HeLa’s Troubled Legacy: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Naomi Braine has been a Brooklyn College faculty since 2008. Prior to that, she worked in the nonprofit health and policy research sector, and consulted for community-based organizations and the New York State Department of Health. In disciplinary terms, she specializes in public health, social policy, collective action, and gender and sexuality; in practice, the majority of her research has addressed the intersection of social inequality, drug use and HIV, including organizational and policy issues affecting risk and prevention at individual and community levels. Her professional work in this area has been informed and shaped by a long history as a social justice activist.

Kimberley L. Phillips is founding dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and a professor of history at Brooklyn College. She recently held appointments in history, American studies and Africana studies at the College of William and Mary. She is the author or co-editor of four books, including War! What is it Good For? Black Freedom Struggles and the U.S. Military from World War II to Iraq (University of North Carolina Press, 2012).

Anjana Saxena earned her Ph.D. in reproductive endocrinology from National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health (ICMR) and University of Mumbai, India. She has done her post-doctoral training at the College of Judea and Samaria, Israel, and Columbia University. Before joining the biology department, Dr. Saxena was a research assistant professor at NYU Langone Medical Center. She has acquired training in several different disciplines of biomedical science and has published peer-reviewed journal articles in the field of endocrinology, genetic disorder, gene imprinting and its influence on growth as well as cell cycle checkpoints that regulate DNA replication and p53-tumor suppressor protein activation. Dr. Saxena is currently continuing her cancer research at Brooklyn College, where her laboratory is serving as a platform to train both undergraduate and graduate students in the field of molecular cancer research.

Barbara Winslow is an associate professor in the secondary education department and in the women’s studies program at Brooklyn College. She is also the founder and director of the Shirley Chisholm Project of Brooklyn Women’s Activism, 1945 to the Present. She has just completed the first scholarly biography of Chisholm, This is Fighting Shirley Chisholm: Urban Liberalism, Feminism and the Black Freedom Struggle, to be published by Westview Press in 2013. She has co-authored and edited Clio in the Classroom: A Guide to Teaching US Women’s History, a book on the socialist suffragette Sylvia Pankhurst, plus numerous articles on women’s suffrage, feminism, and women’s history.

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Brooklyn College Library

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