



BOLDER VOICES

Fall 2015
Issue 15

University of Colorado Boulder

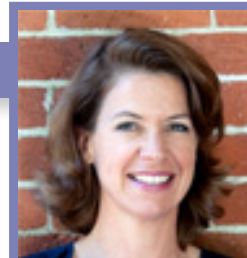
FROM THE CHAIR:

Greetings Women and Gender Studies friends and alums! We've had several terrific developments since our last newsletter. First, we have officially transitioned from a program to a department! This name change was made official by the CU Regents this summer. WGST has long functioned as a department, and so this name change is a welcome correction that documents our status on campus.

Second, we've had two faculty promotions. **Deepti Misri** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and **Rob Buffington** was promoted to Full Professor. Third, we hired a new faculty member. Assistant Professor **Robert Wyrod** (PhD – University of Chicago, Sociology) is finishing his last semester teaching at University of Michigan and will join us in January. His specialization lies in sexuality, masculinity, and the social aspects of HIV/AIDS, with a regional focus on Africa.

Finally, you'll be happy to learn that WGST continues to grow, with more majors and minors every year. Please don't hesitate to send us your news—we love to receive and share updates on our WGST alums and supporters.

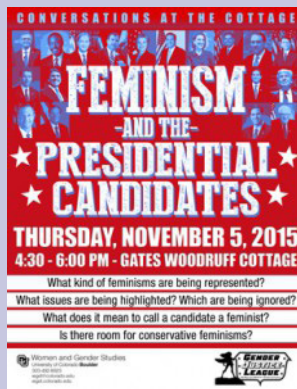
Best Regards,
Lorraine Bayard de Volo
Director and Associate Professor



Lorraine Bayard de Volo

Feminism & the Presidential Candidates Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015

The Gender Justice League hosted a panel discussion in their *Conversations at the Cottage* series "Feminism and the Presidential Candidates", Thursday, November 5th at 4:30pm in the Gates Woodruff Cottage. The



dialogue centered on the different kind of feminisms being represented in this 2016 presidential campaign, which issues are being highlighted and which ignored, and what it means to call a candidate a feminist.

A VISIT WITH CAROL PEARSON...

A visit with Carol Pearson: First Director of Women's Studies at CU-Boulder

In 1974, the newly formed Womens Studies Program at CU-Boulder was led by Carol Pearson, an assistant professor of English who took the reins of the first program of its type in the state. We were honored to have Dr. Pearson back on the CU-Boulder campus for a day this October, to show her how our program has grown into a thriving department and thank her for her years of service. Pearson, who was in town to promote her new book *Persephone Rising*, held a lecture and book signing at the Boulder Book Store; her book "speaks to the heroine in every woman, offering strategies to forge lives of greater happiness and fulfillment... to harness the unique potential with each of ourselves, and to develop our own innate heroic gifts." Pearson noted that the concepts behind this book were inspired by events that occurred during her time as director here.

Dr. Pearson also presented a guest lecture to the students in Glenda Russell's course, *Psychology of Contemporary American Women*, a popular course which surveys psychological theory with regard to gender, including issues such as masculine bias, sex difference in cognitive function and personality, and mental health. Regarding her return to our campus, Pearson noted "The program has become everything I dreamed it would be and more. Even thinking of it a day later makes my heart sing."



Carol Pearson in 1974

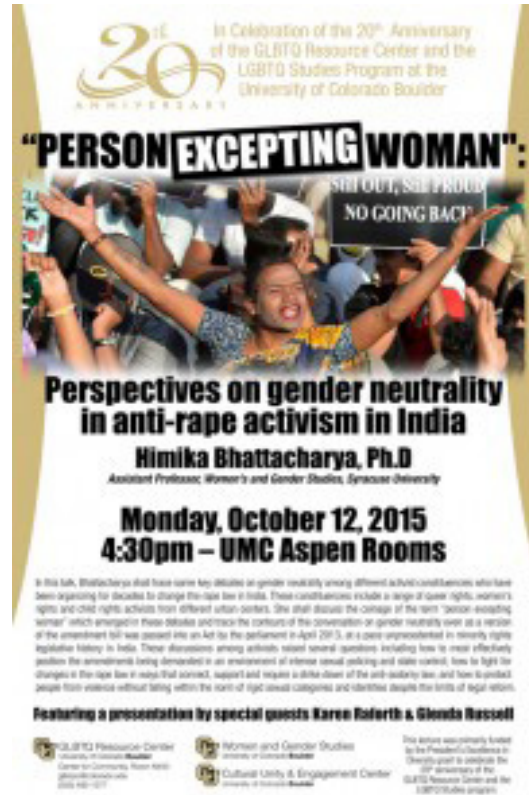


Lorraine Bayard de Volo, Carol Pearson & Glenda Russell

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of LGBTQ Studies Program & the GLBTQ Resource Center, Dr. Himika Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University, presented her lecture, "Person Excepting Woman": Perspectives on gender neutrality in anti-rape activism in India", on Monday, October 12th in the UMC Aspen Rooms. The talk was preceded by a short presentation on the history of the GLBTQ Resource Center and the LGBTQ Studies Program by special guests Karen Raforth and Glenda Russell.

In this talk, Bhattacharya traced some key debates on gender neutrality among different activist constituencies who have been organizing for decades to change the rape law in India. These constituencies include a range of queer rights, women's rights and child rights activists from different urban centers. She discussed the coinage of the term "person excepting woman" which emerged in these debates and traced the contours of the conversation on gender neutrality over as a version of the amendment bill was passed into an Act by the parliament in April 2013, at a pace unprecedented in minority rights legislative history in India. These discussions among activists raised several questions including how to most effectively position the amendments being demanded in an environment of intense sexual policing and state control; how to fight for changes in the rape law in ways that connect, support and require a strike down of the anti-sodomy law; and how to protect people from violence without falling within the norm of rigid sexual categories and identities despite the limits of legal reform.

This lecture was primarily funded by the President's Excellence in Diversity grant to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the GLBTQ Resource Center and the LGBTQ Studies program, and was co-sponsored by the GLBTQ Resource Center, the Department of Women and Gender Studies, and the Cultural Unity & Engagement Center.




UNDOCUMENTED AND ACTING UP...

Undocumented and Acting Up: Queering Sovereignty in the Immigrant Rights Movement

WGST was proud to host invited speaker Cristina Beltrán for a fascinating lecture on the activism of undocumented youth in our country. Beltrán is an associate professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and the director of Latino Studies at NYU, and her talk “Undocumented, Unafraid, and Acting Up” drew on the insights of democratic and queer theory to analyze the political practices of undocumented youth, particularly those who identify now or in the past as DREAM activists. Rejecting the politics of shame and stigma, undocumented activists (particularly queer DREAM activists) have challenged the logic of secrecy surrounding sexuality and illegality by “coming out” and identifying themselves “undocumented and unafraid.” Arguing that it was the law, rather than unauthorized youth, that was illegitimate, Dreamers successfully pressured President Obama into signing a 2012 executive order granting young undocumented immigrants “deferred action.”

While the practice of “coming out” has prompted various scholars to draw connections between immigration and LGBT politics, Beltrán argued that what is most powerfully “queer” about undocumented youth activism has to do with its critique of sovereignty alongside demands for state power. Drawing on Bonnie Honig’s recent discussion regarding sovereignty, Beltrán’s research turns to works of queer theory and AIDS scholarship by Deborah Gould, Douglas Crimp, Sara Ahmed, and Cathy Cohen to explore the resonances between ACT UP’s critique of unnecessary fatalities due to government inaction and the emerging scholarship surrounding radical migrant activism by scholars such as Karma Chavez, Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, Hinda Seif, and Melissa White.

This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Department of Political Science.



UNDOCUMENTED AND ACTING UP:
UNAFRAID
QUEERING SOVEREIGNTY
I EXIST
YO EXISTO
Queering Sovereignty in the Immigrant Rights Movement


Cristina Beltrán, Associate Professor and Director of Latino Studies,
Department of Social & Cultural Analysis, New York University

“Undocumented, Unafraid, and Acting Up” draws on the insights of democratic and queer theory to analyze the political practices of undocumented youth, particularly those who identify now or in the past as DREAM activists. Rejecting the politics of shame and stigma, undocumented activists (particularly queer DREAM activists) have challenged the logic of secrecy surrounding sexuality and illegality by “coming out” and identifying themselves “undocumented and unafraid.” Arguing that it was the law, rather than unauthorized youth, that was illegitimate, Dreamers successfully pressured President Obama into signing a 2012 executive order granting young undocumented immigrants “deferred action.”

While the practice of “coming out” has prompted various scholars to draw connections between immigration and LGBT politics, I argue that what is most powerfully “queer” about undocumented youth activism has to do with its critique of sovereignty alongside demands for state power. Drawing on Bonnie Honig’s recent discussion regarding sovereignty, this essay turns to works of queer theory and AIDS scholarship by Deborah Gould, Douglas Crimp, Sara Ahmed, and Cathy Cohen to explore the resonances between ACT UP’s critique of unnecessary fatalities due to government inaction and the emerging scholarship surrounding radical migrant activism by scholars such as Karma Chavez, Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, Hinda Seif, and Melissa White.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Department of Political Science.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
4:30PM • Hellems 211

 **Women and Gender Studies**
University of Colorado Boulder

http://womenandgenderstudies.org
763.493.1882

FACULTY UPDATES:

Lorraine Bayard de Volo took 14 students to Cuba this summer for study abroad, including 6 WGST students. She also has recently published the article "'I Wish All the Ladies Were Holes in the Road': The U.S. Air Force Academy and the Gendered Continuum of Violence," with Lynn Hall in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, as well as a chapter titled "Comparative Politics" which was published in the *Routledge Handbook of Interpretive Political Science*, edited by Mark Bevir and R.A.W. Rhodes. Her forthcoming article "Unmanned?: Gender Recalibrations and the Rise of Drone Warfare." will soon be published in the journal *Politics & Gender*.

This year Professor **Robert Buffington** published *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man: The Mexico City Penny Press, 1900-1910* (Duke University Press, 2015), which looks at changing ideas about masculinity for working-class men in early twentieth-century Mexico City, and *Keen's Latin American Civilization: Volume One: The Colonial Era, 10th Edition* and *Keen's Latin American Civilization: Volume Two: The Modern Era, 10th Edition* (co-edited with Lila Caimari, Westview Press, 2015) which are primary source readers for Latin American history. He was promoted for full professor this Spring.

Emmanuel David's recent essay "The Sexual Fields of Empire: On the Ethnosexual Frontiers of Global Outsourcing", which focuses on transgender workplace experiences in the global call center industry in the Philippines, was recently published in the journal *Radical History Review*.

Deepti Misri was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor effective this past August. She gave a talk titled "Return and Irreconciliation in Onir's I Am (Megha)," at a symposium on "Human Rights and the Politics of Filmmaking in South Asia", October 19-20, at the University of Washington Seattle and Bothell, as part of a panel on Kashmir. The symposium brought together filmmakers, film scholars, and public intellectuals to talk about the politics of filmmaking around human rights violations in South Asia. armed_conflicts_side-image Professor Misri and her co-author Professor Mona Bhan of Depauw University contributed to a recently published monograph titled *Conflicted Democracies and Gendered Violence: The Right to Heal*, edited by Angana P. Chatterji, Shashi Buluswar and Mallika Kaur. The project is a part of the Armed Conflict Resolution and People's Rights Project, Center for Social Sector Leadership, Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley. The multi-authored monograph of over 400 pages focuses on gendered and sexual violence in democracies confronting protracted internal conflict; the contribution by Bhan and Misri in particular focuses on the legacy of sexual violence in Kashmir, and the discourses of reconciliation presently circulating in Kashmir. Dr. Misri also recently led a workshop at Naropa University on "Transnational Feminism".



Celeste Montoya has recently been appointed the Interim Director of the Miramontes Arts & Sciences Program. She has also been a frequent contributor to NBC Latino, and was recently featured in an interview with KUNC radio on the complexities of the Latino vote.

Sam Bullington has formed the first trans choir in Colorado (and one of the first in the nation), the Colorado Trans Community Choir and Arts Collective, which will be performing at the Boulder, Say No! to Sexual Violence March & Rally on Thursday, Nov. 12th and the Trans Day of Remembrance on Friday, November 20th.

Associate Faculty Event Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015

Our core faculty, along with our associate faculty from over 16 departments and programs on campus, are gathering together to celebrate the release of Robert Buffington's latest publication, *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man: The Mexico City Penny Press, 1900-1910* (Duke Univ Press), and to introduce our two newest associates, Jennifer Fluri and Rachel Rinaldo. Fluri, an associate professor in the Department of Geography, is a feminist political geographer whose research interests include the geopolitics and geo-economics of gender, security, and violence, particularly in South and Southwest Asia. Rinaldo, an assistant professor of sociology, has recently joined us from the University of Virginia; she is a cultural sociologist who studies how globalization and modernity shape gender norms and practices, particularly in developing countries and Muslim societies.

"Boulder, Say No! to Sexual Violence" Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015

The Gender Justice League has spearheaded this event with students from across campus to raise awareness of sexual violence in all forms, not only on CU's campus, but within the Boulder community, and also to promote ally-ship. This component is especially important to us as we believe survivors of sexual violence should not stand alone.

This march will provide a peaceful vessel for our community to unite and stand in solidarity. It will begin at 4:30 pm outside the University Memorial Center, where there will be live entertainment both before and after the march.

Bolder Voices

Women and Gender Studies Newsletter

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Lorraine Bayard de Volo

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Robert Buffington, Sam Bullington,
Emmanuel David, Janet Jacobs, Alison Jaggar,

Deepti Misri, Celeste Montoya

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