

First Annual Gender and Sexuality Studies Conference and Workshop at Clarkson University, October 25-26, 2013

Why Gender and Sexuality Studies Still Matter

Our first annual conference and workshop in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Clarkson provides an opportunity for faculty, students, and practitioners from the St. Lawrence Valley and beyond to share their work with one another, with particular attention to the question of this work's relevance to the contemporary world and contemporary problems. Friday's events are public and include an opening and a keynote lecture by visiting scholars as well as a book launch and signing party celebrating recent publications by Associated Colleges faculty. Friday's Conference will also feature student poster sessions as well as information tables related to gender and sexuality studies organized by students of the Associated Colleges. The workshop events on Saturday are labor intensive and for registered participants only. Please note that all locations noted on this flyer are tentative at this time. A finalized flyer will be available in October.

Attached to this email are flyers for the poster and the info session. Please pass them on to students.

Conference Program

Friday, October 25, 2013

- 12-1:00pm** Opening Lecture: [Mecke Nagel](#), SUNY Cortland: "Abolitionist Discourse in Prison Debates and Trafficking." Co-sponsored by Clarkson University's Arts & Sciences Lecture Series. *Snell 212*.
- 1:15-2:45pm** Student research poster sessions and information tables organized by student groups. *Snell Atrium*.
- 3:00-4:00pm** Keynote Speaker: [Jyoti Puri](#), Simmons College: "Police and the Decriminalization of Sodomy in India" *Snell 213*.
- 4:15-5:15pm** Book Launch and Signing Party.
- Danielle Egan (Saint Lawrence University): *Becoming Sexual: A Critical Appraisal of the Sexualization of Girls*. Polity Press. 2013.
 - S.N. Nyeck (Clarkson University) and [Marc Epprecht](#) (Queens University), Editors: *Sexual Diversity in Africa: Politics, Theory and Citizenship*. McGill-Queen's University Press. 2013.
 - Emily Hamilton Honey (SUNY Canton): *Turning the Pages of American Girlhood: The Evolution of Girls' Series Fiction, 1865-1930*. McFarland & Company. 2013.
 - Susanne Zwingel (SUNY Potsdam) et al.: *Feminist Strategies in International Governance*. Routledge, New York. 2013.

Gender and Sexuality Studies at Clarkson gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley, Clarkson University's (CU) Humanities and Social Sciences Department; CU's David A. Walsh '67 Arts & Sciences Seminar Series; CU's Canadian Studies Program; and Saint Lawrence University's Center for Teaching and Learning.

Workshop with Invited Speakers and Faculty of the Associated Colleges

The workshop for faculty in the Gender, and Sexuality Studies Programs of the Associated Colleges creates a space for intellectual exchange for all of us in this field. It provides an opportunity to share experiences, network and collaborate on research or curricular projects, learn about resources and development strategies for activism. This particular workshop invites participants to reflect on the place and challenges that Gender and Sexuality Studies face in the 21st century. We imagine this workshop as a space for an honest conversation about the relevance of Gender and Sexuality Studies based on our experience as scholars, teachers, and activists. Should Gender and Sexuality Studies be mainstreamed? If yes, then how? What are the conceptual, methodological, and rhetorical innovations that need to take place? If no, then why? Are existing feminist canons speaking to younger generations today? Have frameworks such as 'intersectionality' that link, gender, sexuality, race, and class oppression together provided a perspective applicable to non-western societies? Has 'queer theory' normalized the 'Other'? What does it mean to research and teach gender and sexuality? What kind of feedback are we getting from the classroom, fieldwork, and our various institutions? How do we maintain and protect Gender and Sexuality Studies research and teaching in a competitive academic environment? Participants are encouraged to reflect on these critical issues in a proactive way. Concrete initiatives that encourage collaboration across borders and between the associated colleges are highly encouraged.

Portraits of Invited Speakers



Mecke Nagel

Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
SUNY Cortland

Opening Lecture
"Abolitionist Discourse
in Prison Debates and
Trafficking"



Jyoti Puri

Professor of Sociology
Director of Grad Program
in Gender/Cultural
Studies, Simmons College,
Boston, MA

Keynote
"Police and the
Decriminalization of
Sodomy in India"



Marc Epprecht

Professor of History,
Professor & Head of
Department, Global
Development Studies

Workshop
"Teaching about
Homosexualities"



Kari Lerum

Associate Professor of
Sociology, University of
Washington, Bothell.

Workshop
"Human Rights or
Wrongs"

Mecke Nagel is professor of philosophy at the State University of New York, College at Cortland, Director of the Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies (CGIS), a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Institute for African Development at Cornell University and was a DAAD Visiting Professor at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany (2012-13). She is author of a number of books, most recently of *Dancing with Iris: The Philosophy of Iris Marion Young* (Oxford University Press, 2010) and *The End of Prisons* (Rodopi, 2013). Her forthcoming co-edited anthology is *Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusive Excellence* (SUNY). Her next book project is titled *An Ubuntu Ethic of Punishment*. Dr. Nagel is editor-in-chief of the online journal *Wagadu: A Journal of Transnational Women's and Gender Studies* (wagadu.org).

Jyoti Puri is Professor of Sociology at Simmons College. She writes and teaches in the areas of sexualities, states, nationalisms, and transnational and postcolonial feminisms. Her book, *Woman, Body, Desire in Post-colonial India* (Routledge 1999) addresses how constructs of gender and sexuality are shaped across national and transnational contexts. *Encountering Nationalism*, (Blackwell Publishers 2004), is a feminist sociological exploration of nationalism and the state. Numerous related articles and chapters are published in journals and edited volumes on sexuality and gender. She has also co-edited a special issue on gender, sexuality, state, and nation for *Gender & Society* (April 2005) and another one on sexuality and the state for *Rethinking Marxism* (October 2012). Her current book, *Sexual States: Governance and Decriminalizing Sodomy in India's Present*, is under contract with Duke University. Jyoti Puri is the recipient of fellowships and grants, including a Rockefeller Research Fellowship and a Fulbright Senior Research award. She served as Chair of the Section on Sex and Gender for the American Sociological Association. She was Deputy Editor for the journal *Gender & Society* and is currently a co-editor for the journal, *Foucault Studies*.

Marc Epprecht is currently a Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Development Studies at Queen's University, Canada. He has published extensively on the history of gender and sexuality in Africa including *Hungochani: The history of a dissident sexuality in southern Africa, Heterosexual Africa?: The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS and Sexuality and Social Justice in Africa*. With S.N. Nyeck, he is co-editor of just-published *Sexual Diversity in Africa*. A secondary area of research interest is in the ethics of work/study abroad programs and other pedagogical issues in Africa and African Studies.

Kari Lerum is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington, Bothell. Her research focuses on sexuality, power, and context, and current projects include a community-based study of transgender sex workers in the Seattle area. She is founder and co-editor of the blog *Sexuality & Society*, editor of the "Mediations" section of *Contexts Magazine*, and consulting editor for Archives of Sexual Behavior, and she serves on the editorial board of *Sexuality & Culture*. In 2011 she joined a U.S. team of human rights/sex worker activists and academics responding to the *United Nation's Universal Periodic Review*. Lerum also serves on the board of directors for the Pat Graney Prison Transition program. She teaches on subjects such as the Politics of Sex Education; Social Transformation; Commercial Sex Work, Sexual Health & Global Human Rights.

Workshop Registration

To register for Saturday's workshop, please email gss@clarkson.edu with the following information: your name, title, institutional affiliation, and address; please indicate whether your principal interest in the workshops lies in GSS issues related to research, pedagogy, or community engagement. Please *attach* your CV to this email. If you would like to share a current project of yours in a workshop on Saturday, please also include a 2-4-page document (e.g., writing excerpt, project précis or abstract, etc.). The registration fee for the workshop is \$20. Please bring payment in the form of cash or check (payable to Clarkson University, with the memo "GSS Workshop 2013") with you to the workshop. Meals and refreshments will be provided for registered workshop participants. Please register by *October 4th, 2013*.

Workshop Program

Friday, October 25, 2013

5:30-6:30pm Welcoming – Mixer of Invited Speakers and Associated Colleges Faculty. *Location TBA.*

7:00-9:00pm Dinner and Opening Conversations. *Adirondack Lodge.*

Saturday, October 26, 2013

Saturday's events all take place in the Adirondack Lodge. Each of three workshops showcases 2-3 participants' papers/projects loosely organized around teaching, pedagogy, and activism/outreach. These papers will be circulated prior to the workshop.

8:30am Coffee

9:00-10:30am Workshop, Part I: *Activism and Research*

Kari Lerum: "Human Rights or Wrongs"
Jyoti Puri: *Title TBA*
Discussant: Mecke Nagel

10:45-12:15 Workshop, Part II: *Pedagogy and Research*

Marc Epprecht: "Teaching about Homosexualities to Nigerian Students"
Discussants: Laura Ettinger, JoAnn Rogers

12:15-1:00pm Lunch

1:00-2:30 Workshop, Part III: *Activism, Research, Teaching and Publishing*

Kari Lerum: Working with Communities, Activists and Participatory Action Research
Jyoti Puri: Navigating Journal Publishing
Danielle Egan: Making Time to Write Despite a Heavy Teaching Load
Discussants: S.N. Nyeck, Christina Xydias

2:45-3:30pm Where Do We Go From Here? Outcomes, Questions, Conclusions?
Discussants: Chris Robinson, *others TBA.*