An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference on How and Why Gender Matters

April 8, 2011

www.govst.edu/gendermatters
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.

The conference theme playfully invokes the germinal work of Judith Butler referencing both *Gender Trouble* and *Bodies that Matter*. Participants will be presenting work on all matters of gender and, more specifically, work that explicates how gender matters, and continues to matter, in our world.
Conference Planning Committee

Jason Zingsheim, Chair
Daniel Cortese
Chelsea Haring
James Howley
Caron Jacobson
Elizabeth Johnson
Terri Pantuso
Tammara Winn
BRIEF SCHEDULE

9:00 – 9:30  Registration & Breakfast
            HALL OF HONORS

9:30 – 10:30 Concurrent Session 1
            VARIOUS ROOMS; D-WING, 3rd FLOOR

10:45-11:45 Concurrent Session 2
            VARIOUS ROOMS; D-WING, 3rd FLOOR

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
            HALL OF HONORS

1:00 – 2:00 Keynote Address
            SHERMAN MUSIC HALL

2:15 – 3:30 Concurrent Session 3
            VARIOUS ROOMS; D-WING, 3rd FLOOR

3:45 – 4:45 Concurrent Session 4
            VARIOUS ROOMS; D-WING, 3rd FLOOR

5:00 – 6:30 Closing Reception
            E-LOUNGE

The GSU Bookstore is carrying a variety of gender-related titles and will be open from 10:00 – 4:00 for the convenience of conference participants. Please stop by.
Concurrent Session 1

1-A Gendered Discourse: From Loving to Fucking

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

I Say ‘I Do’: Performing and Positioning the Self in Discourse on Wedding Vows
Serena Williams
University of California, Davis

Romancing the Old: Age, Gender and Discourse in Intergenerational Relationships, 1890-1930
Stella Ress, Loyola University - Chicago

Public Talk about Private Acts: Sex Talk and Sexual Agency
Valerie Peterson
Grand Valley State University

1-B Challenging Western Constructions of Masculinity

D34011, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Daniel Cortese, Governors State University

“I just kept walking...“: Fathers, Place, and Care for Children with Autism
Karen Falconer Al-Hindi
University of Nebraska at Omaha

“I Love You Man... No Homo.” A New Kind of Bromance An Analysis of Narratives from Heterosexual-Homosexual Male Friendships
Dustin Smith, Eastern Illinois University

The Graffiti Tag: Critical Practice or Masculine Rite of Passage?
A.C. Frabetti, University of Louisville
9:30 – 10:30

1-C  Literary and Narrative Analysis

D34012, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: James Howley, Governors State University

The Duplicitive Enthusiasm for the Flawed Female Image in the Captivity Narrative of Hannah Dustan
Consuella Kelly, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

The Silenced Voice of Camila Henríquez Ureña in “In the Name of Salomé” by Julia Alvarez
Rebecca Mason, University of Notre Dame

Exploring Academic Achievement and Ethnic Assimilation in Narratives of Chinese Immigrant Women
Shweta Singh, Loyola University Chicago
Suzzanne Smith, Loyola University Chicago
Shin Yee Tan, Loyola University Chicago

1-D  Cultural Links to Gender in Activism

D34104, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Chelsea Haring, Governors State University

ACT UP: Through the Perspective of Maxine Wolfe and Other Lesbian Activists
Carol Millington, DePaul University

Internet Technologies and Emerging Sherazades
Houda Abadi, University of North Carolina

South African Women’s Organizations in the Transitional Period: Assessing the Value of Gender Mainstreaming as a Political Approach
Emily Reid, Saint Louis University
Concurrent Session 2

2-A Gendered Discourse: Witches, and Antichrist, and Bono (oh my)

D34115, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Jason Zingsheim, Governors State University

Bullying Sexuality: Witch Hysteria of the Twenty First Century
Carolyn Pitcairn
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Kristeva On Why Cixous & Derrida Scare Lars Von Trier; An Analysis of Gender Lines in Antichrist Allen (A.J.) Haughton, Jr., Beloit College

Fuck as a Metaphor for Male Sexual Aggression
Pamela Hobbs
University of California, Los Angeles

2-B Sporting Identities: From Flamingos to Garters

D34011, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Chelsea Haring, Governors State University

The Pink Flamingo Aquatic Event: A Site of Gender Play and Conflict
Terry Allison, Governors State University

Achieving Athletic Middle Class Motherhood
Jennifer Hanis-Martin, University of Chicago

Garters on the Gridiron: A Critical Reading of the Lingerie Football League
Bobbi Knapp, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
2-C  Gender and Disparities: Does Gender Effect Health Care Outcomes?

D34012D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Terry Thompson, Governors State University

***Roundtable Discussion***
Health Disparities In Women
Terry Thompson, Governors State University
Raven James, Governors State University
JoAnne, Smith, Governors State University
12:00 – 1:00  **Lunch**  
HALL OF HONORS

1:00 – 2:00  **Keynote Address**  
SHERMAN MUSIC HALL

**Welcome**  
Terry Allison, Provost, Governors State University

Doing Intersectionality: Power, Privilege and Oppression in Political Activist Communities  
Karma Chávez, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Much has been said in feminist of color, queer of color and critical race scholarship about the importance of taking an intersectional approach to our understanding of identity and how institutions impact people differently. While intersectionality is a term that originally emerged to explain the precarious position of black women in relation to a legal system that acknowledges only (white) women and blacks (men) (Crenshaw 1991), and a political and cultural system that perpetually erases black women, it has (before and after) also been extended as a critique of simplistic theory and political practice. Taking an intersectional approach to theory is a difficult, but possible task as numerous scholars advance meticulous intersectional discussions and analyses (Combahee River Collective 1983; Crenshaw 1997). However, bringing an intersectional approach to politics and activism where immediate and dire needs must be met, may prove more difficult.
After conducting a year-long qualitative research project on an activist coalition between people in a queer rights and a migrant rights organization in Southern Arizona, the difficulties of engaging politics intersectionally became especially transparent. Though my research pertained to coalition building, in the analysis that follows, I discuss how internal dissonances within each group demonstrate the difficulties of actually doing intersectionality. Drawing upon a long history of feminist, particularly queer feminist of color writing about the difficulties of intersectionality, what this discussion further reveals is the pervasiveness of white and middle-class status normativity that truncates a thorough intersectional politics, thereby minimizing the possibilities for coalition and alliance building. After analyzing cases from these two organizations, I point to conclusions that suggest alternatives for engaging in intersectional politics that deal with privilege and oppression.
2:15 – 3:30 Concurrent Session 3

3-A Reframing Butler

D34115, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: James Howley, Governors State University

De-materializing Disordered Identity: Rethinking Transgender Identity and Pathological Classification through Judith Butler’s *Bodies that Matter*
Brian Kanouse, Keene State College

Confession as Performance in the Poetry of Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop
Victoria Lozano, Appalachian State University

Middlesex and Obligatory Kinship
Rhiannon Catherwood
Northern Illinois University

A Strange, Metallic Something: Meditating Cyborg Gender with C. L. Moore’s “No Woman Born”
Fontaine Lien
University of California, Riverside

3-B Bodies & Gendered Displays

D34011, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Daniel Cortese, Governors State University

The Construction of Passing among Male to Female Transsexuals
Stephanie Dykes, Independent Scholar

The All-American, the Intellectual, the Tough Guy, and the Adonis: The Influences of Culture and Size on Perceptions of Men’s Bodies
Sarah Butler, DePaul University
What (Not) To Wear as Hijab: An Exploration of How Gender Matters for Islamic Clothing Choices and Acculturation Processes in a Muslim American Community

Melissa Howe, University of Chicago

Mighty is Whitey: The Pathology of Beauty and Medicalization of Skin-Lightening in the U.S.

Sabrina Pasztor, University of Illinois at Chicago

3-C Mediating Sexuality: Queer Punks & Tricksters, Dragon Blossoms, & the Lesbian Aesthetic

D34012, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR

Chair: Tammy Winn, Governors State University

What the Punk? Gender, Sexuality and Resistance in Queer Subcultures

E. L. Lawson, University of Louisville

Autobiography, Identity, and Ritual in Liminal Space: Images of Trickster in Sadie Benning’s Flat is Beautiful

Alison Beyer, Columbia College Chicago

Dragon Blossom: Analyzing the Depiction of Sun in ABC’s LOST

Natalie Daniels, DePaul University

Mediated Sexualities: Systems Theory, Deconstruction and the Lesbian Aesthetic

Molly Slattery, Rice University

Concurrent Session 3 continued on next page.
2:15 – 3:30  Concurrent Session 3  continued

3-D  Gendered Work/Class & Working Gender/Class

D34104, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Caron Jacobson, Governors State University

He Said She Said: A Comparison of Sexualized and Non-Sexualized Work Environments Involving Sexual Harassment
Sarah Hanson, Northern Illinois University

The Relationship Between Working Conditions and Women’s Socio-Economic Status: A Global Exploratory Study
Jingqiu Guan, Saint Mary’s College

An Interrogation of the Domestic: Domestic Work, Political Subjectivity and Maria da Penha Law in Brazil
Jaira Harrington, University of Chicago

Class Matters: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Worker Experiences in the Workplace
Trevor Gates, University of Illinois at Chicago

3:45 – 4:45  Concurrent Session 4

4-A  Border Crossings

D34115, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Karma Chávez, University of Wisconsin, Madison

El Camino: Crossing the Border Through the Eyes of Mexican-Migrant Women
Erica Hurley, Northern Illinois University

A Volitale Concoction: NAFTA, Women, Labor, and Violence on the Mexican Border
Katie Schlechter, St. Louis University
Mexican Migrant Women Negotiating Gender Performance: A Transnational Context
Kimberly Leifker, Northern Illinois University

4-B Bodies & Power

D34011, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Elizabeth Johnson, Governors State University

Hidden Truth: Forced Marriage and Sexuality Under the Khmer Rouge Regime
Shay Galto, Northern Illinois University

Mouths, Tits, and Milk: Speaking in the Feminine Corpse
Lisa Hayes
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

From the Corset to Spanks: Dressing the Female Body
Miriam Aloisio, University of Chicago

4-C Applying Gender to Pedagogies

D34012, D-WING, 3rd FLOOR
Chair: Raven James, Governors State University

Modern Day Oppression Against Women
Lauren Turner
Adler School of Professional Psychology

To Be Taught By Your ‘Own Kind’: Power, Desire and Identity Politics in Women’s Studies
Christine Neejer, University of Louisville

Teaching about Gender in Addictions Studies
Raven James, Governors State University
Colleen Wray, Solley’s Place

Concurrent Session 4 continued on next page.
3:45 – 4:45 Concurrent Session 4 continued

4-D The Interplay of Gender and Institutions

D34104, D-WING, 3RD FLOOR
Chair: Caron Jacobson, Governors State University

Gender in the 19th-Century Chicago City Jail
Susan Garneau, Loyola University

Narrative, Power and the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience
Jessica Rich, Ithaca College
Cory Young, Ithaca College

Gender Trouble: A “Broad’s” Wearing the Blue
Angela Corbo, Widener University

5:00 – 6:30 Closing Reception
E-LOUNGE
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE

The Metra Electric Line commuter rail provides service between downtown Chicago and University Park. There are three downtown stations (Millenium 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.

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University Parkway (Stuenkel Road)
University Parkway/Crawford Ave.
Exchange Street

Governors Highway
Alumni Way

Wagner House
Central Receiving

GSU CAMPUS OVERVIEW
GSU CAMPUS DETAIL

Hall of Honors
D1491 in E-wing

E-lounge
E1571 in E-wing

D-wing, 3rd floor rooms:
D34011
D34012
D34104

Sherman Music Hall
E1530 in E-wing
Gender Matters was made possible by the generous support of:

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