CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: FIFTY YEARS OF REVOLUTION: GENDER, RACE AND RESISTANCE 1968–2018

The Treehouse, Berrick Saul Building, University of York, 21 – 22 May, 2018

The conference is jointly organized by Clare Bielby and Claire Chambers, with the Centre for Women’s Studies (CWS), the Department of English and Related Literature and the Centre for Modern Studies (C Mods). The conference is generously funded by C Mods and CWS.

(This is a free event, but please sign up on eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/clare-bielby-and-claire-chambers-17217227815)

MONDAY 21 MAY

10.30: Registration and coffee

11.00: Welcome: Victoria Robinson, Director of CWS (York)

11.15 – 12.45: Panel 1: Imagining Feminisms
Chair: Ann Kaloski-Naylor (York)
Rosemary Hill and Kim Allen (Leeds): ‘Cats are Smashing the Patriarchy’
Miriam Tola (Northeastern): ‘The Uses of Intersectionality in Contemporary Italian Feminism’

12.45 – 13.30: LUNCH

13.30 – 15.00: 2. Workshop Format: The Unspeakable Body: Reading Women’s Transgressive Narratives
Chair: Hannah Roche (York)
Workshop Leaders/Panelists: Ruth Kelly and Boriana Alexandrova-Isgate (York)

Interactive storytelling exercise drawing on European folktale traditions to explore how social and narrative conventions render some elements of women’s experience unspeakable. This exercise will situate analysis of Notrose Nobomvu Konile’s testimony to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Ruth Kelly) and sexual abuse narratives in Eimear McBride’s experimental novel, A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing (Boriana Alexandrova). The session will conclude with a roundtable discussion of the creative value and political potential of engaging with the incomprehensible, invisible, or inaudible layers of human rights narratives.

15.00 – 15.30: COFFEE BREAK

15.30 – 16.45: PANEL 3: Women, Revolution and Gendered Spaces in South and Central America
Chair: Clare Tebbutt (York)
Rafaela N Pannain (Free University, Berlin): ‘Communist women fighting the Brazilian authoritarian regime in the Amazon’
Laura Loyola-Hernandez (Leeds): ‘Spatial Crossings: Gender, Race and Politics in Yucatecan Maya Municipalities’

17.00 – 18.00: KEYNOTE: Mererid Puw Davies (UCL): ‘Women, Revolution and Violence: “1968” and West Germany’

18.00 – 19.00: DRINKS RECEPTION

TUESDAY 22 MAY

9.30 – 11.00: PANEL 4: Revolution and the Text
Chair: Rachel Alsop (York)
Evelyn Preuss (Yale): ‘The Quotidian Revolution, or How East German Women’s Film Swept the Nomenclatura into the Dust Bin of History’
Katie Stone (Birkbeck): ‘Feminist Science Fiction as Revolutionary Political Practice’

11.00 – 11.30: COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 12.45: PANEL 5: Gender, Vulnerability and the Space of Protest
Chair: Evangeline Tsao (York)
Hannah Dwyer Smith (York): ‘Vulnerability, Resilience and Resistance: An Exploration of How Gender Intersects with Human Rights Defenders’ Experiences of and Responses to Risk’
Roxanne Douglas (Warwick): ‘Sexual Violence and the City: A Short History of Gender Violence among Protestors in the 2011 Cairo Uprisings’

12.45 – 13.45: LUNCH

13.45 – 15.00: Roundtable Discussion: Fifty Years of Feminist Activism
With Stevi Jackson (CWS, York), Katy Sian (York), Laura Schwartz (Warwick; Feminist Fightback), Jalna Hanmer (Feminist Archive North)

(Over the two days of the conference, there will be stalls to peruse with various feminist materials, from Feminist Archive North, Journal of Gender Studies and CWS’s new postgraduate journal Cultivate.)