



USC Center for Feminist Research

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Director's Message *by Mike Messner*

As you will see in the pages of this issue of the CFR newsletter, feminist research, pedagogy and activism is thriving at USC. We focus here on the fantastic community work and scholarship of our current faculty, students, and former graduate students, and in so doing we highlight the current challenges and the future directions of gender studies.

Today, gender paradoxes abound: U.S. women candidates contest for political office in growing numbers, but among those most rapidly ascendant are women promoting conservative gender and sexual agendas. Girls and women now play sports in unprecedented numbers, yet the mainstream mass media continues to ignore or trivialize women's sports. Greek letter organizations on campus continue generally to reproduce heterosexism (and often race segregation), but feminist students are working within

these organizations to change them. Research shows a steady growth of cultural tolerance for sexual and gender diversity, yet recent stories of the tragic suicides of bullied and assaulted queer youth reveal the limits of such tolerance. In parts of the global South, violence, poverty, HIV infection, and gender inequalities mutually feed on each other, but researchers are illuminating these connections and working with local activists for progressive change. In these pages, you will read how USC gender studies faculty, students, and alums are working at the nexus of these and other gender paradoxes.

Finally, with this issue of the newsletter, we welcome Rebecca Das as the new CFR program specialist. We are most fortunate to have Rebecca as part of our team.

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"White Ribbon" founder Kaufman inspires men to stop gender-based violence

Nearly 200 students packed the Doheny Intellectual Commons to listen to Canadian anti-violence leader Michael Kaufman this past October 28. Kaufman was the first invited speaker in the CFR's 2010-11 New Directions in Feminist Research seminar. As he spoke, he tore a thin strip of white paper, folded it, and scotch-taped it on his lapel to display the white ribbon symbol that he

helped make famous in Canada, and throughout the world, as a symbol of men's commitment to ending gender-based violence.

In 1989, Michael Kaufman was working as a political science professor at York University, when a national event changed his life. On December 6,

a misogynist and overtly anti-feminist man massacred fourteen women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. In the aftermath of this tragedy, Kaufman joined with others to form the White Ribbon Campaign. What began as an annual symbolic moment—Canadian men wearing a white ribbon on their lapels to publicly proclaim their opposition to violence against women—became a full time job for Michael Kaufman, and eventually, the spark for a transnational movement of men committed to ending gender-based violence.

Today, the White Ribbon Campaign has expanded to sixty countries, and is the largest effort in the world of men acting to end violence against women. Michael Kaufman has worked in scores of countries, speaking, consulting, and organizing for gender equity with NGOs like Oxfam, Save the Children, and the International Red Cross. He has conducted workshops and trainings to prevent sexual harassment, including designing the training for 55,000 employees of the United Nations Development Group, as well as for UNESCO. He has written scores of policy and research papers, op-eds, magazine

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Kaufman (cont. from page 1)

articles, radio commentaries and documentaries.

It is not an exaggeration to say that, over the past twenty-five years, no man in the world has done more than Michael Kaufman to challenge, inspire, and mobilize other men take responsibility for stopping violence against women, and to join women in the fight for gender justice. On the other hand, Kaufman knows that much work is still to be done: throughout the world, gender-based violence is still rampant, evidenced by wartime sexual assaults against women, partner rapes, domestic violence, and violent terror against queer and transgender people.

In the face of these challenges, when asked what keeps him going, Kaufman reflected, "I think we've had tremendous successes. The women's movement and some men are having a real impact on organizations, on policing and enforcement of laws, and things that are happening around the world—just in terms of engaging men and boys—are absolutely unbelievable. They are unbelievable. I saw in Pakistan, for instance, there are a lot of good men, young men, who are working hard to live equitable respectful lives with women, who want to have an impact on their communities. And I think they are really making a difference. One of the privileges of what I get to do is I get to meet a lot of people in a lot of countries, and it used to be I



could only say, 'Oh yeah, I'm inspired by so many women.' But now I'm also inspired by so many men, who often against incredible odds are working to end violence against women. It is awe-inspiring, and they are having an impact."

For more information on the White Ribbon Campaign, please visit <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>

Deepening the Ties: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives and USC Embark on New Ventures Together



The collections at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives have recently become a permanent part of USC libraries. Housed on USC property for over a decade, the collections have provided

source material for several academic books, ONE's own art gallery and museum in West Hollywood, and for the Hollywood film MILK. Books written using ONE's material include USC professor Walter Williams' *Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture*, historian Jonathan Katz's pioneering *Gay American History*, and CUNY professor Daniel Hurewitz's recent *Bohemian Los Angeles and the Making of Modern Politics*.

ONE Archives is both the oldest LGBT organization in the western hemisphere and the largest LGBT archives in the world, with over two million artifacts. Incorporated in 1952 as ONE, Inc., the organization produced a homophile magazine and won the first U.S. Supreme Court victory for LGBT activists. This allowed ONE to send its magazine through the U.S. postal service.

ONE has a long history of engagement with academic research. The ONE Institute of Homophile Studies was founded in 1956 by key personnel at ONE, Inc. and a former USC professor. This institute published the ONE Quarterly of Homophile Studies between 1958 and 1970. The later Institute for the Study of Human Resources began granting masters and doctorate degrees in 1984. This work ended when the Institute merged with the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, becoming ONE National

Gay & Lesbian Archives. In the early 1990's, ONE affiliated itself with USC, taking up residence in a building on USC property where it remains today. ONE and USC began a scholars program to facilitate research at ONE by scholars from across the U.S., even providing designated housing for such scholars for a time.

In recent years, USC Gender Studies students have regularly interned at ONE; in Spring of 2010, one former such intern produce an exhibit at USC utilizing materials from ONE's extensive t-shirt collection. USC Gender Studies classes often tour ONE's facilities and students use the collections for class papers. A 400 level course teaching archival research focused on LGBT topics is also offered at USC and held at ONE.

Most recently, ONE has collaborated with USC Roski School of Fine Arts, LGBT & Ally Resource Centre, and the LGBT & Ally Committee of Graduate and Professional Student Senate at USC to offer the ONE Offs series of events. These events provide feminist and LGBT students, activists, writers, and artists with opportunities to present their work to the public. "USC students, featured guest speakers and the public will be able to network, collaborate and investigate our shared histories," said Onya Hogan-Finlay, an MFA candidate at Roski who is helping to organize the series. ONE Archives Board President, Joseph R. Hawkins, Ph.D., added, "Now that the University of Southern California provides a permanent home to ONE Archives' vast collection, it makes sense to take advantage of this synergy and provide mutually beneficial programs and events with the University."

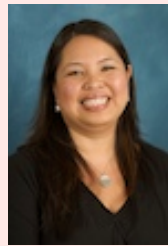
2010-11 New Directions In Feminist Research Seminar Zeroes in on Violence

Each year, the CFR sponsors a New Directions in Feminist Research seminar that builds research and fosters campus-wide dialogue around a particular set of issues. This year's seminar is organized around the theme of "Gender Violence and Anti-Violence." This Fall, the six graduate student and faculty seminar participants featured a widely-attended campus presentation by Canadian anti-violence activist Michael Kaufman. On the drawing board for the Spring semester are two public forums: one on race, gender, and prison rape, and the second on transnational efforts to stop gender-based violence.

In addition to public campus programming, seminar participants meet to support each other in the development of their own individual projects. Here is a list of the participants, and their projects.



Kim Shayo Buchanan, Associate Professor in the Gould School of Law is developing an intersectional analysis of the race, gender, and sexual dynamics of rape in women's and in men's prisons.



Annalisa Enrile, Associate Clinical Professor in the School of Social Work, is researching transnational campaigns against gender violence through a case study of the Philippines.



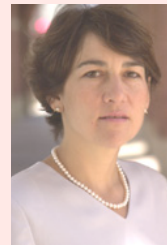
Max Greenberg, a Ph.D. student in sociology and gender studies, is studying the implications of community-based feminist anti-violence movements' transformation into NGO's that promote anti-violence curricula in schools.



Michael Messner, Professor of sociology and gender studies and New Directions Seminar director, is conducting a life-history-based comparative study of two generations of men doing anti-violence work with boys and men.



Tal Peretz, a Ph.D. student in sociology and gender studies, is analyzing a men's campus-based anti-violence program in the U.S. that he will compare with similar anti-violence organizing in India.

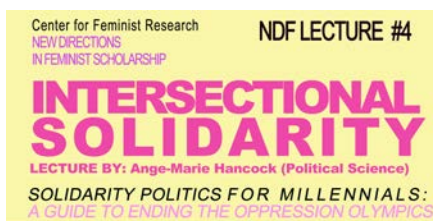


Alison Renteln, Professor of political science is interested in national efforts that achieve some success in reducing violence against women, and is thus focusing on the impact of laws prohibiting dowry deaths.



Noelia Saenz, a Ph.D. student in the School of Cinema is studying efforts to connect contemporary Spanish and Latin American cinematic representations of gender violence with efforts to stop domestic violence.

2009-2010 New Directions Seminar in Review



The 2009-2010 New Directions Seminar was a great success for its faculty fellows Shafiqah Ahmadii (Rossier School of Education), Macarena Barris-Gomez (ASE/Sociology) and doctoral fellow Araceli Esparza (ASE). The theme, "intersectional solidarity," allowed fellows to examine a diverse set of questions. Projects interrogated expressions of solidarity across national boundaries in music and literature as well as best institutional practices for solidarity in education and politics.

Each fellow was treated to an individual workshop of their manuscripts, which included a visiting discussant with similar disciplinary training, research interests, and/or methodological expertise. Following the workshops, the visiting

discussants also presented well-attended public talks co-sponsored by the Center for Feminist Research and the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. Thanks to Edwina Barvosa (UCSB Chicano Studies), Dorian Warren (Columbia University Political Science) and Adrienne Katherine Wing (University of Iowa Law) for joining us and enriching the Gender Studies intellectual climate!

Araceli Esparza defended her dissertation last year, and Ange-Marie Hancock's book, *Solidarity Politics for Millennials: A Guide to Ending the Oppression Olympics*, will be published by Palgrave-Macmillan in May of 2011. Both projects benefited greatly from the camaraderie and intellectual engagement of the New Directions community.

Gender Studies Faculty Updates

Lois Banner: History, Gender Studies

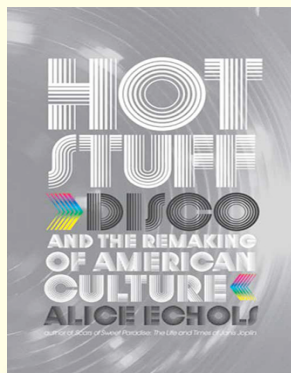
This coming January, Lois Banner will present her paper, "Marilyn Monroe and the Hollywood Sex System," at the American Historical Association Convention. Banner also has two books on Marilyn Monroe in progress. The first, due to be published in early spring by Harry Abrams, is titled *MM-Personal* and contains 300 photographs of items that were in Marilyn's personal file cabinets in her Brentwood home. Banner wrote captions for the photos, as well as a long introduction on Marilyn's life, and organized the book; the photos were taken by celebrity photographer Mark Anderson. Her second book, *An Uncommon Woman: Marilyn Monroe as an American Icon of Passion and Power*, will be a scholarly work published by Bloomsbury Press.

Diana Blaine: Writing Program

In October, Diana Blaine headed a panel for The College Commons called *Are Celebrities Mortal?* with Leo Braudy and Anne Porter. In conjunction with this examination of the collision between the transcendence of the star and transcendence of death, she led *Dead Hollywood*: a tour of Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Blaine's recent paper, "'We Have Come to See the King': Celebrity, Capitalism and Christianity at Michael Jackson's Memorial," is part of a larger project on representations of death in contemporary American Culture. She also authored a chapter, "'Does She Talk During Sex?': The Gendering of Permissible Speech on Dr. Phil," for the collection *Women and the Gendering of Talk, Gossip and Communication Practices across Media*, published by McFarland Press this November.

Alice Echols: English, Gender Studies

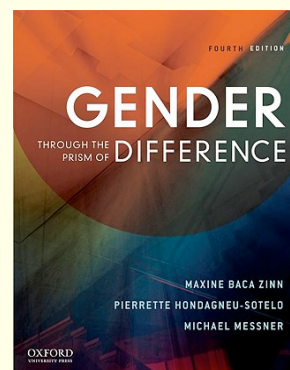
Alice Echols's fourth book, *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture* was released by W.W. Norton in spring 2010. It garnered impressive reviews in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *BookForum*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, and *The Week*, among others. Echols did substantial interviews about the book with *Salon* and *the Nation*. She also appeared on numerous radio shows, including WNYC's *Studio 360* and *Soundcheck*, NPR's *On Point*, KPFK's *Air Talk*, and the BBC's premier morning show, *The Today Programme*. Since the book's publication, she has given book-related lectures at The University of Michigan, Princeton University, UCLA, Rutgers University, and St. Olaf College. Her review of Christine Stansell's *The Feminist Promise* appeared in the October issue of the *Women's Review of Books*. She is currently on leave and at work on her fifth book. Upon her return in August 2011 she will become the chair of Gender Studies.



Michael Messner: Sociology, Gender Studies

Michael Messner saw the publication of the fourth edition of his co-edited text *Gender Through the Prism of Difference* (Oxford

University Press). Over the summer, he completed a CFR-sponsored study of gender in televised sports, and published an op-ed based on this research, "Dropping the ball on covering women's sports," in the *Huffington Post*. His article, "It's Not About the Game: Don Imus, Racism and Sexism in Contemporary Media," written with former USC students Cheryl Cooky, Faye Wachs and Shari Dworkin, appeared in the *Sociology of Sport Journal*. In August, Messner's recent book *It's all for the*



kids: Gender, families and youth sports was featured in an "author meets critics" session at the American Sociological Association meetings in Atlanta. Also at the ASA meetings, he delivered the annual Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Distinguished lecture, "Stopping gender violence: Two generations of male activists."

Gloria Orenstein: Comparative Literature, Gender Studies

In *A Travers le Cristal D'Alan Glass*, released this year on DVD, Gloria Orenstein leads the viewer on a tour of Alan Glass' retrospective at the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City in 2008. The documentary was filmed by Tufic Makhoul, and produced in France by Aube Elleouet, who works with the film company Seven Doc. Elleouet is the daughter of Andre Breton, founder of the Surrealist Movement, and has worked with Seven Doc to produce incredible films on Marcel Duchamp, Yves Tanguy, Andre Breton, Jacqueline Lamba and Robert Desnos. Seven Doc and Elleouet are currently preparing a film on Leonora Carrington, for which Orenstein was interviewed, and another one on Remedios Varo and several other important surrealist artists. Orenstein wrote an article on Alan Glass' art, which resembles *wunderkabinets*. This paper, "Bee Dreaming," is due out at the end of November in *The Journal of Surrealism and the Americas*, available online only. She has also written an essay for the book/catalogue of the forthcoming exhibition *In Wonderland*, featuring women of Surrealism who lived in New York City and Mexico City immediately after WWII. This exhibit, curated by Ilene Fort of LACMA and Teri Arcq of the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City, will open in Dec. 2011 in Mexico City and then come to LACMA in the winter of 2012. Orenstein also wrote an article for *Fierce Beauty*, a book accompanying Chicana artist Linda Vallejo's 40-year retrospective this year, and has spoken at several of Vallejo's public events.

Amy Parish: Anthropology, Gender Studies

In May, Amy Parish took USC MPH students to a village in Malawi to study childhood growth and development. The team worked to assess nutritional status and typical diets in school children, conducted home interviews with women in the village, and assessed health attitudes and concerns (the village has an 18% HIV infection rate among adults). The group also met with the village midwife and traveled to the nearest clinic to learn about health care availability and costs. Parish is now supervising a USC graduate student group that is raising money to build a medical

clinic for the village. She is also the faculty adviser to the newly formed UNICEF undergraduate student organization on campus.

This summer, Parish gave a talk on intersections between feminism and biology at the National Women's Health Network in Washington D.C. She also gave the keynote address at the 29th Annual Gender Studies Symposium at Lewis and Clark University, whose theme this year was The Science of Gender and Sex. In the fall, she was nominated for a Women Changing the World Award from Speak for Success: Women's Leadership Institute. She received honorable mention in the "Empowerment" category for inspiring students to become feminists. Her book chapter titled "Living Differences: The Paradigm of Animal Cultures" was published by Springer Verlag this year in the edited volume *Homo Novus: A Human Without Illusions*. She also recently spoke on a



panel on the Science and Culture of Contemporary Kinship at Scripps College.

Karen Tongson: English, Gender Studies

In spring 2010, Karen Tongson was invited as guest faculty to NYU's Department of Performance Studies, where she taught graduate seminars on queer theory and popular music. Upon her return to USC from NYU, Tongson was named co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and the series editor of *Postmillennial Pop* (a new book series at NYU Press). She was also named the events editor of *American Quarterly*, and elected to a three-year term as an MLA Delegate for Gays and Lesbians in the Profession. During the summer break, Tongson was named an NEH-Vectors-UCHRI fellow, and she participated in an intensive workshop on the digital humanities here at USC's Institute for Multimedia Literacy. In spring 2011, Tongson concludes her chairship of the Asian Pacific American Caucus at SCMS, and her first monograph, *Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries* (NYU Press) will appear in print.

Sherry Velasco: Spanish, Gender Studies

Sherry Velasco's forthcoming book *Lesbians in Early Modern Spain* will be published by Vanderbilt University Press in March 2011. This year she is working on her next project "Cervantes on Cinema" with a Faculty Fellowship from the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute and a grant from the Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences Initiatives.

Hello from CFR's new Program Specialist! *By Rebecca Das*

I write to introduce myself to the CFR community of scholars, of which I am a proud new member. The opportunity to work with the Center is an exciting one. As an undergraduate student at SC, I was profoundly impacted by the quality instruction and rich course offerings in my two departments, Gender Studies and Anthropology. I have also been inspired by the changes USC has undergone in recent years and its bright future. USC steadily increases in excellence and global presence, and I look forward to helping the Center for Feminist Research match this trend in the years to come.

My work as an undergrad at USC largely focused on gender identity: the discourse, narratives, performances, and theories that help construct gendered selves in various contexts. For the McNair Scholars program (2009 cohort), I used the Galli priesthood of the ancient Mediterranean world as a case study in considering whether the category "transgender" could be used in cross-cultural and historical studies. For my senior thesis in anthropology, I studied the processes of transgender inclusion at USC, contextualizing this inclusion within larger discourses and activist movements historically and contemporaneously on both local and national levels.

Besides helping to make the world safer for all genders, I parent two wonderfully clever boys and enjoy reading popular science writing, going to libraries and museums, and contemplating life, the universe, and everything. My current academic interests include the construction and maintenance of gender identities; feminist thought, women, and minority genders and sexualities in history; and issues surrounding college access and diversity in higher education.

The CFR community is itself quite diverse, spanning a multitude of genders, ethnicities, sexualities, academic fields, and other identity markers. What we have in common is a desire to query gender in myriad contexts, what we



can achieve together is perhaps limited most by what we imagine to be possible.

Myself, I hope to help increase the visibility, activity, and funding of the Center during my time here. Come by

Taper Hall 422, let's put our heads together and stretch the limits of the world we can imagine!

Quotable Quotes

ipsa scientia potestas est

Knowledge itself is power.

- attributed to Sir Francis Bacon

CFR Study Reveals Dearth of TV Coverage of Women's Sports

Participation and excitement over women's sports may have exploded in recent decades, but you would never know it if you receive your information from nightly TV news and sports highlights shows. Nearly four decades following the passage of Title IX, coverage of women's sports on news and highlights shows still lags far behind that of men's sports. In fact, a 2010 CFR-sponsored study revealed that coverage of women's sports on television news and highlights shows was at its lowest levels ever, since 1989 when the study began.

"Gender in Televised Sports," authored by Michael Messner, professor of sociology and gender studies, with Purdue University's Cheryl Cooky (a graduate of the USC gender studies program), revealed that in 2009 coverage of women's sports plunged to only 1.6% of all airtime on LA's three network affiliate sports news broadcasts. ESPN's popular highlights show "SportsCenter" was no better, devoting only 1.4% of its airtime to women's sports.

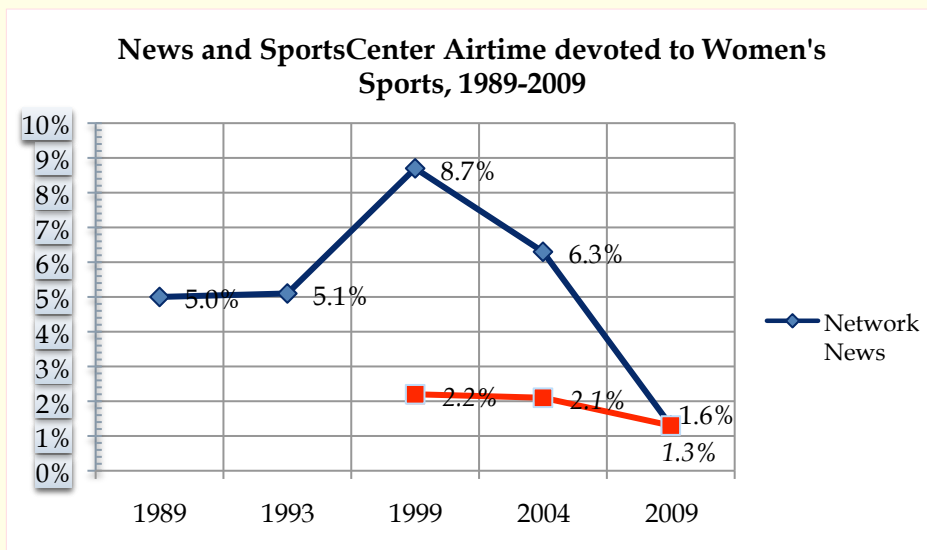
Since its release this past June, the "Gender in Televised Sports" report has generated considerable public discussion. Advocacy organizations like the Women's Sports Foundation reported the findings, and professors are using the report in their courses. Numerous bloggers and radio commentators discussed the research. National periodicals, including the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *The Nation* ran features on the report. However, the TV news and highlights shows that were the subjects of the report's critical scrutiny continued to deliver a steady flow of men's football, basketball, and baseball coverage in to America's living rooms.

In an introduction to the "Gender in

Televised Sports" report, noted athlete and sports commentator Diana Nyad wrote, "I confess to being shocked to learn that since 1989 very little has changed in the world of televised sports news. As a matter of fact, for women athletes, and fans of women's sports, things have devolved, rather than having evolved. It is frankly unfathomable, and unacceptable, that viewers are actually receiving *less* coverage of women's sports than they were twenty years ago...and that the sports news is still being delivered almost exclusively by men. There is no doubt that there has been a gender revolution in American sports in recent decades. Millions of girls play sports every day. Tens of thousands of women compete in college and professional athletics...It is time for television news and highlights shows to keep pace with this revolution."

"Gender in Televised Sports" can be downloaded in its entirety from the CFR home page.

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/cfr/html/home.htm>



NDFR to Host Val Jenness Talk on Gender & Prison Violence

*Save
the
Date!*

On February 4th, 2011, the Center for Feminist Research will host a talk by Professor Valerie Jenness as part of the New Directions in Feminist Research seminar. Jenness will be speaking on gender and violence in prisons, specifically, transgender performativity and the sexual assault of transgender inmates in male prisons. She will also discuss "the Olympics of Gender Authenticity," which she coined to refer to competition among transgender inmates for the affection and attention of "real men" while in prison.

Valerie Jenness is the Dean of the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine, where she also teaches in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society.

The talk will be held from 2pm - 4pm at the University of Southern California main campus, building and room to be announced. To RSVP, please contact us at cfr@usc.edu.

The Gender Studies Certificate Program: Two Stellar Alums

For over two decades, the Gender Studies Program's Graduate Certificate has helped USC students of gender and sexuality stretch their teaching and research across interdisciplinary boundaries. Since 1989, 134 students have completed the Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies, and many have found the Certificate to be a valuable resource in helping to launch academic careers. Today, 57 current graduate students are enrolled in the Certificate Program, spanning at least thirteen USC departments.

With this issue of the CFR Newsletter, we begin a series that spotlights the accomplishments of alums of our Graduate Certificate Program.

Shari Dworkin, 2000 Ph.D. (Sociology)



Following her graduate work at USC, Shari Dworkin spent several years at Columbia University, first in a post-doctoral fellowship, and then as an assistant professor and research scientist in the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies. Now a tenured associate professor and vice-chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the

University of California, San Francisco, she is a founding member of the UC Global Health Institute Center of Expertise on Women's Empowerment and Health.

One of Shari Dworkin's current projects integrates economic empowerment interventions with HIV prevention for women at risk of HIV. Throughout sub-Saharan Africa and in Kenya, despite the fact that statutory law protects women's right to property, this right is frequently violated, thus exacerbating women's HIV and violence. In collaboration with the Kenyan Medical Research Institute and GROOTS Kenya (a Kenyan network of women's organizations), Dworkin is launching an integrated property rights and HIV prevention study that explores how structural interventions that focus on women's access to, use, and control of land and other economic assets mesh with HIV and violence prevention efforts.

Approximately 70% of all HIV infections are transmitted between women and men, but most interventions focus only on women. Hence, another focus of Shari Dworkin's research examines the links between masculinity with violence and HIV risks. Dworkin seeks to modify and combine programs that a) recognize the links between gender inequality and HIV risks and b) intervene on the constraining definitions of masculinity that harm both men's and women's health. In South Africa, she is collaborating with the University of Cape Town and Sonke Gender Justice to research how men's participation in an anti-violence and HIV prevention program impacted men's health and their sense of themselves as men.

While Shari Dworkin's research has resulted in a steady flow of articles in social science and health journals like the *American Journal of Public Health*, she has managed also to sustain a secondary area of research focus on gender, sport, and physical activity that she started while at USC. Most recently, her book *Body Panic: Gender, Health and the Selling of Fitness* (NYU Press, 2009), co-authored with USC alum Faye Linda Wachs, was honored with the Outstanding Book Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

Reflecting back on her years at USC, Shari Dworkin comments, "The USC Gender Studies Certificate offered me a firm interdisciplinary grounding in gender studies that I still draw upon regularly in my domestic and international research programs."

Lynn Sacco, 2001 Ph.d. (History)



Following her degree in history from USC in 2001, Lynn Sacco won a prestigious University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, and was in residence at UC Santa Barbara for the next two years. She then joined the history faculty at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she recently earned tenure and promotion to associate professor. Here,

she reflects on the importance of USC's CFR in the development of her career trajectory.

In 1994 I left a law practice of fifteen years to start what I dared to hope, only in my wildest dreams, would be a new career. Having become increasingly angry with the ways that I saw tired assumptions about gender constraining working within the legal system, I wanted to study feminist theory to see if I could move both my life and society in a new direction. I entered the women's studies program in the American Studies department at SUNY-Buffalo, one of the first such programs in the country, intending to research gender bias in the daily practice of law.

My research and my life took an unexpected turn when I walked through the library one day and out of the corner of my eye saw the headline of the *New York Review of Books*: "Revenge of the Repressed," (1994) a two-part article that used the occasion of a rash of new books about contemporary allegations of father-daughter incest to complain about "feminist zealots" who blamed men for their personal unhappiness. Shocked at the viciousness directed at female subjectivity so late in the twentieth century, I began to research the debates that swept the professional and popular media in the 1980s and 1990s over the veracity of countless women's allegations that, beginning when they were girls, their fathers had repeatedly sexually abused them. I concluded that the fierceness of the debates rested on two assumptions: that father-

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Gender Studies Students in the Community

“While it is hard to imagine how answering phones would invoke any gender studies theory, it surprisingly did. It is easy to forget the opposition or that even another side exists when like-minded people constantly surround you in your major and on the campaign.”



Half of calling one's self a feminist is acknowledging that gender inequalities and injustices exist. The other half is committing one's self to making the world more equal and just.

Our community internship allows each USC gender studies major to develop just this sort of feminist praxis—linking scholarship with practical engagement. For instance, this Fall our gender studies students have worked in Hollywood film production; a birth surrogacy agency with a primarily LGBT clientele; a nonprofit that focuses on women in business; and with a Planned Parenthood program on sexual health education in middle schools. We invited one gender studies major, Yvette Ferrer, to reflect on her internship in California's hotly contested 2010 race for the U.S. Senate.

Working With The Boxer Campaign

By Yvette Ferrer

This semester I had the privilege of working on Barbara Boxer's reelection campaign for my Gender Studies internship. While often people become disenchanted with politics because differences between candidates can seem inconsequential, it was exciting to work in a race where there were decisive issues that differentiated Boxer from her opponent. I was fortunate to get to work in many areas of her campaign ranging from some administrative work, to working press event surrounding Boxer's pro-choice stance, staffing fundraising events, calling political action committees to garner support, and being lead merchandise manager for the state. However two days in particular come to mind when I reflect on my experience.

While it is hard to imagine how answering phones would invoke any gender studies theory, it surprisingly did. It is easy to forget the opposition or that even another side exists when like-minded people constantly surround you in your major and on the campaign. But one day the campaign office received dozens of calls from a pro-life group alleging a pro-choice stance was extreme, unacceptable, and amoral. These phone calls became a rude awakening for me that many people still want to make women and doctors criminals by denying a woman a right to choose. But as frustrating as it was to defend

Boxer's pro-choice stance, the experience made me that much more dedicated to electing a champion for women's rights, Barbara Boxer.

While many people think a women's right to choose was not on the ballot this past November, it was because of Republican nominee Carly Fiorina's support of overturning *Roe v. Wade*. I was excited to work a press conference that highlighted how Fiorina's regressive pro-life stance was in contradiction with the majority of Californians. Putting together this press conference was exhilarating because of how much I value a women's right to choose. While I find it disheartening that we are still battling for the same rights we were in the 1970s, it was inspiring to hear NARAL president Nancy Keenan's impassioned speech about how pro-choice Americans are ready to fight and vote in the election. Ultimately, I am thankful to have Barbara Boxer as my representative in Congress because I know she will fight for my rights as a woman. Overall, working for Senator Boxer has been the highlight of my USC career. It was inspirational working to help elect someone I believe so strongly in and meet other like-minded people who are passionate about politics and women's issues.

Facilitating Greek & LGBT Relationships

By Jaclyn Matthews

My name is Jaclyn Matthews, and I sit on the Executive Board of the Panhellenic Council (PHC) – the governing body of the sorority system – at the University of Southern California as the Vice President of Judicial Affairs. In response to the recent devastating increase in suicides among gay youth in America, USC's Queer & Ally Student Assembly (QuASA) reached out to PHC to begin a partnership to plan and promote co-sponsored events that spread understanding, acceptance and inclusion of diversity within the Greek community. As a public relations and gender studies double major, I feel passionately about issues of sexuality and gender and volunteered to be the PHC representative to QuASA.

During the 2010 fall semester, PHC and QuASA created and sold black tank tops with neon lettering that read "gay? fine by greeks" to publicize the PHC/QuASA partnership. Everyone who bought a tank

wore it on Wednesday, Oct. 20 to demonstrate the Greek community's support of Ally Week. Enthusiastic reception of the tanks surpassed all expectations, with students from UCLA and UCSB also placing orders. In response to this success, PHC and QuASA plan to expand the tank sale next fall by selling pre-ordered shirts at tables on campus and on 28th Street and by leaving the online store open much longer.

PHC and QuASA also hosted an interactive, educational event at the AlphaDelta Pi sorority house on Nov. 10. Entitled "Greek 101," the event aimed to generate a dialogue between members of the Greek and queer communities on campus. The event opened with a showing of a short, custom-made DVD splicing together clips from film and television depicting negative stereotypes of sorority women, fraternity men, gay men and lesbians. After viewing the sometimes-hilarious, sometimes-disturbing DVD, members of QuASA and representatives from five sorority chapters engaged in an animated discussion about the similarities and differences between the Greek and queer communities and why those distinctions exist. The discussion also centered on exploring real ways to foster a more positive relationship between the two, often overlapping communities. Everyone left the event with the challenge to talk to at least one fraternity man and at least one sorority woman about the issues brought up during the discussion in order to ensure that the dialogue initiated at the event did not end with the event. PHC and QuASA intend to continue cultivating their exciting partnership with more events next semester and to build their outreach to the Interfraternity Council with the hopes of involving more fraternity men in the events.

Black Queer Masculinities & Troubled Genders

By Kiana Green

I am a PhD candidate in the department of American Studies and Ethnicity (ASE) here at USC. I completed my B.A. in American Studies with a minor in Africana Studies at Williams College (2007). My research interests are Black Queer Studies, Feminist thought and praxis, Cultural Studies, and African American Poetry. I am also a spoken word poet and documentary filmmaker.



Currently, I am developing a dissertation that examines the role of documentary filmmaking in the production of images of Black Lesbians. I am interested in the conditions under which Black masculine lesbians become not invisible but hypervisible and how hypervisibility is in turn policed in public and private spaces like bathrooms, clubs, churches and prisons. The primary sources for this project include documentary films, mainstream narrative films, queer Black communities and sites in Los Angeles, California.

While these films help me examine how the Black masculine lesbian is imagined in contemporary U.S. culture, I am also constructing, through historical research and ethnography, a genealogy of the Black masculine lesbian in American culture from the 1960s to the present. I merge literary critical analysis with ethnographic and geographical accounts of how Black lesbians navigate gendered public spaces. I have been conducting ethnographic interviews and doing participant observation at various social, political, and spiritual gathering places for Los Angeles's Black queer community, including nightclubs like Jewel's Catch One and The Annex and The Unity Fellowship Church, a Black gay church founded in 1985.

I am in the process of making my own documentary film that uses my ethnographic interviews with queer gender variant, masculine of center women of color and transgender men and their experiences in public bathrooms. This film project asks the question: how is it that queer folks of color, masculine identified women and transgender men in particular survive and thrive in spaces that are clearly demarcated by gender boundaries? When a body cannot be read by cursory glance as "female" it is often perceived as "male," but past that, these kinds of bodies are often perceived as deviant queer, a "man-woman"—a body that disrupts the clear boundary between male and female. I am interested in how this troubling of gender binaries can open up room for radical possibility whereby gender might be viewed in a multiplicitous way rather than a dichotomous one.



"Currently, I am developing a dissertation that examines the role of documentary filmmaking in the production of images of Black Lesbians. I am interested in the conditions under which Black masculine lesbians become not invisible but hypervisible and how hypervisibility is in turn policed in public and private spaces like bathrooms, clubs, churches and prisons."



The Personal is Wearable: Political T-shirts from LGBT History

curated by Rebecca Das

In May of 2010, the Center for Feminist Research, USC Gender Studies, and ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives sponsored an exhibit of political t-shirts from ONE's collection of well over one thousand LGBT-related shirts. The project began the previous semester with a Gender Studies student internship at ONE and was continued as a project for Chris Freeman's Queer L.A. History class. The well-received exhibit was housed in the Von KleinSmid Center Library gallery space for three weeks.

The Personal is Wearable: Political T-shirts from LGBT History highlighted the use of t-shirts in LGBT struggles for equality over the past 50 years. The groups represented in the exhibit – queer people of color, transgender people, youth and others – have been subject to heightened vulnerability and abuse because of their particular location within American social structure.

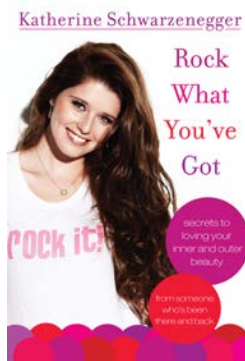
The exhibit also addressed the role of clothing as a declaration of identity, or even as a prop in creating identity. A shirt can be deliberately employed, or deployed, to speak a particular message through what is printed on it. It becomes a mobile canvas for artistic expression or an in-your-face political declaration. It can tell the world "this is what I am," in an act of self-definition. The clothing we wear, like these shirts, are a part of the process of forging our Selves and our identities, a process which USC professor Dorinne Kondo has aptly called "crafting selves."

The final phase of this project is to upload photos of each shirt with a description of its historical context to the CFR site. We hope this taste of *The Personal is Wearable* will inspire you to look for this project online this coming spring.



Rock What You've Got, by Katherine Schwarzenegger

Reviewed by Lois Banner



Kudos to Katherine Schwarzenegger, an undergraduate Gender Studies minor and Communication major, who has written an impressive brief book on physical appearance. The title is *Rock What You've Got*, and I recommend that all undergraduates (male and female) read it.

Katherine argues that the emphasis in American culture on an artificial beauty highly touted by the media benefits only the consumer industries

that produce products like make-up and make-overs. Teenagers and preteens in particular accept it because of a lack of self esteem that is omnipresent among them. She adopts a sensible approach, radical around the fringes, that is directed toward producing individual awareness and the ultimate goal that beauty is relative and should be based on an exercised body, a radiant spirit, and reaching out to others.

Such advice is as old as the Greeks, but it is sadly lacking in our egotistic, consumer-driven culture. Such body modifications as breast implants, silicon in lips, and Botox injections into the face are unnecessary and may be harmful to the body. Katherine points out that the faces of the models in the fashion magazines are modified through computer techniques to make them perfect—without lines and blemishes—creating images that are false and impossible to achieve. She worries about the cults of thinness and sexuality that are appearing among ever younger girls, while she gives practical advice on such issues as acne, anorexia, and menstruation.

The book is written engagingly, with lots of interesting data, and with personal examples that make Katherine come alive as someone who has struggled with the issues she describes and has mastered them. It's addressed to mothers and fathers, as well as daughters—surprisingly, Katherine is in favor of strict childrearing and lots of parental involvement, and she makes a good case for it.

All of us can be proud of Katherine's achievement. My final recommendation is that it should be required reading in all high schools—for boys as well as girls.

Feminist Flashback

It was nearly twenty years ago, in 1991, that Naomi Wolf's feminist classic *The Beauty Myth* was first published. Wolf's work examined the social pressures that often lead to the difficulties with body image which plague women and girls even today, as evidenced by Schwarzenegger's new book.

Alums (cont. from page 7)

daughter incest rarely occurs, and that it never occurs in white middle and upper class homes.

Curious as to how beliefs about a topic always characterized as "taboo" had become so widespread, I decided to enter a doctoral program in women's history in order to trace their origin. I chose USC for all the right reasons: Lois Banner was a leader in U.S. women's history and keen to work with me, as were other members of the history department; and the Center for Feminist Research could facilitate networking with other feminist researchers across disciplines. It was the best decision I ever made.

Finding historical sources about father-daughter incest, a behavior that is defined by secrecy, required a national search. Two travel grants from the Center for Feminist Research provided some of the initial seed money. Even more important, the faculty and students I met at the CFR lunches and talks gave me an interdisciplinary home for critical support and fresh ways of thinking. And Lois introduced me to countless other feminist historians in Los Angeles and to the Western Association of Women's Historians (WAWH), which provided me with a dissertation award.

In 2001, the UCSB women's studies program nominated me for a two-year UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, which I began in fall 2001. I used the time to complete additional research, write an article (which won an award from WAWH), nail down an advance book contract, and begin revisions. Then I struck the mother lode—a tenure-track position at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where I received financial support and time off to complete my book, *Unspeakable: Father-Daughter Incest in American History*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2009.

I received tenure in the history department this year, despite living in one of the most conservative states in the country. I have won research, advising, and teaching awards, but still receive complaints every semester from students about "too much feminism." More surprising, perhaps, in a state where no public money may be used to promote homosexuality, as an out lesbian I have not only been protected by the university—which had no policy protecting sexual orientation when I arrived—but this year am serving as chair of its Chancellor's Commission on LGBT People, a group that advises the chancellor on issues concerning equity and visibility of LGBT faculty, staff, and students. I helped the commission open the first LGBT center on campus in February 2010, and we are now forming an LGBT alumni association, an idea I got from my experiences as a graduate student with the USC Lambda Alumni Association.

I learned a lot from becoming a member of the USC feminist community. The generosity, moral and intellectual support not only shaped me as an academic, opened doors, and miraculously helped me to change careers in mid-life; it sustains me now, even in an environment so hostile to feminism that I open my spring U.S. history survey course by saying, "I am the feminazi Rush Limbaugh warned you about. Let's see what you think about that by the end of the semester."



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