

# FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

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<http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc>

Talks are Mondays at 3:30pm and Thursdays at 5:00pm at the FCWSRC, Mount Holyoke College, 83 College Street, South Hadley

## *Five College Faculty Talks*

Monday, February 22 at 3:30pm

### **Producing Citizens: Women, Parenthood, and the Democratic Public Sphere**

Elizabeth Markovits

Mount Holyoke College (Politics)

Political institutions and the policies they produce not only govern citizen action, but cultivate and condition citizen desires. Unfortunately, the means by which they do so, and the direction in which such desires are formed, often do not work to sustain democracy. Making change on the level of public institutions is a way to alter the context in which desires are formed and pursued, a way to make and sustain social change. Markovits examines this dynamic in terms of contemporary understandings of motherhood and its relationship to work by complicating the language of "choice" so prevalent in these discussions.

Thursday, March 4 at 5:00pm

### **The Politics of Islamic Law**

Iza Hussin

UMass Amherst (Legal Studies)

This talk draws from a book manuscript currently under revision, on the transformation of Islam and Islamic law in British colonial India, Malaya and Egypt. This transformation effected a paradox - Islamic law was marginalized during the colonial period, and at the same time Islam and Islamic law became central components of the power of both state and social actors. The politics of Islamic law have been intertwined with the making of the modern Muslim state: its individuals and its governance, its public and private, its authority and its legitimacy, its religiosity and its secularity.

Thursday, March 25 at 5:00pm

### **A Colored "Ranter" Abroad: The Religious Travels of Zilpha Elaw (1793-1873)**

Elizabeth Pryor

Smith College (History)

Zilpha Elaw, an African American itinerant called to the ministry in her twenties, preached tirelessly throughout the antebellum North and Upper South and eventually ended up "ranting" with the Primitive Methodists in England in 1840. Six years later, she published a narrative of her life that has emerged as one of the most seminal documents of African American women's travel and Christianity of the nineteenth century. This talk contributes both to an understanding of Elaw's young womanhood in the United States and also of African American women's mobility in the nineteenth century.

Monday, February 8 at 3:30pm

### **Before 'the Personal is Political': Katie DeRorre, An Immigrant Transnational at Home in the Twentieth Century**

Caroline Merithew

University of Dayton (History)

Thursday, February 11 at 5:00pm

### **Producing Eco-Normativity: Gendered Discourse in Environmental Science and Politics**

Giovanna Di Chiro

Pioneer Valley Environmental Justice Coalition

Thursday, February 18 at 5:00pm

### **Gender and Generation: Asking Questions in the Fields of Converging Technological Complexities**

Jacquelyne Luce

Zeppelin University (Cultural Studies)

Monday, March 8 at 3:30pm

### **Faces of Women's Leadership for Social Justice**

Marla Solomon

School for International Training (Education)

Thursday, March 11 at 5:00pm

### **Women Chiefs of Sierra Leone: A Reinterpretation of African Women's Leadership**

Lynda Day

Brooklyn College (Africana Studies)

Friday, March 26 at 1:00pm

### **Media Discourse on Kidnapping in the Niger-Delta Region of Nigeria\***

Ijeoma Odoh

Federal University of Technology Owerri (General Studies)

*\*pre-circulated paper discussion; contact [fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu) for a copy*

Monday, April 5 at 3:30pm

### **In the Crystal Castle: Images and Metaphors in the Writing of St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)**

Elizabeth Presa

University of Melbourne (Art & Art History)

Friday, April 16 at 1:00pm

### **Susan Sontag and The Public Woman of Letters\***

Mena Mitrano

Sapienza University of Rome (English)

*\*pre-circulated paper discussion; contact [fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu) for a copy*

Monday, February 1, 2010

7:00pm

Amherst Cinema

### **BENEFIT FOR HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS**

*A screening of the film*

### **Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy**

A 2009 documentary which gives platform to five poor Haitian women working in clothing factories whose voices would otherwise not be heard. The film is an incisive critique of the effects of globalization and neo-liberal economic policies from the perspective of those it affects most immediately. All proceeds from ticket sales will be sent to Partners in Health ([www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti](http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti)), to help with immediate medical needs, and Fonkoze ([www.fonkoze.org](http://www.fonkoze.org)), to help Haitian women rebuild Haiti through micro-financing. Discussion to follow with co-director Renee Bergan.

All talks free and open to the public. No pre-registration required.

For full descriptions of our events, news of other FCWSRC spring activities, and a listing of other Five College area events on women and gender see [www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc](http://www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/fcwsrc)

Please join us!