

## Programme of Events:

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Claudia Brazzale presents *Choreographing Afropean Bodies: The Economy of West African Dance and Drumming in Italy*

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Clare Summerskill reads from *Gateway to Heaven*

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
Teddy Nygh presents *Riot from Wrong*

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
Dorothea Smartt performs poetry to challenge normative identities

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April\*  
Feminist films for the Gender and Education Association conference—*The Grace Lee Project*

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April\*  
Feminist films for the Gender and Education Association conference—*Fire*

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
Sasha Roseneil presents *Carry Greenham Home*

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Hollie McNish performs feminist poetry

*All 6pm-8pm in Edric Hall (accessed via the Student Centre), except \*GEA events, which will be held in the Keyworth Centre ([www.lsbu.ac.uk/](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/)).*

## Expanding the Feminist Classroom

Broadening practice and sustaining innovation through funding from the ESRC's Digital Social Research scheme



**All Expanding the Feminist Classroom events are open to all and free of charge**

**Refreshments Provided**

**Please email [Robinsy2@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:Robinsy2@lsbu.ac.uk) to book**

For updates on Weeks Centre events follow [@Weeks Centre](https://twitter.com/Weeks_Centre)

[www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/research/weeks.shtml](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/ahs/research/weeks.shtml)

[weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/](http://weekscentreforsocialandpolicyresearch.wordpress.com/)

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**London  
South Bank  
University**

Weeks Centre  
for Social and  
Policy Research

## Expanding the Feminist Classroom

A Series of Events Celebrating  
Feminist Thought Through Film,  
Poetry and Storytelling



**London  
South Bank  
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Policy Research

## January

Performance artist **Dr Claudia Brazzale** ([claudiabrazzale.blogspot.co.uk/](http://claudiabrazzale.blogspot.co.uk/)) showcases her latest video documentary project, which looks at the economy of West African dance and drumming in Italy and the interracial encounters that this economy enables. Through her film and discussion with Dr Yvonne Robinson, she will explore themes including: the role of Italian women as facilitators of interracial couples, marriages, and bonds; the kind of racial imaginary that these unions rest upon and engender; the desire for the Other and the corporealization of the black body; miscegenation and social change in the present context of 'xenophobic' Italy.

## February

Stand-up, actor and writer of plays and films, **Clare Summerskill** ([www.claresummerskill.co.uk](http://www.claresummerskill.co.uk)) reads from her book *Gateway to Heaven- Fifty Years of Lesbian and Gay Oral History*. *Gateway to Heaven* invites us to share the memories of some of those who were at the forefront of the struggle for lesbian and gay equality in the UK, as well as others who led more private lives. With contributions from forty-six individuals, this lively and moving book casts light on a neglected area of history. These life stories address central issues in British social and political history from the 1940s to the 1990s. This was a dramatic period for the lesbian and gay community. It begins in closets of fear – arrests and hidden basement bars – and emerges in courage with the first Pride marches and the repeal of anti-gay legislation.

Filmmaker **Teddy Nygh** presents *Riot from Wrong*. On the fourth day of the largest case of mass civil unrest in modern British history, the youth media team at Fully Focused Productions, 14 passionate young people from areas stretching right across London, came together with a united sense of frustration and a desire to take positive action. This much anticipated feature documentary is the result. With over 60 interviews with people across London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool all led by the young team—which was also behind the narration, research and much of the filming and editing— *Riot From Wrong* is 'a unique, deeper look at society through the eyes of its future generation' ([riotfromwrong.com](http://riotfromwrong.com)).

## March

Poet **Dorothea Smartt**: 'one of the most daring and exciting figures to emerge from London's poetry scene ... Constantly experimenting with both the form and content of her work, tackling the themes of identity, alienation and self-fulfilment with refreshing boldness' (Apples and Snakes); reads from some of her collections and invites the audience to discuss a queer and blackfeminist reading of her work.

## April

As part of the **Gender and Education Association's** biennial conference, hosted by the Weeks Centre, we are showing *The Grace Lee Project* and *Fire*.

When Korean American filmmaker Grace Lee was growing up in Missouri, she was the only Grace Lee she knew. Once she left the Midwest however, everyone she met seemed to know "another Grace Lee." But why did they assume that all Grace Lees were reserved, dutiful, piano-playing overachievers? The filmmaker plunges into a funny, highly unscientific investigation into all those Grace Lees who break the mould -- from a fiery social activist to a rebel who tried to burn down her high school. With wit and charm, *The Grace Lee Project* puts a hilarious spin on the eternal question, "What's in a name?" ([www.gracelee.net](http://www.gracelee.net))

*Fire* is the first film from director Deepa Mehta's *Elements* trilogy and is loosely based on Ismat Chughtai's 1941 story *Lihaf*. It was one of the first mainstream films in India to explicitly portray a lesbian relationship. After its release in India in 1998, demonstrations were staged by Shiv Sena, a political organisation that has also burnt books to protest against Mumbai University's literature syllabus. Shiv Sena objected to *Fire's* themes on the grounds that "If women's physical needs get fulfilled through lesbian acts, the institution of marriage will collapse, reproduction of human beings will stop". Despite critical and popular acclaim, the events surrounding *Fire's* first weeks in Indian cinemas led to the film being referred back to the Censor Board and a petition from Bollywood film stars and free speech activists asking the Supreme Court to ensure the safety of future screenings. Mehta's most recent film, *Midnight's Children*, has just been released to critical acclaim.

## May

**Prof. Sasha Roseneil** speaks about her research on Greenham Common at a screening of *Carry Greenham Home*. An account of life at the women's peace camp at Greenham Common, Berkshire, *Carry Greenham Home* attempts to explain the ideas behind their action and shows various events such as breaching the fence, the Easter 'chain' around the base, bailiffs removing possessions to pay legal costs and the birth of a baby. Filmed at the camp over seven months, from December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1982, the day 30,000 women "embraced the base" as part of their protest against the siting of nuclear weapons there, this extraordinary film was an early project for Beeban Kidron, who went on to direct *Oranges are not the Only Fruit* and *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*. A Professor of Sociology and Social Theory at Birkbeck University of London and one of the founding editors of the journal *Feminist Theory*, Sasha Roseneil's research on the peace camp focuses specifically on its feminist and queer politics.

## June

Poet and spoken word artist **Hollie McNish** (<http://holliemcnish.com/>) performs some of her critically acclaimed work, which tackles a range of feminist themes with humour. Her poetry albums, *Touch and Push Kick*, and first collection of written poetry, *Papers*, have garnered praise such as "Moving...wonderful" (Radio 4 Woman's Hour) and "I can't take my ears off her" (Benjamin Zephaniah). Hollie has appeared at Glastonbury festival, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Bar, London's Southbank Centre and Cambridge University and has had poems commissioned by Radio 4 Woman's Hour, WOW festival, Tate Modern and Channel 4 Random Acts. She was the UK Slam poetry champion 2009, through which she represented the UK in the Slam du Monde finals in Paris, coming third after the USA and Canada. She now runs Cambridgeshire's youth poetry slam for young people aged 12–25. She is also a member of emerging spoken word pioneers Point Blank Poets, winners of the prestigious UK Young Artists International Award, who focus on creatively responding to important contemporary issues with their fresh and lively live literature. Hollie also runs poetry workshops for schools, youth centres and charities across the UK.