

# **Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati**

## **Conferences and Lectures**

### **Competitive Lecture Grant Application**

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Each section (I-III) should be placed at the start of a new page. All required documents must be included in a single document, uploaded to the electronic submissions system, no later than 5PM on the published day of the deadline. Intradepartmental review is required for most programs and applicants should plan the timing of their submission accordingly. Taft does not accept an obligation to review applications that have not received intradepartmental review by the time the committee convenes.

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#### **I. General Information**

- a. Sponsoring Department(s): Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Sociology
- b. Individual sponsor: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Ashley Currier) is the coordinating sponsor/contact for Dr. Barton's proposed visit.
- c. Name of Lecturer: Dr. Bernadette Barton
- d. Institutional Affiliation: Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, Morehead State University
- e. If the lecturer is International Speaker, list visa type:
- f. Lecture Title: "The Toxic Closet: Being Gay in the Bible Belt"
- g. Date, Time, and Location of Lecture: Thursday, January 17, 2013, 2-3:30pm, 427 Engineering Research Center

## **II. Budget**

- a. Transportation: Dr. Barton will drive herself to the University of Cincinnati. It is 98 miles from where she lives in Kentucky. At \$0.555 per mile, her mileage costs come to \$54.39.
- b. Lodging: free; Dr. Barton will stay overnight with Ashley Currier.
- c. Honorarium: \$500
- d. Have you already applied (or will you in the future) for other grants for this travel, including departmental support?

Sociology and WGSS are cosponsoring Dr. Barton's visit; I have appended an email of support from Sociology to this application. At the time of this application, Sociology and WGSS have no funding to support Dr. Barton's visit. I have also submitted a request for cosponsorship support to the LGBTQ Center, but the Center has not yet confirmed whether they can support Dr. Barton's visit.

- e. Is this request for a departmental speaker? If yes, please indicate what remains of departmental lecture fund and what will be committed to this engagement?

This is a request for a speaker who will appeal to audiences in Sociology and WGSS and those interested in LGBT studies. WGSS has committed Taft Center-allocated funds for departmental lectures to other speakers (Dr. Ananya Roy and Dr. Orit Avishai).

- f. Total Amount Requested from the Competitive Lecture Fund: \$554.39

### III. Lecture Details

- a. Brief, general description of lecture content:

Dr. Barton will deliver a presentation based on her new book, *Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays*, which New York University Press released October 1, 2012.

- b. Lecture Rationale

In her lecture, “The Toxic Closet: Being Gay in the Bible Belt,” Barton explores how contemporary religious fundamentalism, hostility toward same-sex sexualities, and rural isolation complicate the lives of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) persons who live the U.S. South. Unlike some queer scholars who chafe at the notion that “the closet” is still a theoretically relevant concept, Barton demonstrates how social isolation and silence continue to be features of rural queer experiences in the U.S.

- c. Please outline the intended activities (i.e. conference lecture, public lecture, round-table discussion, etc) and audience (size, composition).

Dr. Barton will deliver a public lecture titled “The Toxic Closet: Being Gay in the Bible Belt,” a presentation that will draw faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students from Sociology and WGSS. I will also advertise Dr. Barton’s lecture with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati and LGBTQ Center at the University of Cincinnati. The presentation will likely attract 75-100 people.

- d. Short description of speaker:

Dr. Barton is Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies. She is the author of two books published by New York University Press: *Stripped: Inside the Lives of Exotic Dancers* (2006) and *Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays* (2012). Her work has also appeared in *Gender & Society*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Feminist Formations*, and the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

- e. Please supply a brief description of the proposed speaker’s work and reputation along with a short C.V.

For *Pray the Gay Away*, Barton interviewed dozens of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) persons in Kentucky and Texas from different racial and class backgrounds to theorize what she terms the “toxic closet,” a concatenation of religious, cultural,

and political forces that paralyze sexual minorities living in the rural South. Barton demonstrates how “the closet” continues to structure the lives of rural LGB Americans, an important contribution to the growing subfield of rural queer studies. *Pray the Gay Away* has received glowing reviews from Kirkus Reviews and Publishers Weekly. Barton is a dynamic speaker whose engaging presentations at other colleges and universities have drawn more than 200 people to them.

## **Bernadette Barton**

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

Professor of Sociology, Morehead State University	2012-
Associate Professor of Sociology, Morehead State University	2007-2012
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Morehead State University	2002-2007
Visiting Professor of Sociology, Morehead State University	2000-2002

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Sociology, 2000	University of Kentucky
M.A. Sociology, 1994	University of Kentucky
B.A. English, 1988	Oberlin College

### **BOOKS**

*Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays*, October 1, 2012. New York: NYU Press.

*Stripped: Inside the Lives of Exotic Dancers*, 2006. New York: NYU Press.

### **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

"My Auto/Ethnographic Dilemma – Who Owns the Story?" September 2011, *Qualitative Sociology*, 34:3: 431-445.

"1CROSS + 3NAILS = 4GVN: Compulsory Christianity and Homosexuality in the Bible Belt Panopticon," April 2011, *Feminist Formations*, 23:1: 70-93.

"Spirituality and Stripping: Exotic Dancers Narrate the Body Ekstasis," with Constance L. Hardesty, Spring 2010, *Symbolic Interaction*, 33:2:280-296.

"'Abomination' – Life as a Bible Belt Gay," April 2010, *Journal of Homosexuality*, 57:4: 465-484.

"Managing the Toll of the Sex Industry: Boundary Setting Among Exotic Dancers," October 2007, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 36:5:571-596.

"Dancing on the Mobius Strip: Challenging the Sex War Paradigm," October 2002, *Gender & Society*, 16: 5: 585-602.

"Queer Desire in the Sex Industry," Fall 2001, *Sexuality & Culture*, 5:4:3-27

### **FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

"Bible Belt Gays: Insiders Without," forthcoming Fall 2013, *Chautauqua Journal*.

"Freedom from Sexism vs. Sexual Freedom: a Short History of the Feminist Sex Wars," book chapter in *Breaking the Surface: A Transnational, Historical Reader in Feminist Thought*, under contract with University of California Press.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Young and Gay in the Bible Belt: ‘My Mom Came at Me with a Butcher Knife!’” *AlterNet*, [http://www.alternet.org/sex/136610/young\\_and\\_gay\\_in\\_the\\_bible\\_belt%3A\\_%27my\\_mom\\_came\\_at\\_me\\_with\\_a\\_butcher\\_knife!%27/](http://www.alternet.org/sex/136610/young_and_gay_in_the_bible_belt%3A_%27my_mom_came_at_me_with_a_butcher_knife!%27/)

“Naked Truth: Reality and Fantasy are (Stripper) Poles Apart,” July/August 2008, *On the Issues Magazine*, [http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/july08/july2008\\_9.php](http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/july08/july2008_9.php).

“Successfully Stripped: Stripped of Self-Worth,” June 2007, *NW Women’s Journal*.

“Outrage over article about strippers misdirected” opinion editorial published in the Lexington Herald-Leader, May 22, 2006.

“The House on Transcript Avenue,” *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 2004, 8:3-4:129-134.

“Regulations will strip dancers of a right to a decent income,” opinion editorial published in the Lexington Herald-Leader April 13, 1999.

## REVIEWS

Book Review of *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*, by Rhacel Salazar-Parrenas, *American Journal of Sociology*, forthcoming September 2012, Vol. 118, No. 2.

Book review of *Dirty Dancing? An Ethnography of Lap-Dancing*, by Rachela Colosi, forthcoming June 2012, *Cultural Sociology* 6:3.

Book review of *Finding Faith: the Spiritual Quest of the Post-Boomer Generation*, by Richard Flory and Donald E. Miller, *International Review of Modern Sociology*, Vol. 35, No. 1, (Spring) 2009, pp. 154-6.

“Male Fantasies of Lesbian Desire: A Review of Spike Lee’s film *She Hate Me*,” *Sexuality & Culture*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer 2005, pp. 77-80.

## TEACHING PUBLICATIONS

“Mom’s Unpaid Labor.” 2006. American Sociological Association’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of *The Sociology of Gender and Work: Syllabi and Teaching Materials*.

"The Barbie Doll Assignment." 2005. Co-developed by Patricia Jennings and Bernadette Barton. *Teaching Sociological Concepts and the Sociology of Gender*, 2nd edition. Marybeth C. Stalp and Julie Childers, editors. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association Teaching Resources Center.

Dear Professor Currier,

The Sociology Department wholeheartedly supports your project to bring Bernadette Barton and Orit Avishai to campus to talk about their recent work. In particular, Professor Avishai's health-related research dovetails with that of some of our faculty members; Professor Barton's research will be of general interest to sociologists of gender. The department is not able, at this time, to commit funds to your project; but we would be willing to revisit that question later in the semester, once departmental budgets have been set by the college.

Best,

Steve

Professor Steve Carlton-Ford  
Department Head, Sociology  
University of Cincinnati  
&  
President, North Central Sociological Association  
Council Member, ASA's Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section

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**From:** Currier, Ashley (currieay)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 03, 2012 11:10  
**To:** Carlton-ford, Steven (carltosl); Bessett, Danielle (bessetde)  
**Subject:** Cosponsoring Spring 2013 visits of two sociologists?

Dear Professors Carlton-Ford and Bessett,

I am writing to see if Sociology is interested in cosponsoring the visits of two sociologists in spring 2013. I am the speaker coordinator for WGSS, which usually sponsors guest speakers on Thursdays.

1. Dr. Bernadette Barton (<http://www.bernadettebarton.com>) is Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Morehead State University. Her research intersects with Sociology's strengths in family, gender, and health. family, gender, sexuality, and religion in the U.S. Her second book, *Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays*, was released this week by New York University Press. I would like to bring Dr. Barton to campus on Thursday, January 17, 2013. I know that Sociology sponsors colloquia on Thursdays from 12:30-2pm. In the attached draft itinerary for Dr. Barton's visit, I listed her public lecture as beginning at 2pm; I hope that this time slot will enable interested Sociology faculty and students to attend her lecture. I have approached the LGBTQ Center about cosponsoring Dr. Barton's visit, and I expect to have a response within the next week.
2. Dr. Orit Avishai ([http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs\\_at\\_fordham\\_/sociology\\_anthropol/faculty/avishai\\_30825.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs_at_fordham_/sociology_anthropol/faculty/avishai_30825.asp)) is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Fordham University. Her research focuses on gender and sexuality in Israeli Jewish Orthodox communities, including menstruation and breastfeeding practices. Her research dovetails with Sociology's strengths in family, gender, and health. Her research has been published by *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, and *Qualitative Sociology*. I'd like to bring Dr. Avishai to campus on Thursday, March 7, 2013. Judaic Studies has expressed interest in cosponsoring Dr. Avishai's visit and asked that her talk be scheduled for later in the day (late afternoon/early evening) to accommodate the schedules of Jewish community partners. This time slot shouldn't conflict with Sociology's midday colloquia on Thursdays.

I have attached draft itineraries and CVs for each scholar to this email. Please note that each itinerary includes

an estimate for the costs of each scholar's campus visit. Since I am new to UC, I'm still learning about what the university customarily offers visiting speakers (e.g., full professors) in terms of an honorarium.

I am going to apply for Taft Center funding for each sociologist's visit. If Sociology would like to cosponsor both scholars' visits, could one of you email me a message declaring Sociology's support for each speaker's visit? If Sociology would like to contribute funds to support these visits, could one of you please indicate this in an email message of support? I would like to include such a declaration of support in an application for Taft Center funding. (At the moment, I am unsure how much funding will be left over from WGSS's Taft Center speaker allocation, but I would like to use any remaining funds to offset the costs of bringing both sociologists to campus.)

I apologize for sending such a long email, but I wanted to provide you with all of the information I currently have.

Sincerely,

Ashley Currier, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Website: [http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/womens\\_studies/fac\\_staff/profile\\_details.aspx?ePID=MzAzMDMy](http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/womens_studies/fac_staff/profile_details.aspx?ePID=MzAzMDMy)