The Feminist Research Institute Presents

"Alternate Ways to Age: Representation of Older Women in Popular Cinema"



Pam Gravagne, PhD Candidate in American Studies November 30th, 12:00-1:00 p.m. SUB Cherry/Silver

How do negative stereotypes about women's aging influence the way older women are portrayed in film? To what extent is popular cinema complicit in rendering natural the structural and institutional causes of the social exclusion and cultural irrelevance that older women experience? What happens when a film allows the ambiguity and creativity of older women to take center stage? In this talk, we will examine how the older women in *Saving Grace, Calendar Girls,* and *Strangers in Good Company* exceed the limitations imposed on them by negative discourses about aging and, in the process, make visible the force of cinema to create alternate ways to age.

