



Women's and Gender Studies Brown Bag

**Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 12:00
318 Milne Library**

Presenter : Susan Bernardin

Title: "Of Grasshopper Songs and Gender Politics: Indigenous and American Feminisms"

Description: In the late 19th and early 20th century, eastern-based white women seized on opportunities for professional and personal development in the American West. Yet many of these "new" western women, working as government employees, art dealers, anthropologists, and photographers, derived their incomes and increased mobility from the confinement of Native peoples within the confined spaces of reservations and federal and state Indian policies. I look at some examples of these "westering" white women and their legacies as a springboard for considering contemporary debates over the "F" word in Native studies. Why has Diné poet Laura Tohe declared that, "There is no word for feminism in my language"? Why does Lakota scholar Joyzelle Godfrey argue, "feminism really has no place in native cultures and native traditions"?

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