The University *of* North Carolina *at* Chapel Hill

Issue 3, November 2013

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Women's and Gender Studies Lunch Colloquium

"Rape, Sex, Honor, and Status: Female Bodies and Male Confusion in Greco-Roman Thought"

Sharon L. James, Associate Professor, Department of Classics

The myth of Pandora says that women are created of literally different material, and are effectively alien to men. This myth--extremely familiar to everyone in the ancient world--authorizes hatred of women. But it also acknowledges male sexual attraction to women, which it sees as a bad thing (a weakness in men). At the same time, Greek myth is overloaded with tales of rape, particularly rape of human women by gods (e.g., Zeus and Leda, Io, Europa, Callisto, and many more). In Rome, women are crucial to the foundation of the city, but are its weakest link and can endanger the entire nation because of their lack of self-control. In addition, both societies strictly class women: the only ones who count as "women" are the citizens, who can provide legitimate children. How is it, in the ancient world as in much of the modern world, that male honor resides in the female body, that rape of a woman constitutes primarily an offense against her father or husband and must often be punished by brutal treatment of the victim? What is the logic underlying the view that the female body is the repository of male honor?

Prof. James is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at UNC. She completed her M.A. and PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of California at Berkeley. She is the author of *Learned Girls and Male Persuasion: Gender and Reading in Roman Love Elegy* (California, 2003) and is working on a new book, *Women in Comedy*. In 2013, Prof. James was awarded the William C. Friday/Class of 1986 Award for excellence in inspirational

Wednesday, November 13, 12:00-1:00 pm
Toy Lounge Dey Hall

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina– Chapel Hill
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The Program in Sexuality Studies Presents

Masha Gessen: "The Rise of Radical 'Family Values' in Russia"

Masha Gessen: Russia's Leading LGBT Rights Activist Speaks on the Rise of Radical "Family Values" in Russia. Born in Moscow, she emigrated to the United States in her teens, then returned to Russia a decade later. Writing in both Russian and English, she has covered every major development in Russian politics and culture of the past two decades, receiving numerous awards and fellowships in the process. She blogs weekly for The New York Times and has written for The New York Review of Books, International Herald Tribune, The Guardian, U.S. News & World Report (where she served as Moscow Bureau Chief), Vanity Fair, The New Republic, Granta and Slate; she has also edited several Russian magazines and written for many more. A longtime resident of Moscow, she is in the process of relocating to New York City.

This event has been organized by The Program in Sexuality Studies, and is co-sponsored by the UNC LGBT Representation and Rights Initiative, UNC Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, the UNC Provost's Committee on LGBTQ Life, and the UNC Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

Thursday, November 7th, 5:30-6:30 pm
Nelson Mandela Auditorium, FedEx Global Education Center

Voices of Young Jordanian Women: Speaking the Unspeakable

Dr. Rula Quawas, Professor, Department of English, University of Jordan

Based in part on her experience teaching feminist theory and mentoring women students at the University of Jordan, Dr. Quawas will discuss three initiatives by young Jordanian activists to combat violence against women.

Sponsored by the Department of Asian Studies; the Department of Peace, War, and Defense; the Center for Global Initiatives; the Carolina Center for the Study of Middle East and Muslim Civilizations; and the Duke-UNC Middle East Consortium.

Thursday, November 21, 6:15 pm
Nelson Mandela Auditorium, FedEx Global Education Center

LGBTQ Graduate Speaker Series

"What a Wonderful Kiki!: Performing Music and Queerness at Mixtape, a Washington, D.C. Gay Dance Party"

Christopher Brown, Department of Musicology

Thursday, November 21, 12:00-2:00 pm
Frank Porter Graham Student Union

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	*2*
3	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7* "The Rise of Radical 'Family Values' in Russia" 5:30, FedEx Global	*8* Gender and the German American War for the Union 4:00, Hyde Hall	*9*
10	*11*	*12*	*13* WMST Lunch Colloquium	*14* "Zanibar Soccer Queens" Noon, Stone Center	*15*	*16*
17	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21* LGBTQ Graduate Speaker Series Speaking the Unspeakable	*22*	*23*
24	*25*	*26*	*27*	*28*	*29*	*30*