

Thursday, January 28, 2010

**Dispatches from the Abortion Wars**

**Two Authors Discuss Global and Domestic Battles over Women's Reproductive Rights**

Speakers: Michelle Goldberg, Journalist and Author  
Carole Joffe, Professor Emerita, Sociology, University of California, Davis

Organized by: [Center for the Comparative Study of Right-Wing Movements](#)  
Co-sponsored by: Beatrice Bain Research Group

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

**BBRG PRESENTS: Impossible Translations and Unexpected Intersections**

Panel Discussion on Two Intercultural Projects

With presentations by:

[Ewa Majewska](#) - Reading feminist writers of Color in Poland.

Ewa Majewska will examine a practice of transcultural comparisons in the context of her project of translating some texts of feminists of Color into Polish. She shows the effects of a tension between producing a narrative on feminisms of Color while at the same time experiencing the historical and cultural context of the society within which the process of translation takes place. The excitement she noticed in Poland about feminisms of Color definitely is embedded in a bigger discursive history. Just as the work of translator is, Majewska's essay has also much to do with the recent history (or herstory) of Poland in the context of the political and economic transformation after 1989.

Presider: [Professor Paola Bacchetta](#)

Co-sponsored by: [Department of Rhetoric](#), [Department of Gender and Women's Studies](#), and [Center for Race and Gender](#)

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

**Spaces of Exception: Violence, Technology and the Transgressive Gendered Body in the Indian Call Center Industry**

Speaker: Radha S. Hegde, Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University

With India being drawn into the global marketplace as the high-tech solution center for business problems and operations, new types of labor demands and work environments have surfaced. The growing influence of new media technologies and mediated workplaces have created conditions of labor for women that entangle the categories of the national and transnational, private and public. Through a close reading of the discourse that emerged after the rape and murder of a call center employee in Bangalore, this talk engages with the sexual politics of transnational work in India's call centers.

Organized by: [Department of Gender and Women's Studies](#) - Li Ka Shing Lecture Series

Co-sponsored by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#), [Townsend Center Working Group on Muslim Identities and Cultures](#)

Sunday, February 21, 2010

**The Inaugural Sarah Kailath Memorial Lecture by Kamala Harris**

## Women and Leadership

Speaker: Kamala D. Harris, San Francisco District Attorney

Kamala D. Harris was elected in December 2003 as the first woman District Attorney in San Francisco's history, and as the first African American woman in California to hold the office. She was overwhelmingly reelected to a second term in November 2007. Harris is the author of *Smart on Crime: A Career Prosecutor's Plan to Make us Safer*.

As San Francisco's District Attorney, Harris has used her nearly 20 years of prosecutorial experience to focus intensively on fighting violent crime. She increased felony conviction rates, expanded services to victims of crime and their families, created new prosecution divisions focused on child assault, public integrity and environmental crimes, and launched innovative initiatives to prevent re-offending.

Organized by: [Center for South Asia Studies](#)

Co-sponsored by: The Beatrice Bain Research Group (BBRG)

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010**

### Lessons From Gaza

**Speaker:** Dr. Sunera Thobani is Associate Professor of Women's Studies and the Director of the RAGA (Race, Autobiography, Gender and Age studies) Center at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. In September, 2009, Dr. Thobani traveled to Gaza as part of the first Rachel Corrie Foundation Delegation.

In this talk, Dr. Thobani will present a slide show on the situation in Gaza. The Israeli blockade is having a devastating impact on the Palestinian population in Gaza, especially the women, as they struggle to care for their families under conditions of growing unemployment and poverty. Dr. Thobani will discuss the ramifications of the Israeli blockade for the politics of international solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against the Occupation.

Organized by: Townsend Center Working Group on Muslim Identities and Cultures

Co-sponsored by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#), [Center for Race and Gender](#), [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#), and [Department of Gender and Women's Studies](#)

**Friday, February 26, 2010**

### **BBRG PRESENTS: Annual Keynote Talk - Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**

Situating Feminism

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, University Professor and Director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University

This presentation will attempt to situate feminism geographically, in terms of the triumph of the Euro-specific (even Anglo-specific) model, in terms of the history of both of Marxism and Capitalism. It will trace feminism's itinerary through both coloniality and globalization. It will also attempt to situate feminism historically in terms of the provenance of what we at radical U.S. universities call feminism and see how it reflects on the development of mobility among women in terms of not only capital but also the great engines of world governance.

Organized by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#)

Co-sponsored by: [Department of Comparative Literature](#), [Department of Rhetoric](#), [Department of Sociology](#), [Department of Gender and Women's Studies- Li Ka Shing Lectures](#), [Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies](#), [English Department](#), [Townsend Center for the Humanities](#), [Center for Race and Gender](#), [Center for South Asia Studies](#), [Department of Geography](#), [Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures](#), [the Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory](#), and the [Townsend Center Working Group on Muslim Identities and Cultures](#)

\*View the webcast of the **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** lecture [here](#).\*

Thursday, March 11, 2010

### **Does Gender Matter in Organized Racism?**

Speaker: Kathleen Blee, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, University of Pittsburg

Abstract:

How do we know if gender matters in right-wing movements? Drawing on my studies of women in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan and modern U.S. organized racism, as well as new scholarship on women in right-wing movements across the globe, this talk looks at assumptions that enable and circumscribe how we understand gender on the political right. These include templates of German Nazism, the male right, social movement progressivism, historical & spatial continuity, and mobilization from the private to the public.

Organized by: [Center for the Comparative Study of Right-Wing Movements](#)

Co-sponsored by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#), [Department of African American Studies](#), [Department of Gender and Women's Studies](#), and [Department of Sociology](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

### **BBRG PRESENTS: How Queer: Race, Class and the Politics of 'Marriage Equality'**

**Tommi Avicolti Mecca:** [The Class War Comes Out of the Closet](#)

Abstract: I plan to speak about how class issues intersect with queer issues, how being from the working-class has informed my politics since I first got involved with gay liberation 40 years ago, and how I see gay marriage as an attempt to build an LGBT middle class that is a copy of the straight middle class that doesn't care about economic justice issues for working-class and poor folks. I will start from 40 years ago (gay liberation) and then talk about the struggle for services for homeless queer youth in the Castro which pitted middle-class neighbors and merchants against homeless youth and advocates. I will also talk a little about the current fight against a sit/lie law that will target homeless youth, queer homeless youth and day laborers.

**Nicola Barker:** [Ambiguous Symbolisms and the Power of Law: Same-Sex Marriage and Legal 'Recognition' in South Africa](#)

Abstract: Of the several arguments that are made for same-sex marriage, one that has emerged as a key discourse is that of the symbolic importance of the recognition of same-sex relationships by the 'historically' homophobic state. This argument featured in the recent case in California, as well as in cases in other jurisdictions where same-sex couples already had access to many or all of the legal protections of marriage, such as in the United Kingdom and Canada. It is the South African legal context, however, that raises the most interesting questions about the issue of recognition. South Africa was the first nation in the global south to legally recognize same-sex marriages and the first nation in the world to explicitly protect lesbian and gay 'equality' in its constitution, yet it would be difficult to argue that legal equality exists in South Africa within the institution(s) of marriage. Marriage in South Africa is recognized (in descending hierarchical order), through civil marriage, customary marriage or Muslim marriage. As the legislature introduced same-sex marriage in South Africa via the Civil Union Act 2006, customary and Muslim marriages were not considered as sites for same-sex marriages and remain inaccessible for same-sex relationships. This raises interesting questions, which are also raised in North America and Europe, about which gays and lesbians become 'equal' through access to marriage. Following Carol Smart, my starting point is that while there may be some strategic use in seeking legal recognition, this must be approached cautiously and with what Janet Halley terms 'an honest, beady-eyed understanding of what marriage is'. In this context, I (re)turn to the recognition/redistribution debate, seeking to highlight the ways in which marriage operates as a site of exclusion, 'outlawing' marginalized groups within the lesbian communities as it recognizes the new 'in-laws'.

Prsided by: [Paola Bacchetta](#), Associate Professor in Gender and Women's Studies

Organized by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#)

Co-sponsored by: [Center for Race and Gender](#)

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

**Post-9/11 Disease Scares and the Health-Security Industry  
Racialized "Biological Threats" and Gendered Biodefense**

**Gwen D'Arcangelis**, Postdoctoral Scholar, UCSB Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology, Feminist Studies

Dr. Gwen D'Arcangelis is a scholar of gender, culture and science. She is interested in public engagements—particularly of women and communities of color—with emerging science and technology. She has just completed a dissertation on post-9/11 disease scares and the science, health and national security policies implemented in their wake. Her results showed that the “biosecurity” and “bioterrorism” disease control measures implemented during the post-9/11 period not only diverted attention away from commonplace public health concerns with equitable distribution and access to healthcare, but also promoted racist representations of disease carriers and the funneling of frontline healthcare workers (who are primarily female) into an emerging national security-biodefense complex. In January 2010, she began as a Postdoctoral Scholar in the NSF/EPA UC Center for Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (UC CEIN), located at UC Santa Barbara, where she is working on a mixed methods qualitative/quantitative study of gendered and raced environmental risk perceptions about nano materials in the US and Canada. Gwen also has experience as a bioscience laboratory technician and is actively involved in community groups working toward the prevention of violence against women and people of color.

Organized by Li Ka Shing Program in Gender and Science in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies.

Co-sponsored by the Science, Technology, and Society Center (STSC), the Beatrice Bain Research Group (BBRG), the Center for Race and Gender (CRG), and the Office for History of Science and Technology (OHST)

Thursday, March 18, 2010

**BBRG PRESENTS: 'Fat. Gay. Gay. Fat.'**  
**Toward a Comparative Genealogy of Sexuality and Body Size**

Speaker: [Lynne Gerber](#), Research Fellow, The Religion, Politics, and Globalization Program at UC Berkeley

Body size and homosexuality have been potent sites of moral panic in the 20th century United States. Fat people and gay people have been discursively linked in a range of popular and academic representations and targeted for efforts at containing what is widely viewed as their excessive desires. Yet few efforts have been made to place the two issues in historic conversation, tracing common genealogies and making a case for productive comparative work. This paper will be a step in that direction, laying out similarities and differences between moral and medical discourses on fatness and homosexuality historically and examining two contemporary efforts at changing homosexuality and body size: a Christian weight loss program and an ex-gay ministry.

Organized by: Beatrice Bain Research Group

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

**The Concept of Reaction**

Speaker: Mark Lilla, Professor of Humanities, Columbia University

What do we mean by the term "reaction"? This concept, which drifted from the sciences to our political thought in the eighteenth century, is one of the least studied in modern intellectual history. Libraries are full of books on "revolution" and "resistance"; there are very few on reaction, a phenomenon that has done as much to shape the West (and now the world) as the other two. There have been potent reactions against the Enlightenment, the French

Revolution, economic modernization, urbanization, colonialism, and now globalization. The term is usually used to describe individuals and movements on the right, and is often confused with conservatism. Yet reaction also occurs on the left (in radical environmentalism, for example). This talk will explore the many meanings people have given to the concept and examine whether any of them advance our understanding of modernity.

Respondent: Martin Jay, The Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley  
Organized by: Institute for the Study of Societal Issues (ISSI)  
Co-sponsored by: Department of Philosophy, Department of History, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology, and Beatrice Bain Research Group

**Tuesday, April 6, 2010**

### **Women, Religion and Electoral Politics in the Islamic Republic**

Speaker: Dr. Homa Hoodfar, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Concordia University, Montreal

Organized by: [Department of Gender and Women's Studies](#) - Li Ka Shing Lecture Series  
Co-sponsored by: [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#) and [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#)

**Thursday, April 15, 2010**

### **BBRG PRESENTS: Transnational Critiques of Gender Mainstreaming**

Panelists:

[Ashraf Zahedi](#), Scholar-in-Residence at the Beatrice Bain Research Group  
"Gender Mainstreaming in Afghanistan: The Limits of Policy Transfer"

[Bina Pradhan](#), Fulbright New Century Scholar and Scholar-in-Residence at the Beatrice Bain Research Group  
"Towards Inclusive Macroeconomic Framework: Gender and Social Equality"

Discussant:

[Kiren Chaudhry](#), Associate Professor of Political Science

Chair:

[Paola Bacchetta](#), Associate Professor in Gender & Women's Studies and Director of BBRG

The quest for achieving gender equality through policy intervention has led to the design and implementation of various policy approaches worldwide. Building on the merits and limitations of the previous approaches, Women in Development (WID), Gender and Development (GAD), and Gender Mainstreaming, the more recent policy approach - Women, Culture and Development - advocates a comprehensive and context-driven approach for achieving gender equality. The panel examines conceptual-structural limitations of and operational obstacles of gender policies in Afghanistan and Nepal and makes structural and policy recommendations.

Organized by: [Beatrice Bain Research Group](#)

Co-sponsored by: [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#), [Center for South Asia Studies](#), and the [Townsend Center Working Group on Muslim Identities and Cultures](#)

**Friday, April 16, 2010**

### **Gil Hochberg: Queer Encounters at the Checkpoint**

On Queer Politics and "the Question of Palestine"

Professor Hochberg attends to the intricate dynamics defining the relationship between what can be broadly called “Queer Politics” and “the Question of Palestine.” The discourse about “gay rights” and “sexual tolerance” on the one hand, and the strict state regulation of sexual behaviors, identifications and bonds on the other, both come to crisscross and complicate the more common and openly discussed concerns associated with the Israeli Palestinian conflict such as: national security, militarism, border control, colonial oppression, terrorism, secularism, religious conviction, and ethno-national self-determination. Professor Hochberg argues that sexual politics and most specifically issues concerning “queerness,” which might initially seem marginal in this context, do in fact play a central role in both facilitating and transgressing the current hostile and oppressive relationship between Israelis and Palestinians.

Organized by: Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures

Co-sponsored by: Department of Gender and Women's Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Department of Ethnic Studies, Beatrice Bain Research Group

**Tuesday, April 20, 2010**

**BBRG PRESENTS: Women Along the Silk Road: Past and Present**

Speaker: [Xiaoli Xu](#), The 2009-2010 BBRG - Li Ka Shing Scholar in Residence

The Silk Road was as one of the greatest trading routes that linked Central Asia to Mediterranean areas, and was the main cultural highway of communication between China and Europe in medieval times. Traders, pilgrims, adventurers, emigrants, soldiers and refugees traveled along the Silk Road for thousands of years and brought their own cultures to the areas they passed through. Dunhuang as a key site on the Silk Road had served as cultural “melting spot,” particularly in the Tang and Song dynasties. As a central point for flows from eastern and western cultures, Dunhuang also witnessed a vibrant multi-ethnic society in the Chinese Medieval period.

This presentation focuses on rare collections of Dunhuang materials to rethink women’s changing lives on the Silk Road through a long historical period. It engages with questions about what women’s activities brought to the Silk Road in Medieval China and about the complexities of women’s lives around the area today, in order to better understand the relationship between gender and multi-directional cultural flows.

Organized by: Beatrice Bain Research Group

**Friday, April 23, 2010**  
**Saturday, April 24, 2010**

**Coloniality of Power and Permanent War**

Critical and Theoretical Interventions

The focus of this symposium is to develop critical analyses of the linked legacies of colonialism and war as they shape contemporary social formations and institutions. We are interested in examining how both colonizing practices and discourses and forms of conceiving difference through rubrics of war have become constitutive components of modern and contemporary societies. Key in this respect are ideologies about race, gender, and religious difference; institutions and practices that promote ghettoization, rape, genocide, generational poverty, displacement, and violence; and the production of spaces of subjection, domination, and dehumanization such as the reservation, the prison, the colony, the nation, and the camp.

Organized by: the Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory, and the Department of Ethnic Studies

Co-sponsored by: Beatrice Bain Research Group, Center for Latino Policy Research, the Departments of African American Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, and others to be listed soon.

[Event Program](#)

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

**Ex-Gay, Post-Gay, Still Gay**

The Ex-Gay Movement in South Africa and the United States

The ex-gay movement is a complicated and at times contradictory phenomenon. A bastion of conservative sexual values and politics, it is also the site of gender and sexual innovation (of a particular sort). Its efforts at healing people from homosexuality range from the strictly therapeutic to the intensively spiritual. And the movement both reflects and engages with the national political environments within which it finds itself. This panel will bring a transnational perspective to the ex-gay movement, with speakers who have undertaken intensive field work in ex-gay ministries in South Africa and the United States. It will look at the gender, racial and bodily practices and perspectives the ministries promulgate, their relationship to sexual and religious politics, and their impact on the lives of people attempting to change their sexual orientation.

Organized by: The Religion, Politics and Globalization Program

Co-sponsored by: Beatrice Bain Research Group, The Center for Comparative Study of Right Wing Movements, The Center for Race and Gender, and the Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures

Friday, May 7, 2010

**Mission Suhani - A Nautanki**

Bringing Back India's Lost Opera

Speaker: Devendra Sharma, Professor of Communication, California State University, Fresno

Mission Suhani tells the story of a confident young Indian bride, Suhani, who is married off to a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) groom by her parents and who, almost immediately after the wedding, is abandoned by her San Francisco based groom when he absconds to the US with her dowry. This is a story of how Suhani takes matters into her own hands, and without giving away the entire plot, recovers not only her dowry but her husband as well.

Nautanki (an operatic performance tradition of northern India), bring attention to serious social issues through folk music and humor and this particular one raises a very contemporary social issue relating to immigration, dowry, and domestic violence. It critically examines the phenomenon of some Indian men who live in America, go back to India to get married, take a huge dowry, and then return to the US, abandoning their wives back in India. Such cases have become so common that in India the Indian government has now formally established a special cell functioning under the National Commission for Women (NCW) to deal with the issues of women married to non resident Indians (NRI) and published a guidebook for families planning to marry their daughters abroad and in the US there are no less than 22 organizations working within the South Asian community to address these issues. Prof. Sharma has crafted a brilliantly entertaining, thought-provoking and moving musical that grapples with this issue.

Organized by: Center for South Asia Studies

Co-sponsored by: Department of Music, Magistretti Chair in South Asian Studies, Townsend Center for the Humanities, MAITRI, Narika, Theater, Department of Dance & Performance Studies, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, Beatrice Bain Research Group