

# *Gender M@tters Bi-monthly*

*Department of Gender Studies Bi-monthly Newsletter*

*Vol. 1, No. 2 January 30, 2009*

## ***Publications***

- **Marlon Bailey's** article, "Performance as Invention: Ballroom Culture and the Politics of HIV/AIDS in Detroit," has been accepted for the forthcoming Special Issue on Gender and Sexuality of *Souls: a Critical Journal of Black Politics and Society*."
- **Marlon** also received an advance contract with The University of Michigan Press for his manuscript in progress, *Butch/Queens up in Pumps: Gender, Performance and Ballroom Culture in Detroit*.
- **Maria Bucur** published "Gender and Citizenship. Difference and Power in the Modern State. A Review Essay," in *Journal of Women's History* vol. 20, no. 4 (Winter 2008): 160-170.
- *Gender Grad Student Makes Short on Kinsey Collection.* **Betsy Jose**, a second-year PhD student with the Gender Studies department has produced a short film on the rare collections at the Kinsey Institute Library. The four and a half minute short titled "Inside the Kinsey Library" features an interview with the Head of the Kinsey Library, Liana Zhou. The film encapsulates what the Kinsey collections have to offer for sex researchers around the world. The film can be seen on the Kinsey website at <http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/services/video.html>. Betsy who has extensive work experience in radio, TV and film in India is also pursuing a minor in telecommunications at IU.
- **Cierra Thomas-Williams** has three book reviews that have recently been published.
  - "Book Review: *Globalization and Race: Transformations in the Cultural Production of Blackness*," an edited collection by Kamari Maxine Clarke and Deborah A. Thomas" in *Callaloo*, Forthcoming (next issue).
  - "Book Review: *Mammy: a Century of Race, Gender, and Southern Memory*," by Kimberly Wallace-Sanders. University of Michigan Press, 2008. December 2008 in *emisferica 5.2: Race and its Others*, November 2008. Available online at: [http://www.hemisphericinstitute.org/eng/publications/emisferica/5.2/en52\\_thomas\\_williams.html](http://www.hemisphericinstitute.org/eng/publications/emisferica/5.2/en52_thomas_williams.html)
  - "Film Review: Judith Butler, *Philosophical Encounters of the Third Kind*," in *Journal of International Women's Studies* Vol. 10 #2, November 2008. Available online at: <http://www.bridgew.edu/SoAS/jiws/Nov08/Thomas.pdf>

- Recent publications by **Brenda Weber** are:
  - “The Text as Child: Gender/Sex, Representation, and Fin-de-Siecle Metaphors of Maternity in Mary Cholmondeley’s Red Pottage, Rhoda Broughton’s A Beginner, and Elizabeth Robins’ George Mandeville’s Husband.” In Ellen Rosenman and Claudia Klaver, eds. *Other Mothers: Beyond the Victorian Maternal Ideal*. Ohio University Press. 2008.
  - “Makeover as Takeover: Scenes of Affective Domination on Makeover TV.” *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology*. 15.1 (Winter 2008): 77-100.

### *Conference Presentations*

- **Marlon Bailey** presented a paper, "From Home to House: Toward a Theory of Black Queer Diaspora," at the AAA Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA in November.
- On January 8<sup>th</sup>, **Alex Doty** gave a talk at the Chicago Film Seminar. His talk was titled: "Marlene Dietrich and Greta Garbo in the 1930s: The Sexy Hausfrau vs. The Swedish Sphinx."
- **Emily Schusterbauer, Stacy Weida, and Cierra Thomas-Williams** are presenting at the 2009 GLBTQ Studies Conference at UNC Asheville, March 27, 2009 on a panel they put together called "Re-Theorizing Trans Texts." The name of the conference is *Queer Art/Queer Action (Politics of Possibility)*.
- **Brenda Weber** will be attending the following conferences:
  - American Men’s Studies Association Conference, in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on April 3-5, 2009.. The topic of the conference is “American Eunuch: Troubling the Boundaries of Gender, Agency, Volition, and Control”
  - Cultural Studies Association Conference in Kansas City, Kansas on April 16-18, 2009. "Hot Buttered Television Made in China: Moral Contaminants, Embodied Epidemics" is the conference topic.
  - Society for Cinema and Media Studies at Josai University, Tokyo, Japan on May 20-24, 2009. The topic is "Mind over Manners: Gendering a Global Empire in an Anglophone Television Mediascape"
- **Gender Studies Graduate Students Presenting at MBLGTACC!**  
The Gender Studies department is proud to announce that seven of our students have been chosen to present their work at the 2009 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference. The conference theme is “examining the past to enhance our future,” and focuses on sharing scholarship and activist opportunities with undergraduates from across the Midwest. MBLGTACC is being held here at IUB February 13-15, 2009.

In a panel entitled, "Laws, Lives, and Loves: Queer Histories and Identities" **Nicholas Clarkson** leverages connections to feminist and Radical Faerie groups in gay bear

histories in an attempt to elaborate feminist masculinities; **Aimee Shand** examines the legal and social strictures surrounding gendered clothing in the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup>-century and their impact on what we would now call GLBT people; **Katherine Schweighofer** traces fear as a lever in advancing the British homophile agenda in the 1950-60s using case studies from film and legal discourse; and **Allison Vandenberg** explores the role of homophile publications in forming a national discourse among gay men and women in the US during the 1950s and 1960s.

And in a second panel, entitled “How 'Here' is Queer? Mediated Identities in the 21st Century” **Jenna Basiliere** discusses how the positioning of reality tv as factual affects public perception of nonnormatively gendered bodies; **Betsy Jose** compares the representations of gays to lesbians in contemporary Indian cinema using a postcolonial lens; and **Joselyn Leimbach** considers the way in which Latina visibility affects the marketability of lesbian films.

More conference information can be found at [www.indiana.edu/~mblgta09/index.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~mblgta09/index.html).

### ***Guest Speakers***

- Gender Studies is joining with other departments across the campus (CMCL, History, Cultural Studies, American Studies, Office of Women's Affairs) to bring in **Linda Mizejewski** in March.

Professor Linda Mizejewski is a distinguished professor specializing in women and film in the Department of Women's Studies at Ohio University. She is a gifted public speaker, an insightful scholar, and a skilled teacher, as evidenced by the many public speaking events she does throughout the country and her recent (2004) winning of the Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award at OSU. Dr. Mizejewski is the author of three significant books: *Hardboiled and High Heeled: The Woman Detective in Popular Culture* (Routledge, 2004); *Ziegfeld Girl: Image and Icon in Culture and Cinema* (Duke, 1999); and *Divine Decadence: Fascism, Female Spectacle, and the Makings of Sally Bowles* (Princeton 1992). Her next book *It Happened One Night* will appear in 2009 with Blackwell. Professor Mizejewski's publications and talents as a speaker make her distinctly suited to appeal to multiple audiences. Given that she has very generously agreed to offer talks to graduate and undergraduate students, as well as a broader public, and to tailor each of these talks to meet the particular needs of those groups, it is clear that her presence at Indiana University will be both edifying and enjoyable.

Dr. Mizejewski will offer a public lecture titled "Meryl Streep: Voice, Body, and Embodiments of Feminism" in the Georgian Room of the IMU, Monday, March 9 from 4-6:00 p.m. She will also offer a more general forum for undergraduates, staff, and the general public on body image on Monday, March 9 from 11:30 - 1:00, location TBA.

- As part of the Gender and Citizenship New Knowledge Seminar sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Study, **Professor Francisca de Haan** (Central European

University, Budapest), gave a public lecture entitled “Continuing Cold War Paradigms? The Women’s International Democratic Federation and the Historiography of Transnational Women’s Movements” on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Francisca de Haan, Ph.D., is Professor of Gender Studies at the Central European University in Budapest, and affiliated with the International Information Center and Archives for the Women’s Movement (IIAV) in Amsterdam. She is currently a fellow at the National Humanities Center, North Carolina, where she holds the John E. Sayer Fellowship, endowed by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Her research focuses on modern European women’s history, and the history of inter/transnational women’s movements. She recently co-edited *A Biographical Dictionary of Women’s Movements and Feminisms. Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, 19th and 20th Centuries* (Central European University Press, 2006, second ed. 2008) (Choice 2006 Outstanding Academic Title). She is one of the editors of *ASPASIA. The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Women’s and Gender History* (published by Berghahn Books: New York and Oxford). She is also the Vice-President of the International Federation for Research in Women’s History.

## ***Awards***

- **Christina Clark**, 2004 graduate from IUB with majors in psychology and gender studies recently won the "Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders". This program is sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council and the Governor's Office. The press release regarding the award and the IHC website is located at <http://www.indianahumanities.org/GATL/index.htm>

## ***Upcoming opportunities for travel/conferences:***

### **NWSA Conference Call for Proposals**

- *Difficult Dialogues*, November 12-15, 2009 at Atlanta, GA  
The theme: **Difficult Dialogues: NWSA 2009** will examine how feminist intellectual, political, and institutional practices cannot be adequately practiced if the politics of gender are conceptualized (overtly or implicitly) as superseding or transcending the politics of race, sexuality, social class, and nation. NWSA invites all of those interested to submit proposals for panels, papers, workshops, and performances that represent the wide range of intersectional and transnational scholarship in the US and beyond. To see the full CFP and to download it, [please visit the NWSA Conference site..](#) **Submission Deadline: February 15, 2009.** Conference Speaker: Angela Y. Davis
- *Women of Color: Theory, Scholarship, and Activism*, June 15-17, 2009 at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA  
**The Junior Faculty Institute** is hosted by Spelman College’s Women’s Research and Resource Center in conjunction with the National Women’s Studies Association, the Institute is designed to explore issues of power and privilege and examine intersectional

analyses of race, class, nation, sexuality, gender, and globalization which have become central to scholarship and teaching in the field of women's studies as well as feminist activism. The Institute is funded with generous support from The Ford Foundation. The three-day Institute will be led by established women of color scholars in women's studies and will combine readings, lectures, discussion, and media. The Institute will also take advantage of its location in Atlanta. A major site for the Civil Rights Movement, Atlanta today is characterized by strong racial/ethnic diversity and a tradition of African-American leadership in the public sector. It also serves one of the largest gay and lesbian populations in the United States. [Click here for further details and application form.](#)  
**Application Deadline: March 1, 2009**

### *Announcements*

- During the semester break, **Marlon Bailey** was the dramaturge for a new production of a play called, "Bear Country" at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Montgomery, Alabama.
- **Brenda Weber** is chair of the newly formed Indiana University Teaching Coalition (IUTC), an interdisciplinary forum for graduate students and faculty designed to foster discussion on teaching practices and pedagogical literatures. If you would like to be included in their mailing list, please contact Brenda at [breweber@indiana.edu](mailto:breweber@indiana.edu)
- **Cierra Thomas-Williams** was accepted into the Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas as one of the two IU students on the IUB contingent this summer. The meeting, which is sponsored by Indiana University, Duke University, the University of Pennsylvania, New York University, Lewis & Clark College, and the University of Georgia, will take place from July 22 – July 29, 2009, in Tepoztlán, Morelos, a tranquil small town about two hours from the Mexico City airport.

The Institute is a weeklong seminar held in July in Tepoztlan, Morelos, Mexico, a rich experience of intellectual exchange around theoretical and political questions of the moment.

The theme of the 2009 conference is Revolutions and Heterotopias. We seek to reexamine revolutions in the Americas, particularly the political imaginaries that both inspired them and that they unleashed. For example, we welcome work on the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Nicaraguan Revolution of 1979, and the Mexican Revolution of 1910. We also encourage work on less state-centered events, movements, practices, and ideals that have imagined or generated "other" (hetero-) "spaces" (-topias) for culture and politics. 2009 is an especially propitious time to reflect critically on the significance of revolutions and heterotopias because it is an anniversary year for the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, and the lead-up year to the centennial of Mexico's Revolution of 1910 and the bicentennial of its independence. The theme of the conference, however, will not be limited to either the twentieth century or to political upheavals. Rather, we hope to spark wide-ranging discussions about revolutions, literal or figurative, that have

been and continue to be carried out by historically marginalized subjects – women, indigenous peoples, queers, and migratory and diasporic subjects – and about the ways in which space and place have helped to configure these revolutions, from the national to the transnational and from the public to the private. Finally, the conference seeks to generate dialogues about epistemological and pedagogical revolutions, different ways of “knowing” and administering knowledge (for example, through particular archival practices), and different theoretical concerns in Latin America vis à vis the United States.

The week begins with two intensive morning and afternoon sessions, in which we discuss selected theoretical works on the conference theme, as well as particularly creative interventions into both transnational and national historiography. This creates a shared conversation among all the participants that carries over into the remainder of the week. We then move on to workshops organized around the participants’ own essays. Our program committee works hard to ensure that each workshop is intellectually cohesive, with the essays engaging each other in a dialogue. Because attendees come from different disciplines and fields of expertise, discussions take unexpected and fruitful turns.

The conference takes place over the course of one week, which ensures that participants are not over-programmed as at other conferences. There are only two sets of panels scheduled per day (one before lunch, one after), and never more than three concurrent sessions per panel. In addition, we schedule a day and a half off over the weekend. The unpretentious and relaxed atmosphere allows intellectual conversations to continue after the actual sessions—a rarity at whirlwind academic conferences where panel audiences include only period or place experts who quickly disperse to other obligations. Unlike at the larger, more traditional conferences, at Tepoztlán everyone has time to read panel papers in advance and to prepare comments, and everyone who wishes can serve as a commentator and/or facilitator at least once during the week. Because of our interdisciplinary crowd, the comments tend to send work in uncharted directions. As one past participant noted, the experience was “stimulating, challenging, and creatively disconcerting.”

The best way to get a sense of the Institute’s activities, format, and setting, is to visit our website at <http://www.lclark.edu/~tepo/>. We provide free childcare at a local Spanish language school and on-site infant care. Partners are welcome to attend and adult Spanish language classes are available for those who are interested.

Presenting a paper is optional. Those of you who choose not to present should simply tell us about your interests so that we can assign you as a commentator. As you decide on whether to present, keep in mind that we will need your paper at least a month before the conference so that people have time to read it. We will also need your abstracts (in Spanish and English) by June 1 in order to adequately determine the topics, presenters, and commentators of each workshop.

Articles for the next Gender M@tters Bi-Monthly are due in the office by Friday, **February 13, 2009**. You can e-mail them to Nina Taylor at [njtaylor@indiana.edu](mailto:njtaylor@indiana.edu).