



CHARLES PHELPS

TAFT
RESEARCH
CENTER

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SYMPOSIUM

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UNIVERSITY OF
Cincinnati

**ASHLEY CURRIER**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER,
AND SEXUALITY STUDIES***The Politicization of Homosexuality in Malawi***

I trace the emergence and effects of political homophobia in Malawi. First, I argue that political homophobia is a strategy of statecraft. State leaders in Malawi have used political homophobia against foreign donors' insistence that the government adhere to aid conditionalities, against transnational activist coalitions requesting leaders to respect and honor LGBT rights, and against critics calling for reform. Second, I contend that political homophobia in Malawi ensnares not only gender and sexual minorities, but also different social movements, such as HIV/AIDS, human rights, LGBT, and women's movements. In this way, political homophobia divided social movements and fomented discord among activist organizations. I draw on 130 interviews with Malawian activists and LGBT people and hundreds of articles from Malawian newspapers in this project.

**INTERLOCUTOR / EBENEZER OBADARE**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

EBENEZER OBADARE (PhD, LSE) is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He is a civil society scholar with specific interest in informal strategies of resistance under changing contexts of rule. Author of numerous essays across a range of top journals, Dr. Obadare is editor of *The Handbook of Civil Society in Africa* (2014) and co-editor of *Civic Agency in Africa: Arts of Resistance in the 21st Century* (2014) and five other books. His monograph, *Humor, Silence and Civil Society in Nigeria*, will be released in 2016 by University of Rochester Press. Dr. Obadare's current research focuses on Pentecostal pastors, power, and politics in Africa. A recipient of numerous prestigious international awards and research grants, he sits on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Civil Society*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Review of African Political Economy*.

**RINA WILLIAMS**

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Excluded, Mobilized, Incorporated: Women and Religious Nationalist Politics in India, 1915-2015

The stunning victory of the religious nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in India's 2014 elections parallels the spread of religious nationalism globally. What is the role of women in and under such movements? To begin to answer this question, I compare the role of women in the BJP in three different time periods. I argue that the party *excluded* women in the early 1900s; *mobilized* them in the 1980s–90s; and has institutionally *incorporated* them into its structures and activities today. The BJP has attained growing political success in Indian democracy as it has learned how to bring women into the political sphere, but without altering its 'traditional' gender ideologies of women and men as equal but with different roles to play in society.

**INTERLOCUTOR / SUNITA PARIKH**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Sunita Parikh is Associate Professor of Political Science at Washington University in Saint Louis. She is the author of *The Politics of Preference* (1997), which examined the development of affirmative action in the United States and India. Her current projects include two book-length studies, one on the economic, political, and psychological factors that explain violent collective action in India and a second on the history of apex courts in India from the 18th through the 20th centuries.



JEFFREY TIMBERLAKE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

***Trends in the “Ecological Distance” of
Minority Suburbanization in U.S. Metropolitan
Areas, 1970 to 2010***

Much scholarship has suggested that recent minority group suburbanization in the United States has largely been confined to inner-ring suburbs. However, there has been little empirical investigation of this question, nor of the spatial and temporal patterning of minority suburbanization in general. In this study I code the ring of all suburban places and county subdivisions in all U.S. metropolitan areas. I then use multilevel modeling techniques to investigate patterns of white, black, Asian, and Latino suburbanization from 1970 to 2010. I examine inequality in the percentage of each group in the first ring of suburbs, the “first ring gap” (group shares in principal cities vs. first ring suburbs), and the extent to which each successive suburban ring has a lower share of each group.



INTERLOCUTOR / RACHEL DWYER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, DIRECTOR OF
GRADUATE STUDIES, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

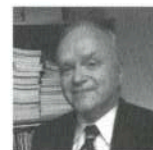
Rachel E. Dwyer has published widely on economic inequality in the United States, including studies of deepening disparities in urban areas. Her research on social inequality has appeared in top academic outlets including the *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Social Science Research*, *Gender & Society*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, and *Social Problems*. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, a grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development awarded to the Ohio State University Institute for Population Research, and the National Endowment for Financial Education.



VALERIE WEINSTEIN
DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN STUDIES

***Anti-Semitism and Film Comedy
in Nazi Germany***

This project analyzes implicit and explicit expressions of anti-Semitism in comedies made in Nazi Germany. In the Nazi period, seemingly apolitical film comedies actually helped audiences form racial and cultural distinctions. Nazi-era film humor teaches spectators how to police and marginalize those who do not conform to national ideals by defining national taste and identity and by disciplining characters through ridicule. More restrained than blatant propaganda, however, comedies performed the Third Reich’s political work by subtly influencing audience attitudes and preferences. Analyzing how seemingly innocuous aspects of movies such as pace and use of humor reflect and propagate the racism of a genocidal regime troubles notions of entertainment by deepening understanding of anti-Semitism and how it functions.



INTERLOCUTOR / ERIC RENTSCHLER
ARTHUR KINGSLEY PORTER PROFESSOR OF GERMANIC
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, CHAIR OF FILM AND
VISUAL STUDIES, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Eric Rentschler teaches at Harvard University where he is the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Chair of Film and Visual Studies. He is the director of the annual Berlin Film Program offered by the Harvard Summer School (in cooperation with the Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin), an editor of *New German Critique*, and co-director of the German Film Institute held every second summer at the University of Michigan. His most recent book is *The Use and Abuse of Cinema: German Legacies from the Weimar Era to the Present* (Columbia UP, 2015).

KEYNOTE LECTURE: POSTHUMAN FEMINISM



ROSI BRAIDOTTI
PHILOSOPHER AND DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR
HUMANITIES, UTRECHT UNIVERSITY

A pioneer in European Women's Studies, Rosi Braidotti is the founding professor of Gender Studies in the Humanities at Utrecht University and the first scientific director of the Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies. Professor Braidotti is an established scholar in the field of Continental philosophy and epistemology, feminist and gender theories and post-structuralist thought. Her work rests at the intersection of social and political theory, cultural politics, gender, feminist theory and ethnicity studies. The core of her interdisciplinary work consists of four interconnected monographs on the constitution of contemporary subjectivity, with special emphasis on the concept of difference within the history of European philosophy and political theory.

Posthuman Feminism

The posthuman/inhuman/non-human discursive field is in full expansion. The posthuman turn is triggered by the convergence of anti-humanism on the one hand and anti-anthropocentrism on the other. Both these strands enjoy strong support, but they refer to different genealogies and traditions. Anti-humanism focusses on the critique of the Humanist ideal of 'Man' as the universal representative of the human, while anti-anthropocentrism criticizes species hierarchy and advances ecological justice. The term 'posthuman feminist theory' marks the emergence of a new type of discourse that is not merely a culmination of these two strands of thought, but a qualitative leap in a new and more complex direction. This paper outlines the shifts of perspective that are taking place in the contemporary critical debates and how they differ from the explicit anti-humanism supported by post-structuralist theories since the 1980's. The paper argues that we are currently experiencing an array of different posthumanist feminist perspectives that are neither linear nor sequential.



ANDRÉS PÉREZ-SIMÓN
DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES &
LITERATURES

From Margin to Center: Conceptualizing Lorca's Theatrical Reform

International scholars have traditionally considered Federico García Lorca's rural trilogy (*Blood Wedding*, *Yerma*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*) as the ideal expression of his dramatic art. In my presentation I look at Lorca's relatively unknown puppet theater, as well as his 'impossible' plays (*The Public*, *The Dream of Life*), as the root of an utopic theatrical reform than his assassination brought to a halt in 1936. To explain Lorca's theatrical thought and praxis, I examine material and ideological aspects of his works. From the perspective of its materiality, I discuss the fragmentary nature of his drama, a result of his own writing technique as well as the consequence of multiple external factors affecting the transmission of his texts. The second aspect, inscribed in an ideological plane, is Lorca's awareness of his role as producer of commodities in a theatrical industry dominated by impresarios catering to bourgeois taste.



INTERLOCUTOR / MELISSA DINVERNO
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH LITERATURE
AND CULTURE, INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Melissa Dinverno is Associate Professor of Spanish Literature and Culture, Affiliated Faculty in the Institute for European Studies, and Allied Faculty in Gender Studies at Indiana University. Her research centers on Federico García Lorca, the historical avant-garde, cultural memory, editorial theory, and gender/sex identities in 20th-century Spain. She is currently working on two book projects. The first analyzes Lorca as a contemporary icon that has mediated cultural, political, social and economic processes in Spain. The second deconstructs some of the most prevalent myths in literary and cultural criticism on Lorca and his work, and creates new paths of inquiry into understanding Lorca and the literary field of the 20s and 30s.



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