

Critical Feminist Pedagogies *Towards an Education of Activism*



*Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ericka Huggins,
Founder of the New Haven Chapter of the Black Panther Party*

Saturday, October 29, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Engleman Hall C Room 112

Southern Connecticut State University

What is “feminist” education? How do you as a social justice activist, teacher, artist, musician, poet, or environmentalist educate others about issues you feel passionate about? The institutionalization of feminism through Women’s Studies undoubtedly affects feminist activism in the non-academic world (and vice versa: grassroots feminism is the foundation of Women’s Studies). We aim to maintain the bridge between academia and grassroots activism by inviting *everyone!*

What issues do you as a feminist feel a passion teaching others about? What methods do you use to communicate to an audience? What are the teacher’s and students’ roles in feminist or progressive spaces? How ought an activist or teacher work with the power they have over an audience of learners to allow for an effective space for critical thinking about justice? Does “raising awareness” and publishing books or articles actually change structural problems? Can feminist education even be considered “action” if it ends at “raising awareness” without actually dismantling oppressive systems? What might be some suggestions of feminist action for best practices?

This conference attempts to detangle the tricky and creative work that is “feminist” education and to bring activists and critical thinkers/educators together to share our visions of feminist pedagogy. We are interested in how you as community activists, students, artists, educators, and future-educators encourage critical thinking and enthusiasm in learners.

We will address the following topics, among others:

- Critiques of empowerment as a mode of feminist education
- Relationship between pedagogy and indoctrination
- How feminist education functions *beyond* consciousness-raising
- The extent to which experience-sharing be productively used in Women’s Studies settings
- Access to education; inclusion/exclusion of certain groups
- Using intersectionality as a tool for activism or education
- Challenging the academic industrial complex
- Tensions between students, students and teachers, academics and grassroots activists
- *Strategic* feminist practice within a group