



WOMEN'S,
GENDER &
SEXUALITY
STUDIES

Spotlight on Faculty Series Spring 2012

February 20, 2012 - 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Dr. Hallie Liberto, Assistant Professor - Philosophy

Title: *Contextualizing Exploitation*

Dr. Liberto responds to a leading theory of the wrongness of exploitation by suggesting that the criteria proposed by the theory are neither necessary nor sufficient conditions. In order to support this thesis, she describes exploitative scenarios that involve conditions of special trust, non-coercive bribery, and some exploitative acts that might actually rectify existing unfairness or inequality. Many such circumstances typically occur within traditional families or within sexist work environments, that is, market or pseudo-market environments largely ignored in the philosophical literature on exploitation.

March 26, 2012 - 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM

Ms. Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh, Scholar - Human Rights and Women's Studies

Title: *Engendering the Movement for Democracy in Iran*

Over the past three decades, the Women's Movement has played a critical role in the struggle for equal rights in Iran. Women were a forceful presence during the 2009 Green Movement demonstrations, in which millions of Iranians poured onto the streets to demand democratic accountability. The Women's Movement's social networks facilitated the rapid spread of information amongst protesters, and the Movement's leadership provided organizational guidance. Despite the strong support the Green Movement has received from women, gender marginalization within the Movement remains a persist issue. Strategic decisions within Iran's pro-democracy community continue to be made by men, and patriarchal attitudes remain prevalent. In her presentation, Ms. Abbasgholizadeh will explore how women activists can draw attention to gender perspectives and promote a culture of equality within the Green Movement. By identifying shared values in a number of key areas, She will seek to locate common ground and present a strategy for further promotion and integration of gender equality.

April 16, 2012 - 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Dr. Christine Sylvester, Professor - Women's Studies and Political Science

Title: *Facts, Fictions, and the Biopolitics of Development*

Drawing on a Foucauldian understanding of biopolitics, this talk contrasts the ways development studies and postcolonial fictions generally conceptualize the subject of their interest. It argues for the infusion of postcolonial imaginative literatures into a chilly field of analysis and practice known to prize abstract quantitative approaches, managerialism, and practitioner-subject distance on the ground. Selected postcolonial fictions illustrate the main argument as it pertains to the biopolitics of contemporary Zimbabwe, the 1960s Biafran war, and genocidal Rwanda of 1994.

**Please join us in the
Women's Studies Conference Room, Beach Hall 425**

If you have any questions, please contact us at 860-486-3970 or wsinfo@uconn.edu.