

WiW Talk's program

Spring 2022

February 15th : David Lee: Exhibits, Prescriptive, Performative and Pathogenic

The Metropolitan removed the Sackler name from a wing of the museum, in response to aggressive marketing of opioids. A statue of gynecologist J. Marion Sims, who performed unspeakable procedures, is excised from Central Park. That notorious statue of Teddy Roosevelt on horseback is to be removed from the Museum of Natural History. Likenesses of arch-colonialist Cecil Rhodes are beheaded at Oxford and Cape Town. Just a few examples of a global outcry and reckoning with what humanity deems worthy of veneration. It is usually acknowledged that objects are tendential, with politics inscribed in their classification and display. What is the message to the viewer? This presentation considers current events in museums, memorials and and heritage sites, and presents a tentative framework for exhibition studies.

March 17th: Inés Corujo-Martín: Manila Shawls, Global Encounters, and Identity in the Hispanic World

Grounded in nineteenth-century textual accounts and imagery including paintings, posters, and advertisements, this talk will show how the Manila shawl of the mid-nineteenth century, a time that followed several independence movements, served as a quintessential component of Spanish women's dress. Vibrantly embroidered and handcrafted in silk, the Manila shawl came to regions like Mexico and Peru from China. As a fashionable garment on both sides of the Hispanic Atlantic and hailing from the Pacific, it became an item traded across global networks, also known as the Manila Galleons, along maritime trade routes including the Philippines, Spain, and the Viceroyalties of New Spain. This presentation will detail how the Manila shawl played a vital role in establishing gendered and newly national identities. As a garment that circulated the globe, this shawl would appear to represent colonial and imperial transactions, which will connect the audience to larger questions around situating fashion objects within cultural history.

April 28th: Melanie Villatoro: Retaining Diverse Groups in STEM

Colleges across the United States must produce more engineering graduates in order to keep up with demands in the engineering workforce. Population trends indicate that women and minorities are highly underrepresented in the STEM fields therefore recruitment and retention of these populations is critical to closing the predicted gap in the workforce. Perkins Peer Advisement is a grant funded program at City Tech committed to increasing enrollment and retention of nontraditional students in engineering technology programs. The program provides a successful model for mentoring, recruiting and retaining females and minorities in STEM; empowers students with the resources to succeed academically and professionally, increases faculty awareness, provides positive role models, and engages participants in community outreach. Participants of the program have higher retention rates than the average reported for these majors.

May 4th: Diana Mincyte: **Rethinking Kinship as a Unit of Production: Gender, Labor, and Food**

Politics in the Age of Climate Crisis

In this presentation, I take a relational approach to rethink kinship as a form of social and political organization undergirding food systems that are both contributing to and opening possibilities for mitigating the effects of climate change. Combining insights from early debates on agrarian change and feminist scholarship, this research underscores the role of social reproduction labor in shaping agro-food politics.