



Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Student Fellowships Spring Research Seminar 2015 Application Deadline: Feb 18th

The Gender Research Institute is accepting applications for its Spring 2015 research seminar: **Just Words? Free Speech and Social Change**. Director: Susan Brison (Philosophy). Postdoctoral Fellow: Brianne Gallagher (GRID).

The Spring 2015 GRID Seminar will bring together students, researchers, media practitioners, and activists to examine the value and scope of the right to freedom of expression in the pursuit of social justice. While the ability to communicate without government censorship is crucial in bringing about social and political change, unregulated speech, especially in the form of on-line abuse of activists on social media can silence and marginalize. Words—and pictures and videos—can galvanize political movements, but can also be used to harass and threaten those engaged in them, and it isn't always the case that more speech is a sufficient response to harmful speech, given the instantaneous global reach of the internet and the difficulty of responding effectively. Some questions we will discuss in this seminar include:

- How is the right to freedom of expression, for individuals and groups, structured by racial, sexual, gendered, national, global, and colonial inequalities in a particular time and place?
- While there is growing access to information on cyberspace across national borders, what are the implications of various policies that limit freedom of expression on the Internet?
- What do words, art, music, and images *do* in social movements, and how do they imagine new worlds, galvanize political movements, or obstruct the paths to social change?
- How do activists, scholars, artists, and journalists use various new media to build coalitions across differences?
- How do new media technologies and social networking sites—such as Twitter, blogs, tumblr, Wikileaks, and Facebook—condition the possibilities for the changing dynamics of community organizing, public protests, social movements, access to censored material, and coalition building?

All participants will commit to attending preparatory discussion sessions, group discussions with visiting speakers, and a series of public lectures on these and related issues.

The public lecture schedule is currently as follows:

1. Friday, April 17 – **Kimberlé Crenshaw**, Professor of Law and Co-Founder of the African American Policy Forum
2. Monday, April 27 – **Medea Benjamin**, activist, writer, and co-founder of Code Pink
3. Friday, May 1 – Conversation with activists, writers, journalists, and bloggers: **Robin Morgan, Soraya Chemaly, Hannah Giorgis, and Zerlina Maxwell**
4. Tuesday, May 12 – **Rebecca Solnit**, Writer, historian, activist and author of fifteen books about environment, landscape, community, art, politics, the power of stories, and hope
5. TBA: **Toshi Reagon**– Singer-songwriter, guitarist/rock, blues, R/B, country, spirituals, funk and civil rights activist.

Faculty, professional staff, and students who become GRID Fellows will commit to participating regularly in the seminar and to producing scholarship after the seminar's conclusion leading to publication or public presentation.

Undergraduate students interested in participating in the seminar will enroll in WGST 96: Advanced Research in Women's and Gender Studies.

GRID faculty and staff fellows will receive a \$2000 research stipend. Student fellows are eligible for small travel grants for research or conference participation.

Interested faculty, professional staff, and graduate students should send a one- to two-page letter of intent and C.V. explaining (1) how participating in the seminar would enhance their research and (2) how their current research would contribute to the goals of the seminar.

We encourage the faculty, staff, and students in all disciplines and schools to apply.

Please email applications and questions to: GRID@Dartmouth.edu

For more information about GRID, please direct questions to director Annabel Martín (annabel.martin@dartmouth.edu) or to GRID's Program Manager, Nancy O'Brien (Nancy.O'Brien@Dartmouth.edu), by February 18, 2015.