

Power &
Representation
in a Media-
Saturated
Age



about the

SCHOLAR & THE FEMINIST CONFERENCE

Now in its twenty-ninth year, the Scholar and Feminist conference is a nationally recognized gathering of today's most influential and intellectually exciting feminist scholars, activists, and artists. In recent years, having welcomed such visionary thinkers as playwright Anna Deavere Smith, Green Party Vice Presidential candidate Winona LaDuke, and spoken word poet Staceyann Chin, the conference has examined the impact of international alliances on next-wave feminisms, the complex ways in which public sentiments shape activist endeavors, and feminist analyses of the state of the world.

With another presidential election year upon us, we take advantage of an opportune time to consider the complex ways in which the public exchange of information delineates, if not defines, social power. As citizens of the Information Age, we live in a world that has been and will continue to be refashioned by the circulation, via new and ever-developing technologies, of images and information. Much excellent work has been done by feminist thinkers to expose the commercial underpinnings of messages about the lives of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people that circulate

through popular media, but the conversation must move beyond the isolated, often-fetishized individual body to address how these representations affect the body politic.

With panels focusing on feminist coverage of the coming presidential election, the ways popular media address girls and young women, the challenges of representing queer life in mainstream culture, as well the potential pathways toward social change offered by new and alternative technologies, this year's Scholar and Feminist Conference will examine not only the ways in which the media navigates issues of sex, gender and sexuality, but also the ways in which the circulation of those ideas translates into power (or the lack of it) in various arenas: from the political and commercial to the personal and social. By considering the work and experience of some of today's most influential media makers and critics, we hope to understand better the ways in which the media might be used to challenge and overturn dominant, oppressive social modes, to ensure that women and other traditionally disempowered people are given voice in their full richness and complexity, and to harness progressive energies toward real and lasting social change.

SATURDAY, 3 APRIL: THE SCH

SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Registration

Barnard Hall Lobby

10:30 AM Panel One (choose one)

GRRRL!: HOW THE MEDIA MARKETS POWER TO GIRLS

Kruger Lecture Hall, 405 Milbank Hall

A surge in female action heroes, the increased visibility of female athletes in the media, and a prominent magazine campaign to foster girls' political ambition and leadership skills have given new life to the concept of "girl power." At the same time, many real girls — and grown-up "grrrls" too — continue to experience a relative dearth of power in the larger world, both personally and politically. Join the editors of *CosmoGIRL!* and *BUST* magazines, girls' advocates, and scholars as we examine how various mainstream media market power to girls. We'll look closely at current conversations about girls, media, and power and explore the role the media plays in fashioning new models of "girl power" that are often part pop culture, part social cause.

Panelists include

Deborah Aubert

Associate Director of National
Programming, Girls Incorporated

Sherric Inness

Professor of English, Miami University

Margaret Honey

Director, Center for Children and
Technology

Susan Schultz

Editor, *CosmoGIRL!* Magazine

Debbie Stoller

Editor, *BUST* Magazine

Moderated by

Deborah Siegel

Editor, *The Scholar & Feminist Online*

QUEER EYE ON THE MEDIA: THE POLITICS OF VISIBILITY

Julius Held Lecture Hall, 304 Barnard Hall

From *Will & Grace* to the wildly popular *Queer Eye...*, television alone has played a large and undeniable role in transforming American culture in a more gay-positive direction. Taking this phenomenon as our point of departure, we will explore the political consequences of the mainstream's embrace of its gay citizenry or, to be more precise, certain members of that citizenry. We'll examine the complex ways by which representations of gay life — from the small screen to the big screen to the stage — contribute to positioning LGBTQ people on the inside or outside of social power structures.

Panelists include

Leigh Fondakowski

Playwright, *The Laramie Project*

Anna McCarthy

Associate Professor, Department of
Cinema Studies, NYU

Richard Fung

Filmmaker, *Dirty Laundry*, *Sea in the Blood*

Amy Villarejo

Associate Professor, Department of Theater,
Film and Dance, Cornell University

Christine Vachon

Producer, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Kids*

Moderated by

David Eng, Professor of English,
Rutgers University

12:30 PM **Lunch**

Please consult your registration packet for a comprehensive list of dining options in Morningside Heights.

& REPRESENTATION IN A MEDIA

2:30 PM **Panel Two (choose one)**

GOVERNANCE BY THE MEDIA: FEMINISTS AND THE COMING ELECTION

Kruger Lecture Hall, 405 Milbank

Renowned media-makers and distinguished scholars come together to examine the considerable impact of current media trends – from the rise of Internet fundraising and campaigning to the Foxification of television news – on the US presidential election. We'll discuss the challenges of fomenting serious, thoughtful debate in an age of sound bites, and strategize ways in which ordinary citizens can continue to make a difference in the face of corporate conglomeration.

Panelists include

Mary Douglas Vavrus
Communication Studies Department,
University of Minnesota

Maria Hinojosa
CNN correspondent

Kelly Moore
Assistant Professor of Sociology,
Brooklyn College

Katha Pollitt
Political columnist for *The Nation*

Moderated by

Lorraine Minnite
Assistant Professor of Political Science,
Barnard College

THE FUTURE IN PIXELS: FEMINIST ART & NEW MEDIA

Julius Held Lecture Hall, 304 Barnard Hall

From digital photography and archiving to ever-expanding Internet developments, we are all familiar with the ways in which the tools of technology are often exploited for business and commercial purposes. But a growing number of artists and activists are now appropriating such media as a means of both critiquing that commercial culture and creating bold, new, alternative (if not revolutionary) public spaces.

A-SATURATED AGE

Panelists include

Natalie Jeremijenko

Design engineer and technoartist

Elisabeth Subrin

Video artist and Visiting Lecturer on
Visual and Environmental Studies,
Harvard University

Wynne Greenwood

Video artist

Prema Murthy

Digital artist

Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu

Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, Vassar College,
and co-editor of *Technicolor: Race, Technology and
Everyday Life*

Moderated by

Rachel Greene

Director, Rhizome

4:30 PM **Keynote Address**

OFF OUR SHOULDERS: HOW HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD, MADISON AVENUE & K STREET CON- SPIRE TO LIMIT WOMEN'S POTENTIAL

Lower Level, McIntosh

Janeane Garofalo, actor and activist

Having appeared as a political commentator on such shows as *Crossfire*, *Inside Politics*, MSNBC and CNN, Janeane Garofalo has established herself as a passionate voice for diplomacy and peace. She began her career as a regular on *Saturday Night Live!*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, and the Emmy Award-winning *Ben Stiller Show*, and has appeared in a number of films, including *Steal This Movie*, *The Laramie Project*, *Dogma*, and *Reality Bites*.



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Featuring a
keynote address by
Janeane Garofalo

Don't forget to return your registration card

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