



Humanities Institute at Stony Brook

p r e s e n t s

Tuesday, September 10th, 2013

4:30 p.m.

Humanities 1008

Reception to follow

Victoria Hesford

Feeling Women's Liberation

"Women's liberation" is a term that remains charged and divisive decades after it first entered political and cultural discourse around 1970. In *Feeling Women's Liberation*, Victoria Hesford returns to the archive of that contested era to reassess the way in which it has been represented and remembered. Rather than locate the historical meaning of women's liberation in terms of developmental narratives of success or failure, she approaches the movement's archive as an array of rhetorical materials that sought to persuade and enact a new political constituency and world into being. Hesford tracks the production of particular phrases, images, and figures, both in the mainstream press and movement writings, in order to chart the emergence of the feminist-as-lesbian as an image-memory of women's liberation, demonstrating how the trope has obscured the complexity of feminisms from that era.

Victoria Hesford is a professor in the Cultural Analysis and Theory department at Stony Brook University. Her research is situated at the intersection of the interdisciplinary fields of American studies, feminist cultural studies, and queer studies, and focuses on how, and to what effect, political projects and movements are mediated through mass culture in twentieth and twenty-first century American culture. In particular, she looks at how mass culture provides fantasies of collectivity and modes of belonging for feminist and queer political movements in the postwar era.

