

KEYNOTE, WORKSHOP, & PANEL PRESENTERS

Omoniyi Adekanmbi

Panel Presenter

Omoniyi Adekanmbi is currently a third year social psychology doctoral candidate in the Psychology Department at Tufts University, working with Dr. Keith Maddox. Her current research interests include perceptions of discrimination attributions, social categorization, intergroup relations and prejudice and stereotyping. She is a member of the American Psychology Law Society (2006 recipient of the AP-LS Student Research Grant); American Psychological Society, and Society for Graduate Women in the Sciences.

Renaud Alexandre

Panel Presenter

Renaud Alexandre is a freshman at Northeastern University, majoring in African-American Studies. He is interested in watching international cartoons, playing all types of sports, and reading complex novels. In the future, he plans to finish college.

Sandy Alexandre

Panel Moderator

Sandy Alexandre is an Americanist whose scholarly interests focus primarily on twentieth-century American and African-American literature and culture, especially as they relate to the intersection of race and space. Her dissertation, "Strange Fruits in the Garden: Lynching and Property, 1899-1955," examines the various ways in which lynching "unsettles" (in multiple meanings of that term) black Americans within the American geographical (and geo-political) landscape. She argues that lynching is a response to black property ownership and political enfranchisement. Her teaching and research interests include visual studies, cultural geography, southern studies, and violence studies.

Colleen Ammerman

Conference Organizer

In January 2007, Colleen Ammerman graduated from Simmons College with an MA in Gender/Cultural Studies. She will begin a PhD in English in the fall. Her primary interests are material culture and children's culture.

Kathy Astemborski

Panel Presenter

Kathy Astemborski has been the Assistant Superintendent at the Southeast State Correctional Facility in Windsor, VT, since June 2005. Prior to that, Ms. Astemborski facilitated groups in the community with men and women under correctional supervision.

Emily Barko

Conference Organizer

Emily Barko completed her undergraduate work at Bates College, receiving a BA in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies. Currently, Emily is a first-year graduate student at Boston College in the Department of Sociology.

Rachelle Beaudoin

Workshop Presenter

Rachelle Beaudoin is a digital media mixed media artist who uses installation, sound and performance to explore feminine iconography, role modeling, and social

space. She attended the College of the Holy Cross where she studied Studio Art, Art History and American Sign Language/Deaf Culture and played ice hockey. She is currently a Masters degree candidate in the Digital+Media department at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Robin Bernstein

Panel Moderator

Robin Bernstein is Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality and of History and Literature at Harvard University. My most recent book, a solo-edited anthology titled *Cast Out: Queer Lives in Theater*, was just published by the University of Michigan Press. Her other books include *Generation Q*, a co-edited collection of essays by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth; *Terrible, Terrible!*, a children's book, and a current project: *Racial Innocence: Whiteness, Blackness, and the Performance of American Childhood*.

Liz Blair

Conference Organizer

Liz Blair is a doctoral student in the Human Development and Education program at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her research interests focus on adolescent intimate relationships and the role those relationships play in adolescents' sense of self.

Chris Bobel

Workshop Presenter

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.

Erin Boles

Workshop Presenter

Erin Boles, M.S.W., is the Associate Executive Director of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition working with the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow on the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. Erin has spent the past seven years working in and around state government, most recently as a lobbyist at Charles Group Consulting. Previous to that, Erin was a research analyst in the MA legislature for the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs and a program associate at the MA Department of Public Health. Additionally, she furthers her commitment to social justice as faculty advisor and supervisor to graduate social work students through Boston College and is an active member of the MA-NASW political action committee.

Sabrina Boisauvin

Panel Presenter

Sabrina Boisauvin is a senior at Brighton High School. She is interested in the business field and plans on attending college in September of 2007. Her future goal is to become a corporate lawyer and start her own firm.

Nakeeda Burns

Keynote Presenter

Nakeeda Burns is the program coordinator of Y.P.A.C.T. - Youth for Prevention, Action, and Change through Thought. Y.P.A.C.T. evolved out of the Division of

Social Medicine and Health Inequalities and Partners In Health, at Harvard Medical School. At eighteen years old, Nakeeda is a successful peer educator and organizer of Black and Latino young men and women around public health, political, and education concerns. She has presented at conferences on the East Coast in Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. She has written, directed, and produced her own short film. She's developed a community advisory board in Codman Square, Dorchester; designed and implemented a youth-led, participatory action research study; and being an executive board member, specifically Junior Vice President, of the Association of Black Psychologists' New England Chapter. Nakeeda has personally overcome hardships in her life through her constant focus on achievement, collective social change, and personal leadership. She pushed beyond the boundaries of high school learning. Her learning expands into the people she surrounds herself with, the books she reads, and the social action she leads in neighborhoods with significant health disparities. Accepted to UMASS Boston, she will be beginning her academic career in September 2007 with a major in psychology. Nakeeda is an extraordinary young woman; she is a student, a co-worker, and a community leader.

Paula J. Caplan

Workshop Presenter

Paula J. Caplan is a clinical and research psychologist, author of books and plays, playwright, actor, and director. She was born and raised in Springfield, Missouri, attended Greenwood Laboratory School from kindergarten through twelfth grade, received her A.B. with honors from Radcliffe College of Harvard University, and received her M.A. and Ph.D. in psychology from Duke University. In 2006, she is Lecturer in the Psychology Department at Harvard University and Fellow in the DuBois Institute, Department of African and Afro-American Studies, also at Harvard. She is former Full Professor of Applied Psychology and Head of the Centre for Women's Studies in Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and former Lecturer in Women's Studies and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

John Cawthorne

Workshop Presenter

John Cawthorne is the Associate Dean for Students and Outreach at the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. Dean Cawthorne received in 2001 the Mary Kay Waldron Award presented annually to the Boston College administrator who has done the most to enhance student life at the University. Prior to joining the administration of the Lynch School, Dean Cawthorne was vice president for education of the National Urban League, Research Professor at Boston College, and Senior Research Associate in the Center for the Study of Testing, Evaluation, and Educational Policy (CSTEPP) at the Lynch School. He has run a federal program for primary students in Washington, consulted with national foundations and school districts, was principal of the Lower School of the Massachusetts Experimental School system, and director of Chapter I for the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

Urmi Chakrabarti

Conference Organizer

Urmi Chakrabarti is a clinical psychology graduate student at UMass Boston and volunteer for Matahari Eye of the Day (MataHari works with individuals and migrant and communities of color that are impacted by family violence, sexual violence, migrant labor exploitation and human trafficking). She hopes to focus on feminist and multicultural health psychology. She is currently looking at cognitive effects of

women on antiepileptic medication. She is a bicultural Indian American and fluent in Bangla. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. from Calcutta, India.

Jonathan Christiansen

Panel Presenter

Jonathan Christiansen is pursuing his M.A. degree in Sociology at Boston College. As a long time activist and community organizer, he continually strives to connect academic analysis and research with the practical challenges of social justice activism. He is currently researching emerging forms of labor organizing and the influence of various identity factors on organizing models.

Eve Wartenberg Condon

Panel Presenter

Eve Wartenberg Condon has recently finished her coursework for my M.A. in English at Simmons College. Her focus is feminist literary criticism. She is an active participant in the burlesque revival and have written and presented research on the often ignored and misunderstood history of this uniquely American art form. She has also recently become active in the struggle to end human trafficking in her home state of Rhode Island.

Diana Corona-Figueroa

Panel Presenter

Diana Corona-Figueroa was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. Her parents are Salvadorian natives. She is a Criminal Justice major. Her life goal is to help Immigration services and Women's/ Family shelters. She strongly feels that due to her positive influence others will be influenced positively.

Erin Cory

Panel Presenter

Erin Cory is currently a second year M.A. student in Boston College's English department. Her primary research interests are identity formation and the gendered navigation of popular culture.

Margaret Gram Crehan

Panel Presenter

Margaret Gram Crehan is a graduate student and Instructor in Law, Policy, and Society at Northeastern University. Her work focuses on minority rights, social movements, and the interplay between law and social change.

Kathleen Curran

Panel Presenter

Kathleen Curran is 21 years old and is a Communication major and Women's Studies minor. She is from Plymouth, MA where she lives with her mother, twin sister Jillian, and older sister Dana who is 24. She loves music and art, and hopes to get into journalism after graduation.

Morgan Darby

Panel Presenter

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, Morgan is in her second year at Simmons College in the Dual Master's Gender & Cultural Studies and Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Her research focus lies in the areas of race, sexuality, queer theory, and civic education. She is currently in a yearlong internship at the Cambridge Friends School, teaching in a 5th grade classroom. Part of her community activism has recently brought her to the board of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network (GLSEN) Boston. Prior to her work with GLSEN, she was a member of the Bayard Rustin Breakfast Committee in partnership with AIDS Action and the queer of color community in Boston. She has a B.A. from Providence College in Political Science, with minors in Business and Black Studies.

Mia Davis*Workshop Presenter*

Mia Davis is the National Grassroots Coordinator for the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, a national coalition of women's, labor, consumer and environmental health organizations working to remove toxins from personal care products through grassroots organizing, market-based work and legislative advocacy. Mia achieved her BA in Geography and MA in International Development, Community and Environment from Clark University in Worcester, MA. She enjoys the finer things in life, such as clean water, land and air, animals, good fiction, and delicious food and wine.

Lisa Dodson*Keynote Presenter*

Lisa Dodson teaches and conducts field research on daily life and survival strategies in low-income America. Her central focus is the everyday knowledge and social critique that comes from people who are working poor and caring for family in a time of expanding sociopolitical and economic inequality in the US. Current areas of research include the creative care strategies that mothers devise while working in service & care labor markets, discussed in forthcoming paper *Wage Poor Mothers and Moral Economy* and on methodological issues explored in a new project, *Researching Inequality*. Dodson conducted extensive research during the years before and after welfare reform resulting in the book, *Don't Call Us Out of Name: The Untold Lives of Women and Girls in Poor America* (1999).

Catherine D'Ignazio*Workshop Presenter*

Catherine D'Ignazio (kanarinka) is a new media artist. She has a BA in International Relations from Tufts University and an MFA in Studio Art from Maine College of Art. Her research interests include the politics of digital information, site-specific and locative media, feminist performance art, participatory culture and the emotional landscape of Homeland Insecurity. She works collaboratively to create drawings, performances, software, and experimental social gatherings both online and off. She is Co-Director of the non-profit collective iKatun, Director of the Institute for Infinitely Small Things, and teaches at RISD's Digital+Media Graduate Program and Emerson College.

Rosalind Dixon*Panel Presenter*

Rosalind Dixon is currently an SJD Candidate and Teaching Fellow at Harvard Law School. Her research interests are primarily in the fields of comparative constitutional law and constitutional design, focusing on questions of sex-gender justice, weak v. strong-form judicial review, socio-economic rights, and Commonwealth constitutionalism.

Meredith Evans*Conference Organizer*

Meredith Evans is currently pursuing her PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston where she conducts research on third wave feminism, identity and collective action. She received her Master's degree at the University of Central Florida where her research focused on women's identity development and the transtheoretical stages of change model. In Florida she worked with at-risk adolescent girls and currently provides individual and group therapy at the Victims of Violence program at the Cambridge Health Alliance.

John Ewing*Workshop Presenter*

John Ewing is a new media artist with a focus on activist public art. He worked for two years in El Salvador, using the arts to organize and inspire dialogue about human rights. His interests are in social architecture and using art to cross borders of all kinds and is currently organizing a reverse boatlift to Cuba. He is an MFA candidate at Rhode Island School of Design and directs HUMAN, a program that teaches art to incarcerated girls in Boston.

Marlene Gerber Fried*Workshop Presenter*

Marlene Gerber Fried is Professor of Philosophy at Hampshire College and Director of the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program, a program for reproductive rights education and activism. She was founding president and continues on the board of the National Network of Abortion Funds and the Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts, is on the board of the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights and the advisory board of Merger Watch. She edited, *From Abortion Rights to Reproductive Freedom: Transforming A Movement*, co-authored with Jael Silliman, Loretta Ross and Elena Gutiérrez, *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*, November, 2004, and co-authored the chapter on abortion in the 2005 edition of *Our Bodies Ourselves*.

Kim Foltz*Workshop Presenter*

Kim is a co-coordinator of the North American Alliance for Fair Employment (NAFFE). Previously Kim worked as a union organizer with the United Food and Commercial Workers union, and as development director of a corporate watchdog organization, where she managed a \$1.3 million annual fundraising budget. As the current Chair of the Board of Bikes Not Bombs, Kim is overseeing a capital campaign and site relocation for the organization. A graduate of the Evergreen State College, Kim is a fluent speaker of Spanish. Kim was an organizer of the Boston Social Forum, the first major social forum in North America, which drew 5000 people to UMass Boston for 3 days of networking and education.

Ericka Garcia*Panel Presenter*

Ericka Garcia is a Latina student at North Shore Community College who plans to transfer to a four year college. She is a single mother of a wonderful little boy and is committed to giving him the best opportunities to learn and grow.

Amie Breeze Harper*Panel Presenter*

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 a Masters in Educational Technologies student at Harvard University Extension school. She will be graduating in June 2007. Using Critical Race theory and Black feminist theory, her Masters thesis looks at how systemic whiteness is performed in "colorblind" radically liberal vegan oriented websites.

Emily Hardt*Conference Organizer*

Emily Hardt is the Director of the Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD), a program that advocates for a vision of the labor movement that includes unions and other organizations and people who fight for the rights of working people and for social justice. She is also a PhD student in Political Science at UMass Amherst.

Shahla Haeri*Panel Moderator*

Shahla Haeri (Anthropology and Women's Studies) is the director of Women's Studies Program and an Assistant Professor of cultural Anthropology at Boston University. She has conducted research in Iran, Pakistan, and India, and has written extensively on religion, law and gender dynamics in the Muslim world. She is the author of *Law of Desire: Temporary Marriage, Mut'a*, in Iran (1989, 1993), and of *No Shame for the Sun: Lives of Professional Pakistani Women* (Syracuse University Press in the US, and Oxford University Press in Pakistan, 2002). She was involved in the University of Chicago's multi-year program on global fundamentalism, Fundamentalism Project , which was funded by a John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur grant, and she contributed an article to the second volume: "Obedience versus Autonomy: Women & Fundamentalism in Iran & Pakistan" (1993). Dr. Haeri has also made a short video documentary (46 min.) titled *Mrs. President: Women and Political Leadership in Iran* , which focusses on six women presidential contenders in Iran in 2001. This documentary is distributed in the United States and Canada by the Films for the Humanities and Sciences (www.films.com , 2002).

Yoko Harumi*Workshop Presenter*

Yoko Harumi is currently a coordinator for the Victim Advocacy and Support Services Team at Cambridge Health Alliance's Victim of Violence Program. She has worked with victims of violence for governmental agencies and private non-profit organizations in the United States, including the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance. She received an MA in International Development and Social Change, with a focus on women's issues, from Clark University in 1997. She has lectured numerous times in Japan on social service policy and domestic violence issues in the United States. She is a member of the Violence Against Women in War Network (VAWW-NET)-Japan. She is currently pursuing an MSW at Boston College. Her most recent publication is "The Purpose and Possibilities of Advocacy in Victim Services" (in Japanese).

Pati Hernandez*Panel Presenter*

Pati Hernández is an activist, dancer and puppeteer who lives in West Glover, Vermont. Her professional focus is the exploration of political and social problems through a combination of dance and theater. She is the creator and facilitator of the program *Telling My Story*, a program she has developed in two correctional facilities in Vermont since 2000.

Sharlene Hesse-Biber*Workshop Presenter*

Sharlene Hesse-Biber (Sociology) Professor Hesse-Biber's early research was on rural-urban migration in Sweden and she then spent several years working in the areas of population, ecology, and demography. During the 1980s her research and teaching interests shifted to "women and work." She is co-founder of the Women's Studies Program and is currently interested in the area of women and health. Since 1984 she has been conducting a longitudinal study of eating disorders among

women. Her most recent book is *Am I Thin Enough Yet?* (Oxford University Press 1996). She is currently conducting research on self-esteem and body image issues among white and black female adolescents in the Boston area. She has co-developed a software program called Hyper-research which will greatly facilitate the analysis of qualitative data.

Emily Hogan

Workshop Presenter

Emily is a February 2007 graduate of Brandeis University's joint Master's program in Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies, and she is excited to have recently joined the Union of Concerned Scientists on their Development staff. A social justice activist at heart, Emily is serving a second term as Membership Director for NOMAS-Boston, the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Men Against Sexism, and she is a member of the Boston Women's Fund Allocations Committee. Emily's academic interests include the social construction of gender and identity, sexualities, and intersectionality; her research while at Brandeis explored these through both in-depth interviews with women practicing menstrual suppression, as well as with fellow community activists who have taken part in NOMAS's "Empowerment Period."

Jennifer Jean-Baptiste

Panel Presenter

Jennifer Jean-Baptiste is a senior at Brighton High School. She enjoys reading, writing, and playing video games. She works with an environmental group called BEAN (Boston Environmental Ambassadors to the National Parks). Next year, she plans to attend college and become a social worker.

Rekia Jina Jibrin

Keynote Presenter

Rekia Jina Jibrin has been a mentor and youth worker for the past eight years. She worked at Partners In Health's and the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at Brigham and Women's Hospital, developing and directing their youth leadership and harm reduction programs in the Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury communities. Rekia is a strong advocate of community development, consciousness-raising education, harm reduction, and radicalizing leadership in youth work, and in public schooling. She is currently enrolled in the Social and Cultural Studies doctoral program at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, where she spends her time teaching undergraduates, and qualitatively researching the practice of public school administrators. Her work in graduate school is centered on the racialisation of public school culture, the leadership and deaths of organic, youth intellectuals, and why educators must be engaged in action about youth violence.

Jessica Johnston

Panel Presenter

Jessica Johnston is 21 years old. She was born in Massachusetts and moved to Vermont when she was two. She attended public school in Hartland, Vermont and at Hartford High School grades 9-12. Her dad died of esophageal cancer when she was 12. For the most part, she was a normal teenager. Just prior to graduation on a warm sunny May day, she was involved in an automobile accident in which two people died. She was not speeding, drinking, or on any drugs. After two years of legal stuff, she was sentenced to a minimum of six months in prison, which she did from September 2006 to February 2007.

Dewayne Jones*Panel Presenter*

Dewayne Jones is a high school senior and he likes playing basketball and football. He enjoys times when he can have a meaningful impact on people around him. Dewayne wants to attend college in a nice community and be the first in his family to go to college.

Christopher Joseph*Panel Presenter*

Christopher Joseph is 21 years old and is a junior at Merrimack College, majoring in economics and minoring in business. He lives with his mother and younger sister who is 20. He enjoys sports and music.

Christopher Kelly*Panel Presenter*

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.

Scherazade Daruvalla King*Keynote Presenter*

Scherazade Daruvalla King is the president of Project: Think Different and Empowerment Records, two organizations that use artistic media to animate democracy and fuel positive social change. She is committed to creating a renaissance in the media arts that promotes a culture of responsibility and informed action. King's work has been featured on MTV, HBO, ABC, NBC, CBS, CurrentTV, Free Speech TV and various newspapers and radio stations. A speaker, educator, activist, and believer; King's background enables her to easily see the connections between those who are seemingly different. She is interested in using the media arts to bridge the divides, create understanding, value diversity and each person's important role in creating the world we want to live in.

Prita Lal*Panel Presenter*

Prita Lal is a Masters student in South Asian Studies at Columbia University. Her areas of interest include political economy, labor, consumerism, women's oppression, power dynamics, social movements, liberatory education, and subaltern history. In addition to being a graduate student, she is also a coordinator at the Center for Immigrant Families (CIF), which is a collectively-run community organization of low-income immigrant women of color that uses popular education to organize for personal and social transformation. Prior to joining CIF, she worked with West African grocery delivery workers as a paralegal at the National Employment Law Project and also with domestic workers as a staff person at Andolan: Organizing South Asian Workers. She has also engaged in solidarity work in Paris, France and Dakar, Senegal with youth and migrants. As an undergraduate, she studied French and Anthropology at Tulane University and was involved in social justice organizing with the African-American community in New Orleans.

Shane Landrum*Panel Presenter*

Shane Landrum is a graduate of Smith College, a doctoral student in American History at Brandeis University, and a member of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. His research interests include gender, sexuality, science, and medicine in the US; legal and cultural history; and comparative British colonialism.

His current project explores the history of legal identity documentation in the United States.

Ana Irma Rivera Lassen

Workshop Presenter

Ana Irma Rivera Lassen, a feminist activist since the early seventies and is a prominent human rights activist. She is a co-founder in Puerto Rico of several important organizations in the defense of the rights of women, of the fight against the racism, and the right to sexual orientation. Among her more recent publications, *Women of African Descent and Human Rights*, was included in *Counterpoint*, an anthology of race in Puerto Rico published in 2005. She is a member of the Latin American and the Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women Rights (CLADEM), and co-editor of *Documents of the Puerto Rican Feminist Movement: Facsimilies of History*.

Amy Lubitow

Workshop Presenter

Amy Lubitow is a graduate student in Sociology at Northeastern University. Her studies focus on gender and feminist studies as well as environmental sociology. Amy has done research at Northeastern in relation to domestic violence and is currently an intern with the Environmental Health fund.

Matiely Lugo

Panel Presenter

Matiely Lugo was born and raised in Salem, MA. She was brought up by a low income Dominican family and is the only daughter. She was expected to be more of a “slave” than a person and has risen up against this assumption and is actively engaged in proving that women can be anything they want to be!

Wendy Luttrell

Keynote Panel Moderator

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* (Accessing 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*.

Emily MacMillan

Conference Organizer

Emily MacMillan is a first-year PhD student in the sociology department at Boston College. She is interested in studying urban schools and their interactions with the mothers of students. She graduated from Syracuse University in 2004 with a degree in women's studies and political science. She spent two years as a high-school Spanish teacher in St. Louis as a part of Teach for America before coming to Boston.

Jessica Madden-Fuoco*Panel Presenter*

Jessica Madden-Fuoco is the Assistant Principal at New Mission High School, a Boston Public School. Jessica has 9 years of teaching experience, the past four years at Brighton High School. While at Brighton High, Jessica developed and taught a course focused on developing students leadership, research, and activism skills. In the three years of the course's existence, students conducted several participatory action research studies and used their findings to make positive change.

Neelam Maheshwari*Panel Presenter*

Neelam Maheshwari is an MA student in Sustainable International Development at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. She has worked as a grassroots coordinator and activist in India for more than 7 years. She has an interest in connecting or interpreting feminist theories and grassroots action. Her future plans include working in gender, advocacy, and philanthropy in India.

Rosalia Mannino*Panel Presenter*

Rosalia Mannino is a graduate student at Simmons College pursuing a joint masters in Communications Management and Gender and Cultural Studies.

Dorotea Manuela*Workshop Presenter*

Dorotea Manuela is a long-time community activist in Boston. She was a member of the Boston area delegation to the World Social Forum in 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. She is the Co-Chair of the Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Commission.

Yvette Modestin*Workshop Presenter*

Yvette Modestin is a native of the Republic of Panama. She is the Founder and Director of Encuentro Diaspora Afro in Boston, MA, which emerged as a response to the silence surrounding the rich and complex existence of the Afro-Latino/a identity in the Americas and speaks to the commonalities of people of African descent. Ms. Modestin is the Diaspora(US) Regional Coordinator on the Commission of the Red de Mujeres AfroLatinoamericanas y Afrocaribenas y de la Diaspora. Yvette is also a member of the Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee which honored Rosa Parks on the anniversary of the Bus Boycott and continues to address the issues affecting the community such as sexism, racism and war. She has conducted trainings on violence prevention, Afro-Latino education/history, cultural competency and anti-racism.

Liz Mongillo*Conference Organizer*

Liz Mongillo is a 4th year clinical psychology doctoral student at UMass Boston. She currently teaches an undergraduate course in social psychology and works as part of Ester Shapiro's Health Promotion Research Team at UMB. The team's current projects include the development of a student centered campus resources & needs assessment and a student-led community mapping project and peer advocacy & support program. She is particularly interested in identifying and exploring factors that support nontraditional female students who have experienced trauma and/or psychiatric hospitalizations in their process of returning to and succeeding in school.

Carmen Montoya*Workshop Presenter*

Carmen Montoya is a mixed media digital artist. She holds dual BAs in Philosophy and Women's Studies from Loyola University—Chicago and is currently working towards an MFA in Digital Media from Rhode Island School of Design. Her research interests include, the theological haunting of technology, electroacoustic instrument building and performance, and self-transgressive lived experiments as art practice. In addition to her studio work, she plays prepared piano in the MIG ensemble at Brown University and is coconspirator in Aphasia Project, a multimedia performance duet, with composer Kevin Patton.

Genevieve Morse*Panel Presenter*

Genevieve Morse grew up in Middleboro Massachusetts until she was 18 then attended Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts for two years. She transferred to Salem State and is now a senior. She is going for her BA in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Peace and Intercultural Relations with a focus option in South Asia also minoring in Women's Studies and Religious Studies.

Annalyssa Gypsy Murphy*Panel Presenter*

Annalyssa Gypsy Murphy is a postfeminist, postindian, postmodern, mixedblood Indigenous word wielding warrior poet professor mother, sister, daughter, wife and so much more not in any specific linear order. She can be found inciting riots in the classroom, exploring Indian food luncheon buffets and combing beaches for oddly coloured sea glass with her daughters.

Nancy A. Naples*Keynote Presenter*

Nancy A. Naples is Professor of Women's Studies and Sociology at the University of Connecticut where she teaches courses on sexual citizenship, feminist theory, feminist methodology and women's activism and globalization. Her research explores the intersection between race, class, gender, sexuality, and region in social policy, citizenship, and women's community activism. She is author of *Feminism and Method: Ethnography, Discourse Analysis, and Feminist Research* (Routledge, 2003) and *Grassroots Warriors: Activist Mothering, Community Work, and the War on Poverty* (Routledge, 1998). She is also editor of *Community Activism and Feminist Politics: Organizing Across Race, Class, and Gender* (Routledge 1998) and co-editor of *Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles with Transnational Politics* (with Manisha Desai, Routledge, 2002) and *Teaching Feminist Activism* (with Karen Bojar, Routledge, 2002). She served as President of Sociologists for Women in Society and is currently President-Elect of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Nalina Narain*Workshop Presenter*

Nalina Narain is a Ph.D. candidate in Health Services Research at Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management, focused on the intersection of HIV/AIDS and intimate partner violence, and an advocate at the Cambridge Health Alliance's Victims of Violence program. She has extensive experience in nonprofit administration, and in both public policy and direct service on behalf of vulnerable populations. She spent 4 years as a policy director at Jane Doe Inc., the statewide coalition against sexual and domestic violence; and 2 years as executive director of the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, in charge of a battered women's shelter and other programs. Her previous positions include regional administrator for Oxfam America in her native India, and her previous

education includes an M.A. in international development. She is married with two children and lives in Cambridge.

Sar Neak

Panel Presenter

Sar Neak is graduating this semester with an associates degree in Liberal Arts. She hopes to be transferring to UMass Boston and will focus on Mathematics Education and minor in Biology.

Stephanie Papadakis

Panel Presenter

Stephanie Papadakis is working towards a joint Masters at Brandeis University in Women's and Gender Studies and Anthropology. Her current research project addresses issues of queer and race representation in the media, particularly on cable and reality television. She received her B.A. in Physical Anthropology and a Minor in Education from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Damara Reid

Panel Presenter

Damara Reid is a senior at Brighton High School who enjoys reading and working together with others to solve problems. She is involved in a Boston Police summer program and is currently working afterschool at a U.S. probation office. Next year, Damara plans to study Criminal Justice in college and graduate to become part of the police department.

Katherine Rickenbacker

Panel Presenter

Katherine Rickenbacker is a graduate student in the Sociology department at Northeastern University. Her work focuses on environmental justice, the social impacts of climate change, and gender and sexuality.

Rochelle Ruthchild

Keynote Presenter

Rochelle Ruthchild, a member of the 888 Women's History Project collective, was active in Bread and Roses and Female Liberation in the early 1970s and was a participant in the events featured in Left on Pearl. She worked for many years as a member of the Cambridge Women's Center core committee after 1971, and was head of Feminist Studies at the Goddard-Cambridge Graduate Program in Social Change in the 1970s. Presently she is Professor of Graduate Studies at The Union Institute and University.

Charlotte Ryan

Keynote Presenter

Charlotte Ryan, Ph.D. teaches Sociology at UMASS Lowell where she is affiliated with the Center for Family, Work and Community. She co-directs (with William A. Gamson) the Media Research and Action Project (www.mrap.info). Ryan studies how social movement organizations integrate communication strategies into institutional change efforts. Nationally, she collaborates with the National Network to End Domestic Violence. Her most recent relevant publication is Rhyming Hope and History: Social Movement Scholarship and Activism. UMINN Press Fall 2005.

Ivy Schweitzer

Panel Presenter

Ivy Schweitzer is a professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Dartmouth College. Her areas of interest are American literature, women's literature, women's studies, gender and cultural studies, and transnational feminism. In Fall 2007, she will begin a three stint as chair of Dartmouth's Women's and Gender Studies Program. Her most recent book, Perfecting Friendship: Politics and

Affiliation in Early American Literature, was published by UNC press in 2006. She began teaching about incarceration in the 1990's and working with the Windsor Prison program in 2005. She lives with her family in Norwich, Vermont.

Ester R. Shapiro

Workshop Presenter

Ester R. Shapiro, Ph.D. (aka Ester Rebeca Shapiro Rok) is Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Massachusetts at Boston and Research Associate at the Mauricio Gaston Institute for Latino Public Policy and Community Development. A Cuban Jewish Eastern European immigrant, she is committed to helping all families make the most of their opportunities for improving life chances when facing ordinary and extraordinary life stressors. Her work in culturally informed positive health promotion in the U.S. and internationally applies a strengths-based family development model to work with children, parents, families, and social systems. One of her current projects is a student-centered needs assessment looking at the realistic stressors faced by the urban, primary ethnic minority, immigrant, and working class undergraduate community at UMass Boston and the resources they need to promote their wellness and educational success. Dr. Shapiro is the author of *Grief as a Family Process: A Developmental Approach to Clinical Practice* (Guilford, 1994; 2nd ed. 2003) and co-author and Coordinating Editor of *Nuestros Cuerpos Nuestras Vidas* (Seven Stories Press, NY 2000 and Debate, Spain 2000), the Spanish language cultural adaptation of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* for use in Latin America and by U.S. Latinas.

Stephanie Sibley

Panel Presenter

Stephanie Sibley is Director of High School Renewal for the Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE). BPE is the fiscal agent and core partner to Boston Public School's (BPS) *Schools for a New Society* initiative. Ms. Sibley has overall grant management responsibility for the budget, reporting to the funder, and collaboration with Boston's high school renewal partners. Additionally, Ms. Sibley oversees BPE's student voice and engagement efforts which currently includes support to teachers at three local high schools implementing Research and Activism for Change (RAC), a BPE-developed social studies elective that integrates participatory action research methods and concepts of critical theory, social justice and community service learning. During her tenure at BPE, Ms. Sibley has strongly advocated for key policy changes in BPS including equitable distribution of substantially separate special education programs and a later start time for high schools. Her experience as a high school teacher and administrator have provided her with practical leadership skills and a deep understanding of key levers necessary for improving learning experiences and outcomes for young people. Ms. Sibley holds a BA in mathematics and an Ed. M degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Ramani Sripada

Keynote Presenter

Ramani Sripada is currently the Director of Programs & Capacity Building Assistance for the Massachusetts Asian & Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health. She has extensive experience designing, facilitating and evaluating educational trainings; oversees a regional capacity building project; and has developed curriculum and train-the-trainer programs for immigrant and refugee communities of color. Ms. Sripada has presented on topics including: HIV/AIDS prevention, immigrant & refugee health, reproductive health care options, leadership development, violence prevention, self-esteem, body image, program development, tailoring & adapting Diffusion of Effective Behavioral Interventions (DEBIs), LGBT

youth of color, cultural competence, anti-racism, policy and advocacy development. Ms. Sripada received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Thought and Political Economy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and her Master's Degree in Applied Urban Anthropology at City College, NYC. Ramani Sripada has fifteen years of community organizing, coalition building and social change experience. She has organized on a grassroots level with groups such as South Asian Women for Action (SAWA) in Boston and Youth Allied Against Racism (YAAR) in New York City.

Christina Stoltz

Panel Presenter

Christina Stoltz is a Masters student in the Comparative Literature department at Dartmouth College. She is also a participant of Telling My Story, a program designed for female inmates and college students at Dartmouth.

Dona Yarbrough

Panel Moderator

Dona Yarbrough directs the LGBT Center and is a part-time faculty member in the Women's Studies Program. She received her Ph.D. in English at the University of Virginia, where she also co-founded the university's LGBT Resource Center and was the Director of Programs at the Women's Center. She holds certifications in rape crisis counseling and sex education. Her scholarly background is in twentieth-century American literature and culture with a focus on queer and feminist studies. Her essay "A Queer Form of Trauma: Lesbian Epistolarity in *Either/Is Love*," published in *American Literature*, won the Modern Language Association 2003 Crompton-Noll Award for Best Essay in Lesbian, Gay, Queer Studies. In addition to supervising all the programs, groups, and other activities associated with the LGBT Center, Dona advises individual students; provides presentations and workshops on LGBT issues, other diversity topics, and sex education; advocates on behalf of LGBT faculty, staff, and students; and works on a variety of initiatives related to diversity, social justice, and student life and leadership.

Zili

Performance Group

Zili is a local women's singing group that creates music which bridges cultures, generations, and continents. With captivating sounds that evoke the African continent, zili retraces routes of forced exile and cultural resistance through diasporic rhythm and song. Powerful Haitian, Brazilian and West African rhythms infuse zili's original creations and traditional folksongs, while zili inspires its audiences to dance and even teaches them how. Reconnecting Haitian mizik rasin, jazz, roots reggae, samba, Cuban son, and neo soul, zili honors its influences while creating a sound that is uniquely its own. All female, zili takes its name from Haitian spiritual entity, Ezili, who is envisaged as mother, lover, and warrior. Zili's songs are sensual, political, self-reflective, positive, and invoke love. Zili's lyrics glide seamlessly from English to Kreyòl to Portuguese to Spanish, spinning tales and visions of lives lived and yet to be.