

studies

news from women's studies at the university of south carolina
college of liberal arts

Women's Studies Conference 2003

This year's Women's Studies Conference, "Women's Diverse Voices and Meanings: Feminism in Culture and Society," builds on the conference's 15 years of success. The expanded one and one-half day conference format continues this year and includes paper sessions, a community panel, and a keynote address.

The first day, Thursday, February 27, begins with a concurrent paper session at 1:15 p.m. in the USC Moore School of Business' Daniel Management Center on the eighth floor. A community panel follows at 3 p.m.

The keynote lecture at 5:30 p.m. in the business school's Belk Auditorium features Catharine R. Stimpson, professor and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University. Stimpson's lecture is co-sponsored by the USC College of Liberal Arts, the Graduate School, the Department of English, and the Office of Research.

Day two of the conference, Friday, February 28, includes three paper sessions beginning at 9 a.m. During the luncheon, Dr. Pamela Barnett, USC Department of English and the African-American Studies Program, and Dr. Kathryn Edwards, USC Department of History, will present the Josephine Abney Lecture. Barnett and Edwards are the recipients of the 2002 Josephine Abney Research Award for their research projects.

Barnett's research book project, "Sexual Freedom/Sexual Violence: Rape, Race, and Gender in the Literature of the Sixties," provides a uniquely synthetic analysis that attends equally to the meaning of race, gender, and sexual orientation in historical

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Catharine R. Stimpson

Keynote Speaker
Women's Studies Conference 2003

Catharine R. Stimpson, professor and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, is the keynote speaker for the 16th Annual Women's Studies Conference "Women's Diverse Voices and Meanings: Feminism in Culture and Society." Stimpson will present her lecture "In Praise of Women and Sports: Notes of a Feminist Fan" on Thursday, February 27, at 5:30 p.m. in Belk Auditorium, USC Moore School of Business. She will be introduced by USC President Andrew Sorenson.

From January 1994 to October 1997, Stimpson served as director of the fellows program at the MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. Simultaneously, she was on leave from her position as professor at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey-New Brunswick, where, from 1986-1992, she was also dean of the graduate school and vice provost for graduate education. Before going to Rutgers, she taught at Barnard College, where she was also the first director of the college's Women's Center.

Now the editor of a book series for the University of Chicago Press, Stimpson was the founding editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* from 1974-1980. The author of a novel, *Class Notes* (1979, 1980), and the editor of seven books, she has also published over 150 monographs, essays, stories, and reviews in publications such as *Transatlantic Review*, *Nation*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Critical Inquiry*, and *boundary 2*. A selection of essays on literature, culture, and education, *Where the Meanings Are*, appeared in 1988. Her book on Gertrude Stein is under contract to the University of Chicago Press.

Stimpson has lectured at approximately 360 institutions and events in the United States and abroad. Her public service includes the chairpersonships of the New York State Council for the Humanities, the National Council for Research on Women, and the *Ms. Magazine* Board of Scholars. In 1990, she was the president of the Modern Language Association. She is now a member of the board of directors of several educational and cultural organizations, the chair of the National Advisory Committee of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and a former member of the board of PBS. From September 2000 through September 2001, she served as the president of the Association of Graduate Schools. As a member of the editorial group of *Change* magazine from 1992 to 1994, she wrote a regular column about education and culture.

Born in Bellingham, Washington, she was educated at Bryn Mawr College, Cambridge University, and Columbia University. She holds honorary degrees from Upsala College, Monmouth College, Bates College, Florida International University, the State University of New York at Albany, Hamilton College, the University of Arizona, Wheaton College, Hood College, Union College, Holy Cross College, and Santa Clara University. She has also won Fulbright and Rockefeller Humanities Fellowships. ■



Catharine R. Stimpson

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instances and cultural representations of rape. Barnett's research provides analyses of gender, race, sexuality, the body, sexual violence, and political and social change from diverse perspectives.

Edwards' research project "Visitations: The Haunting of an Early Modern Town" focuses on the haunting of a young woman in a 17th-century town by a female ghost. Historical studies of gender and spirituality in pre-modern Europe tend to focus on syntheses about women, which blur personal experience, or on studies of "exceptional" women. Edwards avoids both of these weaknesses. The two main women in "Visitations" (Huguette and Leonarde) are only exceptional in that they are involved with a haunting; their lives before and after the haunting are quite typical by early modern standards. In this sense, the responses of their communities provides a rare window into the life of "ordinary" women and the effect of gender in many fields of daily activity, including religious practices, legal status, and social interaction.

The community panel and the keynote lecture featuring Catharine Stimpson are free and open to the public. A registration fee is required for conference attendance (\$40 general registration; \$20 student registration—fee includes materials, lunch, and reception). Registration forms are available in the Women's Studies office, 201 Flinn Hall and on the WOST Web site at www.cla.sc.edu/wost. For more information, please call the office at 803-777-4007. ■

Support USC Women's Studies and the Initiative for Women's Well-Being

The Women's Studies Program is growing. We invite you to join our efforts to promote the understanding essential to improving the lives of women and girls by becoming a Friend of Women's Studies.

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