

Feminist Foundations, Feminist Futures: Celebrating *Signs* at 50 Speakers

Northeastern University Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
Tenth Annual Women's History Month Symposium

Panelists



Marcie Bianco, PhD, is a writer, editor, lecturer, and cultural critic. Her first book, *Breaking Free: The Lie of Equality and the Feminist Fight for Freedom*, was published on September 5, 2023, by Public Affairs. She is currently working on a novel about female academic affairs. Her feminist and cultural criticism has been published widely, from mainstream outlets like *Vanity Fair* and CNN to independent, feminist, and LGBTQ+ outlets like DAME and

The Advocate. As an editor at Stanford Social Innovation Review (SSIR), she coedits and coproduces the quarterly print magazine, working with journalists around the world who report on cross-sector and philanthropic ventures. She also leads the team's belonging, dignity, justice, and joy (BDJJ) efforts. Formerly, Marcie served as the editorial & communications manager at the Clayman Institute at Stanford University, where she oversaw all editorial and communications work pertaining to the translation and dissemination of the institute's gender research. She also managed the institute's Gender News Feminist Writing Fellowship program, which aimed to train students how to become feminist journalists. Marcie has an MS in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford (Hertford College); and an MA and a PhD in English Literature from Rutgers University, with a PhD certification in Women's Studies. Her academic publications in journals and book collections run the gamut, from Christopher Marlowe to Gertrude Stein, to pop cultural criticism. She has taught literature, composition, Women's and Gender Studies, and social justice courses at a number of higher education institutions, including Rutgers University, Fordham University, John Jay College, and Hunter College.



Lorna Bracewell is a political theorist and associate professor of political science at Flagler College. Her scholarship focuses on feminist theory and the history of political thought and has been published in academic journals like *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* and popular forums like *The Washington Post*. Her book, *Why We Lost the Sex Wars: Sexual Freedom in the #MeToo Era* (University of Minnesota Press, March 2021), offers a

revisionist history of the feminist sexuality debates of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s foregrounding the influence of liberal concepts such as freedom of expression, the public/private divide, and the harm principle. Dr. Bracewell is a proud recipient of the Okin-Young Award for Feminist Political Theory awarded by the Foundations of Political Theory section, the Women's Caucus, and the Women and Politics Research section of the American Political Science Association (Fall 2017).



Mary Anne Case, Arnold I. Shure Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School, is a graduate of Yale College and the Harvard Law School, Mary Anne Case studied at the University of Munich; litigated for Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; and was a professor of law and Class of 1966 Research Professor at the University of Virginia before joining the University of Chicago Law School faculty. She also served as a visiting professor at New York University in 1996, 1997, and 1999; a Bosch Public Policy Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin in 2004;

a Crane Fellow in Law and Public Affairs at Princeton University from 2006-2007; a Samuel Rubin Visiting Professor at Columbia Law School in 2013; a Fernand Braudel Fellow at the European University Institute in 2016; and a Guest Professor at Goethe University Frankfurt in 2018. Subjects Case has taught include feminist jurisprudence, constitutional law, regulation of sexuality, marriage, family law, sex discrimination, religious freedom, and European legal systems. She is the convener of the Workshop on Regulating Family, Sex, and Gender and a board member of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. While diverse research interests include German contract law, theological anthropology, and the First Amendment, her scholarship to date has concentrated on the regulation of sex, gender, sexuality, religion, and family; and the early history of feminism.



Soraya Chemaly is a prolific writer and cultural critic, nationally recognized as a feminist thinker, speaker, and activist. She is dedicated to bringing intersectional feminist thought, theory, and activism into the popular mainstream. Soraya is the author of *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger*, recognized as the Best Book of 2018 by the *Washington Post*, *Fast Company*, *Psychology Today*, and *NPR*.

Additionally, she is a contributor to several anthologies, including, most recently, *Free Speech in the Digital Age* and *Believe Me: How Trusting Women Can Change The World*. Her freelance writing is published in a wide variety of national and international media, including *TIME*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Verge*. She has appeared as an expert commentator for NPR's *Talk of the Nation*, *On Point*, the PBS *NewsHour*, as well as the BBC, CBC, *Democracy Now*, *Voice of America*, *Al Jazeera*, and *MSNBC*. The former Executive Director of The Representation Project and Director and co-founder of the Women's Media Center Speech Project, she has long been committed to expanding women's civic and political participation. Her work has been recognized by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press's Women, and the Newhouse School for Public Communication. She was recently awarded a Wikipedia Distinguished Service Award for exemplary contributions to the advancement of public knowledge and educational content. Soraya currently serves on the national board of the Women's Media Center.



Breanne Fahs is a Professor of Women and Gender Studies at Arizona State University, where she specializes in studying women's sexuality, critical embodiment studies, feminist histories, and political activism. She has a B.A. in women's studies/gender studies and psychology from Occidental College and a Ph.D. in women's

studies and clinical psychology from the University of Michigan. She has published widely in feminist, social science, and humanities journals and has authored six books: *Performing Sex* (SUNY Press, 2011), *Valerie Solanas* (Feminist Press, 2014), *Out for Blood* (SUNY Press, 2016), *Firebrand Feminism* (University of Washington Press, 2018), *Women, Sex,*

and *Madness: Notes from the Edge* (Routledge, 2019), and *Unshaved* (University of Washington Press, 2022). She has also edited or co-edited four books: *The Moral Panics of Sexuality* (Palgrave, 2013), *Transforming Contagion* (Rutgers University Press, 2018), *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies*, and *Burn it Down! Feminist Manifestos for the Revolution* (Verso, 2020). She is currently at work on her newest book, *Fat and Furious*, about the necessity of rage as transformational to the emotional, structural, and political dimensions of fatness. She is the founder and director of the Feminist Research on Gender and Sexuality Group at Arizona State University, and she also works as a clinical psychologist in private practice.



Beverly Guy-Sheftall is the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Comparative Women's Studies and the Founder and Director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College, the oldest historically Black college or university for women in the United States which was founded in 1981. She served as President of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) and is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. Guy-Sheftall has published numerous texts in the fields of African American and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, including the first anthology on Black women's literature, *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature*, and several anthologies, including *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African American Feminist Thought*. She also co-authored with Johnnetta Betsch Cole, *Gender Talk, The Struggle For Women's Equality In African American Communities*. Third World Press will release a collection of her essays in 2023 entitled *Black, Feminist, Free*.



Sophie Lewis is a writer and freelance independent scholar living in Philadelphia. She is currently at work on a book manuscript entitled *Enemy Feminisms*, forthcoming with Haymarket in February 2025. Her first two books, both published by Verso Books, are *Full Surrogacy Now: Feminism Against Family* (2019) and *Abolish the Family: A Manifesto for Care and Liberation* (2022). Sophie's essays and articles

appear in academic journals like *Feminist Theory* as well as newspapers like the *New York Times* and literary magazines like *n+1*, *Harper's*, and the *London Review of Books*. Sophie has a PhD in Geography from Manchester University, as well as an MA in Politics from the New School, and a BA in English literature from Oxford University, which was followed by an MSc in Environmental Policy (also at Oxford). Dr. Lewis teaches short courses on social and critical theory at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, open to all and online. She also has an unpaid visiting affiliation with the Center for Research on Feminist, Queer, and Transgender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. You can find her lectures and writings at lasophielle.org and become a subscriber at patreon.com/reproutopia.



Treva B. Lindsey, PhD, is an award-winning Black feminist historian and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. She is the recipient of several prestigious fellowships including the ACLS/Mellon Scholars and Society Fellowship, The Equity for Women and Girls of Color Fellowship at Harvard University, and The Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship. Lindsey is the founder of the Transformative Black Feminisms Initiative at Ohio State and the co-founder of Black Feminist Night School at Zora's House in Columbus, Ohio. Her latest book entitled *America, Goddam: Violence, Black Women, and The Struggle for Justice* (April 2022) explores contemporary violence against Black women and girls and how they mobilize to halt violence against them. *Kirkus Books* awarded her a Starred Review and called *America, Goddam*, "required reading for all Americans." Her first book, *Colored No More: Reinventing Black Womanhood in Washington D.C.*, was honored as a Choice Outstanding Academic title of 2017. She has written for outlets such as *Time*, *The Washington Post*, *CNN*, *Bustle*, *Ms. Magazine*, *Al Jazeera*, *BET*, *Complex*, *NBC*, *Vox*, *The Root*, *Huffington Post*, *Popsugar*, *Teen Vogue*, *Grazia UK*, *The Grio*, *Zora*, *Women's Media Center*, and *Cosmopolitan*. Lindsey has also been a featured commentator on NPR, MSNBC, Netflix, BBC, BET, BNC, and PBS.



Chandra Talpade Mohanty is a Distinguished Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University. She is a postcolonial and transnational feminist theorist. She is the author of *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* (Duke University Press, 2003) and co-editor of *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (Indiana University Press, 1991), *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures* (Routledge, 1997), *Feminism and War: Confronting U.S. Imperialism* (Zed Press, 2008), and *The Sage Handbook on Identities* (co-edited with Margaret Wetherell 2010).

Her scholarship and teaching focus on the politics of difference and solidarity; the relation of feminist knowledge and scholarship to organizing and social movements, mobilizing a transnational feminist anti-capitalist critique; decolonizing knowledge, and theorizing agency, identity, and resistance in the context of feminist transborder solidarity. Her current work examines the politics of neoliberalism in the academy and in social movements and focuses on the development of a feminist video archive that curates intergenerational kitchen table conversations with feminist scholar-activists from around the world.



Sherie M. Randolph is an associate professor of history at the Georgia Institute of Technology and the co-director and founder of the *Black Feminist Think Tank*. She was an associate professor of history and African American Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is the former Associate Director of the Women's Research &

Resource Center at Spelman College. Randolph's book *Florynce "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical* examines the connections between the Black Power, civil rights, New Left, and feminist movements. She has received several grants and fellowships for her work, most recently being awarded fellowships from the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute and Brown University's Howard Foundation. She is researching and writing her second book *"Bad" Black Mothers: A History of Transgression*. Randolph teaches courses on social movements, black feminist theory, gender, race and incarceration, Black Power, African American history, and women's history.



Salamishah Tillet is Henry Rutgers Professor of African American Studies & Creative Writing and the executive director of Express Newark, a center for socially engaged art and design, at Rutgers University-Newark. A scholar, writer, and activist, Salamishah Tillet was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2022 for her work as a contributing critic at large for The New York Times where she has been writing since 2015.

She is the author of *In Search of the Color Purple: The Story of an American Masterpiece* (Abrams, 2021), and *Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination* (Duke University Press, 2012). She was awarded the 2020 Whiting Foundation Creative Nonfiction fellowship for her cultural memoir, *All The Rage: Mississippi Goddam and The World Nina Simone Made*. In May, she was named a 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellow by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for her next project, *In Lieu of the Law: 'Me Too' and The Politics of Justice*, a cultural history of the world's largest social media movement. With her sister, Scheherazade Tillet, she founded *A Long Walk Home*, an arts organization that empowers young people to end violence against girls and women.



Jane Ward is a professor of Feminist Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. She teaches and writes about gender and sexual cultures, and has published on topics including the marriage self-help industry, the rise and fall of pickup artists, how early lesbian feminist ideas shaped contemporary gender politics, the meaning of sex between straight-identified men, queer childhood, and parenting, the evolution of straight culture, the corporatization of gay pride festivals, the race politics of same-sex marriage, the social construction of whiteness,

feminist pornography, and trans relationships. Ward is the author of multiple books, including *The Tragedy of Heterosexuality*. Her book *Not Gay: Sex Between Straight White Men* (2015) was featured in *Newsweek*, *New York Magazine*, *Forbes*, *The Guardian*, *BBC*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Huffington Post*, *Salon*, *Vice*, and *Slate*. Her first book, *Respectably Queer: Diversity Culture in LGBT Activist Organizations*, was named by *The Progressive* magazine as the best book of 2008 and has been featured on NPR.



Andi Zeisler is a writer, editor, and the co-founder and former Editorial Director of *Bitch Media*. She's the author of the books *Feminism and Pop Culture*, and *We Were Feminists Once: From Riot Grrrl to CoverGirl, the Buying and Selling of a Political Movement*, and has contributed to a variety of anthologies and journals. Her writing on feminism, activism, and popular culture has appeared in and has contributed to a variety of anthologies and journals. Her writing on feminism, activism, and popular culture has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, NBC Think, *Time*, *Salon*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and more. She lives in Portland, Oregon. She is the co-editor of *BitchFest: 10 Years of Cultural Criticism from the Pages of Bitch Magazine*.

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Moderators



Carla Kaplan, the Chair of the Board of Associate Editors of *Signs*, is Davis Distinguished Professor of American Literature in English and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Northeastern University. She is the Founding Director of Northeastern University's Humanities Center and served as co-chair of the board of directors for the Graduate Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality. Her research interests include literature, African American studies, biography, and women's and gender

studies. She is the author of *Miss Anne in Harlem The White Women of the Harlem Renaissance*. She is also the author of *Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters* and *The Erotics of Talk: Women's Writing and Feminist Paradigms*. She is the editor of the Norton Critical Edition of *Nella Larsen's Passing*; Zora Neale Hurston's lost book of folklore, *Every Tongue Got to Confess: Negro Folk-Tales From the Gulf States*; and *Dark Symphony* by Elizabeth Laura Adams.



Durba Mitra is Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Carol K. Pforzheimer Assistant Professor at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University. Mitra works at the intersection of feminist and queer studies. Her research and teaching focus on the history of sexuality, the history of science and medicine, and women and gender in the colonial and postcolonial world. In her current book project, Mitra examines the

central place of sexuality in the development of the social sciences in India and across the colonial world. Mitra's research has appeared in *Economic and Political Weekly*, *History and Technology*, and *Feminist Studies*, and has been supported by fellowships at the Penn Humanities Forum at the University of Pennsylvania, Bowdoin College, and as a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar to India.



Suzanna Danuta Walters is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Northeastern University where she also serves as Editor of the feminist journal *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Dr. Walters' work centers on questions of gender, feminist theory and politics, sexuality, and popular culture and she is a frequent commentator on these issues for the media. Her most recent book, *The Tolerance Trap: How God,*

Genes, and Good Intentions are Sabotaging Gay Equality (NYU Press, 2014), explores how notions of tolerance limit the possibilities for real liberation and deep social belonging.

Walters' previous book, *All the Rage: The Story of Gay Visibility in America* (University of Chicago Press, 2001), examined the explosion of gay visibility in culture and politics over the past 15 years and raised pressing questions concerning the politics of visibility around sexual identity. Walters also contributes regularly to more public venues and has written for *The Washington Post*, *The Nation*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *the LA Times*, and *the Baltimore Sun*, among others.



Susan Ware is the author and editor of numerous books on twentieth-century U.S. history. Educated at Wellesley College and Harvard University, she has taught at New York University and Harvard, where she served as editor of the biographical dictionary *Notable American Women: Completing the Twentieth Century* (2004). From 2012-2022 she served as the general editor of the American National Biography. Her newest book

Why They Marched, is a history of the women's suffrage movement told through nineteen biographical portraits that resonate powerfully today as a new generation of young women demands to be heard.