

**Rice University
Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Third Annual Graduate Symposium**

“Apertures: Openings in the Study of Gender and Sexuality”

March 26, 2010, Specific schedule to be announced

Keynote Speaker: Monica Perales

Monica Perales is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Houston. Professor Perales is the author of *Smelertown: Making and Remembering a Border Community* (forthcoming, University of North Carolina Press), which documents the creation, evolution, demise, and collective memory of the predominantly ethnic Mexican “company town” for the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) copper smelter located in El Paso, Texas. She is also engaged in a second project, a co-edited collection on *The Hispanic History of Texas*.

Call for Papers

In light of Perales’ work, this year’s Symposium takes “Apertures” as its topic in order to investigate openings in feminist, gender, and sexuality discourses that can be used to uncover, discover, and celebrate moments of resistance and transformation. This central issue animates multiple potential avenues of research.

Is there adequate critical theory to identify such apertures? Given the Center’s focus this year on The Politics of Vulnerability, how do emerging discourses of “vulnerability” open new, unexplored, or under-explored pathways in feminist and queer theory? How can gender and sexuality discourses provide openings that allow us closer access and more complete understanding of the vulnerable yet resistant communities of this era or past eras, such as the political social movements taking place in Honduras regarding the military coup?

Can we identify apertures in our research and analysis that allow us to speak to broader interdisciplinary or activist issues? How do features of our own era, such as the growth of social networking facilitated by the Internet, bring about openings in cultural identities, kinship formations, social possibilities, economic opportunities, activist strategies, and scholarly collaboration? What served as connective, disruptive, problematic, or strategic apertures for individuals in the past, and what can be gained from analyzing such openings?

We invite contributions that examine these and other questions that explore the apertures of a variety of cultural and temporal contexts, from the viewpoints of any of the Humanities or Social Science disciplines, including (but not limited to) History, English, Anthropology, and Religious Studies.

We encourage papers and works-in-progress that engage under-explored aspects of community movements and subjectivities, speak to the openings through which our worlds are gazed upon or controlled, and chart movements that resist oppressive formulations of gender, class, sexuality, race, religion, age, and disability. Especially welcome are papers that address the apertures in global movements or local regions that are not adequately recognized. Contemporary examples range from the openings (and re-openings) of issues and ideas in the context of the U.S. health care debate to apertures created by new media technologies and the economic, political, and cultural possibilities they facilitate; from the apertures of the U.S./Mexico border to the opening of a multiplicity of gender identities through linguistic, medical, and cultural developments.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- social justice movements
- capitalism and identity politics
- health and access to medical care
- sexual/racial/religious violence
- policing borders (national, social, familial...)
- environmental concerns
- issues of cultural belonging
- public and cultural memory
- national and transnational identities
- the evolving social and political subject
- openings in kinship formations
- liminal life spaces
- the penetrating or penetrated subject
- issues of abandonment, of losing and being lost
- interdisciplinary openings
- images and representations
- critical openings
- the Internet and openings of cultural possibilities
- openings in the current economic climate
- linguistic identities
- language interpretation and the “English Only” debate
- homonormativity/homonationalism

Please submit 250 word abstracts and a CV to the CSWGS Projects Coordinator, Brian Riedel (riedelbs@rice.edu) by January 11th, 2010. Please indicate whether your presentation requires any AV equipment.