

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES PRESENTS

What Matters in Social Change?

The Uncertain Significance of Caring

a lecture by Dr. Chris Beasley

ABSTRACT:

A range of scholars have registered new prevailing modes of legitimate social interconnection in modern 'western'/northern societies. These macro accounts of late modernity, despite their differing agendas, offer visions of sweeping changes which may be summarised as an overall shift to individualisation, rather than more connected social relationships and responsibilities. Such analyses often show a decidedly limited grasp of gendered power. This lecture employs a focus on masculinity and care, including emotional bonds associated with care, as a means to reconsider these accounts. Examination of existing research on homosociality, fatherhood, and relations between men and women leads to a reassessment of the significance of caring, of emotional bonds, in ascertaining what is vital to social change.

BIO:

Chris Beasley is Professor in Politics at the University of Adelaide. She teaches in the areas of social and political theory, gender and sexuality studies, and cultural politics. Her books include *Revaluing Care in Theory, Law and Policy* (co-edited, Routledge, 2016), *Heterosexuality in Theory and Practice* (co-authored, Routledge, 2012), *Engaging with Carol Bacchi* (co-edited, University of Adelaide Press, 2012), *Gender & Sexuality: Critical Theories, Critical Thinkers* (Sage, 2005), *What is Feminism?* (Sage, 1999), and *Sexual Economy* (Allen & Unwin, 1994). She is currently writing a book on contemporary popular film titled *The Cultural Politics of Popular Film: Power, Culture and Society* (with Heather Brook, Manchester UP) and preparing another book, *Internet Dating* (with Mary Holmes, Routledge).

THURSDAY, APRIL 20
15:00 - 16:30
1-26 ASSINIBOIA HALL



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