Gender Across Borders: Forging Alliances / Vive les differences!

Friday, April 8, 2016
South Lake Community Center, UB North Campus

Continuing our tradition of analyzing gender across various types of borders, the Gender Institute’s spring 2016 symposium will engage perennial feminist debates about the relations between theory and practice; women and labor; and women, religion, and racism. The symposium will conclude with a presentation of our Inaugural Excellence in Mentoring award and a discussion of values and issues related to mentoring.

**Schedule**

9:00-9:15  Coffee and bagels

9:15-10:30  Kari Winter, Welcome and Introductions

**Round table discussion: What are pressing concerns in feminist theory and praxis today?**
Moderator: Carine Mardorossian, Professor of English
Presenters:
Kristina Marie Darling, Ph.D. Candidate, English, UB
Mopelolade Oreoluwa Ogunbowale, Ph.D. Student, Global Gender Studies, UB
Sarah Robert, Asst. Professor, Learning and Instruction, UB

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:00  
**Martha McCluskey, Professor of Law**
**Janice L. Moritz Distinguished Lecture on Women and Labor**

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:45 **Women in/and Islam**
Moderator: Melinda Brennan, Ph.D. Candidate, Gender Studies, Indiana University

Nadia Sharam, Esq., Moslem Women’s Rights Activist
“Women in Islam verses Moslem Women”

Jennifer Gaynor, Asst. Professor of History
“@ David Cameron -- #TraditionallySubmissive”

Filomena Critelli, Assoc. Professor of Social Work
1:45-2:00 Coffee break

2:00 – 3:15  Mentoring Matters
Moderator: Margaret W. Sallee, Assoc. Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy
Introduction by Pat McDevitt, Assoc. Professor of History, UB
Susan Cahn, Professor of History, UB
Gender Institute 1016 Excellence in Mentoring Awardee
**Participants**

**Kristina Marie Darling** is the author of over twenty collections of poetry and hybrid prose that have been described by literary critics as “haunting,” “mesmerizing,” and “complex.” Poet and *Kenyon Review* editor Zach Savich writes that her body of work is a “singularly graceful and stunningly incisive exploration of poetic insight, vision, and transformation.” Donald Revell writes of her *SELECTED POEMS*, “Here is a new tradition, alive in bright air.” The recipient of many major awards and fellowships, Kristina’s work has been recognized twice with the Dan Lilbthson Prize from the Academy of American Poets. She has received nominations for the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Award. Kristina is also a well-published literary critic. She is currently working toward both an M.F.A. in Poetry at New York University and a Ph.D. in English Literature at S.U.N.Y.-Buffalo, where she was awarded a Presidential Fellowship and a Gender Institute Dissertation Fellowship.

**Jennifer L. Gaynor** works on Southeast Asian history since the sixteenth century, and on the region's contemporary society and culture, from boardrooms to backwaters.

Writer and activist **Nadia Shahram** graduated from UB School of Management in 1988 and from UB Law School in 1997. She was trained and licensed as a Divorce and Family Mediator at the Rochester Mediation Center in 2001. In 2001 and right after the tragic events of September 11, Nadia started questioning the role of Muslims in the image of Islam. Her course, "The Effects of Religion and Culture on Family Laws in Eastern Countries," was created as a quest to find answers to Nadia’s own questions about the manner in which religion is being practiced in the 21st Century, and suggests a reform is needed to reconcile the misinterpretation of the practice of the religion with the intention of the religion.

In 2010, she published *Marriage on the Street Corners of Tehran*, a novel based on true stories of Iranian Muslim women facing legal and cultural inequality in everyday life as well as in court rooms. An advocate of Muslim women rights, Nadia regularly presents the differences in interpretation verses the actual text of the holy book of Koran. Nadia, along with her students at UB Law School, wrote the *Declaration of Equalities for Moslem Women* which was unveiled during Convention Days in Seneca Falls in 2014 and is on permanent display at the National Women’s Park in Seneca Falls.

Ms. Shahram has received multiple awards for her practice and activist work including Buffalo Business First’s ‘Legal Elite of Western New York’ and ‘Women of Influence’ Awards. Buffalo Public Schools recognized her with an ‘Education and Culture’ Award, and the ‘Yellow Rose’ Award from Zonta of Buffalo, and the ‘Spirit of Woman’ Award from the Family Justice Center.

A mediation lawyer, Ms. Shahram is a Board Member of the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, a Board Member of the Family Justice Center, and a member of the Women and Erie County Bar Associations. Her private practice is dedicated to Matrimonial Mediation with offices in Amherst and Orchard Park, New York. For more information please visit her
page at Wikipedia.com