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Feminist 'zines' to be Focus of May 18 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly assistant professor of English Brenda Helmbrecht will discuss the world of feminist zines -- and the irreverence, anger, wit and sarcasm that saturates them -- at 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 18, in the Business Building, Room 112.

The talk is titled "There Is No 'I' in Grrrrl: The Bustin' and Bitchin' Rhetoric of Third-Wave Zines." Helmbrecht will look at how third-wave feminists are using zines to transform the debates surrounding feminism and gender-sexuality issues. In particular, she will examine the mechanisms by which feminist zines like Bitch and Bust enrage, offend, cajole and motivate readers to bring about social and political change in their own lives.

The term "zines" is short for "magazines" and usually refers to self-published, independent online publications.

Helmbrecht directs Cal Poly's Writing Program. She earned a Ph.D. in rhetoric and composition from Miami University in Ohio in 2004.

The free, public talk is sponsored by Cal Poly Women's Studies program. For more information, contact the Women's Studies Program office at 756-1525, womst@polymail.calpoly.edu or visit the Web at www.calpoly.edu/~womst/.

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