

The Feminist Research Institute

Presents

*Joining the Parade:
How Chinese and Indigenous
Women Challenged
the Mainstream U.S. Suffrage
Movement*

*Dr. Cathleen Cahill,
Dept. of History*



*Wednesday
November 9th
SUB Cherry/
Silver
12:00-1:00pm*

This talk examines the 1913 suffrage parade in Washington DC as the center pole around which to build a story about the participation of women of color in the mainstream suffrage movement. The parade itself is well known as the opening gambit in suffragists' new strategy of focusing on the passage of a federal amendment to the Constitution allowing women to vote. What is less well known is the participation of a number of women of color in the parade. I use the parade as a starting point to introduce these women and their communities. By asking how they came to consider themselves feminists and suffragists to the point of marching in the parade, the research reveals alternative genealogies of feminism that grew out of their particular historical experiences. My project contends that women from other ethnoracial groups, specifically Native Americans, Chinese Americans, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans, also took part in the fight for suffrage—not only that, but ideas about them loomed large in the public imagination as people debated the merits of suffrage.