

# Hon-oring the Past: Gendering Gentrification in Baltimore

Dr. Mary Rizzo, Associate Director, New Jersey Council of Humanities

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2011

Time: Noon-1PM

Location: Lincoln Park Campus, John T. Richardson Library, Room 400  
(Dorothy Day Room)

Baltimore's annual HonFest centers on a local icon, the Hon, a white working-class woman of the 1950s best known for her beehive hairdo, tacky clothes and thick accent. Located in a gentrifying neighborhood, HonFest has been criticized as mocking the working-class culture being displaced and for obscuring longstanding racial tensions. However, some Baltimore women have adopted the Hon as their heritage. In this talk Mary Rizzo shows how they use HonFest to publicly honor white working-class women's history in Baltimore through playing with their identity. While their activities at HonFest are predicated on gentrification, their constructed identities as Hons open a space for critique.

Sponsored by History, Geography, and  
Women and Gender Studies.

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information.

