

The Centre for Feminist Research Presents:

Women as public intellectuals: *an historical case study*

Talk by Dr. Marjorie Johnstone

March 22, 2016 | 12.30-2pm | 626 Kaneff Tower
Introduced by Associate Dean Dr. Kathryn McPherson

Intellectuals have traditionally been understood as those with superior rational, analytic and mental reasoning. These attributes were historically identified as masculine traits, and notable identified public intellectuals were men. This raises the question of when women were able to make their voices heard as public intellectuals – either individually or publically. Furthermore, what did they say? How did they engage in civic debate?

Margaret Gould made significant contributions to public discourse during the contested formative years of the welfare state in Canada. Unusually well-educated, she was radicalized by a childhood of poverty in Toronto and the influence of the local Jewish school system, and pursued two careers, in social work and then in journalism. As a female pioneer in both fields, she occupied masculine space and sustained an integrated public voice promoting the institutionalization of social rights in Canadian society.

Marjorie Johnstone is currently a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at York University in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. Her research interests are women's studies, history of social work, immigration, globalization and international education.

RSVP to Julia Pyryeskina at juliapyr@yorku.ca. Light refreshments provided.