Research Workshop
Saved by Rock and Roll: Early Girl Rockers in U.S. Teen Media
September 25, 2015
12:00pm—1:00pm
339 O’Shaughnessy

Presenter: Mary Celeste Kearney
Associate Professor in the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre
Director of the Gender Studies Program

This presentation examines the role of U.S. film and television in assimilating girls to rock culture during its first decade (1956-1966). Of particular interest are fictional texts that helped make rock culture accessible and pleasurable for female youth at a time when many parents found it objectionable, most male rock critics were keen on defeminizing it, and more girls were seeking lifestyles different from their mothers’. As such, this research contributes to the small body of historical scholarship on the intersections of girlhood, popular music, and visual media, while also challenging conventional histories of rock music.

Mary Celeste Kearney is Director of Gender Studies and Associate Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre at the University of Notre Dame. Her research focuses primarily on gender, youth, and media culture. She is author of Girls Make Media (Routledge, 2006), as well as editor of The Gender and Media Reader (Routledge, 2011) and Mediated Girlhoods: New Explorations of Girls’ Media Culture (Peter Lang, 2011). She is currently at work on her second monograph, Making Their Debut: Teenage Girls and the Teen-Girl Entertainment Market, 1938-1966.

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