



PENNSTATE  
College of the Liberal Arts

## AFRICANA RESEARCH CENTER



### *Mary Hames*

Director of the Gender Equity Unit  
at the University of Western Cape

*“Women and Feminism in  
Post-Apartheid Narratives:  
Silences and Possibilities”*

Feminist thought and activism are intrinsically part of the history and fabric of the South African liberation struggle. In this lecture I make the connection between women as actual and metaphorical prisoners during and after the demise of apartheid. I then address particular moments of feminist euphoria shortly after the first democratic election in 1994 and I reflect on how women’s and feminist advances have stealthily been eroded as the democracy matured. I illuminate the paradoxes of silences versus hypervisibility of women and raise the challenges and possibilities for revitalizing feminist intellectual activism.

**October 5, 2015 • 6:00–7:30 p.m.**  
**The Nittany Lion Inn—Boardroom 1**

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**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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**Co-sponsored by  
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