

## **GCWS Graduate Student Conference KEYNOTE, WORKSHOP, & PANEL PRESENTERS**

**Kevin Allred:** gitman13@yahoo.com

*Panelist*

Kevin Allred holds a bachelor's Degree in American Studies, with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies, from Utah State University. He is currently a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts-Boston in the American Studies department. His research interests include performance in American popular culture, the intersections of race and sexuality, and the problematic issues surrounding the construction of U.S. citizenship.

**Colleen Ammerman:** colleen.ammerman@simmons.edu

*Moderator*

Colleen Ammerman is currently pursuing an MA in Gender & Cultural Studies at Simmons College. Some of her chief interests are the material culture of childhood, postcolonial theory, and film & television.

**Kevin Anderson:** kanderson@hds.harvard.edu

*Panelist*

Kevin Anderson is a Canadian born Master of Theological Studies student at Harvard Divinity School. His academic interests include Buddhist philosophy and gender theory. After completing his Master's degree he intends to explore PhD possibilities in either philosophy or gender theory.

**Heather Baldwin:** h\_elaine\_b@yahoo.com

*Panelist*

Heather Baldwin is a PhD student studying cultural and developmental psychology at Boston College. In the past she has looked at attachment among the Efe of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the effects of war and violence on children. She is currently working on her dissertation research on female former child soldiers in Rwanda.

**Orkideh Behrouzan, M.D.:** orkideh@mit.edu

*Moderator*

Orkideh Behrouzan, M.D. is a PhD student in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT. She received her medical degree from the University of Tehran in Iran. Before coming to MIT, she was a graduate student in molecular genetics and a research scholar in the Department of Clinical Medicine at the University of Oxford, UK. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and classic Arabic, as well as her native Persian. Writer of award-winning stories and poetry, she has recently published a piece in the newsletter of the American Anthropological Association on the recent explosion of Persian-language blogs in Iran and the Iranian diaspora. Her studies at MIT will work to bridge medicine and the social sciences. Orkideh was awarded an Ida M. Green Fellowship for her first year of study.

**Chris Bobel**

*Workshop Leader*

Chris Bobel is Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston interested in woman-led social movements, particularly those enacted in the context of the personal and the intimate. Her 2002 book with Temple University Press, *The Paradox of Natural Mothering*, examined activist mothers who choose alternatives in their parenting practices. She is

currently at work on her 2nd book tentatively titled *\*Our Revolution Has Style\*: Menstruation, Resistance and \*Doing\* Feminism* -- a multi method investigation of what she calls *\*menstrual activism\**-- the diverse range of strategic efforts to challenge the dominant cultural narrative of menstruation as dirty, taboo and shameful.

**Jung Ja Choi:** [choi27@gmail.com](mailto:choi27@gmail.com)

*Panelist*

Jung Ja Choi is a graduate student in East Asian studies at Harvard University. Her research interests include literary theory, cultural criticism, and representations of gender, sexuality, and ethnicity.

**Carol Cohn:** [carol.cohn@tufts.edu](mailto:carol.cohn@tufts.edu)

*Keynote Speaker*

Carol Cohn is the Director of the Boston Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights. Her research and writing has focused on gender and international security, ranging from work on discourse of civilian defense intellectuals, gender integration issues in the US military, and, most extensively, weapons of mass destruction.

**Abigail Dallmann:** [dallmann@english.umass.edu](mailto:dallmann@english.umass.edu)

*Panelist*

Abigail Dallmann is currently completing her coursework in American Studies in the department of English and American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research interests include the relationships between the United States and Mexico and the ways that these relationships are explored through metaphors of bodies, sexuality, and space. Within this focus she is particularly interested in the ways that performance challenges the stability of borders and hence the nation state, as well as the ways that property ownership and possessive individualism attempt to stabilize the inherent fluidity of the nation state.

**Patrice Delevante:** [Patrice.delevante@simmons.edu](mailto:Patrice.delevante@simmons.edu)

*Panelist*

Patrice Delevante is a graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A. English and African-American Studies) and is currently an M.A. Candidate in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at Simmons College. Her interests include race, masculine, queer, feminist, and visual studies. She is particularly interested in rethinking and redefining issues of race, gender, sexuality, class and identity within 20th C American and Afro-American literature and culture.

**Shannon Farrington:** [Shannon.farrington@simmons.edu](mailto:Shannon.farrington@simmons.edu)

*Panelist*

Shannon Farrington is currently a graduate student at Simmons College in the Gender and Cultural Studies Program. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Women's Studies and English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her current research interests are sexuality and labor and poetry as resistance writing.

**Jessica Fish:** [jfish@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:jfish@hds.harvard.edu)

*Panelist*

Jessica Fish is currently pursuing a Masters in Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School. Her academic interests are many, including the intersections between art and theology, religious nationalism, and feminist activism within religious discourses.

**Meghan Field:** [Meghan.field@simmons.edu](mailto:Meghan.field@simmons.edu)

*Panelist*

Meghan Elizabeth Field's intellectual and professional focus is gender and social development in Latin America. She has designed and launched the blueprint for a dozen lending libraries throughout Latin America, and founded the Mobile

Library Program in Nicaragua. Her latest project was the celebration of International Women's Day in San Juan del Sur with 300 participants, where she facilitated workshops and pioneered collaboration between different groups to take the local feminist movement to the next level. She is currently writing her Master Thesis on Gender Issues in Post-Revolutionary Nicaragua at Simmons College. Meghan holds a double degree magna cum laude in Spanish and Philosophy from Middlebury College.

**Meghan Finley:** megfinley1@yahoo.com

*Panelist*

Meghan Finley is a doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department at Northeastern University. She is currently studying the relationship between women and war with a focus on violence against women in the military.

**Rachel Gillett:** redgillett@gmail.com

*Moderator*

Rachel Gillett is a doctoral student in the World History Program at Northeastern University. Her undergraduate work was completed in New Zealand at the University of Otago. Currently she is involved in completing her doctoral research on 'The Jazz Atlantic' investigating the processes of race and gender revealed by the experiences of black performers who crossed the Atlantic in search of fame and fortune in Europe between the wars. In addition to her doctoral work she teaches undergraduate courses in world history, and women's history.

**Amie Breeze Harper:** harper2@fas.harvard.edu

*Panelist*

Amie Breeze Harper's research is connected to her commitment to the empowerment of Black women and girls who must navigate through a world of racism, sexism, homophobia, nationalism and classism. To achieve this she uses a Black feminist theoretical and holistic approach for supporting physical, spiritual, emotional and mental well-being of Black females through traditional and nontraditional methods. She is currently a Masters student at Harvard University EXT in Technologies in Education, and is currently investigating the use of cyberspace by Black identified females/females of the African Diaspora who practice veganism as a way to resist institutional oppression and/or combat the "health crisis" within the Black community.

**Emily Hogan:** ehogan@brandeis.edu

*Moderator*

Emily Hogan is a graduate student at Brandeis University in the joint MA program in Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies. Emily's academic interests include the social construction of gender, sexualities and identity, and intersectionality; her current research explores these through in-depth interviews with women who suppress their menstruation. A social justice activist at heart, Emily is involved in the Boston Women's Fund and the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism.

**Jennifer Hunt:** jennifermhunt@gmail.com

*Panelist*

Jennifer Hunt is a masters student at Boston University with an interest in modern and contemporary literature.

**Seneca Joyner:** joyner.se@neu.edu

*Panelist*

Seneca Joyner is a first-year Master's student at Northeastern University focusing on women's history. Her current research interests include the history of women of the African Diaspora and their identity, experience, and resistance in the urban Atlantic World.

**Christopher Kelly:** Christopher.kelly.6@bc.edu

*Panelist & Moderator*

Christopher Kelly holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Mississippi (2005) and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Sociology at Boston College. His research interests include gay and lesbian studies, sociology of knowledge, qualitative methods, spirituality, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Marlene Kim**

*Workshop Leader*

Marlene Kim, Associate Professor of Economics, is both an academic and activist. She conducts research on pay equity, the working poor, and low wage women and is currently finishing a book, *Race and Economic Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century* (Routledge). She has also been an activist around women's, minority, and disability rights, and she has led economic justice workshops to communities around the world including for the UNDP for women in former Soviet countries on a train from Poland to Beijing; at Beijing for the Fourth International Conference on Women; women in Appalachia; Mexican garment workers in El Paso, Texas, Asian Immigrant workers in Oakland, CA.; and deindustrialized workers in Kansas City, Chicago, and South Bend, IN.

**Wendy Luttrell**

*Workshop Leader*

Wendy Luttrell, Aronson Associate Professor of Human Development and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education studies the relationship between culture, identity, and schooling. She focuses on American schools as sites where beliefs about worth, value, knowledge, and power are acquired and contested, and as contexts for the formation of social identities and self-understandings. She has worked with women literacy learners and pregnant schoolgirls – both groups of under-represented learners-- to understand this process. In addition to her research and teaching, Luttrell is the co-principal investigator for Project *ASSERT* (Assessing Strengths and Supporting Resistance in Teaching), a multi-site study of urban teachers' experiences and concerns about serving the needs of low-income students. Her published works include *School-smart and Mother-wise: Working-Class Women's Identity and Schooling* and *Pregnant Bodies, Fertile Minds: Gender, Race and the Schooling of Pregnant Teens*.

**M. Brinton Lykes**

*Keynote Speaker*

M. Brinton Lykes is Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology, Associate Dean at the Lynch School of Education, and Associate Director of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College. From 1999-2001, she held a Professorate in Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa). She has worked for many years among women and child survivors of war and of state-sponsored economic and political violence in rural Guatemala, South Africa, and N. Ireland and with local immigrant women and children in the Boston area. Her research explores the interstices of indigenous cultural beliefs and practices and those of Western psychology, towards collaborating in the design and development of community-based programs that respond to the effects of war in contexts war and in post-war contexts of transition and transformation.

**Nandini Manjrekar**

*Keynote Speaker*

Nandini Manjrekar is on the faculty of the Women's Studies Research Centre, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. Her research is in the area of gender and education. She has been part of numerous academic and activist collaborations in this area at the regional and national levels. In 2005, she was a member of a team that worked on a paper on gender issues in Indian education

that formed a part of a Curriculum Framework at the national level. She has been involved in the women's and civil liberties movement in India for several years. She is presently Visiting Scholar at the MIT Program in Women's Studies and is teaching a course on Women and Global Activism in Art, Media and Politics.

**Dawn Belkin Martinez:** dawn.martinez@childrens.harvard.edu *Workshop Leader*

Dawn Belkin Martinez is a clinical social worker at Children's Hospital, Boston and an instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She also teaches classes in clinical practice and radical social action at Simmons College School of Social Work. Dawn is one of the founding members of the Boston Liberation Health Group ([www.liberationhealth.org](http://www.liberationhealth.org)), and has been an activist in the struggle for social justice for over twenty-five years.

**Alexis Matza:** alexis-matza@uiowa.edu *Moderator*

Alexis Matza is quarter past her Masters, into the fieldwork stage of her dissertation project. Her research interests include Medical Anthropology, Masculinity, Anthropology of the Body, Queer Theory. She is writing her dissertation on the medicalization of masculinity, looking at testosterone therapy in the aging male and transgender male communities. She currently teaches anthropology at Bridgewater State College, as well.

**Kyla Mitsunaga:** kmitsun@fas.harvard.edu *Panelist*

Kyla is a second-year master's student in the Regional Studies-East Asia Department at Harvard. After she graduates this June, she hopes to find a job in the anti-trafficking sector.

**Lisa Patel Stevens** *Workshop Leader*

Lisa Patel Stevens is an assistant professor at the Lynch School of Education of Boston College. Working from critical and post structural lenses, her research explores the self-sanctioned literacies of young people and the cultural construction of adolescence. Throughout her research and teaching, Dr. Patel Stevens focuses on the ways that individuals use textual practices to mediate their senses of self. Her most recent publications include the co-edited volume, "ReConstructing Adolescents: Sign, Symbol, and Body," and the co-authored monograph, "Critical literacy in the United States: A Matter of context." Prior to working in higher education, Dr. Patel Stevens worked as a state level policymaker, a literacy specialist, and a teacher.

**Shannon Payne:** spayne@english.umass.edu *Panelist*

Shannon Payne's current research interests address U.S. literatures that investigate homelessness after WWII and its intersections with Democratic Theory and U.S. economic and political history.

**Anne Pollock:** apollock@mit.edu *Panelist*

Anne Pollock is a doctoral candidate in the program in Science, Technology, and Society at MIT. She is interested in the intersection of medical technologies and embodied experience, particularly as it relates to experiences of difference including race, gender, class, and sexuality. She is now embarking on her dissertation work, which is a historically-informed multi-sited ethnography of race, pharmaceuticals, and cardiovascular disease.

**Andrea Powell** *Workshop Leader*

Andrea Powell is co-founder and Executive Director of FAIR Fund. She has extensive experience in international advocacy, women's rights, and

development. She has traveled throughout Central and Eastern Europe, where she worked with women's groups to develop a solid proposal for the establishment of FAIR Fund. Prior to founding FAIR Fund, she worked for the World Cancer Research Fund, Pathfinder International, Greenpeace Germany, and the EcoLogic Development Fund. She was also a volunteer for many women's shelters in Europe, a small HIV/AIDS nutritional care group in Kenya (KAIPPG), and for Youth Against AIDS. She holds a B.A. in International Relations and Environmental Studies from Southwest Texas State University and a MA in European Union Studies from Fredrich Wilhelms Universitaet Bonn, Germany.

**Jyoti Puri:**

*Keynote Speaker*

Jyoti Puri writes and teaches in the areas of sexualities, states, nationalisms, and transnational feminist critiques. Her book, *Woman, Body, Desire in Post-colonial India: Narratives of Gender and Sexuality* (Routledge 1999), addresses how constructs of gender and sexuality are shaped across national and transnational contexts. A recent book, *Encountering Nationalism*, (Blackwell Publishers 2004), examines questions of nationalism and the state from a feminist sociological perspective. A number of related articles and chapters are published in a variety of feminist journals and edited volumes on sexuality and gender. Her current research is on sexuality and the state. She also serves as the deputy editor for the feminist journal, *Gender & Society*. She is Associate Professor of Sociology at Simmons College, Boston, U.S.A.

**Smitha Radhakrishnan:** smitha@berkeley.edu

*Panelist*

Smitha Radhakrishnan is a PhD candidate in Sociology at UC Berkeley. Her research focuses on the cultural dimensions of globalization with attention to the mutual constitution of gender, class, and nation. She has studied these issues in India, South Africa, and California.

**Erin Rehel:** erehel@brandeis.edu

*Moderator*

Erin Rehel is a first year PhD student in Sociology at Brandeis University. She has completed a Master in Religious Studies, with a specialization in Bioethics, where she completed a thesis on female genital cutting. Her research interests the intersection of gender, culture and medicine, allocation of health care resources, health inequality across gender and race, organization of space and structure in health care access and delivery.

**Colin Rowan:** rowan.c@neu.edu

*Panelist*

Colin Rowan is a second-year Masters student in History at Northeastern University, focusing on World History. Colin's current research interests include the movements of workers in the global sex industry; issues of gender, particularly masculinity, in the United States and Latin America; and topics and processes of neo-and post-colonialism in a global scope.

**Willeke Sandler:** willeke.sandler@gmail.com

*Panelist*

Willeke Sandler is a second-year Master's student in the Public History program at Northeastern University. Her current research interests include the eugenic and reproductive discourse that shaped the experience of women under Nazism.

**Casey James Schmidt:** schmidcd@bc.edu

*Panelist*

Casey James Schmidt is completing a Master's Degree in Political Science from Boston College. The project presented at this conference was inspired by Schmidt's Master's Degree thesis, a bi- directional study linking poverty, social

inequality, and HIV/AIDS. Schmidt has also worked for the United Nations Development Programme (Division of HIG/AIDS) in New Delhi, India, and conducted HIV/AIDS awareness and capacity building workshops in a UNHCR Refugee Camp in Dukwi, Botswana.

**Samuel Schottenstein:** [Samuel.schottenstein@simmons.edu](mailto:Samuel.schottenstein@simmons.edu) *Panelist*  
Sam Schottenstein holds a BA from Barat College and an MA from DePaul University. He is currently a graduate student in Gender and Cultural Studies at Simmons College, where his primary research interest is Cold War American culture.

**Matt Sebold:** [sebold@bc.edu](mailto:sebold@bc.edu) *Panelist*  
Matt Sebold is a second year Masters student in the Boston College English Department. He is a certified high school teacher who came to graduate school to strengthen his English content knowledge and become informed about certain aspects of cultural and sociological studies. While interested in politics, theory and graduate level work, Matt's true interest is in teaching. To this end he hopes to start teaching high school English in the Boston Public School system this fall.

**Parmesh Shahani:** [parmesh@mit.edu](mailto:parmesh@mit.edu) *Moderator*  
Parmesh Shahani graduated from the Masters program in Comparative Media Studies at MIT in September 2005, where he was the departmental representative on the Graduate Student Council, an MIT Arts Scholar, and was part of the graduate student advisory group to the MIT Corporation that facilitated the search for the new MIT president in 2003-2004. He was also the organizer of "Between the Lines: Negotiating South Asian LGBT Identity" – Boston's first festival of South Asian queer film, readings and discussions held at MIT in 2004, for which he won the Public Service Center's Community Connection Award for 2003-2004. Mr. Shahani holds three undergraduate degrees (Commerce, Education, Film) from India and has had diverse media experiences that include heading a youth-oriented internet web venture, business development for Sony's Indian television channel operations, writing and editing copy for Elle magazine and The Times of India newspaper, helping make a low-budget English feature film and teaching as a visiting faculty member at a Bombay college. His academic interests include issues of representation, identity formation, online communities, sexuality, ethnography, youth culture, Bollywood cinema and the city of Bombay. In his current position as Research Manager of the Convergence Culture Consortium at MIT (<http://convergenceculture.net/>), Parmesh is responsible for the day to day running of the consortium and managing its research agenda. His personal website is <http://parmesh.net/> and he can be contacted at [parmesh@alum.mit.edu](mailto:parmesh@alum.mit.edu)

**Aayesha Siddiqui:** [aayesha@mit.edu](mailto:aayesha@mit.edu) *Moderator*  
Aayesha Siddiqui is a senior in cultural anthropology at MIT. She is particularly interested in studies in food, power, gender, visual anthropology, and the environment. Her senior ethnography project focuses on local food systems and conceptions of freshness. Her far-away dream is to one day create a video ethnography series about different cultural experiences of food and eating. Until then, she hopes to try and find a place for herself in the field of applied anthropology and is considering going to Tufts for the Agriculture, Food, and Environment graduate program. In her spare time, she enjoys the arts - culinary, visual, performative, and cinematic.

**Aparna Sindhoor:** asindhoor@yahoo.com

*Panelist*

Aparna Sindhoor is a doctoral student at the University Professors Program, Boston University. Her research work is on different styles or variations in dance (specifically Indian dance) that represent evolution and change of any form and its implications in the contemporary world. She is the artistic director of Navarasa Dance Theater. As a choreographer and a dancer she has garnered international acclaim for uniting traditional forms with contemporary themes of social relevance. She has performed widely in India, Germany and North America. Since 1996 Sindhoor has been working on dance theater form. Working with stories such as *The Incident and After*, *The Hunt*, and *River Rites*, written by contemporary writers, and using Indian classical dance, yoga, songs, stories and folk dances Sindhoor creates work that give new dimension to the content and beauty to the dance performance. Recently she worked as a choreographer in an Indian film by a well-known director Santosh Sivan. Sindhoor lives in Boston, USA and Chennai, India.

**Lauren Summers:** Inicolesummers@yahoo.com

*Panelist*

Lauren N. Summers is a M.A. student of English Literature at Boston College, soon to begin her PhD in Postcolonial Theory and Literature this fall at the University of Washington.

**Maria Velazquez:** maria.velazquez@simmons.edu

*Panelist*

Maria Velazquez is a second year student in the Gender and Cultural Studies Master's degree program at Simmons College. Her research interests include the role of memory in the creation of group identity and media studies.

**Miranda Waggoner:** waggoner@brandeis.edu

*Panelist*

Miranda Waggoner is currently a doctoral student in sociology at Brandeis University. She previously completed graduate work in sociology at the University of Texas - Austin, focusing on research regarding feminist politics and also health implications of civic engagement. Her current research interests at Brandeis include breastfeeding as a politically-charged process, prostitution and sex work, and She is currently involved in a research project on countercultural political movements using alternative newspaper data from the 1960s and 1970s.