INTERSECTING VARIANCE:
READING GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY POLITICS

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY — FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. TTU Student Union Building

Texas Tech University, Student Union Building 2nd Floor, Soapsuds Room

Program Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Session I
10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Session II
11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Session III

12:00 p.m. Break for lunch on your own (see Student Union ground level)

1:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. Session IV
2:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Session V
to certain patriarchal notions. In essence, feminist separatism is going against what it is fighting for.

There are also female poets who slip into the traditional female functions of marriage and motherhood, but prove them, instead choosing to write about and represent that past.

There are leaders and women leaders. The meaning of “woman” and her appropriate place continue to be the subject of controversy and debate, often but not always for gender equality, women are still not taken for granted in many contexts, particularly those involving power. Women are constructed as a marked category, subject to extraordinary scrutiny, and marginalized as interesting to other women. There are leaders and women leaders. The meaning of “woman” and her appropriate place continue to be the subject of controversy and debate, often but not always between women. These fractured views have material consequences for women who daily negotiate double binds and contested views of who women are or should be.

Traditionally nature writing has focused on the rugged man in constant battle to subdue and conquer the wilderness. The idea that nature writing must focus on a man and his conquest has permeated western culture to such a great extent that it can obscure the vital role nature plays in the literature of children and adolescents. Over the course of the last century, books written for children, specifically young girls, have provided a platform from which authors like L.M. Montgomery challenge the dominant male view of nature and create a new space for the feminine bond with the natural world.


**ACADEMIC SESSION III**

**SOAPSUDS ROOM**

- **Public Figures and Nationalism: Expressing British Feminine Pride through Periodical Fashion** by Megan Peiser

  The Nineteenth-century climate of war surrounding the British people strongly affected the content of the periodical press. The periodical press reflected, more regularly than many other publications, the daily lives of its readers. It provided not only a venue for self-expression through poetry and letters, but also a venue for literary entertainment and world news. This paper examines news about national events influencing the tone of the rest of the periodical, and therefore presented a forum for the fashionable society to participate in politics; especially in the case of *The Lady’s Magazine* whose audience was specifically middle to upper-class women, these serialized publications generated a material form of education about, and participation with public figures of the day.

- **Being Korean: female characters in US television** by Hyo Jin Kim

  Most Asian Americans, especially female characters on television series, play stereotypical roles in US television. Two different Korean female characters in US primetime television shows—*Lost* (ABC) and *Grey's Anatomy* (ABC)—are shown in stereotypical Asian characters. Each show has been very popular since its premier. The two characters are Sun Kwon (*Lost*) and Christina Yang (*Grey's Anatomy*). Sun represents a traditional Korean wife and Christina plays a Korean American resident. Through textual analysis, this paper will focus on the differences between those two characters. The analysis will address the following questions: do they fit the typical stereotypes of Asian Americans; do they reflect accurate representation of Koreans/Korean Americans; and how are they described by the other characters during the show. This study will examine how the stereotypical images have been re-produced and strengthened through the popular television shows.

- **Motherhood and Poverty: The Real Mommy Track** by Lana Marlow

  In today’s mass mediated world images of mothers and motherhood play an important, ever shifting, superficial role, in the production of images and products. Media depictions range from the crack mom to soccer mom, stay at home mom to celebrity mom, working mother to welfare mother. In the increasing drive to sell products, the variety of mothers does little to suppress our need to whitewash in some ways literally the notion of motherhood. If one does not follow the typical pattern then one is on the edges not being noticed or on the fringes being vilified.

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**ACADEMIC SESSION IV**

**SOAPSUDS ROOM**

- **“Attention Chauvinist Pigs:” Movement Discourse in the 1960s and 70s** by Julie Willett

  “Attention Chauvinist Pigs. Relax” a 1971 Hush Puppies Ad insisted, “When ‘libbers’ call us names like that it really means we’re rugged, masculine, virile” and presumably like the sporty shoes the company was promoting. To be sure many men and women found such messages appealing for there are countless examples of men who playfully wallowed in their embrace of male chauvinism like the infamous Bobby Riggs, who found reassurance and stardom in being identified as a chauvinist. Riggs, of course, cast his lot in a losing battle of the sexes against tennis champ Billy Jean King. Most men, however, were in for the long haul, and in far less publicized articulations of chauvinism seemed to capture an ambiguity towards women and the liberation movement of 1970s not fully expressed in the somewhat simplistic shoe advertisement. Ultimately, this essay hopes to add nuance and complexity to the concept of crisis so prevalent in discussions of masculinity in the 1970s. Thus I look broadly at the popular discourse of the 1960s and 1970s and suggest the implications of just what it meant to be a male chauvinist pig were at times ambiguous.

- **Masculinity Defined by Sexual Domination: Salvaging Power** by Rachel Branch

  This presentation builds on themes concerning the domination of woman in Latin love elegy addressed in articles by Ellen Greene (1998), David Fredrick (1997) and others by highlighting aspects shared by love elegy and pornography. Although the male narrators of love elegy claim to be dominated by their mistresses, elegies such as Propertius 1.3 show a reversal of that purported power imbalance which reflects the struggle of the elite, Roman male to maintain his identity and masculinity in early, imperial Rome. The voyeurism, relational detachment, and viewing of women as sexual objects illustrated in elegy are also found in modern-day pornography, thus suggesting a parallel between the two genres.
- **Deviance: Pathologizing Sexuality Along Gender Lines** by Amanda Evans

Atypical sexual behaviors, or sexual disorders, comprise an entire section of the DSM-IV, sexual behaviors, which are considered abnormal, distressing, and overall undesirable. The noncoercive type of atypical behaviors includes fetishism, transvestitism, sadomasochistic practices, and other rare undefined paraphilias. Yet, with the immeasurable variety of human sexual experience and proclivities around the world, one must stop and question: in the scientific study of mental processes and behavior, how do psychologists and societies in general determine what is normal or abnormal? This paper will examine sociocultural patterns of atypical sexuality and their link with the mental health field.

### ACADEMIC SESSION V 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

**Memory and Erasure: Applying Visual Narrative Power Analysis to the Image War Between Dow Chemical Corporation and the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal** by Carolyn Erler

This paper analyzes a successful branding campaign by Dow Chemical and a select group of counter ads and visual tactics deployed by the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal. The focus is not on the artwork, but on the “soft power” (Nye, 2004) use of images, stories, and actions in the battle for control of the story. Visual narrative power analysis, a method developed by the activist group smartMeme, shows how dominant stories are shaped by money and influence, although challengers occasionally can and do break through. One such challenger began as a small group of mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and grandmothers who survived the Bhopal disaster.

**Casta, Raza and Gender: Mexico as portrayed in 20th Century Paper Dolls** by Frank Tierney

This paper examines selected twentieth-century paper dolls related to Mexico. It is based on the premise that paper dolls can be studied as cultural artifacts that reflect differences in the domestic and foreign perception of race in Mexico; point to a lingering colonial awareness of caste; and in some cases, push the edges of sexual identity. Domestic depictions of the Mexican people are rare; but in most paper dolls designed in Mexico and printed for the Mexican market, la raza mestiza is represented. These sets can be seen as an instructive commentary on the ethnic diversity of Mexico. Comparing these with 18th century casta paintings reveals some similarities.

**"Gender equality in the Seventh-day Adventist Church: A qualitative analysis prospectus from the perspective of North American women members"** by Roxie Graham-Marski

Women have been fighting for equality in religious institutions for many years. Some progress has been made, and yet, as in many other venues, women are not yet equally represented in positions of leadership and still find themselves fighting for equality in a variety of ways. I am interested in exploring how North American women of the Seventh-day Adventist faith regard the institutionalizing power of their denomination and of Christianity itself. Do they notice or acknowledge any subliminal gender price that must be paid in order to be a part of their denomination? If so, do they consider this price to be a heavy burden, or one that is easy to bear and almost nonexistent to them? Do they feel they are treated equally in the church setting and given the authority, autonomy, and choices for leadership roles that men are? Are these even items they wish to attain if they are not currently receiving them? This prospectus aims to listen to women’s voices and experiences in response to these questions.

**“The recreation of gender in post-war Britain: women’s earnings, breadwinning and gender identity”** by Dolly Wilson

In the early 1950s, one of the married women workers interviewed by British sociologist Ferdynand Zweig told him, as had many others, that a prime motivation for going out to work was that “I don't need to ask my husband's permission to spend a shilling as others do. I spend my own money in my own way.” The power that a single earner held in a household could be greatly changed by women's wages, something that both men and women were well aware of, and a major, if often unacknowledged, reason why married women's work was so controversial.