

UCLA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN presents

Gender of "Terror"

ORGANIZERS: KATHLEEN MCHUGH AND PURNIMA MANKEKAR

one-day conference featuring

The State/Civil Society

Susan Buck-Morss, Malathi de Alwis,
and Inderpal Grewal

Mediation

Lori Allen, Paola Bacchetta, and
Jennifer Terry

The Law/Citizenship

Sunaina Maira, and Sherene Razack

MAY 2
friday

UCLA Faculty Center
9:15 am to 6:00 pm

Co-sponsored by the Division of Humanities; the Division of Social Sciences; School of Theater, Film, and TV; School of Law; Center for India and South Asia; Department of Anthropology; Asian American Studies Center; Department of Women's Studies; Department of Comparative Literature; Department of Asian American Studies.

UCLA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN

Gender of “Terror”

May 2, 2008

UCLA Faculty Center

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

8:45 – 9:15 AM	Breakfast CALIFORNIA ROOM
9:15 – 9:30 AM	<i>Welcome by Kathleen McHugh</i> <i>Opening Remarks by Purnima Mankekar</i> CALIFORNIA ROOM
9:30 – 11:30 AM	Session 1, The State/Civil Society CALIFORNIA ROOM
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch HACIENDA ROOM
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Session 2, Mediation CALIFORNIA ROOM
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Session 3, The Law/Citizenship CALIFORNIA ROOM
5:00 PM	<i>Closing Remarks by Kathleen McHugh</i>
5:15 – 6:00 PM	Reception CALIFORNIA ROOM

PROGRAM

8:45 – 9:15 AM **Breakfast**
California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

9:15 – 9:30 AM **Welcome by Kathleen McHugh**
Opening Remarks by Purnima Mankekar
California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

9:30 – 11:30 AM **THE STATE/CIVIL SOCIETY**
California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

PANEL CHAIR: **Susan Slyomovics**

Susan Slyomovics is a Professor of Anthropology and Near Eastern Languages & Cultures at UCLA. Her books include *The Merchant of Art: An Egyptian Hilali Epic Poet in Performance* (1988) and *The Object of Memory: Arab and Jew Narrate the Palestinian Village* (1998). She is co-editor of *Women and Power in the Middle East* (2001) and editor of *The Walled Arab City in Literature, Architecture and History: The Living Medina in the Maghrib* (2001). Her areas of research and teaching include the expressive culture of the Middle East and North Africa, gender studies, the overlap between oral and written literature, approaches to hybrid literatures and bilingualism, and the relationship between visual anthropology and literature.

SPEAKER: *Susan Buck-Morss*
**Race, Gender, Terror, and The End of an Era:
National Elections in the Global Public Sphere**

Susan Buck-Morss is Professor of Political Philosophy and Social Theory in the Department of Government, and a member of the graduate fields of German Studies and History of Art at Cornell University. Her training is in Continental Theory, specifically, German Critical Philosophy and the Frankfurt School. She is currently researching and lecturing on politics and religion, theories of sovereignty, legitimacy and faith, and economies of political vision.

SPEAKER: *Malathi de Alwis*
Politicizing Grief in the Wake of Atrocity

Forced disappearance is one of the most insidious forms of violence as it seeks to obliterate the body and indefinitely extends and exacerbates the grief of those left behind. De Alwis explores a particular 'identification with suffering' that is embraced and embodied by Sinhala (Sri Lankan) women whose children 'disappeared' during the second People's Liberation Front (JVP) uprising from 1988 to 1993. In such a context, visual and tactile objects such as photographs and clothing, she suggests, become especially meaningful by reasserting the presence of the

disappeared. Grief may be a tie that binds and enables the imagining of alternative political communities to re-invigorate political communities in Sri Lanka.

Malathi De Alwis is a Senior Research Fellow at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo and a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo. She is the co-author, with Kumari Jayawardena, of *Casting Pearls: The Women's Franchise Movement in Sri Lanka* (2001), editor of *Cat's Eye: A Feminist Gaze on Current Issues* (2000) and co-editor, with Wenona Giles et al., of *Feminists Under Fire: Exchanges Across War Zones* (2003) and of *Embodied Violence: Communalising Women's Sexuality in South Asia* (1996), with Kumari Jayawardena.

SPEAKER: Inderpal Grewal
Gendering Domesticity, Security and Terror

In the current "War on Terror" being waged by the US, feminist theorizations of militarism and security need to be rethought.

Inderpal Grewal is Professor of Women's Studies in the School of Humanities and the Director of the PhD program in Culture and Theory at UC Irvine. She received her PhD from UC Berkeley. Her current research interests include transnational and postcolonial feminist theory; feminism and human rights; NGO's and theories of civil society and citizenship; law and subjectivity; travel and mobility; and South Asian cultural studies.

RESPONDENT: Akhil Gupta

Akhil Gupta is a Professor of Anthropology at UCLA. He is author of *Postcolonial Developments: Agriculture in the Making of Modern India* (1997), and he has edited or served on numerous projects, including the recent *Caste and Outcast* (with Gordon Chang and Purnima Mankekar, 2002), and *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader* (with Aradhana Sharma, 2006). Gupta's research interests include the ethnography of information technology, the state and development, anthropology of food, environmental anthropology, space and place, history of anthropology, and applied anthropology.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch
Hacienda Room, UCLA Faculty Center

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Mediation

California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

PANEL CHAIR: **Kathleen McHugh**

Kathleen McHugh teaches in the Department of English and in the Cinema and Media Studies program of the Department of Film, Television, and Digital Media at UCLA. Her most recent book is *Jane Campion* (2007), which examines the subversive style of the woman who has become one of the world's greatest film directors. She is the author of *American Domesticity: From How-To Manual to Hollywood Melodrama* (1999), the co-editor of *South Korean Golden Age Melodrama: Gender, Genre and National Cinema* (2005), and the co-editor of a special issue of *SIGNS* on "Film Feminisms." She has published articles on domesticity, feminism, melodrama, the avant-garde, and autobiography in *Cultural Studies*, *Jump Cut*, *Screen*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, and *Velvet Light Trap*.

SPEAKER: **Lori Allen**

Who Speaks the Nation's Suffering: Mothers of Martyrs in the Palestinian Intifada

Mothers of martyrs or bad mothers? Heroic munadilin (literally, strugglers) or lascivious suicide-bombers awaiting 72 virgins? Brave girl bombers or depressed divorcees? Moral values, ethical evaluations, and political perspectives embedded in these categories span and connect the occupied Palestinian territories, the Arab world, and "the West." Grieving mothers became the predominant Palestinian national icons, their images dominating media representations and visual culture in Palestine and beyond. These women's stories of suffering were meant to create relations of shared outrage and sympathy among the people under occupation, as well as between them and "the international community."

A Lecturer in Contemporary Middle Eastern Politics & Society at the University of Cambridge, Lori Allen is an anthropologist whose primary research interests center on human rights, nationalism, violence, visual culture, political emotion, and the Middle East. Allen's work investigates the ways in which understandings of pain and suffering and the ethics of violence play out in Palestinian politics, in particular through the activities and discourses of human rights in the occupied territories. The results of ethnographic fieldwork in Palestine among human rights activists, other former and current political activists, victims of rights violations, and refugees during the height of the second intifada are being publishing in a number of articles that explore what happens when violence becomes routine, part of the everyday.

SPEAKER: **Paola Bacchetta**
**The Construction of "Terror" in
the Bush Regime's Discourses**

This presentation considers the representation of "terror" and "terrorizing" subjects in the discourses and practices of the presidency of George W. Bush. What is primarily at stake and for whom in these constructions? How do they contribute to or produce a identity for the U.S. at this particular junction in time and space? The primary materials are presidential speeches, as well as statements from key administration commentators and related U.S. government practices, from 9/11 until today.

Paola Bacchetta is Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at UC Berkeley. She is also Director of the Beatrice Bain Research Group (BBRG), a research center for gender, sexuality, and race based on the Berkeley campus. She earned her PhD in Sociology from The Sorbonne, Paris, in 1996, with highest honors. Her geographic areas of specialization outside the US are India and France.

SPEAKER: **Jennifer Terry**
**Shock and Awe on the Internet:
Viral Video and New Tactics of Terror**

With the advent of affordable video cameras, easy-to-use editing software, and Internet sites that allow users to circulate videos, the relationship of war to visualizing technologies has changed significantly in the first years of the twenty-first century. Through an analysis of widely circulated footage of violent conflict, Terry argues that the camera, the computer, and video-hosting sites constitute an important apparatus not only in the mediation of war but also in the waging of it.

Jennifer Terry is an Associate Professor of Women's Studies with formal affiliations in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Film and Media Studies, the Art, Computation, and Engineering PhD Program, and the Critical Theory Institute at UC Irvine. Terry is now working on a project presently titled *Killer Entertainments: Militarism, Governmentality, and Consuming Desires in Transnational America*. The project focuses on the history of military morale management in the US during the expansion of the nation into an international empire by theorizing the dynamics of governmentality and sentimentality as they manifest in the mutual provocations between entertainment forms, hygienic technologies, and militarism.

RESPONDENT: **Purnima Mankekar**

Purnima Mankekar is an Associate Professor in the Asian American Studies Department and the Women's Studies Program at UCLA. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Washington (1993) and had taught in the Department of Anthropology at Stanford University since 1994. Her book, *Screening Culture, Viewing*

Politics (1999), won the Kovacs Award from the Society for Cinema Studies. Her research interests include Cultural Studies, Women's Studies, media/television, nationalism, and identity.

3:00 – 3:30 PM Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM

The Law/Citizenship

California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

PANEL CHAIR: **Saloni Mathur**

Saloni Mathur is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art History at UCLA. Her research interests include the visual cultures of modern South Asia and the South Asian diaspora, colonial studies and postcolonial criticism, the relationship between modern ethnography and the artistic avant-garde, museum studies, and feminist criticism. She has published in such interdisciplinary sites as *Cultural Anthropology*, *American Anthropologist*, *Third Text*, *Parachute*, *Art Bulletin*, and *The Art Journal*. She recently completed a book titled *India by Design: Colonial History and Cultural Display* (2007).

SPEAKER:

Sunaina Maira

"Good" and "Bad" Muslim Citizens: Feminists, Terrorists and U.S. Orientalisms

This paper examines the production of "good" and "bad" cultural citizenship for and by Muslims in the context of the U.S. "War on Terror." It will examine the gendered constructions of the "militant" or fundamentalist Muslim male through the case of Hamid Hayat, a young Pakistani American arrested by the FBI in Lodi, California, and the writings of Irshad Manji and Asra Nomani, South Asian Muslim women in North America who focus on "reforming" Islam from within.

Sunaina Maira is Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Davis. Her research focuses on youth culture, popular culture, immigration and transnationalism, citizenship, and empire. She is the author of *Desis in the House: Indian American Youth Culture in New York City* (2002). She co-edited an anthology, *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America* (1997), which received the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. She is also co-editor of *Youthscapes: The Popular, The National, The Global* (2005). Maira received a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to do an ethnographic study of South Asian Muslim immigrant youth in the US and their notions of cultural citizenship after September 11, 2001, which is the basis of her current book project.

SPEAKER: **Sherene Razack**
Racial Terror and the Trade in Mythologies

This presentation will be based on Razack's new book, Casting Out: The Eviction of Muslims from Western Law and Politics.

Sherene Razack is Professor of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Her research and teaching interests lie in the area of race and gender issues in the law. Her courses include: 'Race, Space and Citizenship;' 'Race and Knowledge Production;' and 'Racial Violence and the Law.' Her most recent book is entitled *Casting Out: The Eviction of Muslims From Western Law and Politics* (2007). She has also published *Dark Threats and White Knights: The Somalia Affair, Peacekeeping and the New Imperialism* (2004), an edited collection *Race, Space and the Law: Unmapping A White Settler Society* (2002), *Looking White People in the Eye: Gender, Race, and Culture in Courtrooms and Classrooms* (1998, 1999, 2000) and *Canadian Feminism and the Law: The Women's Legal and Education Fund and the Pursuit of Equality* (1991).

RESPONDENT: **Juliet Williams**

Juliet Williams is an Associate Professor of Women's Studies at UCLA. She is the author of *Liberalism and the Limits of Power* (2005) and co-editor of *Public Affairs: Politics in the Age of Sex Scandals* (2004).

5:00 PM **Closing Remarks by Kathleen McHugh**

5:15 – 6:00 PM **Reception**
California Room, UCLA Faculty Center

Acknowledgments

We are grateful for the generous (and interdisciplinary) support we have received from our co-sponsors: the Deans of the Humanities, Law, Social Sciences, and Theater, Film and Television; the Center for India and South Asia and the Asian American Studies Center; and the Departments of Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Comparative Literature, and Women's Studies.

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