

Bush in Drag: Sarah Palin and Endless War

Sarah Palin's meteoric rise to power, and now uncertain future, pose formidable questions for feminism. Palin is a political figure that people either love or hate. Progressive people are often so dismayed by her that they dismiss her supporters as "idiots," but that cavalier disregard does not help us understand why she garners such loyalty. To pursue this question, I turn to Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek for conceptual tools to understand the desires and opportunities that have enabled Palin's success within the evangelical wing of the Republican Party. Using Žižek's fertile trio of concepts for analyzing ideology - jouissance, disidentification, and the sublime - I investigate Palin's relation to the women and men who support her and ask about other possible directions for those political desires.



**Tues. October 20
6:00-7:30 pm
CFO 205**

Dr. Kathy E. Ferguson

Kathy E. Ferguson is Professor of Political Science and Women's Studies at the University of Hawai'i. She teaches courses on political theory, feminist theory, and militarism. With co-author Phyllis Turnbull she wrote a book about militarism in Hawai'i entitled *Oh, Say, Can You See? The Semiotics of the Military in Hawai'i* (Minnesota, 1999) and with co-editor Monique Mironesco she edited a volume of essays entitled *Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific* (Hawai'i, 2008). She is currently writing a book about Emma Goldman entitled *Goldman: Political Thinking in the Streets* (Rowman and Littlefield, forthcoming).

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