Science Interim Co-Dean and Director of Teaching, Learning, and Digital Scholarship, Barnard Library)

An outgrowth of the popular Critical Caribbean Feminisms events, which since 2015 have been bringing together established and emerging writers from the Caribbean and its diasporas, WRITING HOME is an ode to the Americas very literally writ large. Each episode features an exceptional contemporary cultural actor in conversation with hosts Kaiama L. Glover and Tami Navarro and aims to trace the geographies of resistance that ground our feminist practices of diaspora. The beauty, humor, and hope that animate these encounters are a welcome antidote to the heartbreak of the present moment.
Episode 1: Prologue: “Welcome Home” with Kaiama L. Glover and Tami Navarro
Meet co-hosts Kaiama and Tami.

Episode 2: (In)visibility with Naomi Jackson
Kaiama and Tami speak with Naomi about the privilege of being from multiple Caribbean places and about the freedom of not entirely belonging to any one of them. Also, Naomi offers a few helpful words on how to forgive our mothers and ourselves.

Episode 3: Ceremony with Alexis Pauline Gumbs ’04
Alexis educates Tami and Kaiama on the difference between a trilogy and a triptych, explains how daily practice really can make perfect (or close to it), and answers the burning question: is she a black feminist? Spoiler alert: YES.

Episode 4: Be.longing with Staceyann Chin
Staceyann tells it all like it is while Kaiama and Tami try to keep up.

Videos

Building Accountable Communities: Video Series
Created by Project Nia and BCRW, produced by Mariame Kaba (BCRW Researcher-in-Residence), Dean Spade (Associate Professor, Seattle University School of Law), and Hope Dector (Creative Director, BCRW)

The Building Accountable Communities Project promotes non-punitive responses to harm by developing resources for transformative justice practitioners and organizing convenings and workshops that educate the public.
In four videos released in fall 2020, long-time organizers reflect on key questions that have emerged in their work practicing transformative justice and accountability. What do we mean when we talk about transformative justice and accountability? What does a survivor-centered response look like in practice? How can we support those who have caused harm without defaulting to punishment? What does real accountability look like? What has worked, and what obstacles have organizers and community members faced in building this difficult and necessary practice?

**What is Accountability?**

**Modern Roots of Transformative Justice**
Shira Hassan and Mimi Kim

**Everyday Practices of Transformative Justice**
Shira Hassan, Martina Kartman, Rachel Herzing, Mia Mingus, Priya Rai, Lea Roth, and Sonya Shah
New Arts Program
Before Committee
By LINDA STERN

Barnard musicians, dancers, writers, and other artists may soon be able to compete for entrance into a Program in the Arts, which is now before the Committee on Instruction in proposal form, according to Dean Breuning. The program would be organized as follows: "a general introductory course, a junior colloquium, and a senior seminar, as well as directed work in a field of concentration." Dance, music, film, theater, visual arts, and writing serve as the fields of concentration proposed.

The program would have to complete the full year survey, Introduction to the Arts, which gives emphasis to the visual arts, 2) music, 3) literature, and 4) theater and dance. Exposure to the arts will be a prerequisite for possible majors in these fields. The program will allow the arts to be a part of the Barnard curriculum.

The junior colloquium entails "readings in the history and traditions of the arts, with a particular theme set for each year." The third required general course, the senior seminar, reads in the seminar as "contemporary issues in the arts, with special reports leading to a thesis or a performance project by each of the participating students."

Admission to the program would involve an audition, an essay, an interview, or a combination of these, to be presented by the student to the committee for the program in the arts. This committee would also sponsor the general course described above. Surprisingly, the interdisciplinary major would be limited to 25 students.

In addition to the three general requirements, each section of concentration has its own proposed required courses and seminars, which are: Dance, concentration would be a major, among other requirements, a number of courses in dance, composition, history of dance, and a seminar in contemporary dance. Also, students may earn some credit through study in various New Arts programs to be offered them as in the spring. The committee plans to have the first offering in 1972.

Committee Elections
To Be Held

Fall elections will be held for positions on the majority of the tripartite committees and also for the members of the Judicial Council. The holding of fall elections represents a revision in student election procedures, as in the past elections for the members of the committee posts were held in the spring, and not in the fall. This revision was due to a recent decision by the Coordinating Council, which also set the date for fall elections as the second Tuesday and Wednesday after the first day of classes of the fall term, with the exception that the fall election to be held this year were to be postponed an additional two weeks so as to provide enough time for an equitable election to be held.

Positions are open on the following committees:

Admissions - 4 students, 1 from each of the four classes. Financial Aid - 3 students, all receiving financial aid from require theory, music history, and other music courses. The student interested in music performance would count one course per term in instrumental or vocal studies. She could elect other courses from the College offerings. Acting, directing, teaching of (Continued on Page 8)

Projects

A poster has to cover this empty door. Any size will be accepted. Come to this door at 101 Barnard Hall or call Ext. 2067 for information.

Barnard Opens Women's Center
By LYNDI HORHOTA

A Center for Women, which just began operating this semester, has been established at Barnard. Professor Catharine Stimpson of the English Department is the Acting Director of the program, which has its headquarters in 101 Barnard Hall. The establishment of the Center follows the recommendations of last spring's Task Force on Barnard and the Educated Woman.

Ms. Stimpson told Bulletin: "I am personally tremendously excited about the Center. It's a new, innovative program with great potential," she added. "We plan to introduce some new and different program into the Center every week."

The Center has already taken preliminary steps towards organizing a Barnard Lawyers' Committee. Mary Scotti, the Administrative Coordinator of the Center, explained that Barnard students and alumnae would be able to receive advice from the the formation of the Lawyers' Committee will take place in November. All Barnard alumnae who are lawyers or law students, as well as women students at Columbia Law School, will be invited to attend.

The Center is undertaking many other projects, including sponsoring feminist speakers at Thursday Noon meetings. "We want to bring women with challenging and controversial ideas to campus," said Ms. Scotti. The Center has organized an Ad Hoc, Library Committee, and is working on a guide to Barnard's special collections. An Alumni Luncheon will be held in the fall.

Ms. Mary Scotti, Administrative Co-coordinator of the Center.

Center, and it must be visible, inviting and striking. It can be of any size, up to the size of the door. Ms. Stimpson announced that the winner of the poster contest will receive a special gold chosen by the Acting Director herself. An impartial, tripartite panel of judges will decide the winner of the contest. The deadline for submitting posters is October 22. Everyone is invited to participate. For further information, call the Women's Center, 2067.

At the present time, an Ad Exec Committee is overseeing the workings of the Center. Ms. Stimpson is chairwoman of the Executive Committee, and its members include Ms. Barbara Hertz, Director of Development; Ms. Jane Gould, Director of Placement; and Patricia Graham, and Tressa Schifano. An Advisory Committee made up of members of all segments of the Barnard community who have demonstrated interest and insight into problems of women is now being organized.
2021 marks the 50th year since BCRW’s founding in 1971. One of the first college and university women’s centers across the country, BCRW emerged at a time when students, faculty, and staff on college and university campuses were demanding and achieving institutional transformations, including the formation of ethnic studies and women’s studies as academic fields.

For fifty years, the Center has cultivated collaborative relationships with community organizations, activists, and cultural workers in New York City, across the U.S., and internationally. “BCRW@50: An Archival Exhibit” marks this milestone with an opportunity to reflect on the years behind us. Through close study of the BCRW Collection housed in the Barnard College Archives, the contributors to this exhibit celebrate our collaborations, examine critically our challenges, and place us in broader struggles in higher education, city and national politics, racial justice, class and labor struggles, women’s and feminist movements, and other historical and political changes.

The Project is organized around BCRW’s main locations of feminist inquiry over the course of the Center’s 50 years. We have designated these categories as follows: Abolition Feminism, Women’s Art and Women’s Writing, Queer and Trans Politics, Feminist Scholarship and Women’s Studies, Reproductive Justice, Black Feminism, Housing Justice, the Politics and Ethics of Care, and Work and Economic Justice.

Some of these topics remain at the forefront of BCRW’s programming, research, and publications. Others, once vital to the Center and the feminist movement as a whole, now mark past political moments. How did we get to where we are today? What throughlines survived, and which topics have been relegated to the archives? This archival exhibit traces this historical and genealogical inquiry.
**The Archival Process**

In March of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic transformed our lives in New York City and everywhere, BCRW staff were on the precipice of beginning work on an oral history project for the 50th anniversary. These plans were abruptly stalled as we began to adjust to our new reality. It became clear that any interviews conducted during the pandemic would have diminished quality and logistical complications, and perhaps more significantly would be overshadowed by the anxieties and precarities of our still emerging reality. The focus shifted. With staff and student Research Assistants working from home across multiple time zones, we decided to reorient the project. Instead of an oral history, for now, we would focus on an online archival exhibit.

The exhibit draws on the BCRW Collection in the Barnard Archives, which includes a physical collection and an extensive digital collection. The digital collection includes over 300 cassette audio tape recordings of sessions at the Scholar and Feminist Conference from 1975 to 1996, with prominent and lesser-known speakers and attendees, including bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Barbara Ehrenreich, Silvia Federici, Kate Millett, Barbara Kruger, Cherrie Moraga, Sharon Olds, Donna Haraway, and Bella Abzug. (The recordings may be accessed in the Barnard Archives’ online collection.) This digitization project took place in 2018–2019 with support from BCRW and library students and staff and was funded by a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Recordings at Risk grant.

Special thanks to Martha Tenney (Director, Barnard Archives and Special Collections) and Barnard Archives student staff, as well as Alicia Peaker (Associate Director, Digital Humanities Center), Taylor Faires ‘19, and Ana Lam ‘20 for their untiring support.
Changing the Narrative: A Public Housing Project

Pamela Phillips, Senior Program Assistant, BCRW

In 2016, BCRW formed the Housing and Poverty Working Group to challenge dominant narratives surrounding housing experiences of low-income residents and communities of color and to interrogate discriminatory practices and policies that foster housing insecurity, homelessness, and poverty. The group uses an anti-oppressive, resident-centered framework to engage and amplify the voices of residents who have been most marginalized by the housing system, with a primary focus on public housing communities.

Through collaborative workshops and research, we examine social and economic policies, the material living conditions that residents navigate, and their impacts on resident’s mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. The group also cultivates intentional spaces for residents to reclaim their own stories, foster connections, and explore the ways that housing policy has shaped their lives and communities.

Undesign the Redline @ Barnard
Coordinating committee lead Miriam Neptune, Interim Co-Dean, Barnard Library and Information Services (BLAIS), Barnard College

Undesign the Redline @ Barnard is an interactive exhibition that combines history, art, and storytelling with community outreach and collaboration to reckon with systemic racism through an exploration of the legacy of redlining in Barnard and Columbia’s neighborhoods. The project will present primary and secondary sources, student and community contributions, and multi-media narratives that span the decades from 1938, when the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation (HOLC) published redlined maps, to the present. Joining with Designing the WE, a group coordinating Undesign the Redline projects at sites across the country, Undesign the Redline @ Barnard will contribute a custom-designed exhibition to this local and national story.

Pamela Phillips, founder/creator of Changing the Narrative, is a member of the coordinating Committee. BCRW contributed funds to sponsor stipends for Barnard students to serve on the student advisory board.
Social Justice Initiative

As a feminist center located within Barnard College, BCRW has sought ways to leverage its resources to activists and scholar-activist collaborations, including research, infrastructural support, and fiscal sponsorship. Individuals and organizations face incredible difficulty sustaining their work when projects fall outside of funders’ interests, timelines for progress, or means of evaluation. Furthermore, many groups for reasons of limited resources or political critiques cannot or do not register as 501(c)3 non-profits, thereby becoming excluded from traditional foundation support. BCRW joins other scholar-activist centers and non-traditional funders offering remedies to this problem.

In 2005, BCRW deepened its commitment to scholar-feminist praxis through series of collaborative partnerships with activists, activist-scholars, and community-based organizations and coalitions in New York City and beyond. These partnerships provided crucial legitimacy for campaigns in their earliest stages, such as the campaign for a Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights in New York State spearheaded by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Domestic Workers United in 2008 and signed into law by Governor David Paterson in 2010.

In 2014, thanks to generous support from an anonymous donor, BCRW had the honor of awarding four two-year Activist Fellowships to Katherine Acey and Amber Hollibaugh, Senior Activist Fellows, and Tourmaline and Dean Spade (BC ’97), Activist Fellows. Recognizing these four activists incredible contributions to racial justice, economic justice, and queer and trans liberation, the Fellowships supported these four activists to continue their work and collaborations outside non-profit formations. Their projects included intergenerational activist salons, activist-educational videos, activist convenings, and a digital and print resource publications.

In 2016, building on the success of this project, BCRW launched the
Social Justice Initiative, marking a new stage of our collaborations. Residents included La Vaughn Belle, Mariame Kaba, CeCe McDonald, Tourmaline, Cara Page, Tarso Luis Ramos, Andrea Ritchie, and Dean Spade.

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.

2020-2021 Social Justice Initiative Partners

Cara Page, Activist-in-Residence (2016-2018, 2020-present), is a Black Queer Feminist cultural/memory worker, curator, and organizer. For more than thirty years, she has organized with LGBTQTSGNCI, Black, People of Color, and Indigenous liberation movements in the U.S. and Global South. She works at the intersections of racial, gender and economic justice, healing justice and transformative justice. She is founding Director of Changing Frequencies, an archival, memory, cultural change project seeking to transform generational trauma from the Medical Industrial Complex, and co-creator of the Healing Histories Project with Susan Raffo and Anjali Taneja. Cara is the former executive director of The Audre Lorde Project, and the former national coordinator of the Committee on Women, Population & the Environment. She is also one of the architects of healing justice as a founding member of the Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective. Cara was a recipient of the Open Society Foundation’s Soros Equality Fellowship (2019-2020).

Changing Frequencies

Changing Frequencies is an archival memory and cultural organizing project founded by Cara Page. In collaboration with organizers, cultural workers, and healing/health practitioners the project works with communities to resist, heal, and transform the Medical Industrial Complex (MIC) from its roots in racial capitalism. The work is held in three parts: Memory and cultural work; the Healing Histories Project; and abolitionist campaigns to disrupt the medical industrial complex. Over the past year, amidst heightened white supremacist violence, anti-Asian xenophobic violence, and police brutality during a global pandemic Changing Frequencies created spaces to honor and transform collective trauma, build safety strategies, and organize.
Projects

Health, Healing Justice, and Liberation Statement with Shut Down Irwin County Georgia ICE Detention Center Campaign, in partnership with Project South
Calling to end the massive sterilizations of detained women, and more broadly to abolish detention centers and prisons, the project produced an international statement of solidarity with medical practitioners, public health advocates, healers, and birth workers located across the globe. Read and sign the statement at projectsouth.org/healing-justice-statement.

Healing Histories Project
A new project launched in April 2021 builds an abolitionist organizing framework, toolkit, curriculum, and timeline with for organizers and healers, medical practitioners and media makers, and cultural and memory workers to transform the long-term impact and generational trauma stemming from abuses within the Medical Industrial Complex and its ties to colonization, slavery, and state violence. Led by Cara Page, Susan Raffo (writer and bodyworker), and Anjali Taneja (family physician and activist), the project has received support from Em He ’21, BCRW Research Assistant) and Alicia Peaker (Associate Director at the Barnard Digital Humanities Center). Access the project at healinghistoriesproject.com.

COVID-19 Timeline
The first tool of the Healing Histories Project, the COVID-19 Timeline documents the critical moments in the evolution of this pandemic, from federal and state responses in the U.S., to global trends, to media coverage, to related surges in police violence and hate violence, to grassroots community mobilizations around collective care. While the content of the COVID-19 Timeline is evolving, the timeline is a testament to the egregious harms against oppressed communities and the powerful organizing that communities are doing to survive and transform in this time. The timeline was supported by Em He ’21, BCRW Research Assistant) and Alicia Peaker (Associate Director at the Barnard Digital Humanities Center). Access the timeline at healinghistoriesproject.com/covid-timeline.
Upcoming Projects

A Virtual Reality Project
The next community installation of the Changing Frequencies Project will give testimony to the hundreds of Black people experimented on and institutionalized at the Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Anti-Eugenics Project
Fall 2021 marks a century since the Second International Eugenics Congress took place at the American Museum of Natural History. Changing Frequencies will be collaborating on the Anti-Eugenics Project: A 10-Day Convening (September 23—October 2, 2021) with cultural programming, political education, organizing and strategy to reveal, reckon with, and transform the extreme harm of eugenic ideologies, policies and practices that have impacted communities for centuries.

Mariame Kaba, Researcher-in-Residence (2018-2020), 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 abolitionist organization with a vision to end youth incarceration, and 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 and Survived & Punished. She is the author of We Do This 'Til We Free Us (Haymarket Books 2021), with editor Tamara Nopper. Other writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Nation Magazine, The Guardian, The Washington Post, In These Times, Teen Vogue, Essence, The New Inquiry, and other publications. Her work in collaboration with BCRW has been supported by the Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, Overbrook Foundation, and anonymous funders.

Andrea J. Ritchie, Researcher-in-Residence (2016-2020), 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. With Mariame Kaba, Researcher-in-Residence, she 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), among other publications. She was a member of the national
collective of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence from 2003–2008. 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. Her work in collaboration with BCRW has been supported by the Open Society Foundations, Ford Foundation, Overbrook Foundation, and anonymous funders.

Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action

Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action is hosted by the BCRW Social Justice Initiative and led by researchers Woods Ervin, Mariame Kaba (BCRW Researcher-in-Residence), and Andrea J. Ritchie (BCRW Researcher-in-Residence). 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.
Projects in 2020-2021

One Million Experiments
Explore snapshots of community-based safety strategies that expand our ideas about what keeps us safe at millionexperiments.com.

TJ Skill Up Institute
An eight-week de-escalation and mediation institute that took place from March 7 to April 21, 2021 with 65 organizers from around the US and Canada. The group will convene a new cohort in October 2021. To learn more visit sites.google.com/evanagao.com/tj-skill-up/home.

Solidarity Postcards Project
This collection of two posters and twenty postcards uses art and popular education messaging to spark conversations around coronavirus, criminalization, public health guidance, and community care. The project uses original art from Cristy Road Carrera and open access artwork generated by Amplifier and Forward Together. Learn more at interruptingcriminalization.com/postcards.

Beyond Do No Harm
A set of principles and political education campaign for health workers has included two events called “Cops Out of Care” and will include the publication of a resource title, “Health Practitioners & Public Health Professions Recommit to Caring for People by Refusing to Participate in Criminalization.”

6Ds Until She’s Free
A comprehensive cross-sector strategy to interrupt, reduce and end criminalization, mass incarceration, and deportation of women, trans and gender nonconforming people.

Selected News


“’We Do This ‘Til We Free Us’: Mariame Kaba on Abolishing Police, Prisons, and Moving Toward Justice,” Democracy Now!, March 5, 2021.

Kandist Mallett, “Mariame Kaba, Abolitionist and Author, on We Do This Til We Free Us,” Teen Vogue, March 26, 2021.


Publications: Reports and Curricula

Beth Richie, Dylan Rodríguez, Mariame Kaba, Melissa Burch, Rachel Herzing and Shana Agid, Problems With Community Control of Police and Proposals for Alternatives. Fall 2020.


**Virgin Islands Studies Collective (VISCO)**

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

In 2020-2021, Tami Navarro, LaVaughn Belle, Tiphanie Yanique, and Hadiya Sewer were Scholars in Residence at the University of the Virgin Islands.

The Virgin Islands 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.

On September 28, they were joined by Cynthia Oliver (Professor of Humanities, University of Illinois) for a conversation on a jointly authored essay, “Ancestral Queendom, Reflections on the Prison Records of the Rebel Queens of the 1878 Fireburn in St. Croix, USVI,” as part of the Archival Encounters in the Caribbean Series, which ran from October to December 2020. The project, led by Daniela Agostinho (Assistant Professor at the Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University
of Copenhagen), fosters dialogue between the fields of African diaspora studies, postcolonial studies, critical archival studies and artistic research to discuss the limitations and creative possibilities of knowing beyond the archive.

Two members of the working-group have forthcoming publications. In October 2021, Tiphanie Yanique, award-winning author of *Land of Love and Drowning* will publish a new novel, *Monster in the Middle*, an electric new novel that maps the emotional inheritance of one couple newly in love. In November 2021, Tami Navarro will publish her first book, *Virgin Capital: Race, Gender and Financialization in the U.S. Virgin Islands*, an ethnography that traces the contemporary financial services industry in the US Virgin Islands within broader histories of racial capitalism and gender inequality.
Prison is no place for a pandemic.

Free them all.
Elizabeth Castelli, director of BCRW, participated in an international research project, Books Known Only by Title: Exploring the Gendered Structures of First Millennium Imagined Libraries, at the Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, under the direction of Marianne Bjelland Kartzow (University of Oslo) and Liv Ingeborg Lied (MF Norwegian School of Theology). She also participated in the formation of a new scholarly society—the Global Late Antiquity Society, which is committed to reframing the interdisciplinary study of the late ancient world by disrupting received ideas about the assumed connection between the late ancient/Christian Mediterranean world and modern “western” Europe.

In July 2020, Yes! Magazine published “How Shame Blocks Accountability,” featuring a video by the same title from BCRW’s Building Accountable Communities series, created and produced by Mariame Kaba, BCRW Researcher-in-Residence, Dean Spade (BC ’97), and former Activist-in-Residence, and Hope Dector, creative director at BCRW.

Also in July, Cara Page, BCRW Activist-in-Residence and Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, spoke on Good Morning America in a segment called “What is ‘Healing Justice’?”

In September, Tami Navarro, associate director of BCRW, published “‘EDC girls’ and Women’s Work: Race, Gender and Labor in the Financial Services Sector in the US virgin Islands” in Feminist Anthropology.

Dean Spade (BC ’97), former Activist-in-Residence and longtime BCRW collaborator, published a new book Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next). The book has received coverage from The Nation, Democracy Now!, Teen Vogue, and countless other publications as people have sought resources to sustain mass mutual aid mobilizations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also in October, Janet Jakobsen, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College and former director of BCRW, published a new book, The Sex Obsession: Perversity and Possibility in American Politics. The book was a finalist for the 2021 Lambda Literary Award in the category of LGBTQ Studies. Kali Handelman, a London-based editor with expertise in religious studies and Program Development Manager for the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, interviewed Janet Jakobsen about the book and what it can teach us about today’s political dynamics. You can read the interview, “Secular Sex and Social Justice” in The Revealer.
In December 2020, Madeleine Thien, novelist and author of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (2016), and Avi Cummings, program and communications manager at BCRW, talked to Casey Plett about her debut novel, *Little Fish* (2018). Read the interview in “What Does It Mean to Belong?” on Literary Hub.

In December and January 2021, Tourmaline, former BCRW Activist-in-Residence and longtime collaborator, had an exhibition showing her short film “Salacia” and a series of portraits of the artist at Chapter New York. The exhibition was featured in *The New Yorker*’s “Goings on About Town” and was reviewed by Tiana Reid in *Frieze*: “The artist nurtures a blossoming archive.” Tourmaline was also named to the 2020 TIME100, *TIME Magazine*’s annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.


Mariame Kaba, BCRW Researcher-in-Residence (2018-2020), published *We Do This 'Til We Free Us: Abolitionist Organizing and Transforming Justice* edited by Tamara K. Nopper in February 2021. The book has been covered in reviews and interviews with the author in *The Nation, Teen Vogue, Democracy Now!, Truthout, NBC News,* and *The Intercept,* among other publications. In January 2021, Kaba also published “Police Abolition 101,” a collaborative zine made with *Project NIA, Interrupting Criminalization,* and illustrator Noah Jodice, and the curriculum “Against Punishment,” with contributions from *adrienne maree brown, Santera Matthews,* jackie *sumell, Annie Terrell,* and *Umoja Student Development Corporation.*

Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Associate Professor of Classics at Princeton University and BCRW’s 2020 Natalie Boymel Kampen Memorial Lecturer, was featured in *The New York Times Magazine* on Sunday, February 7, 2021, with an essay titled “He Wants to Save Classics from Whiteness. Can the Field Survive?”
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Artwork produced for the Solidarity Postcard Project by Interrupting Criminalization: Research in Action, a project led by Mariame Kaba and Andrea J. Ritchie and hosted at BCRW.