

*The School of Women's Studies, the Sexuality Studies Program, the Department of History, the Sociology Department, the Division of Social Science and the Centre for Feminist Research present*

# **Cross-Dressing for Empire: Embodying White Masculinity through Performance in San Francisco's Bohemian Club, 1870s-1920s**

a public lecture by

## **Susan Stryker**

This talk examines the role of cross-dressing theatrical performances in the construction of white masculinity at San Francisco's ultra-elite, exclusively male Bohemian Club in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Far from being frivolous diversions, these performances played an integral role in shaping club members' conceptualization of their role in the administration of the U.S. Pacific Empire.

**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Monday, January 30, 2012  
Founders 305 (Senior Common Room)**

Susan Stryker is Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies and Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona. She earned her Ph.D. in U.S. history at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1992, held a post-doctoral fellowship in Sexuality Studies at Stanford University, and has been a visiting faculty member at Harvard University, the University of California-Santa Cruz, Simon Fraser University, and Macquarie University. She has written widely on queer and transgender topics and co-edited the Lambda Literary Award-winning anthology *The Transgender Studies Reader*. Her Emmy Award-winning film, *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*, documents an episode of transgender collective resistance to police oppression in 1966. She is currently researching cross-dressing theatricals in San Francisco's all-male Bohemian Club, working on a new film about 1950s transsexual celebrity Christine Jorgensen, and continuing to promote the development of transgender studies.

**Susan Stryker will also be hosting a faculty and graduate student workshop: January 30, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Space is limited so please RSVP by January 15: [cfr@yorku.ca](mailto:cfr@yorku.ca).**