

# The Wolfe Institute

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*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,  
in cooperation with the Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music  
and the American Studies Program at Brooklyn College,  
presents*

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## Music in Polycultural America Speaker Series

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### Blowzy Women and Spineless Men? Doris Humphrey and Vivian Fine's *The Race of Life*



**Rachel Lumsden**, CUNY Graduate Center, is a Chancellor's Fellow at the CUNY Graduate Center, where she is pursuing a Ph.D. in music theory and the Certificate in Women's Studies.

Vivian Fine's first full-length composition for dance, *The Race of Life* (1937), was written for modern dance pioneer Doris Humphrey, and is loosely based on a series of cartoons by James Thurber from the early 1930s. The talk will address how this work creates a space in which Fine and Humphrey use humor as a means of destabilizing traditional gender roles, as well as calling traditional categories of gender themselves into question.

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**Wednesday, April 25, 2012  
2:15 to 3:30 p.m.  
Alumni Lounge  
Brooklyn College Student Center  
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

*For information: 718.951.5847 wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu Twitter: twitter.com/Wolfe\_Institute*