

GENDER dynamic

A quarterly publication of the Gender Studies Program at Northwestern University

Teaching Sex

An interdisciplinary panel on
sexuality studies in academia

Femme Fatale

Susie Bright speaks about
feminism, sex and her new memoir

 Winter
Quarter
Events Calendar

Gender studies continues to transform



Mary Weismantel, Director of Gender Studies

The Gender Studies Program at Northwestern is an interdisciplinary program, with faculty affiliates drawn from more than 25 departments across four of the University's schools.

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Fall quarter passed in a whirlwind of activities, as you can see in these pages. It was also a time when we reflected on our program, and talked about who we are, where we have come from, and what we want to become. We like what we see! This is a strong program with a significant history; I am especially impressed with its ability to grow, expand and change without losing its core identity. Like many such programs across the country, this program began as "Women's Studies" in 1980 and then became "Gender Studies" in 2000; more recently, it has incorporated courses and initiatives in Sexuality Studies as well, especially through the Sexualities Program at Northwestern (SPAN), which we are proud to claim as our own. I am honored to direct a program that retains its strong feminist focus without excluding newer perspectives on the study of our gendered and sexual lives.

We are committed to building a program that emphasizes the integration of these varied perspectives, one that retains the activist intent inherent in words like "feminist" and "queer," while also respecting purely scholarly endeavors. We have had some lively conversations about these issues this quarter, and I'm sure there are many more to come.

As incoming Director of the Gender Studies Program, this was also a time for me to get to know the members of our community: staff, students, and faculty. I have enjoyed those interactions tremendously. It is a pleasure to be surrounded by so many smart, dedicated and passionate individuals. 2011 was busy, exciting, and an awful lot of fun – let's hope that 2012 is even more so!

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A discussion on the study of sex in academia

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Nicholas Davis, Assistant Professor of English & Gender Studies

Photo courtesy of Emily Howell/DAILY NORTHWESTERN

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Muslim to one's self or to everyone

Postdoc Evren Savci discusses homosexuality in Turkey

By Nurhaizatul Jamil, PhD Candidate (Department of Anthropology)

On October 27, Dr. Evren Savci gave a talk titled “Muslim to One’s Self or Muslim to Everyone?: Universal Human Rights Discourse and the Production of an Islamic Backlash against Homosexuality in Turkey.” Dr. Savci’s research challenges the common assumption that non-normative sexuality and religious piety are incommensurable in the current political moment.

Evren, an Sexualities Project at Northwestern post-doctoral fellow, charts the relationship between LGBT rights in Turkey and pious Muslim women’s right to wear a headscarf, both of which are framed by politicians and bureaucrats as inimical to the ideal national subject in a secular state. Ironically, the state

ban on wearing headscarves gave rise to a public discourse promoting universal human rights, a discourse to which both groups have appealed.

Muslim women began to address LGBT issues as a response to secularist criticisms that they were only “Muslims to themselves,” i.e. concerned with only parochial issues rather than the democratic rights of all oppressed people in Turkey. However, in order to negotiate between their faith and their public support of LGBT human rights, pious women adopted a fraught and contentious position that rejected the pathologizing discourse of public officials but nonetheless argued that homosexual desire should be disciplined, in line with the precepts of Islam.

The question and answer session was equally illuminating. In particular, two questions stood out. One audience member queried Evren’s representation of the “Muslim voice” as univocal, pointing to the existence of Turkish Muslims who have been unflinching in their defense of LGBT rights in the public sphere. Another audience member asked if analogous claims could be made about the African American civil rights movement and the gay liberation movement in the United States.

The Sexualities Project at Northwestern presents

Muslim to One's Self or Muslim to Everyone?

Universal Human Rights Discourse
and the
Production of an Islamic Backlash
against
Homosexuality in Turkey

5:00pm Thursday, October 27 • Kresge 2-359

a talk by **Evren Savci**
Sexualities Project at Northwestern postdoctoral fellow

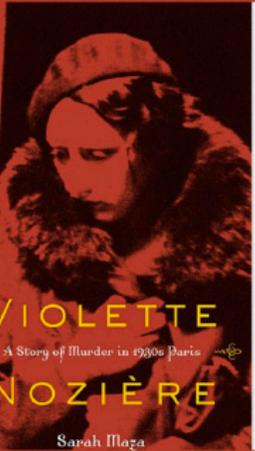


A story of murder in 1930s Paris

Professor Sara Maza discusses her new book on Violette Nozière

By Darcy Hughes Heuring, PhD (The Kaplan Institute for the Humanities)

family. drama. murder. guilt.



“Violette Nozière: A story of murder in 1930s Paris”

A talk by Sarah Maza

Professor of History and Jane Long Professor in the Humanities

November 10, 5 p.m.
University Hall 201

Sponsored by the Gender Studies Program
at Northwestern University

ethics. wealth. motives. media.

Sarah Maza, Professor of History and Jane Long Professor in the Humanities at Northwestern, gave a talk on November 10th for the Gender Studies Program titled, “Violette Nozière: A Story of Murder in 1930s Paris,” based upon her recently published book of the same name. As Maza explained, the book focuses on a story of incest and murder that aroused intense passion in early 1930s Paris, and sheds light on the social and cultural history of interwar Paris.

One evening in August 1933, 18-year-old Violette Nozière returned to the two-room apartment she shared with her parents in the 12th Arrondissement, and poisoned them. She then

stole her parents’ savings, attempted to fake their suicides, and disappeared. Violette’s mother survived the poisoning, but Monsieur Nozière did not. When she was caught five days later, she told police that she had not intended to kill her mother, only her father, who had been raping her since she was 12 years old. In October of 1933, Violette was convicted and sentenced to execution by the guillotine. In the end, however, she only served a prison sentence, after which she married and had five children.

Maza emphasized the ways that the case illuminated issues of social mobility and perceptions of class and gender. The public’s extremely hostile reaction to the Nozière family was due in part to the perception that they violated the norms of their social class: Violette’s mother did not work, and Violette was sent to a prestigious secondary school. And although focused on a young woman, the case held men, including Violette’s father and men with whom she was romantically involved, up to public scrutiny.

Maza’s presentation produced an engaging discussion of this criminal case and its significance as social history, and challenged audience members to think carefully about issues of methodology and historiography as well as class and gender in 1930s Paris.

Faculty, grad students participate in second annual Sexuality and Gender Reading Group

In winter quarter, faculty and graduate students from a range of departments and programs will convene for the second Faculty/Graduate Sexuality and Gender Reading Group. These reading groups are organized by the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN), an ongoing initiative on sexuality and health in social context. The group's discussions are meant to inform the Gender Studies program as it considers the relationship of sexuality studies to its course offerings and intellectual agenda. Participants include 11 faculty members and 7 graduate students, from departments and programs that include African American Studies, Anthropology, French and Italian, Gender Studies, History, Medical Humanities and Bioethics, Performance Studies, Political Science, Screen Cultures, and Sociology.

Amy Partridge, Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies, will serve as the moderator this year on the topic of "Radical Vulnerabilities: Bodies, Health, and Sexuality." The goal is to begin with an investigation of some of the key terms being used to describe the vulnerabilities of the present. These include the use of "necropoli-

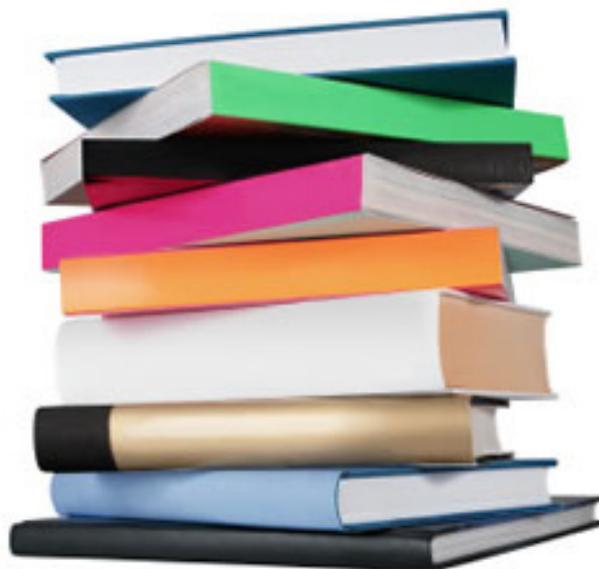
tics," (Mbembe) and "bare life" (Agamben) to account for the "states of exception" that cannot be described merely as instances of "biopolitics" and that thus force us to think beyond Foucault's model of power and subjugation. Scholars working across several disciplines have used these terms to assess and respond to urgent issues at the intersection of health, gender, and sexuality including the global AIDS pandemic, reproductive politics and a (re)turn to a neo-eugenics paradigm, increasingly punitive responses to "sex offenses" and the creation of SORs (Sex Offender Registries), the torture techniques deployed in the War on Terror, the conditions of immigration and migration, and the increasing precariousness of both work and life in a post 9/11 world. In each case, we will consider how feminist theory, queer theory, critical race theory, and sexuality studies contribute to the project of assessing and responding to these pressing political issues as well as the forms of explicitly feminist and queer activism that have emerged to contest these new forms of governance.

Readings for the first meeting:

- Aran & Peixoto, "Vulnerability and bare life: bioethics and biopolitics today" *Rev. Saude Publica* 41:5 (2007)
- Jean Comaroff, "Beyond Bare Life: AIDS (Bio)Politics, and the Neoliberal Order" *Public Culture* 19:1 (2007).
- Anna Marie Smith, "Neo-Eugenics: A Feminist Critique of Agamben" *Occasion* 2 (2010)

Readings for the second meeting:

- Lisa E. Sanchez, "The global e-rotic subject, the ban, and the prostitute-free zone: sex work and the theory of differential exclusion" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 22 (2004).
- Erica Meiners, "Never Innocent: Feminist Trouble with Sex Offender Registries and Protection in a Prison Nation" *Meridians* 9:12 (2009)
- Dean Spade, "Keynote Address: Transpolitics on a Neoliberal Landscape" 18 *Temp. Pol. & Civ. Rts. L. Rev.* 353 (2009)



SPAN awards 2011–2012 fellowships

Dissertation Fellowship 2011–2012

Jeffrey Kosbie (Sociology/Law): "Queer(ing) the Law: The Role of LGBT Legal Organizations in a Social Movement Field"

Graduate Student Conference Travel

So far in 2011–12, SPAN has funded five graduate students from the following departments and programs to present sexuality related work at conferences: Performance Studies, Screen Cultures, and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

Summer Research Fellowships 2011

Tera Agyepong (African American Studies): "Constructing Race, Sex, Gender, and Innocence: The Criminalization of African American Children in Chicago's Juvenile Justice System, 1896–1950"

Leigh Goldstein (Radio–Television–Film/Screen Cultures): "Broadcasting Sex Ed"

Gregory Mitchell (Performance Studies): "Tourist Attractions: Gay Tourists and Men Who Sell Sex to Men in Brazil"

Rhaisa Williams (Performance Studies): "Audre Lorde Wasn't the Only One: The Struggle of Black Lesbian Visibility and Absence"



2012 Workshop: "Libidinal Investments: Emerging Scholarship on Sexualities and the Social"

March 29, 5:00–6:30 pm

Keynote Address by Richard G. Parker, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and medical anthropologist, Columbia University, and a leading figure in studies of the social and cultural construction of gender and sexuality, the social aspects of HIV/AIDS, and the relationship between social inequality, global health, and disease.

March 30, 9:00 am –5:30 pm

Panel presentations that will showcase the innovative approaches to sexuality studies being advanced by dynamic younger scholars, with Northwestern graduate student discussants.

Panels: "Categories and Boundaries: The Making of Subjectivities"; "New Intimacies and the Politics of Nation–State Formation"; "Regulation, Subversion, and the Transformation of Space"

Northwestern University, Evanston

Open to the public; for more information: sexualities@northwestern.edu

Tourist Attractions

PhD candidate talks race and masculinity in Brazil's sex industry

By Melissa Minor Peters (PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology)

On November 2nd, Greg Mitchell (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies) presented an excellent talk to the Gender Studies Doctoral Colloquium, titled "Tourist Attractions: Performing Race and Masculinity in Brazil's Sex Industry." Mitchell's work focuses on Brazilian men known as "garotos de programa" (or rentboys) who identify as heterosexual, but derive most or all of their income from commercial sex with men, usually foreign gay tourists. Interactions range from the limited transactions that most people think of as "formal prostitution" to complex, long-term, long-distance relationships. Mitchell's work makes a significant contribution to the ethnographic studies of prostitution. He examines the perspectives of both clients and sex workers to see how men from two different cultures and perspectives make sense of each other and their relationships. Furthermore, he looks at sex work not only as sexual labor but also as high-stakes "performative labor" that constructs, presents, and maintains shifting facets of identity. Finally, his work helps us better understand how macroeconomic processes such as globalization and development impact sexual exchange on the ground, and reveal ongoing shifts in kinship, labor, consumerism, and other key concepts of interest to a broad range of anthropologists.

Mitchell's talk focused on only one site of his multi-sited ethnography: Salvador da Bahia. In Bahia, the center of Afro-Brazilian culture, most of the foreign gay tourists are African American men who engage in much more than "sex tourism": they visit Candomblé ceremonies, learn

capoeira, and explore Afro-Brazilian music and cuisine. Using Renato Rosaldo's concept of "imperialist nostalgia" (or the tendency of cultural imperialists to become nostalgic for the traditional ways of life that they helped to destroy), Mitchell argued that African American gay tourists in Bahia experience "subjunctive nostalgia," which he defined as a way of tapping into alternate black diasporic histories. These tourists are not nostalgic for a past they helped destroy, but for an alternate past in which they seek to recuperate black spirituality, a sense of a black diasporic community, and/or a feeling of close-

ness with Africa. This subjunctive nostalgia is problematic insofar as it is based on fetishizing Afro-Brazilian masculinity, and eroticizing Bahian culture.

However, rather than merely criticizing tourists for employing

racial and sexual essentialisms, Mitchell argued that black sex tourism is a form of diasporic pilgrimage in which Bahia comes to stand in as a metonym for Africa. "Yet this is a potentially queer Africa—not the uniformly heteronormative, relentlessly homophobic Africa one hears so often stereotyped in contemporary media." By attempting to connect to Africa through sexuality—by seeking out dark-skinned Afro-Brazilian men—African American gay tourists are, in effect, queering Africa and the meanings of African-ness. Mitchell's work reveals how sexuality threads through multiple facets of black subjectivity—reminding us that sexuality remains an important and under-theorized site for understanding diasporic communities.

"The extent of my knowledge about gay culture has come from Will & Grace and I had only picked up bits and pieces of information about global prostitution from a couple of documentaries. Gregory Mitchell's talk was one of the most interesting presentations I have ever heard."

—Grace Jaworski (Weinberg '15)

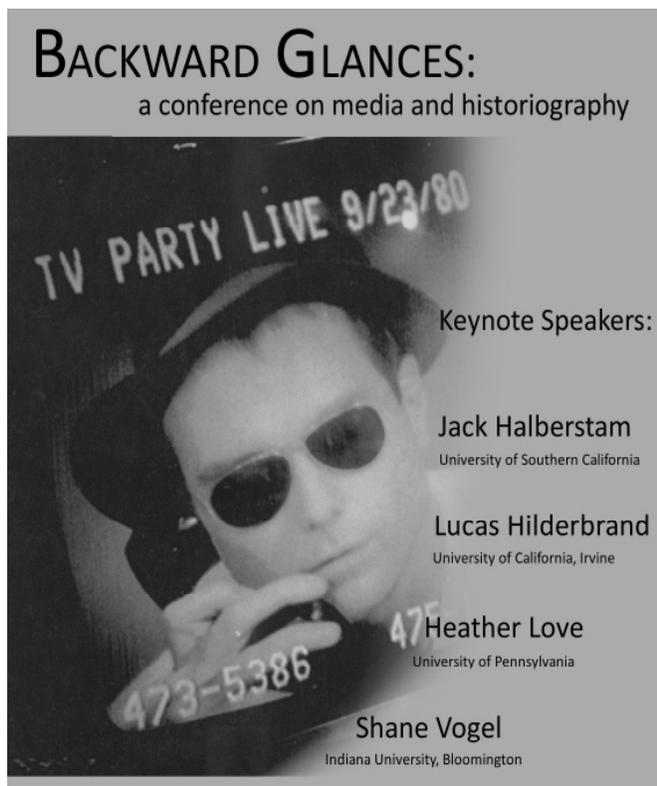
Backwards Glances

By **Elias Krell** (PhD Candidate, Department of Performance Studies)

“Backward Glances: A Media and Historiography Conference,” an interdisciplinary conference organized by Screen Cultures PhD candidates Leigh Goldstein, Meenasarani Linde Murugan, and Maureen Ryan, was held at Northwestern’s Evanston Campus on November 11th and 12th. It included several panels including, “Recovery and Representation,” “Technology and Genealogy,” and “Uses of History.” Keynote speakers included Shane Vogel, Jack Halberstam and Heather Love. Shane Vogel’s presentation, “Madam Zaji and US Steel: Bioperformance, Calypso Theatre, and Duke Ellington’s Philosophy of the History of Jazz,” successfully and productively interdigitated performance theory and media studies in performing a new historiography.

The conference provocatively posed the question: What does it mean to enact historiography deviantly, and how might deviant historical praxes relate to current political and social projects (e.g. the Occupy movements). One answer the conference itself performed was through a loosening of disciplinary boundaries. The interdisciplinary nature of the conference was evidenced by its long list of NU sponsors, including the Gender Studies Program and the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN).

The broad relevance of queer historiography, however, was perhaps best exemplified by the



presence of artists and activists from outside the university. In particular, Jack Halberstam’s talk, “Queer Betrayals,” drew many members of Chicago’s queer and trans community. Perhaps this is the best betrayal a conference can hope for: to begin to make explicit the productive tensions between queer theoretical, artistic, and activist projects occurring both within and outside of the academy.

The speakers: Shane Vogel, Heather Love, Jack Halberstam and Lucas Hilderbrand



Teaching Sex at Northwestern:

Read a full article on the event from the Daily Northwestern: <http://bit.ly/A111UW>

“On September 26th, in the Annie May Swift Auditorium, Jillana Enteen introduced four other professors in the Gender Studies Program to a room of almost seventy people. Each panelist focused on the ethics of teaching sex and sexuality. Hector Carrillo, Associate Professor in Gender Studies and Sociology, addressed the need to contextualize our discussions of sex and sexuality in their societal contexts. Nicholas Davis, Assistant Professor in Gender Studies and English, considered media representation of sex and sexuality and described the ways in which this topic is taken up in his “Queer Cinema” course. Lane Fenrich, Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Gender Studies and History, addressed the impact that society has had on our interpretations of sexuality throughout history. Mary Weismantel, Professor in Gender Studies and Anthropology, considered the importance of anthropological observations of alternative systems of sex, sexuality and gender.”

—Caroline Koppel (Weinberg '15)



Jillana Enteen,
Senior Lecturer,
Gender Studies

“I made my way to Annie May Swift Hall for a discussion on ‘Teaching Sex at Northwestern.’ As each professor spoke, their love of educating, particularly about sex and sexuality in their respective fields, was palpable. Each speaker captured the attention of the room—not merely because the word ‘sex’ was uttered, but because their enthusiasm for the topic was contagious.”

—Nate Bartell (Weinberg '15)

Hector Carrillo, Associate
Professor of Sociology &
Gender Studies



Photos courtesy of Emily Howell/DAILY NORTHWESTERN

A discussion on the study of sex



“The panelists who participated in the “Teaching Sex at Northwestern” event all agreed that the subject of sex impacts all aspects of our lives. Professor Lane Fenrich was one of the most engaging speakers because he elaborated an astounding history of the emergence of lesbian identification. By calling lesbians “female inverts,” on the basis of their “clitoral hypertrophy,” doctors created the lesbian as a distinct type of woman. Naturally, these women began to think of themselves as different as well, and so emerged a new lesbian identity.”

—Anna Marr (School of Comm ‘13)



“What struck me most about the ‘Teaching Sex at Northwestern’ event was the diversity of perspectives expressed by the panelists.

For instance, according to Professor Hector Carrillo, perhaps the biggest issue was the fact that [classes that do not] teach anything other than the act of sex [do] not help students to learn about society through the study of sexuality. He argued that “We must resist the desire to superficially satisfy student curiosity.” I took two classes with Carrillo and he was always explicit about his goals. He frequently used the metaphor of a toolbox to explain how we can use theories and empirical studies of sex and sexuality as tools for understanding our own sexualities, and sexual identities, as constructed.”

—Kathryn Rulon (Weinberg ‘12)

Big sex, little death

Susie Bright talks sexual politics and the great feminist vanishing act

By Mary Weismantel (Gender Studies Program Director)

Thanks to the generosity of the Kreeger-Wolf family, on Thursday October 13th and Friday October 14th we brought sex educator, best-selling author and prolific journalist Susie Bright to campus. Susie is an American original: a public intellectual who has been famous – and infamous – ever since she and some friends in San Francisco published the outrageous, feminist, and unapologetically dirty magazine *On Our Backs* in the late 1980s. In the years since, her writings on the subject of sex, feminism, and women’s sexual pleasure have appeared on the web at *Jezebel*, *Salon.com*, *Huffington Post* and of course *SusieBright.com*; in the pages of the *New York*

Times, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Village Voice*, *Playboy* and *Penthouse*; and in Susie’s own 26 books. According to *Wikipedia*, Susie is one of the first people to be called a “sex-positive feminist,” but her own favorite description is from *Rolling Stone Magazine*: “Susie Bright could never be accused of shutting up.” And indeed, we were subjected to a delightful, incessant,

flow of commentary, reminiscences, humor, politics and pathos in the classroom and onstage during her two days here.

Among the highlights of our evening with Susie in the intimate black box theater in Annie Mae Swift Hall were a reading from her just-completed memoir, *Big Sex Little Death*; getting the background dirt on

her appearance on the HBO series *Six Feet Under*; and looking through issues of *On Our Backs* (which today are rare collectors’ items). The event brought together several generations: members of Professor Weismantel’s freshman seminar; Kyle Hopkins, an old high school friend of Susie’s, and his wife

Barbara; and Peggy and Ray Gordon, members of the Kreeger-Wolf family. Peggy summed up the occasion best when she told Susie after the performance, “This is just the kind of event my grandmother had in mind”: a face-to-face meeting between Northwestern undergraduates and one of America’s most extraordinary women.

“Unlike Bright, I would argue that women are still participating in rebellious sexual acts, whether on reality television or in music videos. As times change, what counts as rebellious morphs into new forms and it is important not to jump to a judgment about these new forms of sexual expression.”

–Sarah Hersey (Weinberg ’15)

*“Susie Bright spoke to the audience as if she were having a one-on-one conversation with each person in the room. She was able to grab and hold the audience’s attention throughout the numerous stories she told. From her journey to becoming a TV star on HBO’s hit series *Six Feet Under*, to working with her daughter for *Jezebel.com*, the audience was captivated by her energy.”*

–Caroline Koppel (Weinberg ’15)



*Susie Bright,
Photo Courtesy of
Susie Bright*

Cuddy, Molina speak to inaugural research methods class

By Jeffrey Cattel (Medill '13)

When looking for speakers to bring into the inaugural "Research Methods in Gender and Sexuality Studies" class, Mary Weismantel, Director of the Gender Studies Program, aimed to look outside the academy. So she invited Alison Cuddy, radio host of Chicago's local news program *Eight Forty Eight*, and Jennifer Molina, an Emmy-award winning documentarian.

"People think about public radio as their liberal arts education," Cuddy told the class. The education available to listeners since Cuddy took the helm includes a host of stories about LGBT issues. When visiting, Cuddy discussed with the class a particular program that *Eight Forty Eight* ran one year after President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard Act. Segments included interviews with Mary Gray, author of *Out in the Country: Youth, Media and Queer Visibility in Rural America*, and Shannon Sullivan of Illinois Safe Schools as well as a discussion with students from a local gay-straight alliance. In addition to discussing programming, Cuddy talked with students about her interview style and how she creates cohesive narrative arcs for segments.

Molina, similarly, has managed to incorporate gender studies topics in her documentary work, most recently in a yet-to-be-released film that follows the Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP). YWEP is a Chicago-based social justice-organizing project that focuses on young people of color involved in the sex trade and street economies. As Molina explained to the class, YWEP aims to provide safe spaces that are free of judgment and focuses on harm reduction. Instead of telling young women they shouldn't resort to cutting as a form of self-harm, for example, members teach other members how to give themselves stitches. Much of the class conversation centered on the difficulties Molina faced when interviewing a purposely-faceless community. "They're very careful about image," she said. "They don't want to be made into a commodity."



Eight Forty Eight's Alison Cuddy (top), and Emmy-award winning documentarian Jennifer Molina (bottom)

Spring Courses

- 233-0-20: Gender, Politics & Philosophy (Deutscher)
- 321-0-20: Sexual Science & Subjective Politics: 1880-2011 (Leng)
- 321-0-21: American Gender History, 1865-present: The Question of Experience (Polda)
- 324-0-20: U.S. Gay & Lesbian History (Fenrich)
- 332-0-20: Public Health & Its Discontents (Partridge)
- 361-0-20: Writing About Children, Myth, Monsters (Lassner)
- 371-0-20: Gender, Sexuality & Pop Culture: Social Science Approaches (Wood)
- 373-0-20: Gender, Sexuality & Film (Davis)
- 374-0-20: Cyberqueer (Enteen)
- 390-0-20: Ethnographic Methods in Gender & Sexuality Studies (Mitchell)
- 394-0-20: International Development & the Politics of Gender (Sherman)

- 490-0-20: Queer Theory (Davis)
- 490-0-21: Rethinking Reproduction in Feminist Theory (Beisel)

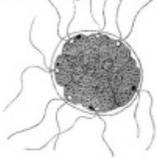


Science, the
"invincible and
strongest ally"
of women's rights?

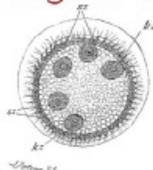
Feminism, Sexology and
Sexual Politics in Germany
and Britain at the turn of
the twentieth century



a talk by
Kirsten Leng
postdoctoral fellow in
Sexuality Studies



February 2nd
5:00pm
Kresge 2-359



Presented by Gender Studies and Science in Human Culture



ENHANCEMENT, PATHOLOGY, POTENCY

*Pharmaceutical advertising and the
gendered script (1928-present)*

Michael Oldani

Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

MARCH 1, 2012, 5 p.m.
Kresge 2-359

Presented by Gender Studies and Science in Human Culture

