Outrage!
Discourses, Practices, and Politics of
Protest and Social Transformation

SEWSA 2013 provides a forum to analyze, discuss, and represent diverse histories, theories, and actions that have, and have the potential to, inspire social change. The conference invites conversation surrounding Outrage! Discourses, Practices, and Politics of Protest and Social Transformation that have been and will be transformative in the interdisciplinary study of women, gender, sexuality, and in framing and exploring social experience. The conference will foster a vigorous, open, and inclusive dialogue about the need for, and possibility of, different avenues to change and transformation. Rage, outrage, protest, organizing, diplomacy, and compromise will be considered as they are manifested in the discourses, practices, and products of art, scholarship, and social and public service.

Potential topics include but are not limited to:

- pedagogies of protest and transformation as they are expressed in the street and in the academy; ways in which educational institutions and communities manage resistance
- visibility/ hypervisibility/ invisibility/ absence: when is protest possible and for whom?
- relationships among rage and respectability, civility and incivility; how activists and protests come to be labeled “respectable” or “civil”, how demands for civility and respect aid or undermine protest movements; the histories and current implications of terms such as “civil disobedience”
- forms of protest: ways protest movements, tactics, identities, and arguments evolve; the role of digital media and of staged interventions in protest movements; the gains, losses, and creative possibilities of combining “old” and “new” protest arts
- outrage, outrageous acts, and other responses to injustice and inequality; genealogies and histories as legitimizing and as impacted by social transformation
- performances of rage and outrage; the ways protest, diplomacy, and compromise are enacted or interpreted through bodies and the arts; creative scholarship that engages the broader themes of protest, outrage and change
- protests mounted through art, film, literature and their influence on audiences and on social change; contemporary media coverage of protest movements and activists
- tensions and alliances: among activists and academics; across local and global communities; across women’s studies as an intellectual project, participant in agencies and institutions, partner in internationalizing curriculums and in service learning, in relationship to local and global capital, and in relationship to discourses about and communities concerned with sexuality, class, disability, race, ethnicity, and religion.

SEWSA 2013 is hosted by the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, an especially rich site to explore this topic. Originally the Woman’s College of North Carolina, UNCG has a long and complex history of protest and social justice activism. The city of Greensboro is the site of the 1960 Greensboro sit-ins, a key development in the Civil Rights Movement, and of the 1979 Greensboro Massacre, in which five people died while organizing industrial workers. Southeastern Women’s Studies Association is a regional affiliate of National Women’s Studies Association.

Panels for the People of Color, Graduate Student, and LGBTQ caucuses will be chosen from submitted papers. Please indicate if you would like your work to be considered for inclusion in a caucus session.

Proposals for papers, panels, poster sessions, performances, stagings, and showings accepted until September 30, 2012. All proposals must be submitted electronically via: womens_studies@uncg.edu.