

# The H. Wiley Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music

and

The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities at Brooklyn College

In collaboration with the Conservatory of Music and  
the American Studies Program at Brooklyn College present:

**Spring 2011**

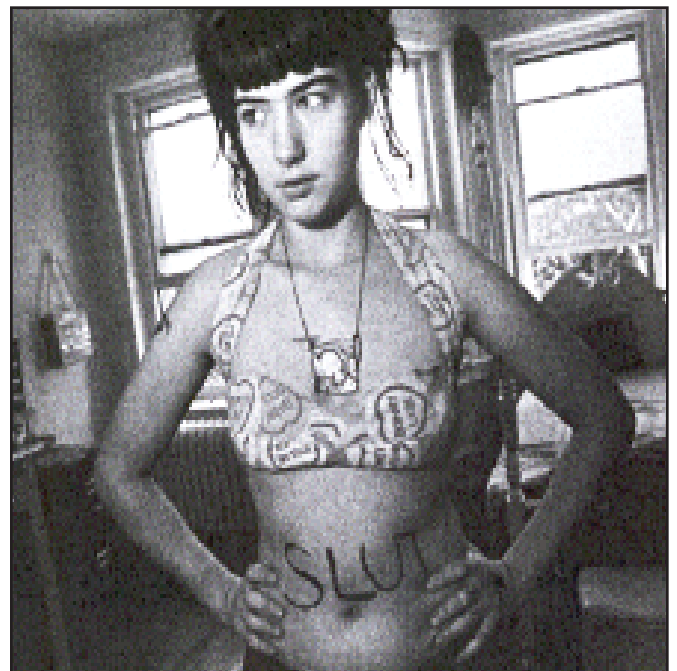
## Music in Polycultural America

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### **Riot Grrrl Is Dead. Long Live Riot Grrrl: Political Activism, Nostalgia, and Historiography**

**Elizabeth Keenan, Fordham University**

Nostalgia pervades pop culture in the U.S., but what does nostalgia imply for music associated with political and social activism? In the past few years, signs of a nostalgic 1990s revival are everywhere, as teenagers in plaid shirts cavort on the pages of fashion magazines and bands like Soundgarden and Pavement have undertaken reunion tours. Within this pop cultural revival that perpetuates a continuous nostalgic consumerism in the U.S., a small Riot Grrrl revival has also taken place, circulating on feminist blogs and through the publication of books that foreground the movement as essential to the formation of Third Wave feminism. Drawing on José Esteban Muñoz's reflections on constructing utopias through nostalgic framings of the past, this presentation questions the political nature of remembering Riot Grrrl today and addresses the juncture where the now-popular production of 1990s nostalgia intersects with the important project of feminist historiography of the Third Wave. **Elizabeth K. Keenan** completed her doctorate in ethnomusicology at Columbia University in 2008 and is on the music faculty at Fordham University. She recently won the Wong Tolbert Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology.



*Kathleen Hanna, lead singer of Bikini Kill (1992)  
Photo by Linda Rosier*

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**Monday, 21 March, 2:15 pm**

**State Lounge, Brooklyn College Student Center**

*For more information, visit [www.hisam.org](http://www.hisam.org), call us at 718-951-5655, or email us at [isam@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:isam@brooklyn.cuny.edu)*