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The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality  
Faculty of Arts and Science  
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285 Mercer Street, Third Floor  
New York, NY 10003





SPRING 2003

## From the Director

*Carolyn Dinshaw*



Without a breath of controversy, we at NYU took a step last year which, when attempted at other institutions around the country, has been met with resistance and anger: the Women's Studies Program changed its name. Our undergraduate degree-granting unit (part of the CSGS, alongside the research institute) is now, officially, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program.

I regularly receive emails from colleagues in other institutions considering a name change, asking about our history and strategy, preparing for a struggle. Why were we able to accomplish this so easily? One answer is that our program emerged late in comparison to others around the U.S.: the original proposal is dated January 1988, at which point the program at the University of Washington—one of the first in the country—was about 18 years old. Our program is simply not as entrenched as it might be elsewhere, and as a consequence is more flexible and less resistant to change.

A deeper answer is that the program from the beginning was designed as a gender studies program. "While at first women's studies practitioners concentrated on documenting the ways in which women's perspectives had been excluded from the traditional disciplines," states the original program proposal, "women's studies has now moved on to an attempt to rethink and reevaluate all of human experience through the lens of gender." Why not call it Gender Studies at that point, then? I wasn't at NYU for the discussions of this question, if it indeed was discussed, but I did participate in many a tortured session elsewhere. In the 80s, "gender" was seen by many in the U.S. as the assimilationist term, the academically acceptable term; to call it Gender Studies was to capitulate to de-politicizing forces and to open the door to appropriations of the discipline by men and those who wanted to study them. Men have determined the whole intellectual universe, it was argued; women must be made central at last. The NYU proposal includes such sentiment: "The world looks quite different when women are at the center rather than marginalized."

But the term "gender" is now politicized in ways it was not earlier. This is due at least in part to the emergence of a visible transgender movement, which articulates in the academy with powerful gender theories that appeared in the late 80s and early 90s. Such theories clarify that masculinities should be studied even as femininities are—and that there is much to be investigated in between and beyond these two rather inadequate ways of classifying all human bodies. Increasingly the politics of

gendering are scrutinized. The preemption of the term "women" doesn't mean a necessary loss of such fierce political motives as those that brought Women's Studies into being in the first place.

To my mind, the harder questions include: why combine the study of gender with sexuality? A quick answer is that there is a large literature that relates them to one another. The study of transgender, in particular, has often developed in the context of sexual "deviance." (The one worry voiced among students at NYU

Gender theories clarify that masculinities should be studied even as femininities are—and that there is much to be investigated in between and beyond these two rather inadequate ways of classifying all human bodies.

concerned the place of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender studies or queer studies; we are convinced that an integration of LGBT/queer issues into our core courses, and of LGBT/queer courses into our permanent curriculum, will serve students better

than a free-standing, and by necessity very small, LGBT or Queer Studies Program.) But why stop with specifying gender and sexuality, without naming race, ethnicity, or class as powerful co-constituents of these human experiences we are trying to describe? What if gender and sexuality are white categories, and naming them makes us complicit in racializing this intellectual inquiry? My responses here are practical and institutional: in all our core courses, we subject the terms to exactly this kind of interrogation, and we strive to articulate our course offerings with those of other programs at NYU that investigate race, ethnicity, class, ability, and other social divisions. I am not worried that our terms, chosen to reflect the focus of our interests but not held onto as themselves keys to any mysteries, may indeed prove inadequate. If and when that happens, well, we'll change our name again.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Director .....	1
Associate Director Joins CSGS .....	2
Comings and Goings .....	2
CSGS Professor Emphasizes Global Issues .....	3
John Cameron Mitchell Visits .....	3
Advice from an Alumna .....	4
Ten Years after Queer Nation .....	4
Heller Award Announcements .....	5
Visting Scholars' Reflections .....	6
NOW President Speaks .....	7
Stay Informed .....	8

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## Comings and Goings at CSGS

**Rabab Abdulhadi** joined the CSGS faculty in the fall of 2001. She completed her doctorate in Sociology with a dissertation on "Palestinianness in Comparative Perspective: Inclusionary Resistance, Exclusionary Citizenship" (Yale University, 2000). Before NYU, she taught at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.

**Maria Blanco** is a teaching assistant for Rabab Abdulhadi's class, "Studying Gender, Studying Sexuality," this semester. She is a Ph.D. candidate in the Comparative Literature Department.

**Bernadine Cidranes**, a New Orleans native, has been in New York City for three years. At CSGS since January 2000, she is the Administrative Aide for the Center and is the first face you see when you come through the door.

**Kate Collier** joined the CSGS staff as a work/study student in September. She is a third year student pursuing a double major in Journalism and Gender and Sexuality Studies.

**Ailsa Craig** is a Ph.D. student in Sociology who works as a teaching assistant at the CSGS. This semester she will be assisting with Penny Saunder's class, "Sexual Rights, Sexual Wrongs," and adjusting to motherhood.

**Carolyn Dinshaw** is founder and director of the CSGS, as well as a member of the English Department. She is also editor of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*.

NYU Sociology professor **Lynne Haney** is Associate Director of CSGS and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. She recently published her first book, *Inventing the Needy: Gender and the Politics of Welfare in Hungary*, and will be working to develop a graduate certificate program at the Center.

**Annamarie Jagose** is a Visiting Scholar at the CSGS this semester. A professor in the English Department at the University of Melbourne, Annamarie originally hails from New Zealand. On January 30, she gave a lecture, "Brought to You by the Letter 'O': Sexual Sensibility in *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*," and she will be a participant in several other events this semester.

**Erin Koch**, an Anthropology Ph.D. candidate at the New School, NY, will be teaching "Topics in Gender & Sexuality Studies: Gender(ed) Science & Body Politics" this semester.

**Ricardo Montez** is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Performance Studies at NYU. He is also Managing Editor of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, a quarterly journal housed at the Center and published by Duke University Press.

**Ann Neumann** stepped into new shoes at CSGS last semester as the new Administrator. After many busy years in financial media marketing, Ann shook off business for academia.

**Penny Saunders** returns to CSGS this spring to teach "Sexual Rights, Sexual Wrongs: Sex Work, Pornography, and Other Controversies." The course is being offered again to accommodate the many students who were not able last year to get into Penny's filled-to-capacity class.

**Patrick Yacco** recently joined the Center as a work/study student. In addition to double majoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Sociology, he manages to find time to co-chair NYU's Pride Month and act as a Residence Assistant at the Coral Towers dormitory.

## New Associate Director Arrives at CSGS

by Ailsa Craig



New CSGS Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies Lynne Haney will doubtless help in making this year an exciting and productive one for the Center. Haney is planning a graduate certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies—as well as continuing her own research and writing, and her commitment to teaching.

Haney says the aim of the new graduate certificate "is to catch up with other similar-size universities around the country," many of which have existing programs, and to expand the focus of such programs by analysing both gender and sexuality as well as their intersection.

The certificate will give graduate students a chance to understand and explore the interdisciplinary character of Gender and Sexuality Studies. As she imagines it, the certificate will include two required core courses (one focusing on research methods, one on theory), which will ideally be co-taught by professors from the social sciences and humanities. Students will apply in the first or second year of their graduate program and pursue the certificate concurrently with research and classes in their core discipline. Haney also hopes the certificate program will encourage and support dialogue among the "incredible reserve of faculty who work on gender and sexuality" at NYU.

Haney maintains her position in the Sociology Department while taking on this position, and is excited by the possibilities teaching through CSGS provides. "It will allow me to teach in an interdisciplinary way," she says. "It means something different to teach gender and sexuality within a discipline and between disciplines.

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Within a discipline it is important to teach the boundaries of the field, while inter-disciplinary teaching requires a focus on the interconnections between fields—and both of these things need to happen.”

Haney's first book, *Inventing the Needy: Gender and the Politics of Welfare in Hungary*, explores the invention and reinventions of concepts of need from the inception of state socialism in Hungary until the current day. Her current research is a historical ethnography of two community-based prisons for women in California.

What makes these prisons particularly interesting is that children of the prisoners are housed and incarcerated with their mothers. She hopes to elucidate how the maternal is constructed as the mother/child relationships are shaped within and through these state institutions. As in her first book, Haney is focusing on how categories of gender and appropriate female behavior are created through state institutional practices and policies.

The issue of state policies and practices shaping experiences of gender and sexuality as well as cultural definitions of our lives was key to “Welfare Reform: What Are the Consequences?”, an event Haney planned for this past October. The day-long event included two panels and was planned to coordinate with the reauthorization of TANF in the fall. The event included, among others, Linda Gordon (NYU), who offered a historical perspective on welfare reform; Mimi Abramovitz (Hunter College, CUNY), who spoke about the effects of TANF on institutional relations; and Ruth McFarlane (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), who discussed the effects TANF has had on lesbian and gay families.

On Friday, September 6, the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, in conjunction with the College of Arts and Science 2002 Freshman Dialogue Series, welcomed writer/director/actor **John Cameron Mitchell** to NYU to discuss his award-winning film, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.



Following a screening of the 2001 film, Mitchell conversed with **José Muñoz** (NYU, Performance Studies) and CSGS Director **Carolyn Dinshaw**, and also took questions from an audience of over 300 students. Topics ranged from Cold War politics to being a Hollywood celebrity, and attendees were also treated to a guest appearance by John Cameron Mitchell's friend, musician **Rufus Wainwright**.

## CSGS Professor Places Emphasis on Students and Global Issues

by Gautam Bhan and Kate Collier

Professor Rabab Abdulhadi came to the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality in Fall 2001. Having taught in schools all over the world, including the American University in Cairo, Yale, and Hunter College, Professor Abdulhadi has had a long and diverse career as both an activist and an academic. She was a full-time activist for most of the 1980s and 90s, organizing around everything from peace and justice issues in the Middle East to anti-racist struggles in Howard Beach and transnational feminism in New York. As an educator, she feels it is extremely important to give students an environment in which they can define their own opinions. “It’s really important to make the classroom a relatively safe space where students can speak their minds without being afraid that they’ll be flunked for their views. I want them to develop critical thinking. And I would love it if my students became involved in social change,” Abdulhadi says.



Considering post-9/11 xenophobia and America’s conservative-dominated government, Abdulhadi says, “We actually have to be more active and involved educators. We have to take our jobs seriously by pointing out all sides when we talk about these issues. This is not to say that I believe that one can be completely detached. Not at all. But there has to be a space for diverse viewpoints in the classroom. I think this is what we would call activist pedagogy.”

Many of last spring’s events, such as those in the *Colloquium on Gender, Sexuality, and Nationalism* series and *Focus on the Middle East and Central Asia* series, were designed by Abdulhadi in response to 9/11 and fulfilled the Center’s desire to work more closely with scholars in different parts of the world. To this end, the Center is also sponsoring a series of workshops entitled *Gender and Sexuality Studies in the Global South*, initiated by Abdulhadi and the Center’s Director, Carolyn Dinshaw. The first workshop in this series, *Gendered Bodies, Transnational Politics: Modernities Reconsidered*, will be held in Cairo in December 2003. The workshop aims to bring three sets of scholars together: those who work on gender and sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa, those who work on gender and sexuality with a transnational emphasis on feminist politics and scholarship (those mostly concerned with the Global South), and those who make claims in general about gender and sexuality in general (who happen to be mostly located in the Global North). For the call for papers for the Cairo workshop, go to [www.nyu.edu/fas/gender.sexuality/research/cairopapercall.html](http://www.nyu.edu/fas/gender.sexuality/research/cairopapercall.html).

Professor Abdulhadi is excited about the possibilities the workshop will offer. “We need to push the continuation of this project and integrate this kind of perspective into everything we do, so we don’t just finish the workshop and go back to business as usual,” Abdulhadi says. “We are talking about exchange of students and faculty, and we want to develop curricula with partners in the global South. We’re hoping also to build links with other colleagues and centers in Southern and Central Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. We think of it as something that is just beginning for us.”

## Advice from an Alumna:

### An Interview with Graduate Lauryn Fraas

by Kavita Mehra

Wondering what a degree in Gender and Sexuality Studies will do for your career? In a recent interview at the Astor Place Starbucks, I asked Lauryn Fraas, an alumna of Gender and Sexuality Studies as well as Economics, to give me some retrospective insight into the Gender and Sexuality Studies program and a peek into her current career at the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Lauryn began her study in the Gender and Sexuality Studies program during the first semester of her freshman year with “Introduction to Women’s Studies.” When asked what she appreciated about the class, she stated, “The progressive politics that opened my eyes past my own identity.” She continued, “Although there was an immense work load, it definitely was my most informative class at NYU.” Her introductory class motivated her to pursue a major in Gender and Sexuality.

As an undergraduate, I was curious as to how Gender and Sexuality Studies readied her for life after college. “Professor Abdulhadi prepared me for the world outside of NYU. In my senior seminar, she reinforced strategies for approaching the world as well as graduate school. She provided us with invaluable research skills that helped to give me a complex understanding of the world around me. I was able to take theories and methodologies that we had learned over the last four years and apply it to a project.” Was it difficult to find her position working for NOW’s Legal Defense and Education Fund? “I spent a solid three months looking for a job, but it was well worth it. At the end of job hunting I was debating on two offers, MTV or NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.”

Since 1970, NOW Legal Defense has pursued equality for women and girls in the workplace, the schools, the family and the courts, through litigation, education, and public information programs. Lauryn is the Program Assistant for the National Judicial Education Program of NOW Legal Defense, where she helps create media such as videos and publications that help illustrate ways in which gender bias interacts with the law over a range of sociopolitical issues. What are Lauryn’s plans in the disciplines of Gender and Sexuality and Economics? “I hope to add a new voice to economic development and theory, to incorporate the progressive politics found in Gender and Sexuality with the theories of Economics.”



Get Used to It: Ten Years After Queer Nation participants (l to r): **Deborah Glick** (NY State Assembly), **Marvin Taylor** (Fales Library), and panelists **Carrie Moyer** (Dyke Action Machine!), **Alan Klein** (Alan Klein Media), **Elizabeth Freeman** (UC Davis), **Richard Kim** (NYU), **Carolyn Dinshaw** (Director, CSGS). Photo by Elena Olivo.

## Get Used to It:

### Ten Years After Queer Nation

by Marvin Taylor and Carolyn Dinshaw

On November 14 the CSGS presented a panel of scholars and activists, gathered to assess the legacy of Queer Nation, that powerful blip in 90s queer politics in the U.S. The event publicly announced the acquisition by the Fales Library of the papers of Alan Klein, an activist present at the birth of Queer Nation.

The Klein Papers comprise six archive cartons of correspondence, flyers, press releases, press clippings, posters, stickers, and T-shirts from ACT UP and Queer Nation. Among the papers are notes from a very early Queer Nation brainstorming meeting at which people imagined a dazzling set of goals: not only to build community and foster gay visibility, but also to take on issues that ACT UP couldn’t or wouldn’t take on, and to “mystify, terrify, and enchant.” “Queer Nation, the new lesbian and gay direct action group dedicated to fighting homophobia and invisibility,” declared one of its flyers. The collection documents, among other things, the infamous Queer Nights Out (in straight bars), a Shopping Mall Action, and (our favorite), a Queer Rosary Action against a vigil held by an extremist Christian group: the flyer declared, “Anyone named Mary is a friend of ours.”

The Klein papers document in fact more than the doings of Queer Nation. They are a testament to Alan Klein’s activism and they provide a glimpse into the world of activism in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The papers are a part of the downtown New York collection at Fales, which includes some 10,000 printed items and 2500 linear feet of archives about the downtown artistic and political scene from 1974 to the present.

The panel, “Get Used to It: Ten Years After Queer Nation,” aimed to provide a context in which to think about Queer Nation. We invited people who were there at the beginning and people who weren’t, to get a sense of what it was then and what it is now. How did Queer Nation emerge from its context? Why did it last for such a short time? What directions did people take after their involvement? How did involvement with Queer Nation influence its members? And especially when thinking about the Klein papers: Why would anyone want to know about Queer Nation now?

The lively discussion among panelists Alan Klein (Alan Klein Media), Elizabeth Freeman (UC Davis English Department), Richard Kim (NYU American Studies Program) and Carrie Moyer (Dyke Action Machine!) avoided making easy critiques of Queer Nation. It sought, rather, to understand its activism in its moment (activism, Alan Klein remarked, was a way to prevent loss in the age of raging AIDS), and to recognize politics in its current 21st-century forms, which may well be entirely different from the forms in which Queer Nation staged its actions.

Local lesbian and gay politicians Deborah Glick (NY State Assembly) and Thomas Duane (NY State Senate) introduced the event. Duane was on his way to a disruption of business as usual at Toys R Us, to protest the company’s treatment of transgender employees--demonstrating that the disruptive spirit of Queer Nation is hardly dead.

## Heller Awards Provide For Exploration of Knowledge across Cultures

The 2002 Joan R. Heller Undergraduate Scholarship in Gender and Sexuality Studies was awarded to Sriya Shrestha. Sriya, a junior, is a double major in Metropolitan Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies. She wrote in her application for the scholarship that an intense interrogation of knowledge production is what she has come to expect from Gender and Sexuality Studies classes. In such an interrogation, gender and sexuality are analyzed as constructed categories, “never fixed or stagnant. When we understand that these categories have no solid basis, their ability to constrain us, to mold us into their own design, becomes weakened. We realize the potential to create our own identities.” What she has learned in Gender and Sexuality Studies classrooms has a tendency to spread: “Every text I read or lecture I hear is examined for missing voices, biased language, unbalanced positioning, groundless assumptions. . . . In this way, not even the most classic, renowned, and respected philosopher, historian, scientist or poet I read escapes a critical inspection.”



Using this critique of knowledge, Sriya plans to continue her involvement with organizations for women of color, immigrant communities, and people throughout the “Third World.” And she knows, from her classes, that “the struggles of oppressed peoples can often be linked across boundaries of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and gender,” but that “these links can only be made if divergent local struggles are understood.”

The applications for the 2002 Joan R. Heller Dissertation Award in Gender and Sexuality Studies were so strong that we honored three applicants.

Carlos Decena, a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in American Studies, received an award for his dissertation project, “Across Generations of Immigrant Men: Same-Sex Relations from the Dominican Republic to Nueva York, 1966-2000.” Carlos wrote about his project: “As a Dominican immigrant myself, I am interested in creating a narrative that validates the life experiences of my informants by placing (homo)sexuality within the larger narrative of Dominican migration around the world.”

Jasmine Mir, a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department, received an award for work on her dissertation, “Sex in Place: Contested Space,

Sex Tourism, and Constructions of ‘Sexual Deviance’ in New Orleans, 1880-1917.” Jasmine’s careful archival research will considerably advance scholarship on sex work and homosexuality, addressing the ways sexuality and race interrelate in categories of “normalcy” and “deviance.” She writes that among her goals in the dissertation is to offer “fresh, illuminating methodological approaches to fellow sexuality theorists.”

Patrick McCreery, Ph.D. candidate in the Program in American Studies, was given an honorable mention for his dissertation project, “Miami Vice: Anita Bryant and the Discourses of Child Innocence and Homosexual Predation.” Pat’s dissertation will be, in his own words, “the first comprehensive examination of Anita Bryant’s successful campaign to repeal a gay-rights law in Dade County, Florida, in 1977.”

Thanks to the generosity of NYU alumna  
**Joan Heller**, the following two awards will  
again be presented in Spring 2003:

### \$1,000 Joan Heller Scholarship

awarded to an NYU undergraduate student  
majoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies

and

### \$500 Joan Heller Dissertation Award

presented to an NYU graduate student working in the  
interrelated fields of Gender and Sexuality Studies

For application materials and additional  
information, please call 212.992.9545 or  
email [gender.sexuality@nyu.edu](mailto:gender.sexuality@nyu.edu)

Submission deadline is April 1, 2003



Administrative Aide **Bernadine Cidranes** (left) and Visiting Scholar **Annamarie Jagose** (right). Jagose is a Senior Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Melbourne. She is author of *Queer Theory: An Introduction* (NYU Press), and, most recently, *Inconsequence: Lesbian Representation and the Logic of Sexual Sequence* (Cornell University Press). Professor Jagose is a Visiting Scholar at CSGS for the Spring 2003 semester via the International Visitors Program.



**Orly Lubin** presenting at last September’s  
“Subverting Power: Approaching 9/11-  
Lessons from Israel”

## International Scholars Participate in Vision of CSGS

Visiting and Affiliated Scholars are faculty, independent scholars, and doctoral candidates from outside NYU who are resident at The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality for a limited time to conduct research. NYU's location in the heart of Greenwich Village and its library collections and other research resources offer superb opportunities for research. The faculty at NYU offers a dazzling array of colleagues with whom to collaborate.

This past year, the Center was lucky to have Dennis Altman (Political Science, Latrobe University, Australia) and Gracia Trujillo (Social Studies, University of Madrid) share their ideas and energies with the staff. They both took time to reflect on their experiences at CSGS.

### Dennis Altman

"It was a privilege to spend April at the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality and to meet the staff and some of the students. My major impression was of a Center (literally) overflowing its physical space, with a great deal of energy and activity generated by a very small staff, including superb administrators who went far beyond their official duties to help us manage the month in New York. Particularly helpful to me was the opportunity to attend a couple of Center seminars, and to be involved in discussions about possible collaborations internationally, which relate very closely to my own research and activist interests." Altman, an internationally renowned scholar and activist, author of the prescient 1982 book, *The Homosexualization of America, The Americanization of the Homosexual*, and other works, delivered a lecture at NYU entitled, "Sexual Communities, AIDS, and Globalization."

### Gracia Trujillo

"While I was at NYU doing research for my PhD, The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality was one of the most interesting places I went and spent my time. I always left with this wonderful combination of ideas and emotions which keep me going in the Social Sciences field, and in particular Gender and Sexuality Studies. Using Gramsci's phrase "the pessimism of the reason and the optimism of the heart," I would say that CSGS helped me keep a less pessimistic reason and a more optimistic heart regarding our destinies as sexual minorities, feminists, queers, and all the different *nearbies*, and, most of all, regarding our capacities to build up resistances from political, intellectual, economic, and cultural trenches.

"Coming from Spain, where we need to be daring and super bad to get noticed, CSGS was just the place for me. The experience of being surrounded by feminist women, queers, or both was really fun and interesting. We definitely need academic places like these to survive as dissidents in heteroland, and to resist the conservative tides, both in Europe and the US. Not only that, but we need these establishments as a sort of forum in which to meet people and share information. In this sense, something that I also liked very much about the Center was their interest in blurring the frontiers between the outside world and the ivory towers. The fact that all events are free and open to the public makes CSGS a welcoming place to people outside academia. And academia needs them.

"The CSGS activities I went to were responsible for much of the aforementioned mixture of ideas and emotions. I particularly remember the roundtable discussion "Who Owns Gender?," the master class on Foucault, and conferences in which academics like Lisa Duggan, Tricia Rose, Chris Straayer, Jonathan Ned Katz and Dennis Altman participated. The lunch talk entitled "Selling Pleasure at Toys in Babeland," presented by Lynn Comella, could have provoked at least a couple of earthquakes in my department at the University of Madrid. If I ever have the chance in the near future, I have to invite them all!"



**Kendall Thomas** (left) and **Nan D. Hunter** (right) speaking at last November's "Lesson Plans" Pedagogy Workshop, a Master Class on teaching *Bowers v. Hardwick*.



In November **AnaLouise Keating** (Women's Studies Program, Texas Women's University, right) gave a lecture, "Women of Color and Feminism: Twenty Years after *This Bridge Called My Back*." **Rabab Abdulhadi** (CSGS, left) responded.

The staff at CSGS would like to thank  
the following volunteers  
for their support during the Fall 2002 semester:

John Cavanagh  
Drew Friedfertig  
Rachel Katz  
Kavita Mehra  
Shari Williams  
Alice Yang

Thanks for all your help!

## NOW President Kim Gandy Speaks of Feminism under Bush at NYU

by Brooke Kosofsky

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), led an engaging panel discussion on the state of modern feminism in the U.S. at the Fales Library on October 3. Co-sponsored by NOW-NYU and CSGS, the event also featured several generations of feminists from the university community, including E. Frances White, Dean of the Gallatin School of Individualized Study; Rachel Goodman, founder of NOW-NYU and Tisch graduate; and Lee McDermott, treasurer of NOW-NYU.

Addressing the theme "How Soon is NOW?" Gandy spoke before a standing-room-only crowd of almost 200 people on the Bush administration's assault on reproductive freedom, women's rights during war, the importance of voting, and the current lobbying efforts of Washington, D.C.-based NOW. The panelists also discussed the problematic absence of women of color in second wave feminism, and Gandy conjectured as to why feminism is taboo in today's social climate. She said that NOW's activism is often thought to be excessive at a time when women ostensibly have equal standing with men.

President of NOW since 2001, Gandy responded to questions from the audience for close to an hour and spoke with people individually at a reception following the event. There, NOW-NYU members presented her with a handmade quilt thanking her for her organization's daily efforts.

"How Soon is NOW?" was co-sponsored by The Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Services, the Office of African-American, Latino, and Asian-American Student Services, Faculty of Arts and Science Women's Caucus, College Democrats, and Voices for Choice.



*How Soon is NOW?* **Kim Gandy**, President of NOW (center), with (l. to r.) **Rachel Goodman**, **E. Frances White**, **Brooke Kosofsky**, **Lauren Marcus**, and **Lee McDermott**

For information about CSGS, please visit our website  
at <http://www.nyu.edu/fas/gender.sexuality>

## Upcoming Spring 2003 Events

### CSGS Lunch Series for the Presentation of New Work

CSGS Conference Room, 285 Mercer Street, Third Floor  
Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Bernadine Cidranes at  
212.992.9540 or [bernadine.cidranes@nyu.edu](mailto:bernadine.cidranes@nyu.edu)

Tuesday, April 15, 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

**GENDER AND JAZZ (OR SINGERS vs. MUSICIANS):** Musical Socialization and Other  
Constructions of Difference in the NYC Jazz Scene  
Kyra Gaunt (Ethnomusicology, NYU)

Tuesday, May 6, 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

**INSULT TO INJURY:** Rethinking Our Responses to Intimate Abuse  
Linda Mills (Vice Provost, University Life & Interdisciplinary Initiatives; School of Social Work and  
School of Law, NYU)

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Thursday, April 24, 5 - 7 p.m.

### WHO OWNS DIVERSITY?

A panel discussion about the meanings, deployments, and effects of the term with  
**Rabab Abdulhadi** (CSGS, NYU), **Lennard Davis** (English, University of Illinois at  
Chicago), **Christine Harrington** (Law and Society, NYU), **JJ Jackson** (Associate  
Provost for Institutional Engagement, NYU), **Robin D.G. Kelley** (History, NYU), **Mary  
Louise Pratt** (Spanish & Portuguese, NYU), and **John Kuo Wei Tchen**  
(Asian/Pacific/American Studies & Institute, NYU).

Moderated by Associate Dean **David Slocum** (Graduate School of Arts and Science, NYU).

Fales Library, Elmer H. Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South, Third Floor.  
Co-sponsored by the Diversity Studies Initiative, Graduate School of Arts and Science, NYU.

### Attend a CSGS Event

<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/gender.sexuality/events/spring2003events.html>

## All But Dissertation

by Christina Hanhardt

Although still without a catchy name, the sexuality studies dissertation working group has been in full swing since its inception in the summer of 2002. The group brings together graduate students working with a variety of interdisciplinary methods (i.e. ethnography, history, literary criticism) and theoretical approaches (i.e. queer theory, science studies, urban studies) to engage questions of sexual identity, practices, and/or politics.

At all different stages of the ever-so-lengthy dissertation writing process, participants workshop proposals, chapters, conference papers, and even messy, exciting brainstorming sessions. Intellectually rigorous while socially low key, the group provides a crucial form of camaraderie for the too-often isolating experience of All But Dissertation status!

*For more information about the dissertation group, contact CSGS  
at 212.992.9545.*