

## **Special Issue – A Retrospective of the Semester's Events**

### **Linda Alcoff Inaugurates Philosophy Lecture Series**

Feminist scholar Linda Martín-Alcoff (Hunter College/CUNY Graduate Center) gave a talk on “Discourses of Sexual Violence in a Global Framework” on Wednesday, March 10.

Sponsored by the Philosophy Department and co-sponsored by Women's Studies, this lecture was the first in the new Kuykendall Lecture Series, organized in honor of Eleanor Kuykendall, a member of the Philosophy Department at SUNY New Paltz from 1967 to 1993, who was instrumental in the development of the

Women's Studies Program.

In her lecture, Professor Alcoff focused on the use of the concepts “victim,” “consent” and “honor crime” in discourses on sexual violence, analyzing the differences and possible commonalities in various cultures. She explored the use and limits of Western contract theory, based on John Locke's ideas, exploring the ways in which contract theory provides an insufficient framework in cases of sexual violence.

— *Edith Kuiper*

### **Faculty, students organize library exhibit on women in social movements**

Courageous women from a variety of cultures and time periods adorned the library exhibit cases in March. Eleven faculty members and students joined together to create “Women in So-

cial Movements: A Women's History

#### **Women's History Month**

Month Exhibit,” which presented women working for human rights as well as their own liberation. Most of us had never created an exhibit before and were figuring it out as we went, but with crucial assistance from Morgan Gwenwald, the outreach coordinator for the library, we assembled a collection of powerful display cases. Among the many positive comments from the exhibit guest book was the following: “I absolutely love this exhibit! It is full of power & strength & struggle of women! Every time I pass it and I am having a hard day I'm reminded of how strong these women were/are and that's how I should be too!”

The exhibit was created by Ligia Aldana, Luz Porrás and Roberto Velez-Velez from Latin American Studies, Kate McCoy and Eve Tuck from Educational Studies, Rachel Mattson of Secondary Education, Amy Kesselman of Women's Studies, Beth Wilson of the Samuel Dorsky Museum, Ruth Lindner, Elizabeth Gross and Shilo Kennedy and other members of the Feminist Collective.

— *Amy Kesselman*



## Jodi O'Brien Gives First Queer Studies Lecture

On April 22, the Women's Studies Program launched a new annual Queer Studies Lecture. Our first speaker, Jodi O'Brien (Professor of Sociology, Seattle University), gave a dynamic talk on same-sex marriage debates to a packed house.

Dr. O'Brien explored the ways these debates shed light on sets of exclusions she calls "permissible prejudices" and outsider groups' yearning for "cultural belonging."

The public presentation was followed by a reception where the discussion continued. Look for another fascinating talk at our second annual Queer Studies Lecture next year!

— Karl Bryant



## Spotlight On: Queer Action Coalition (QAC)

Eleanor Jailer-Coley writes:

Our biggest event this semester was the Day of Silence, which was a two-day event. The first



day was the actual national day, April 16th. That day we held a radical demonstration in the STL Library. We painted pieces of cardboard with statistics of violence/bullying against GLBT youth and the consequences (ie. depression, suicide). Most of us taped our mouths shut because the national event is entitled "Day of

Silence"; we were silent for three hours and held the cardboard. Additionally, we had a banner behind us where people were welcome to write their own experiences (and many did, they were all very powerful).

The second day event for Day of Silence was the Speak OUT! We had four performers who were queer-friendly come in. The first two were local, one was Sophia Wortzel (from Women's Studies), and another was a spoken word artist from California named Kimberly Dark. She focused on gender and queerness. Her website is kimberlydark.com.

In addition, we had a movie night and watched *TransAmerica*, and I taught everybody Queer and curse-word related sign language.

## Rachel Mattson Offers New Course

Rachel Mattson will be offering a new women's studies course this fall, "Sex, Gender and the State," and joining the women's studies affiliated faculty. Rachel is a historian, gender studies scholar, and artist—and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Secondary Education. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1992 with a major in Women's Studies and received her PhD in U.S. history from NYU in 2004. She is co-writer with Dipti Desai and Jessica Hamlin of *History as Art, Art as History: Contemporary Art and Social Studies Education* (Routledge, 2009), a book that argues for (and offers) an approach to teaching history to young people through critical engagement with visual knowledge and contemporary art. She has also published an array of articles about U.S. history and history education, including a forthcoming essay

### Faculty Profile

entitled "Anti-Homophobia Education: Predicaments and Possibilities" (*Perspectives: The Newsletter of the American Historical Association*, May 2010).

"Sex, Gender and the State" will examine the relationship between gender, sexuality, and the law in U.S. history. It will look at the ways that ideas about gender and sexuality have shaped U.S. immigration and naturalization law, debates about interracial and same-sex marriage, and the category of "the criminal." It will also examine the ways that queer, transgender, and feminist activists have worked to envision new kinds of democratic citizenships and legal identities.



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## Faculty News

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**Peter D.G. Brown** (Foreign Languages) published a book, *Oskar Panizza and The Love Council: A History of the Scandalous Play on Stage and in Court, with the Complete Text in English and a Biography of the Author* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010).

**Karl Bryant** (Sociology and Women's Studies) and Ruth Lindner (WOM Sp10) worked together this past year on a research project studying discourses about "transgender childhood." In April, they presented their research at the Pacific Sociological Association meetings in Oakland. Dr. Bryant will continue this project over the summer with Claire Papell (WOM F10). These faculty-student collaborations were supported by Academic and Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (AYURE/SURE) Awards.

**Emily Caigan** (Women's Studies) published "Depth of Place: An Interview with Carolee Schneemann," in *Carolee Schneemann: Within and Beyond the Premises* (SUNY Press, 2010), the catalog for the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art exhibit. Caigan was also a panelist discussing Schneemann's work on April 10, 2010.

**Katherine French** (History) published an article, "Loving Friends: Surviving Widowhood in Late Medieval Westminster," in *Gender and History* 22: 1 (2010).

**Morgan Gwenwald** (Sojourner Truth Library) presented a paper, "Women Watching Women Being Men: Lydia Thompson and the British Blondes Or Burlesque in the Gilded Age," at the 7th annual "Art of Gender in Everyday Life" conference held by the Janet C. Anderson Gender Resource Center at Idaho State University in Pocatello. Her presentation was an outgrowth of research done in conjunction with **Susan Lewis** on the "Diary of Emma Waite and Burlesque in the Gilded Age."

**Kristine Harris** (History and Asian Studies) served as visiting associate professor at the University of Chicago in spring 2009, where she developed two new courses, including "Women in Chinese Film." She presented a paper at the symposium "Chinese Opera Films after 1949: Music, Performance, and Cinematic Arts," at the University of Chicago. Her biographical articles on early Chinese actresses Ruan Lingyu, Li Xiangan, and Hu Die were published in the *Encyclopedia of Modern China* (Scribners, 2009).

Harris participated in a month-long Fulbright Group Project Abroad in India during January 2010 that included eight SUNY New Paltz faculty, including **Sunita Bose** (Project Director; Sociology) and **Anne Roschelle** (Sociology). The trip focused attention on gender issues in India.

**Heather Hewett** (English and Women's Studies) published an article on recent fiction by Nigerian and Zimbabwean women writers in the March/April issue of *Women's Review of Books*. She served as a panelist and speaker at the Motherhood Conference at the CUNY Graduate Center, sponsored by *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

**Amy Kesselman** presented her work on efforts to organize clerical and technical workers at Yale in the 1970's to the Columbia Seminar on Women and Society and gave a paper, "Coming Out, Coming in and 'Be Coming': Lesbians and the Women's Liberation Movement in New Haven, Connecticut," at the Yale University Lecture Series on the History of Sexuality.

**Edith Kuiper** (Economics and Women's Studies) published with Drucilla K. Barker (University of South Carolina) a four-volume set, *Feminist Economics*, in the Routledge Major Works Series (January 2010, Routledge). These volumes provide the reader with a selection of feminist economic texts from 1800-2003: Early Conversations, 1800 – 1960; Households, Labour, and Paid Work; Engendering Development and Economic Well-Being; and Epistemological and Methodological Considerations. These volumes are available at Sojourner Truth Library.

**Susan Lewis** (History) presented two papers: "No Business Extant in which Women are not Employed" for a panel on U.S. women's entrepreneurship in the 19th century at the Annual Meeting of the Business History Conference in Athens, Georgia; and "Before Nancy Drew: Girls to the Rescue in World War I," for a panel on "girl lit" for the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention in Montreal.

**Anne R. Roschelle** (Sociology) was elected Vice President of the Eastern Sociological Society. She presented her research, entitled "Why Don't They Just Get Married? Homeless Chicanas in San Francisco Talk About Why They Chose Motherhood Over Marriage," at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in March in Boston, Massachusetts.

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