GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

Susan Bernstein
English and Gender & Women Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

will talk on

Refuge, School, and Workshop: Women in Victorian London Libraries

Thursday, September 22, 2011
3:30 pm
3401 Sterling Hall

This illustrated talk is drawn from a book project, Roomscape: Women Readers at the British Museum from Eliot to Woolf, that examines the Reading Room of the British Museum as a site of imaginative potential in relation to the emergence of modern women writers in Victorian and early twentieth-century London. Roomscape challenges an assessment of the Reading Room of the British Museum as a bastion of class and gender privilege, an image firmly established by Virginia Woolf’s 1929 A Room of One’s Own and the legions of feminist scholarship that uphold this spatial conceit. Rather than viewing reading and writing as solitary, individual events, Roomscape considers the public and social dimensions of literary production. In addition to an overview of this project, the talk explores links between this reading room on the fringe of West London and the People’s Palace Library of East London, superintended by Constance Black (who later became Constance Garnett, the celebrated translator of Russian literature) and catering to working-class readers.

Sponsored by the
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For more information call 263-2053, or email crgw@mailplus.wisc.edu