WOMEN’S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES
2010

COLLOQUIUM

September 20

FEVERISH IMAGINATIONS
Mapping Fever and Its Metaphors in New Orleans, 1835–2005

NATALIE PRIZEL (ENGLISH)
This paper traces the discourse surrounding fever and feverishness in New Orleansian literature and culture from the yellow fever outbreak of 1853 through Hurricane Katrina. The project explores the ways in which certain bodies are marked and valued by the discourse of fever and the political consequences of such markings.

PURPOSE-DRIVEN IN RWANDA
A Feminist Postcolonial Critique of the Partnership between Rick Warren and Paul Kagame

REBECCA HENRIKSEN (INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC)
Rebecca looks at how Rick Warren’s best-selling book A Purpose-Driven Life has been used in a partnership between Warren and Kagame to create Rwanda as the first “Purpose-Driven Nation.” She explores how power and gender intersect and function in humanist, efforts and government bureaucracy and how postcolonial theory intersects with Warren’s religious agenda.

October 18

“PUT YOUR FAITH ON THE LINE!”
Gay Lives, Testimony, and Activism in the United Presbyterian Church (USA)

GÉRARDO CON DÍAZ (HISTORY OF SCIENCE, HISTORY OF MEDICINE)
In 1965 the United Presbyterian Church (USA) first struggled to determine whether or not openly gay men and women were eligible for ministry. Two years had passed since the Presbyterian Gay Caucus had begun working to guarantee the recognition and equal treatment of gay people within the church. In this paper, Géraldo explains the early years of these efforts, highlighting the role that personal narratives played both in the growth of the caucus and in the church’s institutional responses to the demands and needs of its gay members.

SEX DIFFERENCES ON A SPATIAL TASK
IN THE RHESUS MACAQUE
A Model (or not) for Understanding Human Variation

KELLY HUGHES (ANTHROPOLOGY)
Human sex differences in cognition, especially spatial cognition, have been the subject of controversy for some time. More specifically, across many disciplines, a debate continues over whether or not such differences have some biological foundation or could be entirely due to socialization. Here Kelly presents some evidence that in one spatial cognition task, we find a sex difference in rhesus macaques similar to that of humans, and discuss whether or not this impacts one’s knowledge about the origin of sex differences in spatial skills in humans.

November 15

EMBODying An EThIC OF FlOURISHING AND RADiCAL RECOGNITION AMONG ECLECTiC RECLAIMiNG WITCHES AND RADiCAL FAERiES

CATHERINE TELFORD-KEOGH (FINE ARTS)
This presentation investigates the occasions for bodies to flourish and the material effects of the deployment of a radical reformation of the conditions of recognition through a queer theological praxis in visual practices of the Eclectic Reclaiming feminist Witches and Radical Faeries.

YALE, NEW HAVEN, AND URBAN ETHNOGRAPHY

DANA ASBURY (SOCIOLOGY)
Explorations of a method, city, and school.