The History Lecture Series is always a highlight of the academic year in the Department of History and we are pleased to announce the title for this year’s series: Challenging Gender.

Throughout the ages and around the globe, history has been shaped by those who dared to defy. The 2019 History Lecture Series shines a spotlight on those who challenged gender expectations and changed the cultural landscape. This year’s theme was inspired by the vitality and strength of movements for women’s rights and empowerment, and groundbreaking discussions of gender identity in today’s culture. Over the course of four weeks distinguished Department of History faculty will take listeners through five hundred years of gender history.

We begin with two talks on powerful women whose lives and actions stretched and challenged the stereotypes and norms associated with their sex. The series begins on January 9th with Professor Charity Urbanksi who will be talking about Joan of Arc and her connections to a tradition of transvestite saints in Medieval Europe. Next, on January 16th, Elena Campbell, historian of Imperial Russia, will take on Catherine the Great and explore how sovereignty became gendered during her reign. The following week, on January 23rd, Professor Purnima Dhavan, will give a talk exploring gender identity in Mughal India through an examination of gender switching in the religious and courtly poetry of the Mughal Empire. The series ends on January 30th with Professor William Rorabaugh who will be talking on women of the 1960’s and how female cultural icons such as Janis Joplin, Angela Davies and Betty Friedan helped shape the decade.

Tickets can be purchased from November 29th through the UW Alumni Association at UWalum.com/history or by calling 206-540-0540.
More information can also be found on our History Lecture Series Page.

We look forward to seeing packed lecture theaters for what is always a memorable event!

People Involved: Charity Urbanski, William Rorabaugh, Purnima Dhavan, Elena I. Campbell

News Category: Alumni, Community Impact, Lectures and Events