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BROOKLYN COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE SHIRLEY CHISHOLM CENTER PRESENT

WOMEN, WELFARE REFORM, AND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

CONFERENCE - MARCH 24, 2009
11:00-5:30PM
WOODY TANGER AUDITORIUM
BROOKLYN COLLEGE LIBRARY



**ROUNDTABLE 2: LOW INCOME WOMEN, THE JOB MARKET,
AND SHRINKING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

TUESDAY MARCH 24 , 2:15 – 3:30PM

WOODY TANGER AUDITORIUM

INTRODUCTION: JEANNE THEOHARIS,
ENDOWED CHAIR, IN WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: STEPHEN PIMPARE, YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
MARY GATTA, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
ERIKA KATES, WELLESLEY CENTER FOR WOMEN
RANDY ALBELDA, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON

MODERATOR: MIRANDA MARTINEZ,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PUERTO RICAN & LATINO STUDIES

STEPHEN PIMPARE is Associate Professor of Political Science and Social Work at Yeshiva University, and the author most recently of *A People's History of Poverty in America*.

MARY GATTA is Director of the Gender and Workforce Policy at the Center for Women and Work, and on the faculty of the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Rutgers University. Her recent book *Not Just Getting By: The New Era of Flexible Workforce Development*.

ERIKA KATES is a senior research scientist at the Wellesley Center for Women. Her work, including a series of public policy reports, examines the intersection of welfare, workforce development, and higher education policies.

RANDY ALBELDA is Professor of Economics and Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Social Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research covers a broad range of economic policies affecting low-income women and families, include the recent report *Bridging the Gaps: A Picture of How Work Supports Work in Ten States*.



ROUNDTABLE 1: BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN WELFARE POLICES AND PRACTICE

TUESDAY MARCH 24, 11:00 – 12:30PM
WOODY TANGER AUDITORIUM

INTRODUCTION: BARBARA WINSLOW,
COORDINATOR OF WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: SANFORD SCHRAM, BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
LISA DODSON, BOSTON COLLEGE
WENDY LUTTRELL, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MIMI ABRAMOWITZ, HUNTER COLLEGE
CHARLENE SINCLAIR, POVERTY INITIATIVE
BYREL MELFORD, COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD
ALEJANDRA MARCHEVSKY,
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

MODERATOR: NAOMI BRAINE,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

SANFORD SCHRAM teaches social theory and policy at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research at Bryn Mawr College and is currently completing a co-authored book entitled *Disciplining the Poor: Neoliberal Paternalism and the Persistent Power of Race*.

LISA DODSON is Professor of Sociology at Boston College; her forthcoming book is entitled *The Moral Underground: How Ordinary Americans Subvert an Unfair Economy*.

WENDY LUTTRELL is the Nancy Pforzheimer Aronson Associate Professor in Human Development and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and author of *School-smart and Mother-wise: Working-Class Women's Identity and Schooling*.

MIMI ABRAMOWITZ is the Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Policy at Hunter College School of Social Work. She is the author of *Regulating the Lives of Women: Social Policy From Colonial Times to the Present* and co-founder of the Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College.

CHARLENE SINCLAIR coordinates the Poverty Scholars Program for the Poverty Initiative as a work study student at Union Theological Seminary and has been a community organizer for 20 years.

ALEJANDRA MARCHEVSKY is Associate Professor of Liberal Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and co-author of *Not Working: Latina Immigrants, Low-Wage Jobs, and the Failure of Welfare Reform*.

BYREL MELFORD is a single mother with 3 children, currently utilizing welfare to take care of her family. She is a leader in Community Voices Heard's Welfare & Workforce Development Campaign

ROUNDTABLE 3: MODELS AND SUCCESSES IN INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR POOR WOMEN

TUESDAY MARCH 24, 3:40 – 5:30PM
WOODY TANGER AUDITORIUM

INTRODUCTION: JEANNE THEOHARIS,
ENDOWED CHAIR, IN WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: VIVYAN ADAIR, HAMILTON COLLEGE
DILLONNA C. LEWIS, WELFARE RIGHTS INITIATIVE
ILANA BERGER, FUREE
LUISA S. DEPREZ, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
DIANA SPATZ, LIFETIME

MODERATOR: PRUDENCE CUMBERBATCH,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES

VIVYAN ADAIR is Elihu Root Peace Fund Professor of Women's Studies, and the founder and director of The ACCESS Project at Hamilton College. She is co-editor of *Women, Poverty and the Promise of Education in America*.

DILLONNA C. LEWIS is the co-director of the Welfare Rights Initiative (WRI). She supervises and trains staff and students to operate and evaluate WRI's programs, develops curriculum and instructs WRI's (two-semester, credit-bearing) Community Leadership training program at Hunter College.

ILANA BERGER is the executive director of FUREE, a Brooklyn-based, multi-racial organization founded in 2000 to fight for access to education and training for all people receiving public assistance.

LUISA S. DEPREZ, Professor of Sociology and Women and Gender Studies at the University of Southern Maine, has written extensively about the restrictions of current welfare policy on low-income women seeking to access higher education and co-edited *Shut-Out: Low Income Mothers and Higher Education in Post-Welfare America*.

DIANA SPATZ is the founder and executive director of LIFETIME, a grassroots organization created by student mothers who completed college degrees while raising their families on welfare, and who are committed to helping other low-income parents do the same.