Gendered Borders

An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference on How and Why Gender Matters

April 13-14, 2012
Gender Matters is an academic conference highlighting research on gender, women, and sexuality across all disciplines and historical periods. Its goal is to bring together students, activists, and researchers in order to discuss the ongoing role of gender in structuring society.

This year’s theme, Gendered Borders, focuses our attention on borders in all contexts – virtual, geographical, physical – or any other delineating marker that serves to exclude, encircle, or expand the concept of borders as gendered sites and sites of gender.
Conference Planning Committee
Jason Zingsheim, Co-Chair
Terri Pantuso, Co-Chair
Daniel Cortese
Chelsea Haring
James Howley
Caron Jacobson
Elizabeth Johnson
Tammara Winn

Student Volunteers
Richard Culbreath
Elizabeth Enriquez
Amanda Feehan
Sha’Ree Greenwood
Lisa Jurgenson
Maryah Marciniak
Kelli Merrick
Carrie Parks
Juan Ruiz
Suzette Shepherd
FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH

8:30 – 9:30  Registration, Breakfast, & Welcome
            MAIN ENTRANCE; HALL OF GOVERNORS

9:30 – 10:45  Concurrent Session 1
              B-WING, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

11:00-12:00  Concurrent Session 2
              B-WING, 2ND FLOOR; E-WING, 1ST FLOOR

12:00 – 1:30  Lunch
              HALL OF GOVERNORS

1:30 – 2:30  Keynote Address
              CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

2:45 – 4:00  Concurrent Session 3
              B-WING, 1ST & 2ND FLOORS; D-WING, 3RD FLOOR

4:15 – 5:30  Concurrent Session 4
              B-WING, 2ND FLOOR; D-WING, 3RD FLOOR; E-WING, 1ST FLOOR

5:30 – 7:00  Reception
              CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS LOBBY

7:00 – 9:00  Stop Kiss
              ENGBRETSON HALL

SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH

8:30 – 9:00  Registration, & Breakfast
              HALL OF GOVERNORS

9:00 – 10:00  Concurrent Session 5
              B-WING, 2ND FLOOR

10:15-11:30  Featured Performance
              SHERMAN HALL

11:45 – 1:00  Concurrent Session 6
              B-WING, 2ND FLOOR; SHERMAN HALL
FRIDAY
April 13th

8:30  Breakfast & Welcome

Welcome and Opening Remarks
Elaine Maimon, President, Governors State University
HALL OF GOVERNORS

8:30 – 5:00  Registration

9:30 – 10:45  Concurrent Session 1

101 Mediating Women: The Horror of Housewives, Divas, and Starlets

B2203, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Debbie James, Governors State University

*American Horror Story: The Ontological Horror of Women*
Elizabeth Stigler
*Roosevelt University*

Accounting for the Troubled Starlet: Medicalization and Femininity in the Era of News Punditry
Mallary Allen
*Southern Illinois University - Carbondale*

Bravo’s *Real Housewives* Franchise: The Feminist and the Housewife?
Martina Baldwin
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

Big and Beautiful? Using *Drop Dead Diva* to Interrogate Bodily Intersections of Gender, Beauty, and Fatness
Ruth Beerman
*University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
102 Transversing Gender: Borders, Imaginaries, and Aesthetics

B2215, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Michael Chladek, University of Chicago

Trans vs Homo: Negotiating Borders of Gender and Sexuality in Mid-Twentieth Century Transsexual Autobiography
Hugh English, Queens College CUNY

Las Dragas: Identity and Popular Culture
Kelly Jacobson, Johns Hopkins University

Latin American Identity Categories: Re-imagining Transgender
Maria Celleri, The Ohio State University

Questioning Queer Erasures and Envisioning the Future: Transsexual Masculinity, Lesbian Feminisms, and Genderqueer Subjectivity
Michael Lee Gardin, University of Texas at San Antonio

103 Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction

B1240, B-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Elizabeth Johnson, Governors State University

A roundtable discussion emphasizing the theme of communities by examining the lives of four African American women through excerpts of Hallie Q. Brown’s book, Homespun Heroines and Other Women of Distinction.
Elizabeth Johnson, Governors State University
Tammara Winn, Governors State University
Crystal Blount, Governors State University
Sheree Sanderson, Governors State University
Concurrent Session 1 continued

9:30 – 10:45

104 Intersectionality in Practice and the Borderlands of (Post)Coloniality

B1241, B-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair & Discussant: Evren Savchi
Northwestern University

(En)Gendering the Ecuadorian Constitution: The (Trans)National Recognition of Diverse Types of Families
Ricardo Sánchez, Northwestern University

Historicizing Gender through the Lens of Intersectionality: Race, Gender, and the Culturalist-Materialist Binary in Approaches to Coloniality
Savina Balasubramanian
Northwestern University

Originary Crossing: Imagining Birth as a Temporal Borderland
Ruth Hays, Northwestern University

At the Intersection of Gender and Ethnicity: Women’s Peace Activism in Turkey
Hayrunnisa Goksel, Northwestern University

105 Bodies: Power & Pleasure

B2200, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Daniel K. Cortese, Governors State University

Savages, Circus Freaks, and Sluts: Perceptions of Tattooed Women Throughout History
Ashley Goorhouse
Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN

The Power of Veiling and the Body in Imagery
Kiranjeet Dhillon
The University of Northern Iowa
9:30 – 10:45

Concurrent Session 2 continued on next page.
Concurrent Session 2  continued

11:00-12:00

Cell or Citizen? Human Embryos and the Call for Fetal Personhood
Nick Clarkson, Indiana University

The Transsexual Patriot: Producing Transsexual Whiteness at the Border
Kelly Jacobson, Johns Hopkins University

203 VIXIN undone

SHERMAN HALL (E1530), E-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Kelly Jacobson, Johns Hopkins University

VIXIN undone is a one-person acapella opera performance of gender transition and drag journeying loosely with David/Kathy and the trials and successes of bouncing from one gender to another and places in between.
Kristen Loree, University of New Mexico

12:00 – 1:30  Lunch
HALL OF HONORS

1:30 – 2:30  Keynote Address
CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Introduction
Terry Allison, Provost, Governors State University

Gentrify My Love: On the Borders of Neighborly Desire
Richard T. Rodríguez
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

This talk examines the politics of gay gentrification bound up with representations of queer Latino masculinity and sexuality by closely reading Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland’s film Quinceañera (2006).
While it spotlights a young Latina coming of age as the title suggests, the film’s embrace of alternative kinship practices in the face of inequality presumably functions as a critique of Latino patriarchy and heteronormative family values. Yet I will argue that Quinceañera’s structural reliance on the self-reflective acknowledgment and absolvable fact of gay gentrification ultimately affirms proprietorship of the Latino male body and neoliberal Los Angeles while upholding “homonormative” family ideals crystallized by the sanctity of the white gay male couple.

Concurrent Session 3

301 Reentry: Female Offenders in Society

B2203, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Caron Jacobson, Governors State University

This panel will feature excerpts from Reentry: Female Offenders in Society a student-produced documentary featuring the lives and experiences of female offenders as they reenter society. Presenters will also discuss the process creating the documentary and interviewing the participants.

Brittani Barnett, Governors State University
Emily Deitsche, Governors State University
Jim Mitchell, Governors State University
Robert Toussaint, Governors State University
Lee West, Governors State University

302 Disciplining Gender in Communication Studies

D34170, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Renee Powers, Northern Illinois University

Concurrent Session 3 continued on next page.
Concurrent Session 3 continued

2:45 – 4:00

Dancing With The Stars: How the Media Made Sense of Chaz Bono
Alexander Goldberg
Northern Illinois University

Adam Lambert and the American Music Awards Backlash: A Case Study on Male Homosexual Performative Acts, Gender Trouble, and Disciplining Gender
Jennifer Shelton, Northern Illinois University

Less is More: The Media-Generated “Ideal” Woman
Jillian Howard, Northern Illinois University

Postfeminism and the Girls’ Game Movement: Destined for Failure
Renee Powers, Northern Illinois University

303 Saving Our Lives Hear Our Truths: The Education of Black Girls and Women in Community Spaces

HALL OF HONORS, E-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Ruth Nicole Brown
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Our Photos Are For Us First: The Framing of a Black Girl’s Truth in SOLHOT
Claudine Taaffe
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Black Girls Self-Expression and the Collective Celebration of Mother-work
Desiree McMillion
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“… And I Check In! ” A Black Girls Response to Hip-Hop and other SOLHOT Rituals
Porshe Garner
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2:45 – 4:00

When Black Women Remember Black Girls: A Performance Text
  Ruth Nicole Brown
  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Learning Opens Love/Life (L.O.L)
  Sesali Bowen, DePaul University

A Black Girlhood Pedagogy of Love
  Sheri Lewis
  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

304 Spectrums of Gender: (Re)Contextualizations

D34115, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Michael Lee Gardin
  University of Texas at San Antonio

Appropriating the Appropriate: A (Re)Conceptualisation of Bodily “Resignification” in Gendered Cross-Cultural Interaction
  Emily Henderson, University of London

Global Media Flows and Their Impact on Cultural Gender Norms
  Josh Mayo, Michigan Technological University

Passing Through the Looking Glass: The Social-Psychological Dimensions of Transgender Passing
  K Mann, Cardinal Stritch University
  Carole Hetzel, Cardinal Stritch University

Becoming a Man: Buddhist Monastic Masculinity and the Third Gender in Thailand
  Michael Chladek, University of Chicago

Concurrent Session 3 continued on next page.
Concurrent Session 3 continued

2:45 – 4:00

305 Social Issues: Sex, Booze, and Motherhood

B1241, B-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Jessica Kratzer, Middle Tennessee State University

From Mother-Blame to “The Mothers Know:” Spatial Practices of Care, Knowledge and Becoming Among Mothers of Children with Autism
Karen Falconer Al-Hindi
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Radical Transformations of Intensive Mothering Models: A Feminist Analysis of Brainchild and Mothering as Mainstream Alternatives
Catherine Dobris, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
Kim White-Mills, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Tippling Ladies and the Culture of Consumption: Gender, Class, and Space in Chicago, 1871-1914
Emily Remus, University of Chicago

How the Temple Courtesans Became ‘Common Whores’: Devadasis, Colonialism, Nationalism, Gender, and Sexuality in India
Nityanjali Thummachetty
Columbia University

4:15 – 5:30

Concurrent Session 4

401 Revolutionizing Gender: Local and Global Social Movements

B2203, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Daniel K. Cortese, Governors State University
Wrestling with Domestic Violence: Men’s Rights Advocates’ Framing of the Issue
Brian Krol, Bowling Green State University

Subjects in Excess: Judith Butler and Revolutionary Parrallelisme
Derek Ford, Syracuse University

Funding Feminism: Framing Gender Equality and Constructing Women’s Movements in Global Grantmaking Competitions
Kellea Miller
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Queer and Trans Youth Racial and Gender Identity Correlations and Outcomes in Legal Cases in the U.S.
(E. L.) Hunter
DePaul University

402 Intersections/Borders: Space, Place, and Erasures

Hall of Honors, E-Wing, 1ST Floor
Chair: Chelsea Haring, Governors State University

Differently Gendered (Dyk)otomies, Regional Femininities, and Valued Masculinity in Women
Andria Strano, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Bordering as Social Practice: Intersectional Identifications and Coalitional Possibilities
Julia Johnson, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Challenging LGBT Inequality: Conversations from a Pioneering Gathering in Nepal
Mahruq Khan, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Concurrent Session 4 continued on next page.
Concurrent Session 4 continued

4:15 – 5:30

Tutin Aryanti, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

403 Performance as Critical Text: Decoding Race, Gender & Spirituality in The Ladies Ring Shout

SHERMAN HALL (E1530), E-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Terri Pantuso, Governors State University
Meida McNeal, Columbia College Chicago; Governors State University
Abra Johnson, Malcolm X College, City Colleges of Chicago

404 Cultural Genders and Gendered Cultures

D34115, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Tammara Winn, Governors State University

Remembering My Lip-Gloss: An Autoethnographic Account of Researching Sexuality in Dubai’s Sex Work Venues
Abby DiCarlo, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Delimiting the “Indian Woman”: The Politics of Agency and Representation in the Postcolonial Feminist Journal Manushi
Divya Sundar, University of Chicago

Ontological (In)Security and the Gendered Borders of Identity: Locating Israeli Nationalism from a Feminist Narrative Approach
Ian Zucker, University of New South Wales
Hybrid Identity: Family History and Memory in the Colonial Dutch East Indies
Sani vanderSpek
University of California, Berkeley

405 Women’s Sexual Health

D34170, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Raven James, Governors State University

The Borders of Family: Reproductive Technologies and Conceptions of Family
Alicia VandeVusse, University of Chicago

The Eugenics Movement and Reproductive Enhancing Technologies: Impregnating the Rich and Sterilizing the Poor
Katie Filous, Loyola University Chicago

Rethinking the Bounds of Women’s Health: Hmong American Narratives on Cervical and Breast Cancer
Mai See Thao, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Menstrual Hygiene Management in Zimbabwe’s New Resettlement Areas
Peter Nkala, National University of Science and Technology
Nevel Tshuma, National University of Science and Technology
Nqobizitha Dube, National University of Science and Technology
Mkhokheli Sithole, National University of Science and Technology

Women’s Sexual Health in Substance Abuse Treatment
Raven James, Governors State University
5:30 – 7:00  
**Reception**  
CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS LOBBY

7:00 – 9:00  
**Stop Kiss**  
HALL OF HONORS

This multi-media, student production of Diana Son’s play, *Stop Kiss*, explores the journey of two women towards unchartered territory, an unexpected attraction, and the struggle of one woman dealing with the aftermath of a violent attack. The story is experienced through the interweaving of two realities: the past, events leading up to the assault—and the present, after the assault. While addressing the trauma caused by a hate crime, this story is also about moving to a big city and away from stability, new experiences, forming new bonds and accessing old ones, an unexpected sexual attraction, and ultimately taking ownership of one’s own life and one’s identity.
GENDER MATTERS

SATURDAY
April 14th

8:30 – 12:00  Registration
MAIN ENTRANCE ATRIUM

8:30 – 9:00  Breakfast
HALL OF GOVERNORS

9:00 – 10:00  Concurrent Session 5

501  Queer Media and Mediating Queers

B2203, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Dustin Goltz, DePaul University

L.A. is like... Nowhere: Queer Spaces in Gregg Araki’s Nowhere
Arnau Roig Mora, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Protective Borders: How to Make India Stop Worrying and Love the Gay Man
Margaret Redlich, DePaul University

The Enemy is Queer: Crises of White Masculinity and Minoritarian Monsters in Breaking Bad
Rae Langes, Northwestern University

502  Tackling Identity, Athletes, and Mascots

B2215, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Chelsea Haring, Governors State University

Running Interference: The Creation of Identities on a Women’s Tackle Football Team
Bobbi Knapp, Southern Illinois University

“Skinny Little Bitches”: Self-Surveillance and Performativity in Lightweight Women’s Rowing
Teresa Hill, Brock University

Concurrent Session 5 continued on next page.
Concurrent Session 5 continued

9:00 – 10:00

What Makes the Mascot Popular?: College Mascots, Embodiment of Masculinity, and Resistance Against Gender Norms
Kaori Yamada, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

503 Performing Intersectional Masculinities

B2202, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Caron Jacobson, Governors State University

Gendered Dimensions: Masculinity and Migration in African Cultures
Devin Bryson, Illinois College

Making the Missing Link: Black Women and Black Masculinity
Sharron St. John, University of California, Los Angeles

Oppressions Intertwined: Speciesism, Sexism, and Racism in the Social World of Urban Dogfighting
Sarah Severson, DePaul University

504 Organizing Gender

B2200, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Alexandra Murphy, DePaul University

Getting Old in Construction - Negotiating Aging and Working-Class Masculinity on the Construction Work Site
Amy Sorensen, University of Illinois at Chicago

At Work or at Play: Masculinizing the Commons
Samantha Szczur, Eastern Illinois University

When Cultures Clash: Engaged Scholarship and Frictions in an International Context
Alexandra Murphy, DePaul University
10:15 – 11:30

**Featured Performance**

SHERMAN HALL  
(E1530), E-WING, 1ST FLOOR

**Introduction**

Jason Zingsheim, *Governors State University*

excerpts from *Living in the Hyphen-Nation*  
Laila Farah, *DePaul University*

Dr. Farah has been performing this performance piece around the country. In particular, the show addresses responses to September 11th, 2001 and the events following, specifically those pertaining to Moslems, Arabs and Moslem-Americans and Arab-Americans. The show critically examines institutional racism as enacted by the US govt. in terms of secret evidence, racial profiling, legislation that has passed, and general demonization and creation of the other of these above mentioned groups. It is specifically gendered in tearing down stereotypes of Arab women and the veil, and chronicles two separate autobiographical accounts of her journeys to and from the Middle East. The transnational feminist lens humanizes the inhumane violence of multiple forms of violence in order to work toward global social justice. The narratives are linked through poetry by Haas Mroue, Suheir Hammad, as well as Laila Hallaby, news analysis and positive imagery of non-violent resistance.

*Concurrent Session 6 begins on next page.*
11:45 – 1:00  Concurrent Session 6

601 Queer Belongings

B2203, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Jennifer Linde, Arizona State University

Soap Operas in Public Places: An Ethnographic Case for Spontaneous Viewership and Queer Attachments
Joseph Jay Sosa, University of Chicago

Peter Pan in the Borderlands: Queerness, Childhood and The Neverland
Martha Fischhoff, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Invisible Bonds, Virtual Connections: Queering Kinship Relationships within LGBTQ Online Communities and Forums
Jessica Ziegenfuss, The Ohio State University

John Hughes’ Queer Bonds: It Gets Better and A Rhetoric of Selfish Belonging
Dustin Bradley Goltz, DePaul University

602 Public Bodies

SHERMAN HALL
(E1530), E-WING, 1ST FLOOR
Chair: Elizabeth Johnson, Governors State University

The ga[ZE]
Marcus White, Wayne State University

Reconstituting the AIDS body in the work of Felix Gonzalez-Torres
Aria Alamalhodaei, New College of Florida
11:45 – 1:00

Two Women on All Fours: Mierle Laderman Ukeles and Janine Antoni at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Caitlin Smith, University of Connecticut

Male Anal Pleasure: Blurring the Borders of Manhood and Gender

Jonathan Branfman, Washington University in St. Louis
Susan Stiritz, Washington University in St. Louis

603 Theorizing Gender, Then and Now

B2200, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Caron Jacobson, Governors State University

Crossing Theoretical Borders: Communication Privacy Management Theory and Women’s Standpoint Theory

Jessica Kratzer, Middle Tennessee State University

Nakedness, Exotic Aromas, and Mythic Origins of Color in Female Figures Representing the Continents

Maryanne Horowitz, Occidental College & UCLA

One is Not Born a Girl, She Becomes One: Growing Up With & Through the Mass Media
Melissa Ames, Eastern Illinois University
Sarah Burcon, Lawrence Technological University

Gender Similarities and Differences of Bullying Behavior Through The Use of New Media
Sha’Ree Greenwood, Governors State University

Concurrent Session 6 continues on next page.
Concurrent Session 6 continued

11:45 – 1:00

604 Literary Explorations of Gender

B2215, B-WING, 2ND FLOOR
Chair: Rashidah Muhammad
Governors State University

Killing the Angel to Make Way for an Angle: The Pargiters as Practice in Political Judgment
Cecily Garber, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“As near my heart”: Father-Daughter Relationships in Marston’s Antonio and Mellida
Megan Allen, Washington University in St. Louis

Remapping Eden: The Fiction of Olympia Vernon
Suzanne Thompson Clemenz, Purdue University

SAVE THE DATE!
The 3rd Annual Gender Matters Conference
April 12-13, 2013
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE

The Metra Electric Line commuter rail provides service between downtown Chicago and University Park. There are three downtown stations (Millennium Station; Van Buren; and Museum Campus/11th Street) close to “the Loop.” The final stop is University Park, located near the GSU campus. The station is a short walk (15-20 minutes) to the University and is served by a free university shuttle.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13th

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Gender Neutral Restroom
A gender neutral bathroom is located in the lobby of the Center for Performing Arts (CPA).
Gender Matters was made possible by the generous support of:

Elaine Maimon, President, Governors State University
Terry Allison, Provost, Governors State University
Reinhold Hill, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
James Howley, Chair, Division of Liberal Arts
Karen D’Arcy, Professor, College of Arts & Sciences
Governors State University Intellectual Life Committee
School of Interdisciplinary Learning

Special Thanks to:

Richard Rodríguez, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Laila Farah, DePaul University
Sandi Kawanna, Division of Liberal Arts
Rhonda Jackson, College of Arts and Sciences
Lindsay Gladstone, Public Affairs
Carolyn Hamilton, Graphics
Judy Ferneau, Information Technology Services
Center for Performing Arts at GSU

www.govst.edu/gendermatters