“On the Borders of Sex and Power: Making Mexican America”

a talk by

Pablo Mitchell
Associate Professor of History and Comparative American Studies
Oberlin College

Thursday, April 12
4:30pm—Light Refreshments
5pm—Talk
210-214 McKenna Hall

The early twentieth century was a period of both heightened Mexican immigration to the United States and increasing attacks on ethnic Mexican communities across the nation. Calls for immigration restriction amplified racial differences and fueled arguments against Mexican fitness for American citizenship. Mexican communities, of course, were hardly passive in the face of such attacks, turning to a range of strategies to proclaim their rights and membership in the nation.

In the American Southwest, courtrooms often served as especially illuminating sites in such struggles over Mexican inclusion and exclusion. This talk focuses on the involvement of Mexicans in sex crimes, and draws from nearly one thousand cases appealed to higher courts by Spanish-surnamed defendants between 1900 and 1930 in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

In legal settings where discussions of sexual norms and aberrance were prominent, such as trials for crimes like rape, prostitution, seduction, and sodomy, Anglo trial participants frequently portrayed Mexicans as different from, and inferior to, Anglos. Mexican trial participants, on the other hand, often actively opposed such characterizations. On the witness stand and in court documents, in the presence of powerful and often hostile Anglo court officials (judges, lawyers, jury members, police officers), Mexican men and women asserted themselves as respectable, hard-working, sexually-normal members of good families and communities. At the core of the talk, therefore, is this critical tension in talk of sex in the West: sexual discourses could function both to maintain and to challenge Mexican social inequality.

Research Workshop—Spring 2012

In order to advance the program’s commitment to inter-disciplinary research and inquiry into the subject of gender, the Gender Studies Program is pleased to announce an upcoming series of research workshops. The events will include presentations by advanced undergraduates majoring in Gender Studies as well as graduate students and faculty members from a variety of departments who work in the area of gender and sexuality. The workshop will begin with the week’s presenter giving a brief lecture on his or her current research in the field, followed by a seminar-style discussion.

Friday, April 13 – Noon in 339 O’Shaughnessy

Keelin Burke, PhD student History
Contesting the Gendered State: Rosamond Jacob, Feminism, and the Politics of the Irish Free State
KBurke Poster

For additional information, go to: Gender Studies Research Workshops
Undergraduate Library Research Award – Deadline April 13

Hesburgh Libraries and The Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement are pleased to announce the 2012 Undergraduate Library Research Award, which aims to promote intellectual discovery and advancement of lifelong learning. The purpose of this award is to recognize undergraduates who demonstrate excellent research skills and who incorporate library resources, collections and services into their scholarly and creative projects.

For more information, visit the ULRA page here: http://guides.library.nd.edu/subject-guide/77-2012-Undergraduate-Library-Research-Award.

Deadline: Friday, April 13, 2012

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Margaret Porter porter.2@nd.edu

"'Nakedness is not censurable or indecent here': Undress, Dress, and (Re)Dressing in the Early Modern Atlantic World"

Public Lecture by Robert S. DuPlessis
Isaac H. Clothier Professor of History
Swarthmore College

Monday April 16, 2012
4:30pm
112-114 McKenna Hall
Reception to follow

In the Atlantic world between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, clothing was as fundamental to personal and group presentation as it is today. Yet even in social settings, not everyone wore apparel: individuals of each gender, various age groups, and diverse statuses regularly went naked in public or were perceived and defined as doing so. What did public nakedness mean to the many peoples who lived in the Atlantic basin? Why did some engage in this practice? What became of social undress? This lecture offers answers to these and related questions and reveals the variety of expectations and attitudes about proper presentation of the human body, unclothed and clothed, that were found in the dynamic early modern era.

Sponsored by the Department of American Studies and co-sponsored by the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the Department of History, the Department of Africana Studies and Native American Initiatives.

University of Chicago: Conferences

Emily Lynn Osborn, Assistant Professor, History, University of Chicago “Our New Husbands are Here: Households, Gender and Politics in a West African State from the Slave Trade to Colonial Rule”
Tuesday, 17 April at 6:00pm in Wilder House

Conference: “Sexuality and Colonial Black Atlantic Cities”
19-20 April 2012
More info at: http://college.holycross.edu/conferences/gendercities/
Progressive Student Alliance – First Annual “Profiles on Standing Against Hate” Event

Progressive Student Alliance will be hosting an event on **Monday, April 23rd, at 7:30pm** in the Andrews Auditorium.

The event will be the first annual: "Profiles on Standing Against Hate" and will be discussing St. Mary's College Straight and Gay Alliance.

The event will feature the 2005-2006 president of St. Mary's College Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA), the current president of SAGA, and a theologian discussing the place of gay-straight alliance student groups on faith-based campuses. The student presenters will be discussing their roles as presidents and the effect that they have seen on campus at St. Mary's because of SAGA.

Genevieve D. Willis Senior Research Grants – **Deadline April 20**

The Genevieve D. Willis Endowment for Excellence has been established to promote excellence in undergraduate research in Gender Studies at Notre Dame through the following initiatives:

* Undergraduate Writing Prizes in Gender Studies
* Summer Research Grants for Senior Theses/Essays in Gender Studies

Application Process for the Genevieve D. Willis Senior Research Grant:

1) Junior majors in Gender Studies have priority in the application process for these grants. Junior minors, sophomore majors, or sophomore minors who plan to undertake research for their senior theses/essays in either Gender Studies or their primary major over the course of the next two summers may also apply for these grants; the research must have an explicitly gendered-component. All junior and sophomore majors and minors are notified by email of this opportunity in the Spring semester. Interested students should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and their chosen faculty advisors about their grant applications.

2) Junior majors and minors in Gender Studies who are interested in applying for these grants or have received one in the previous year may elect to enroll in the Gender Studies Senior Capstone Essay course for the Fall semester, after consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and their senior essay advisor.

3) **To apply, submit the following application materials to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the third Friday in April (April 20):**

   i. 2-page prospectus (summary) of the research project, including a statement of the topic, hypothesis, method, projected conclusions, and rationale for the receipt of a summer research grant to advance the project.

   ii. 1-page budget (up to $1000) for archival or field research and/or books and materials for the summer portion of the research project. The amount of funding awarded will be determined by the number and quality of applications received.

   iii. A completed copy of the [Grant Application](#) (pdf).

4) A major or minor who wins a grant will be awarded the funds by the last day of the Spring semester.
5) The major or minor conducts research over the summer months, and then submits to the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the senior essay advisor a 5-page summary of the results of the research by September 1st.

All documentation (Application, Prospectus, Budget Sheet and 5-page Summary) should be submitted electronically to gender@nd.edu.

**Call for Papers: Gender and Translation**

Call for papers: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Translation: Literary, Historical, and Cultural Approaches
Guest Editor: William J. Spurlin (Brunel University, London)
Special issue of Comparative Literature Studies (Penn State)

This special issue will explore the gender and sexual politics of translation in literary and cultural texts across multiple languages and historical periods. Overall, the issue will ask some of the following questions: How do we work with translating terms for naming dissident genders and sexualities in comparing texts and cultures of the past which may not be translatable to modern understandings of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer identity? How might we work with the specificity of ‘queer,’ which has its origins in western Anglophonic cultures, when translating texts from non-Anglophonic and non-western contexts? What new translation issues arise when we recognize that in some postcolonial cultures, for example, terms for same-sex sexual identities may not be inscribed discursively in indigenous languages, but may name instead gender-defined performances of same-sex desires for which equivalent terms may not exist in modern European languages? At the same time, the essays collected in the proposed special issue will not only be concerned with gender and sexuality alone as axes of investigation in translations studies, but will ask how translation theory may be broadened through the pressures of queer theoretical orientations, while asking the extent to which translation operates as a queer praxis.

Send abstracts or complete papers to William.Spurlin@brunel.ac.uk by 01 February 2013. Contributions should conform to the journal’s style guide. **Submissions deadline: February 1, 2013.** Issue to appear in March 2014.

For more information, please contact William Spurlin at William.Spurlin@brunel.ac.uk

**Stop by the Gender Studies office and Get Bent!**

**T-Shirts available – $5 each**

**Join our group on Facebook:** GeNDer Studies Program at University of Notre Dame!

Did you know that the Gender Studies Program has a Facebook page? Find us and friend us! Use the site to make announcements about upcoming courses, visits by gender-relevant lecturers, or your own publications. Put links to topics and conversations that might interest our Gender Studies students and faculty.

**Students (Graduate & Undergraduate) – Share your Story**

The Gender Studies Program is about understanding people, both yourself and others. Gender Studies teaches us how human identities are shaped by gender and related traits such as sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, religion and nationality. Through Gender Studies, we not only strive to understand people better, but because of this endeavor, we hopefully become more understanding people.

Add your story to our website “Spotlight” by filling out the following: share your story

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To view complete copies of previous Announcements for current semester, please go to: GS Announcements