



CASE

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SCHUBERT CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Join Us in October for a Public Lecture Series

GIRLS and GIRLHOOD

The Schubert Center for Child Development, Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, and Case Center for Women invite you to a three-part lecture series on Girls and Girlhood. All sessions will be held at the Baker-Nord Center, Clark Hall 206. Light refreshments will be served.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1:00 P.M.

Renée Sentilles, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of History, Case Western Reserve University

Teenage Girls: A New Phenomenon? A Short History of Adolescent Girlhood in America

In the mid-nineteenth century changes in American life led to changing expectations for the girls we now define as “adolescents.” This talk addresses how changes in American society turned young ladies into teenage “girls.”

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 4:00 P.M.

Mimi Nichter, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona

Body Image and Dieting among Adolescent Girls

In research reports and the media it is not unusual to read that there is an epidemic of dieting among adolescent girls. At the same time, however, there are growing concerns about rising obesity among American youth. Drawing on ethnographic research with teenage girls, this presentation will discuss how girls feel about themselves and their bodies, ideas about body size, and social relations between females. The need for school-based prevention and intervention for healthy body image will also be discussed.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 4:00 P.M.

Maria Kefalas, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, St. Joseph’s University

When Girlhood Ends and Motherhood Begins: How Childbearing Transforms the Lives of Poor, Young Mothers

It is common to ask why poor young women have children when childbearing seems only to reinforce the disadvantages they already face. Kefalas instead asks what it is that motherhood provides. Through first-hand interviews with low-income Latina, white, and African-American women in Philadelphia and Camden, Kefalas finds an answer: that motherhood and children are powerful sources of validation, purpose, love, and order for women who otherwise have few outlets for achieving social status and self-esteem. Kefalas discusses how these young women come to think of themselves as “good mothers,” despite the middle-class messages they receive about being too young and too poor to have children.

For more information contact Dale Rene at (216)368-0540 • schubert-ctr@case.edu • www.case.edu/artsci/schubert/

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