

GENDER dynamic

A photograph of two young women standing in front of a bookshelf. The woman on the left has long, dark, curly hair and is wearing a colorful, patterned top. The woman on the right has long, straight brown hair and is wearing an orange dress with a blue belt. Both are smiling at the camera. The background is a dark wooden bookshelf filled with books.

Susan Stryker

Gender and sexualities scholar
visits Northwestern

Two seniors complete
honors theses

Reflections on a busy year in Gender Studies



Mary Weismantel, Director of Gender Studies

The summer dresses in the cover photo tell you that our busy year has come to an end. The occasion was an end-of-the-year celebration where we honored our graduating seniors (among them Jen Piemonte and Maggie Birkel, pictured), our graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, and the faculty who taught and mentored them. It was a day when past, present and future came together. Professor Emerita Rae Moses spoke evocatively about the fiercely fought beginnings of Women's Studies at Northwestern – a poignant reminder that this year we lost one of the program's founders, sociologist Arlene Kaplan Daniels. It is always a little hard to watch the present turn into the past: it was a delight to watch graduating senior Cat Hammond receive the Rae Moses award that he so richly deserves -- but we will miss his active and lively presence in the Gender Studies offices next year. Saying goodbye to Cat and the other students renewed my determination to stay in more active contact with all our alums in the years to come. It was also an occasion to make an important announcement about the immediate future: next fall, we will officially become the "Gender and Sexuality Studies Program".

That festive event was the last in a whirlwind of activities that filled this busy and productive year. One highlight of winter quarter was the extraordinary conference hosted by SPAN.

"Libidinal investments: Emerging Scholarship on Sexuality and the Social" brought young researchers from across the United States to the NU campus, and consolidated our national reputation as a major center of social-scientific research on sexuality. Another big thrill came when we saw our new undergraduate course, Lane Fenrich's "Sexual Subjects", profiled on p.4 of the Chicago Tribune. We all know that our curriculum on gender and sexuality is stellar, but it is not every day that the entire city takes notice!

Spring quarter featured campus visits by two very different historians, courtesy of the Kreeger-Wolf fund. The first was well-known transgender activist, filmmaker and historian Susan Stryker, who gave us three contrasting glimpses of the U.S. over its long twentieth century; the second was distinguished Europeanist Kathleen Canning, who explored the gendered dimensions of citizenship in Weimar Germany.

I have only scratched the surface: as you thumb through the pages or scroll down the screen to see the rest of this newsletter, you will discover the enormous range of activities undertaken by our community members, which give our program its national and international reach. Professor Héctor Carrillo is off to Harvard as a prestigious Radcliffe Fellow; Visiting Professor Vrinda Nabar returned to the NU campus to bring a South Asian perspective to our curriculum; post-doctoral fellows Kristin Lems, Tom Waidzunas and Evren Savci taught us about Germany, Uganda and Turkey respectively; the alumni updates mention Ethiopia, New York City, and South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation. You will also find the names of some up-and-coming undergraduates to watch out for, like Ryan Lim, Tristan Powell, and Alysa Statler. But don't let me spoil the fun: look and see for yourself.

CONTENTS



Students chat before awards are given out at the Gender Studies year end awards ceremony and celebration.
Photo by Emily Gilbert

FACULTY

- 4 Gender Studies screens Stryker film *Screaming Queens*; Stryker talks "Cross Dressing for Empire"; Gender and the Meaning of Revolution in Germany
- 5 An excerpt from *Family Fables and Hidden Heresies*
- 6 Faculty Updates
- 8 In Memoriam: Arlene Kaplan Daniels; Gender and the Meaning of Revolution in Germany

SPAN

- 9 Libidinal Investments: Sexuality scholars address key themes of emerging research
- 10 Gendered Scripts within Psychiatric Prescriptions: Science and turn-of-the-century German Feminism
- 11 SPAN announces '12-'13 faculty research awards; Richard Parker on "Sexual Matters, the Politics of HIV and AIDS and the Invention of Global Health"

GRADUATE

- 12 QPGSA continues Queer Salon, introduces Da Vinci's Room; Graduate Student Updates
- 13 Doctoral candidate researches body commodification

UNDERGRADUATE

- 14 "How do you solve a problem like *Black Swan*?"; Senior reflects on four years in gender studies
- 15 Two seniors complete honors theses
- 16 Alumnus to study feminist studies in doctoral programs at UC Santa Barbara; Alumni Updates
- 17 New introductory course "Sexual Subjects"; Undergraduate board works with Project ShoutOUT; Four students earn undergraduate awards
- 18 Undergraduate Updates

Gender Studies screens Stryker's film *Screaming Queens*

By **Beth Corzo-Duchardt** (PhD Candidate Screen Cultures, Gender Studies Certificate)

During her visit this spring, historian Susan Stryker screened excerpts from her film-in-progress *Christine in the Cutting Room*, which uses Christine Jorgensen's biography as a lens to "explore the relationship between cinema and embodiment." It marks an aesthetic departure from her previous film, *Screaming Queens* (2005), which was screened in advance of Stryker's arrival to the Northwestern campus. The latter combines interviews and archival footage with voice-over narration about an overlooked event in queer history: the riot at Compton's cafeteria in San Francisco in which transwomen stood up to resist police brutality. *Christine in the Cutting Room* is decidedly experimental, presenting a montage of images and sounds from disparate historical moments and contexts to illuminate the constellation of ideas, events and affects that created the conditions for a transsexual woman to become a celebrity in 1950s America. After the screening, Stryker fielded



questions about her aesthetic choices, the historical contexts of each film, and the state of transgender studies. Both events attracted audiences of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, staff, alumni and community members, a testament to the Gender Studies Program's vital role in facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue that extends beyond the boundaries of academia.

Stryker talks "Cross Dressing for Empire"

By **Christine Wood** (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender Studies Certificate)

On April 23 Gender Studies welcomed Susan Stryker, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Arizona. Stryker presented a talk entitled "Cross-Dressing for Empire: Transgender Performance at San Francisco's Bohemian Club, 1870s-1920." Stryker, a historian, has unearthed a wealth of evidence about gender performance at the Bohemian Grove Club, an exclusive social club for members of the nation's "power elite" at the turn of the 20th century. While gathered on social retreats, club members engaged in ritual "high" and "low" jinks comedic performances, which often included cross-dressing and racialized minstrelsy performance. Stryker challenged a standard queer reading of these performances, arguing that we cannot read such rituals as vital signs of the formation of LGBT and queer subjectivities. Instead, these performances represent the consolidation of white, masculine heteronormativity among political and social elites. Stryker's research encourages us to continue to think through the ways in which empire, racial hegemony, and gender are co-constituted.

Gender and the Meaning of Revolution in Germany

By **Kirsten Leng** (SPAN Post Doctoral Fellow in Sexuality Studies)

On May 10, 2012, Kathleen Canning, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History, Women's Studies, and German at the University of Michigan, delivered a talk entitled, "Aftermaths and Future Visions: Gender and the Meaning of Revolution in Germany, 1918-1919." Canning's talk was made possible by the generosity of the Kreeger-Wolf family.

Professor Canning's talk was derived from a larger book project that examines the impacts of the First World War and Revolution on the fledgling German "Weimar" Republic of 1919-1933, and specifically upon demands for and practices of citizenship. Although most historians dismiss the war and revolution as "flawed and mistaken events," Canning argued that the tumultuous First World War homefront and the German Revolution of 1918-1919 constituted crucial staging grounds for subsequent struggles over democratic power and participation—struggles that were grounded in gender(ed) language, bodies, images, and ideologies. As Canning

(continued on page 8)

Excerpt from *Family Fables and Hidden Heresies*

By Vrinda Nabar (Visiting Professor Gender Studies)

One day many years after my mother died I wrote this paragraph without being aware of what I was saying. By then I had played around in my head with the lives of my loved ones for a long time. The beginning is never easy. I'll be honest, you say, tell it the way it was. Then you start to think about the hurt, the endless explanations, the disagreements. No, it wasn't like that, no, I wasn't there when it happened. I don't remember saying that. How could you have gone and put that down? What will people say?

All these become compounded by the closeness of the Indian 'community' and within it the family. Where everyone knows everyone else and where ties are like nylon twine, slender, almost invisible, but impossible to cut except with a sharp-edged instrument. A cousin's friend expressing amazement at the numbers that tumbled out of every nook and cranny whenever a wedding, a thread ceremony initiating every Brahmin male into manhood, a child-naming ceremony or a shraddha commemorating the dead soul was held. 'I've heard of family trees, but your family! That's no tree. It's a jungle!'

One of my favorite childhood stories was the one where Mahatma Gandhi, in defiance of the government monopoly on the production of salt, set off with his followers to Dandi on the west coast of India. The Dandi Salt March had triggered off several parallel rebellions throughout India. One of these saltmaking ceremonies took place at Chowpatty Beach in Bombay. What was significant about this salt party was that it was a ritual performed by women, of women and for women. Nine-yard saris flapped in the sea breeze to the refrain of 'Mithacha kaida modlaa, mithacha kaida modlaa' as the assembled women from the Saraswat Mahila Samaj triumphantly filled empty glass jars with sea water and went home to distil it and make salt.

In the vanguard of those salt-making rebels were a widow in her early thirties and her teenaged daughter: Sundiamma and Ai. As a young girl, I heard this story over and over again, from different people... My mind would be fired with romantic images of a group of brave women, fighting with Gandhi to end foreign oppression.

It was only over the years that I learned also of the oppressive native structures that had constrained many of these women in their individual lives. The personal as political in my journey towards feminism could thus be traced to that morning on the beach in 1930, long before I was born, when two women central to my life had played a part in at least one symbolic proclamation of freedom.

India's rapidly changing and somewhat uncertain political, economic and cultural landscape makes the present an especially troubling time to write about gender. I see a parallel between the lives of my mother and grandmothers and my own troubled present. All of us have found ourselves standing at the crossroads, not only of tradition and modernity, both of which I see

as evolving with each generation, but of a nation's history. My mother and grandmothers lived through India's freedom struggle and bore witness to some of its most troubling moments: the First World War and the Indian sense of betrayal following it; the growing momentum of the Gandhian struggle; the Dandi Salt March and

the Quit India Movement; Freedom at Midnight and its entanglement with the bloody dismembering of their country...

For a while Ai and Sundiamma had been able to move outside their little spheres and find a larger cause in the national struggle for freedom, but their real struggle as women had a sociocultural rootedness which was more difficult to deal with... 'I wish I had not pained her so much ...' Ai was to say about Sundiamma, not just in her journal but all through her life. I see now that this regret runs like a thread through the history of mothers and daughters, Ai's guilt about Sundiamma finding an echo in mine about her—all of us in fact 'good' daughters to our mothers. Maybe what she wished she could have assuaged was 'unassuageable'—the pain of being a woman of intelligence and sensitivity and spirit through much of the twentieth century.

This excerpt comes from Vrinda Nabar's most recent work, "Family Fables and Hidden Heresies." She is also the author of "Caste as Woman." Nabar is a visitor professor in the Gender Studies Program.



Faculty Updates >>>

Héctor Carrillo (*Sociology & Gender Studies*), has been selected to be a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, where he will be in residence during 2012-13. This year he also implemented “Project Teal,” a study of heterosexually-identified men who have a sexual interest in both women and men, and continued to co-convene the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN), now in its second year. He published in the *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, the *Journal of Health Communication*, and *Saúde em Debate*, and he presented at the American Sociological Association meeting.

Nick Davis (*English & Gender Studies*), completed a book manuscript about contemporary queer cinema and Deleuzian film theory. In the past year, he has given several talks, including one about Alfonso Cuarón’s *Y tu mamá también* as a transnational spin on (and forerunner of) the “bromance” genre, and another at Northwestern about the film *Black Swan* as a compendium of crypto-lesbian images and tropes drawn from several decades of popular cinema. He is currently working on an article about female image-production in Julie Dash’s *Illusions*.

Alice Eagly (*Psychology*), co-authored “Feminism and Psychology: An Analysis of a Half Century of Research on Women and Gender” in the April 2012 *American Psychologist*, received an honorary Doctoris Philosophiae Honoris Causa from the University of Bern in Switzerland and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Jillana Enteen (*Gender Studies*), presented “Trans Tourism to Thailand: Book your Vacation Online” at the Association for Internet Researcher’s Annual Conven-



Above: Gender Studies faculty and graduate students at the Gender Studies year end award ceremony and celebration. Below: Prof. Mary Wesimantel hands Gender Studies certificate recipient Greg Mitchell a Gender Studies pin. Photos by Jeffrey Catell.



tion in October. Her article, “Nalo Hopkinson’s Speculative Fiction: Nanny Web’s Feminism and Technology,” is forthcoming in the edited collection *Contemporary Literary Criticism -Excerpts from Criticism of the Works of Today’s Novelists, Poets, Playwrights, Short Story Writers, Scriptwriters, & Other Creative Writers* and her sec-

ond book, *Import/Export: English Language Terms for Genders and Sexualities in Thailand*, will be published by Onyx Press in 2013. She was awarded two SPAN Faculty Research Grants to support her current project on "TransNational Transitions: Medical Tourism to Thailand."

Steven Epstein (*Sociology & Humanities*), received a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship to pursue a research project that he is calling "Sexual Health as Buzzword." In recent months he has given several talks on this topic, including as the R. Jean Brownlee Lecturer in Sexuality Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and as the Litwak Lecturer in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia University. As a co-convenor of the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN), he also helped to organize a workshop called "Libidinal Investments: Emerging Scholarship on Sexualities and the Social," which took place at Northwestern in March.

E. Patrick Johnson (*Performance Studies*), gave the inaugural lecture for the newly formed Gender Studies Department at UCLA in November and performed his one-man play, *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, at Signature Theater in Arlington, VA to great reviews in September.

Louise Knight (*Visiting Scholar, Gender Studies*), is currently writing a biography of Sarah and Angelina Grimke and recently participated in a seminar entitled "Writing Biographies of Siblings" at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston and in a roundtable "debate" between Jane Addams and Emma Goldman, as represented by their biographers, at the 2012 meeting of the Organization of American Historians. She has also recently published op eds in the *Nation.com* and *Huffington Post* on topics related to Jane Addams.

Andrew Koppleman (*Law*), recently published "Sexual Disorientation," 100 Georgetown L. J. 1083 (2012) and "Salvaging Perry," 125 Harv. L. Rev. Forum 69 (2012), http://www.harvardlawreview.org/issues/125/march12/forum_848.php.

Phyllis Lassner (*Writing Program*), published a review essay on Elizabeth Bowen in the journal *Modernism/Modernity* and an essay entitled "Race, Gender, and the Holocaust: traumatic modernity, traumatic modernism" in *Modernism and Race*, Len Platt, ed. (Cambridge U Press).

Alexandra Owen (*History & Gender Studies*), gave the keynote address at the 33rd annual conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association in Asheville, North Carolina in March 2012, which explored the relationship between Virginia Woolf and Katherine Mansfield through the lens of mourning and haunting. Her article on the gender and sexual politics of the renegade occultist Aleister Crowley is forthcoming in the edited collection, *Aleister Crowley and Western Esotericism*, Henrik Bogdan & Martin P. Starr, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Frances Freeman Paden (*Gender Studies, Emeritus*) and Professor William D. Paden were invited panelists for a session on Women and the Troubadours at the 47th International Congress on Medieval Studies, where they presented their co-authored paper entitled "Azalais de Porcairagues: A New Look."

Sarah Rodriguez (*Medical Humanities & Bioethics*) recently published "Down There" in *Atrium* and coauthored "The Organ That Must Not Be Named" with Toby Schonfeld, forthcoming in the *Hastings Center Report*. She also coauthored two articles with Lisa Campo-Engelstein in 2011, including "Conceiving Wholeness: Women, Motherhood, and Ovarian Transplantation, 1902 and 2004" in *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* and "Two Chicks in a Lab with Eggs" in the *Hastings Center Report*. In addition, she organized and presented at a roundtable entitled "Embedded Medical Narratives: Women's Experiences with their Reproductive and Sexual Bodies" at the 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women. She was awarded a SPAN Faculty Research Grant to support her current book project, *The Errant Organ*.

Evren Savci (*SPAN post-doctoral fellow*), received a 2012 Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Award and has a publication forthcoming in the edited collection *Sexual Enigma: Queer Culture and Sociability in Turkey*. In the past year, she presented her work at the American Sociological Association and Pacific Sociological Association Meetings, the SPAN Libidinal Investments Symposium at Northwestern, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Working Group Annual Symposium, The Buffet Center, and the University of Chicago Sawyer Seminar, and she will be participating in a seminar on Debates About Religion and Sexuality at Harvard Divinity School in June 2012.

In Memoriam: Arlene Kaplan Daniels

Founding director of the Program on Women passes away at 82

On a recent Sunday evening, Arlene Kaplan Daniels, Professor Emerita of Sociology and the founding director of the Program on Women at Northwestern died in her sleep. In 1975, Arlene was invited to join the Northwestern faculty. She was expected to continue her stellar research in Sociology while heading the newly formed Program on Women, with its commitment to curricular changes, pay equity, and access to opportunity for women. With imagination and a will of iron, Arlene forged ahead, always working in collaboration with colleagues and students.

Arlene's friends have responded to the news of her death with an outpouring of grief and gratitude. We have preserved these words as they were written and present them now in tribute to a magnificent leader and cherished colleague.



Alex Owen: "Arlene was a force of nature, a leader in her field, and wonderfully colorful in a way that we don't quite seem to manage these days."

Tessie Liu: "Arlene's hats! I remember at a conference honoring Arlene, her graduate students were seated in a row all wearing beautiful floppy Arlene hats. She loved it so much, as she loved each of us whom she mentored. We join you, Rae, in paying tribute to one of the most important trail-blazers in our scholarly and political community."

Sandra Richards: "Arlene initiated, in response to requests by graduate students in Sociology, the University's first course in black feminist theory. She invited me to co-teach with her. Though I read and utilized the work of early, second-wave black feminists, I had never taught a course in it, and I was fairly new at Northwestern. Together, we were off and running, often finding that events seemingly outside the classroom had significant impact on what and how we learned. Arlene was funny, dramatic, occasionally maddening, always supportive, always fighting, often telling stories of restaurant adventures with her beloved Richard! Our collective hats off to a dear colleague."

Adair Waldenberg: "Arlene Kaplan Daniels was recruited to Northwestern to head the new Program on Women at a time when the University was not quite sure what the Program should be. Arlene defined it and fought for resources for it. Her feisty leadership was essential to the Program's success and helped redefine the role of women in the University. She left a legacy on which others have been able to build their research agendas and careers at NU."

Links to Obituaries

<http://www.dailynorthwestern.com/campus/northwestern-women-s-studies-pathbreaker-died-sunday-1.2694518>

<http://www.northwestern.edu/newscenter/stories/2012/02/arlene-daniels-obit.html>

<http://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/362/Obituaries/>

Gender and the Meaning of Revolution in Germany

(continued from page 4)

demonstrated, women's rights and roles—and especially their sexuality—were elemental to discourses and visions of socio-political order and disorder that circulated in the wake of the war and revolution.

Over the course of her talk, Canning illuminated why male politicians—whether imperial autocrats, revolutionary council members, or Social Democratic parliamentarians—believed that governing women's sexuality was crucial to the establishment of socio-political order. In their view, women were indispensable to the biopolitical project of replenishing the national population following the devastation of the war: the national body would be rebuilt through women's bodies. To ensure the success of this biopolitical project, these politicians sought

to limit women's political power and participation.

And yet, as Canning pointed out, women rejected a subordinate status; in fact, women believed that, at this moment, they enjoyed unprecedented socio-political agency, and hence demanded to play an active role in shaping the nation's fate. Women sought powers beyond the formal civil rights accorded by the vote, granted to women in November 1918, and instead desired to practice what Canning termed "participatory citizenship." Canning noted that the war created opportunities for such claims-making through its conscription of women's labour on behalf of the "total war" effort. Moreover, women had become emboldened by their experiences leading protests against the war and its deprivations.

Sexualities Project at Northwestern

Libidinal Investments: Sexualities scholars address key themes of emerging research

By **Clare Forstie** (PhD Candidate, Sociology, Gender Studies Cluster Fellow)

On March 28th and 29th, the Gender Studies Program welcomed new and seasoned scholars to our third annual spring workshop, “Libidinal Investments: Emerging Scholarship on Sexualities and the Social,” sponsored by the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN). Richard Parker of Columbia University delivered the keynote address, deftly articulating the impact of sexuality on the definitional development of global health. During the full day workshop, prestigious members of a rising generation of sexuality scholars were invited to present work engaging key themes of upcoming sexualities research. In particular, they addressed categorical questions of subjectivity formation, new intimacies in intersecting global economies and nation-states, and processes of regulation and subversion as elaborated through the transformation of space. Northwestern graduate students provided multi-disciplinary commentary and provocative questions, and attendees from Northwestern and beyond engaged with speakers on a broad range of related issues. The workshop also featured a productive panel featuring Doug Mitchell, Executive Editor at the University of Chicago Press, and Dr. Parker, who offered salient advice about publishing in the field of sexuality studies for practiced, new, and upcoming sexuality scholars. Designed as an invitation for discussion about the past, present, and future of sexuality studies, the workshop engaged multiple generations of scholars dedicated to researching sexuality and social life.



Above: Keynote speaker Andrew Parker and Prof. Tessie Liu;
Below: Attendees listen to a talk during the SPAN Conference
Photos by Steven Epstein



Richard Parker on “Sexual Matters, the Politics of HIV and AIDS, and the Invention of Global Health”

“Richard Parker, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Anthropology at Columbia University, described a shifting paradigm, from tropical medicine to international health to the recent establishment of global health. He insisted upon the importance of broad social, cultural, political, and economic contexts in shaping this paradigm shift and emphasized the strategic importance of political debates around population control, the global HIV and AIDS epidemics, and reproductive and sexual rights as an impetus for the shift to global health. In other words, Parker wholeheartedly argues for the unexpected role of sexuality and sexual politics in the emergence of the field of global health.”

—Cassidy Artz (Weinberg ‘14)


Gendered Scripts within Psychiatric Prescriptions

By **Tom Waidzun** (Postdoctoral Fellow in Science in Human Culture, Visiting Lecturer Sociology Department)

How have advertisements for psychiatric medications in the United States conveyed messages about gender, and how have these messages changed over time? That is, how does culture get encapsulated into pills? Dr. Michael Oldani, Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, explored these questions during his talk for the Gender Studies Program titled, "Enhancement, Pathology, Potency: Pharmaceutical advertising and the gendered script (1928-present)." The talk was co-sponsored by Gender Studies and the Science in Human Culture Program.

Today, psychiatric medications are marketed to consumers in ways that exhibit gendered patterns and reinforce inequality. For men, cultural scripts emphasize potency and enhancement, often for drugs like Cialis or Viagra. By contrast, advertisers tend to depict women as in need of "little helpers," tools for getting through days of unending demands.

In the 1950s, marketing to doctors depicted women as needing control through prescriptions like Valium to maintain order in the domestic sphere. While ads have changed with cultural shifts, a major milestone occurred in the late 1990s with the rise of direct-to-consumer marketing. The "little helper" has become a pill that women might incorporate into their self-understandings to help them cope with demands of work and family. Drugs have been given names like "Sarafem" to appeal to women consumers with imagery of angels and ideal



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

wives. Meanwhile, erectile dysfunction pills are marketed to younger men as a means to achieve enhanced potency.

Oldani described a range of ways that pharmaceutical companies develop their marketing approaches today, including mining the data of "patientslikeme.com," a Facebook-like social media website where people share illness experiences. Throughout the talk, Oldani made clever use of the dual meaning of "script," as a cultural formation and as a directive by doctors to take particular medications, reinforcing the cultural dimensions of these technologies.

Science and turn-of-the-century German feminism

By **Anastasia Pold** (PhD Candidate, History, Gender Studies Certificate)

On February 2, a group of twenty-five graduate students and faculty gathered for a stimulating presentation by the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) postdoctoral fellow Kirsten Leng. The talk, entitled "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," was sponsored by the Gender Studies and Science in Hu-

man Culture Programs.

Dr. Leng argued that, unlike later twentieth-century feminists, some German feminists at the turn of the century saw science as a potentially liberating force for women. They called upon science as the ultimate source of proof that women were morally superior and as a valuable way to legitimate the study of sexual norms outside what they saw as the restrictive under-

(continued on page 11)

SPAN announces '12-'13 faculty research awards

In 2011-12, SPAN has funded nine graduate students from the following departments and programs to present sexuality-related work at conferences: African American Studies, Anthropology, Law, Performance Studies, Political Science, Screen Cultures, Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Sociology.

Additionally SPAN awarded funds to the following Northwestern faculty members for research to be conducted in 2012-13. Congratulations to the awardees!

-Jillana Enteen (Gender Studies): "Medical Tourism to Thailand Reconstructed: From 'Create Your Own Surgery' to One-Click SRS."

-Dévora Grynspan (with Karrie Stewart) (Global Health Studies): "Sexual Politics and HIV/AIDS in Contemporary Cuba."

-E. Patrick Johnson (Performance Studies and African American Studies): "Honeypot: Black Lesbians of the South - An Oral History."

-Sarah Rodriguez (Medical Humanities and Bioethics): "The Husband's Stitch: Female Bodies, Male Sexuality, and Episiotomy Repair in the United States, 1950-2006."

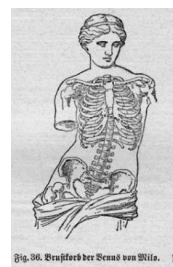
-Jackie Stevens (Political Science): "Remembered Sexual Intimacies and the Bona Fide Marriage in Immigration Proceedings."

German Feminism

(continued from page 10)

standings of sexuality available through religion. Leng introduced three major German feminists, Anna Ruling, Johanna Elberskirchen, and Rosa Mayreder, who used science as a tool to articulate a feminist vision of female homosexuality. All three asserted that lesbian women were free from the draining and constricting effects of maternity. Thus, they argued, lesbians were the natural vanguard of the feminist movement. But in the process, Leng argued, they came to see heterosexual women as biologically inferior and, often, not in need of women's rights. Though all three articulated feminist uses of science, none were accepted into the mainstream of contemporary maternalist feminism.

Dr. Leng's work makes several significant interventions. It throws into question the common assumption that sexual science had achieved legitimacy by the turn of the century. It calls for scholars of feminism and feminist movements to expand their cast of actors. It also forcefully argues for the contingency of feminist hostility toward scientific explanations of female sexualities.

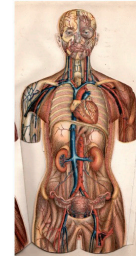
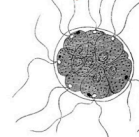


Science, the
"invincible and
strongest ally"
of women's rights?

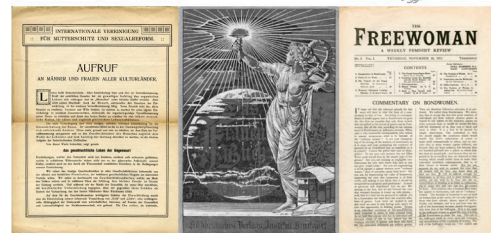
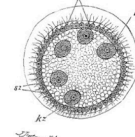
Feminism, Sexology and
Sexual Politics in Germany
and Britain at the turn of
the twentieth century



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

Q&A

Doctoral candidate researches body commodification

By Jeffrey Cattel (Journalism and Gender Studies '13)

Doctoral candidate Anna Terwiel first encountered gender studies as an undergraduate in Paris. Now, in her third year as a PhD candidate, Terwiel has combined her academic interests in political theory and gender studies in her research project on self-ownership and body commodification. Find out about Terwiel's experience as a TA in gender studies in the past year below.

When did you first encounter gender studies?

I took my first gender studies class as an undergraduate in Paris about five years ago. This was with Eric Fassin at the École Normale Supérieure where I was studying at the time. What interested me in that class was Fassin's attention to the politics of gender and sexuality. We looked at how gender and sexuality were used in French politics at the time to exclude or further marginalize Arab populations. Right-wing politicians framed Arab men as being sexually deviant, and as not treating their women right.

Can you talk about your current research and dissertation?

My project focuses on self-ownership and body commodification, meaning the sale of body parts or bodily services such as surrogate motherhood or organ sales. My questions center on what it means to have bodily autonomy today. That is a political concern and it also historically has been a feminist concern, in the sense of women's struggles to gain reproductive rights and sexual freedoms.

How did you settle on body commodification as an area of research?

Years ago, I visited the criminal court at Amsterdam Airport in Holland and witnessed a number of court cases against drug smugglers there. These were human mules in a literal sense: They had ingested pellets of cocaine. The Dutch government had decided to get 'tough' on drug smuggling, so the mules were tried and would have to go to prison. What struck me was the body instrumentalization which I came to see as a form of body commodification, as exploitative labor practices.



Anna Terwiel

As a graduate student have you had a chance to TA for gender studies courses?

Yes. I've been a teaching assistant for Tessie Liu's class "Race, Gender and the Politics of Beauty," and Héctor Carrillo's "Sexuality and Society." Both have been really great opportunities to work with undergraduates on issues that I think are very important and to explore some of the intersections between disciplines. Prof. Carrillo's class is co-listed in sociology and Prof. Liu's class is co-listed in history. Prof. Liu's class is called '*the politics of beauty*,' so that's

something I try and emphasize, coming from a political theory background. But I really believe these issues are political anyway.



Like us on
Facebook

AND STAY IN THE KNOW ON:

- EVENT INFORMATION
- RECENT PHOTOS
- GENDER STUDIES IN THE MEDIA

Join the conversation. Search "Gender Studies at Northwestern" on Facebook

QPGSA continues Queer Salon, introduces Da Vinci's Room

By Sarah Mann-O'Donnell (PhD Candidate, Comparative Literary Studies)

Northwestern's Queer Pride Graduate Student Association (QPGSA) is an award-winning campus group dedicated to serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender-nonconforming, queer and genderqueer students. This year, we continued our Queer Salon, a queer and trans-focused reading group open to students of all disciplines. This year's Salon theme was Finding Our Roots, and readings included Sappho, Radclyffe Hall, Oscar Wilde, Jean Genet, James Baldwin (with special guest Dean McBride), Randy Shilts, and Leslie Feinberg. We also continued our Discover Queer Chicago programming, instituted a weekly Queer Pride Happy Hour and worked with QPGSA board member Eddie Europa, to launch Da Vinci's Room, a forum for queer scientists and engineers. In addition, our annual queer and

trans studies conference, Queertopia!, was the best and biggest one yet. This year's theme, "Sexing the Law: Love as/at the Limit," attracted outstanding and diverse panels and roundtables. Keynote speakers included Andrea J. Ritchie and Theodore W. Jennings, with special guest Owen Daniel-McCarter. Finally, we are currently working on the first volume of *Queertopia!*, a journal that will publish select conference proceedings. Thanks to the board and to all our supporters for a great year.



Graduate Student Updates >>>

Alison Boyd (PhD Candidate, Art History, Gender Studies Certificate) was awarded a Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowship in American Art for 2012-2013 and will be conducting research in Philadelphia for her dissertation, "Ensemble Modernism: Orchestrating Art and People at the Barnes Foundation."

Jeff Kosbie (JD/PhD Candidate, Sociology & School of Law) defended his dissertation proposal in Fall 2011 and was awarded a Dissertation Fellowship from the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) for this year.

Gregory Mitchell (PhD Performance Studies, Gender Studies Certificate) defended his dissertation in March, completing his PhD in Performance Studies. He will join the faculty of Williams College in July as Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies.

James Moreno (PhD Performance Studies, Gender Studies Certificate) is currently on a Fulbright Fellowship teaching in the Dance Dept. at the University of Panamá, Panamá City. He will join the faculty at the University of Kansas as an Assistant Professor of Dance in Fall 2012.

Gina Di Salvo (PhD Candidate, Theater and Drama, Gender Studies Certificate) has been awarded a 2012-13 AAUW Dissertation Fellowship. Additionally, she received a W. M. Keck Foundation Fellowship to support a month of dissertation research this summer at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Her dissertation project, "The Unexpected Saints: Hagiography and Early Modern Theatre," examines saints' plays after the English Reformation and concentrates on the representation of virgin martyrs.

Christopher Shirley (PhD Candidate, English, Gender Certificate) received a Fulbright Fellowship to study gender, sexuality, and the community of readers of Renaissance erotic poetry in rare manuscript libraries in the UK.

Anna Terwiel (PhD Candidate, Political Science, Gender Studies Certificate) was accepted into the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell for their 2012 summer session and recently published a book review of Cressida Heyes' *Self-Transformations: Foucault, Ethics, and Normalized Bodies in Theory & Event*.

How do you solve a problem like *Black Swan*?

By **Cat Hammond** (RTVF and Gender Studies '12)

This April the Gender Studies Undergraduate Advisory Board (GSUAB) invited English and Gender Studies Assistant Professor Nick Davis to lecture on the theme of "Sex at the Movies," two topics that hold broad appeal amongst undergraduate students. The members of GSUAB suggested Professor Davis take on the 2010 surprise hit *Black Swan*, given its popularity and the infamy surrounding the sex scene between Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis.

Professor Davis, whose past courses have included "Introducing Queer Cinema" and "How To Do the History of Cinema and Sexuality," responded with a talk titled "How Do You Solve a Problem Like *Black Swan*?" in which he used *Black Swan* as a starting point to discuss the themes of fantasy, violence, and fractured identity that often appear in cinematic depictions of female (and lesbian) sexuality. The event was well attended and well received by a large audience that included undergraduate and graduate students as well as a handful of local movie buffs.



Prof. Nick Davis talks to students about female sexuality in Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan*. Photo by Ina Yang, *The Daily Northwestern*.

Q&A

Senior reflects on four years in gender studies

By **Jeffrey Cattel** (Journalism and Gender Studies '13)

Graduating senior Maggie Birkel ends her undergraduate career at Northwestern with the completion of her honors thesis in gender studies. Her thesis looks at women's sexuality in unexamined social histories of New Orleans in the 1960s and 1970s. She discusses how she found gender studies and the roadblocks she faced in the yearlong thesis writing process.

What brought you to gender studies?

I actually went to an all girls high school, so pretty early on in my academic life we had classes that were very geared towards issues of gender and sexuality. So I think coming into college, I was like I know I want to take some gender studies classes because I had a very limited exposure to them and I wanted to see what the world of academia had to say on these subjects.

What were the first gender-related courses you took at Northwestern?

I took Alex Owen's "Roots of Feminism" and Lane Fennrich's "U.S. Gay and Lesbian History" courses at the same time. After taking Lane's class, which is something

I'm sure a lot of people say, I was like, there is so much out there that has been understudied or is just beginning to be studied, and it has just been an area that has always kept me interested no matter what the reading is.

How did you decide to focus your thesis on women's sexuality in social histories in New Orleans?

I got very interested in intersectionality between social movements, especially ones that aren't often looked at in conjunction. So the women's movement is often looked at in conjunction with the civil rights movement. Gay liberation and women's liberation are usually studied together, but gay lib and anti-war, not so much, and women's lib and anti-war, only a little bit.



Maggie Birkel

What was the most difficult part of writing your thesis?

It's given me an appreciation for what academics do. I thought oh, this is what was real and they knew it and they wrote it, but really there's so much freedom on my part in what I'm going to argue and what facts I'm going to put forward. The creativity aspect is hardest because it's pushing yourself to make an argument that you know will have flaws. Ultimately it's your own brainchild.

Two seniors complete honors theses

The Double Standard of College Hookup Culture

By **Jen Piemonte** (Psychology and Gender Studies '12)

"Competing Norms: An Investigation of Sexual Scripts and the Double Standard in the College Campus Hookup Culture" examines the results of a survey I conducted to explore the contextual aspects of a potential hookup scenario, as presented by Bogle (2008). Based on the written responses culled from 302 undergraduate students from various American colleges and universities that completed this survey, this study sought to determine whether the presence of alcohol, guarantee of secrecy, and other contextual components affect students' decisions about whether to engage in a hookup or not. This thesis examines the written responses provided by survey participants.

These responses reveal evidence of the sexual double standard and the reasons why it may be maintained in a context previously thought to promote casual sex (hookups) across both genders. By deploying sexual script theory, I assess gender differences found in both willingness to engage in a hookup and reasons provided for this decision. This study reveals that women, but not men, are burdened with negotiating two sets of incompatible norms that govern social interpretations of sexual behaviors. Specifically, the college campus hookup culture encourages casual sex while larger cultural norms maintain, in accordance with the double standard, that women should be sexually conservative.

Women's Sexuality in Unexamined Social Histories of New Orleans

By **Maggie Birkel** (History and Gender Studies '12)

"Sin City South: Women's Sexuality in Unexamined Social Histories of New Orleans, 1965-1975" analyzes archives of previously unexamined writings by four women who have yet to be situated in the history of New Orleans. While earlier scholarship has focused on the large national movements of the 1960s and 1970s, this project employs a microhistorical analysis by examining how the goals of the period's broader movements were negotiated in everyday practice. The stories of these four activists further illuminate this era the role of larger movements in their individual lives.

Utilizing a range of research techniques, such as a detailed reading of previously unexamined historical archives from regional newspapers to private journals, I forge a methodological approach that privileges an intimate, local understanding of these intersecting political movements within their specific location and time period. I go beyond previous historical accounts in order to achieve locally situated histories of women activists who contributed to this phase of change in New Orleans, focusing on how they processed their own relationships to sex and sexuality in this context.

In recovering these archives, I reveal women's struggle for autonomy and sexual liberation in these social movements. Listening to the voices of women activists makes it clear not only that the personal was political – as feminist thinkers explained throughout the period – but that the political also had to be personal: women in the Movement – whatever movement that was – found their day-to-day lives and intimate relationships changed by their political work.



Thesis adviser Jillana Enteen (center) stands with seniors Jen Piemonte (left) and Maggie Birkel (right) who completed an honors thesis in gender studies this year. Photo by Evren Savci

Gender studies introduces new introductory course "Sexual Subjects"

By **Jeffrey Cattel** (Journalism and Gender Studies '13)

The Gender Studies Program unveiled a new introductory course, "Sexual Subjects," this winter. Taught by Lane Fenrich, the course aims to introduce undergraduates to the broad topics of sex and sexuality as these are taken up in a range of academic disciplines. Fenrich designed the course to be as interdisciplinary as possible and students enjoyed guest lectures from Professors Gregory Ward in linguistics, Sara Maza in history, Mary Weismantel in anthropology and Prof. Wendy Espeland in sociology. Throughout the course, students were asked to query basic assumptions about gender and sexuality and were asked to reflect on 'What it means to be male or female, homosexual or heterosexual.' As class discussions deepened, Fenrich asked students to determine whether the historical developments that have impacted our understandings of



Prof. Lane Fenrich lectures the class in Sexual Subjects. Photo by Brian Cassella, Chicago Tribune

sexuality can be characterized as a movement toward increased liberation or repression. With the success of the initial offering, "Sexual Subjects" will be offered again in Fall 2012.

Undergraduate board works with Project ShoutOUT

By **Cat Hammond** (RTVF and Gender Studies '12)

This year, the Gender Studies Undergraduate Advisory Board co-sponsored several events with Project ShoutOUT, a new student group started by Gender Studies sophomore Ryan Lim to build connections between Northwestern students and area LGBT youth. In addition to visiting Gay-Straight Alliance groups at several local high schools, Project ShoutOUT hosted events including a panel discussion on LGBT youth outreach, the Day of Silence at the rock, and a Saturday afternoon conference on issues facing LGBT youth featuring presentations aimed at Northwestern undergraduates and visiting high school students.



Four students earn undergraduate awards in Gender Studies

The George C. Casey prize is awarded annually to the best undergraduate essay written in a Gender Studies course. This year D'Laney Gielow won the prize for her essay "The Narrative of False Choice in Contemporary Evangelical Purity Rhetoric."

The Better Jo Tetter Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding senior thesis written in the Gender Studies Program. This year the prize was dually-awarded to Maggie Birkel for her thesis, "Sin City South: Women's Sexuality in Unexamined Social Histories of New Orleans, 1965-1975," and Jennifer Piemonte for her thesis "Competing Norms: An Investigation of Sexual Scripts and the Double Standard in the College Campus Hookup Culture."

The Rae Arlene Moses award is annually awarded to a senior who has fostered initiatives and demonstrated leadership, both within the classroom and in activities sponsored by Gender Studies. This year the award was presented to Cat Hammond.

Alumunus plans to study feminist studies in doctoral program at UC Santa Barbara

By **Jeffrey Cattel** (Journalism and Gender Studiesm '13)

Rachel Rys, a 2010 graduate of Northwestern with degrees in gender studies and linguistics, continues to encounter issues of gender and disenfranchisement as a special education teacher at a charter school in Boston. Hear about her time as a student at Northwestern and her future gender-related pursuits.

When did you first encounter gender studies?

I had always been interested in feminism and gender studies from things I was involved in during high school. One quarter I happened to sign up for a class with Amy Partridge about work, gender and power with absolutely no intention of becoming a major. But by the end of the course, I had signed up for three gender studies classes for the next quarter.

As an undergraduate in gender studies, what topics did you pursue?

I became really interested in interdisciplinary thought. I

realized that gender studies offered a diverse perspective, talking about language categories in a completely different way than they talked about it in linguistics and cognitive science. I found the differences very compelling. I worked on an honors thesis in the Gender Studies Program that looked at the intersection between those, looking at the empirical base in linguistics and the progressive thought and post-structuralist ideas about language that come out of gender theory.



Rachel Rys

Do gender and sexuality issues still play a role in your life?

Next year, I'm planning to enroll in a PhD program in Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara, which will obviously build on my coursework in Gender Studies as an undergraduate. I've decided that I truly love teaching, after working for the past year as a special education teacher at a charter school, so I think that being a professor sounds like a pretty good goal for me to shoot for. Admittedly, that's pretty far down the road.

Alumni Updates >>>

Allison Bream ('10) spent the year after graduation in Ethiopia on a Princeton in Africa Fellowship, where she worked with the World Food Program. She is currently working in New York City as an Administration Associate at One Acre Fund, a social enterprise that invests in farmers in rural Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi to generate a permanent gain in farm income.

Nicole Collins ('11) is currently teaching on South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation through Teach for America, where she has designed and implemented a sex education unit based around Lakota culture.

Rachelle Faroul ('07) just completed two and half years in West Africa in the Peace Corps and is now based in New York City where she works at Just Food, Inc. as the Fresh Food for All Program Coordinator connecting local farmers with food pantries, shelters, and other or-

ganizations throughout the city to provide fresh produce to their clients.

Katherine Gorringer ('08) is currently producing a documentary film about agricultural activism and sustainable farming and will begin the MFA program in Documentary Film at Stanford University in Fall 2012.

Emily Hagenmaier ('04) and **Eric Hoyt** ('05) are in the process of moving from California to Wisconsin with their one-year-old twins, Liam and Rumi. Emily completed an MSW at UCLA and has been working with Los Angeles's homeless and veteran populations. Eric recently completed his PhD in Cinema-Television at USC and will be joining the faculty at University of Wisconsin-Madison as an Assistant Professor of Communication Arts in Fall

(continued on page 18)

Undergraduate Updates >>>

Derrick Clifton (Communication Studies and Gender Studies '12) was a finalist for the Campus Pride Voice & Action National Leadership Award and was selected as a "Senior to Watch" by *Northwestern Magazine*, which cited his work as a columnist for the *Daily Northwestern* focusing on LGBTQ issues, his work with the student groups Rainbow Alliance and In Technicolor and his contributions to the LGBT Resource Center and the nonprofit organization The Harbour, Inc. After graduation he will begin working in corporate media relations and communications at Commonwealth Edison.

Tristan Powell (Theatre and Gender Studies '13) studied critical theory in Paris in Fall 2011 and was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Grant to study queer temporality in contemporary performance in New York City this summer in preparation for his senior thesis. He was also selected to direct the 71st Annual Dolphin Show next year.

Kathryn Rulon (Psychology and Gender Studies '12) will begin a PhD program in Fall 2012 in Clinical Psychology at Miami University of Ohio, where she will focus on anxious and depressive disorders in children.

Melina Sherman (Communication Studies and Gender Studies '13) was accepted into NU's creative writing nonfiction sequence and will be adapting two pieces into one-act plays for Spectrum theatre board performances next year. She will also serve as the Director of NU Sex Week in 2013 and is planning to write a senior honors thesis in Communication Studies on rave culture and its place in contemporary youth subcultures.

Alysa Statler (Legal Studies and Gender Studies '14) received a Posner Summer Fellowship to work with Gender Studies Senior Lecturer Jillana Enteen on Western sex and sex-change tourism in Thailand. A more detailed description of this research project can be found at www.sexualities.northwestern.edu

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.

Kresge Hall 2-321 1880 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208-2211.

Phone: 847.491.5871 Email: gender@northwestern.edu
Web: www.wcas.northwestern.edu/genderstudies/

Director: Mary Weismantel
Associate Director/DUS: Amy Partridge
Program Assistant: Emily Gilbert
Newsletter Design: Jeffrey Cattel

The Gender Studies Advisory Committee
Nicola Beisel (Gender Studies & Sociology)
Héctor Carrillo (Gender Studies & Sociology)
Nicholas Davis (Gender Studies & English)
Mary G. Dietz (Gender Studies & Political Science)
Jillana Enteen (Gender Studies)
Kasey Evans (English)
Lane Fenrich (History)
Tessie Liu (Gender Studies & History)
Jeffrey Masten (Gender Studies & English)
Alexandra Owen (Gender Studies & History)
Amy Partridge (Gender Studies)
Janice Radway (Communication Studies)
Laurie Shannon (English)
Mary Weismantel (Anthropology)
Michelle Wright (African American Studies)

Alumni Updates

(continued from page 17)

2012.

Annie Lee ('06) completed her JD at Duke University in 2009. She practiced corporate law for two years in New York City and recently relocated to Washington D.C. to start a new job practicing advertising and marketing law.

Mugsie Pike ('10) runs a custom lingerie company, Renegade Lingerie, and recently won a Critical Fierceness grant for the ftm transgender packing underwear she designed. She also co-founded Intersex Chicago, an intersex group that meets at the Center on Halsted in Chicago.

Anthony Rella ('04) is pursuing an MA in Counseling at Antioch University Seattle and self-published a novel entitled *Dreams Among the Ruins*.

Hannah Robbins ('09) spent the year after graduation creating and piloting a GlobeMed fellowship in Latin America and Chicago, the "Partner Search Fellowship Program." Since then she has worked as a paralegal at the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project and will begin law school at Cardozo Law School in Fall 2012.

Rachel Rys ('10) has worked at Educational Testing Services, writing test questions for the TOEFL and TOEIC exams, and at Peer Health Exchange, training college volunteers to teach comprehensive health education in low-income Chicago Public Schools, since graduation. She is currently completing a one-year urban education fellowship at Match Charter High School in Boston and in Fall 2012 will begin a PhD program in Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara.

Courtney D. Williams ('01) received an MBA from the University of Memphis in 2005 and is currently working in Chicago for Exelon as the Senior Manager of Internal Corporate Communications.