Carol Gould  
Hunter College & Graduate Center of City University of New York

From Fraternity to Solidarity: Towards a Feminist Reconstruction

Theorists and the public tend to use the terms “fraternity” and “solidarity” interchangeably. Yet, we can ask whether the model of fraternity—exemplified in the Three Musketeers and their slogan “All for one and one for all,” or in the bonds among members of a single nation, or in pernicious form in Ultranationalist or White Supremacist groups—can adequately characterize the sorts of transnational solidarities most needed today. Traditional understandings take solidarity to require not only standing with fellow group members or compatriots but also necessarily standing against, and even fighting, an “other.” This presentation will argue that feminist approaches that highlight notions such as care, mutuality, empathy, and difference (as exemplified in some key examples of feminist activism) have much to contribute to an enriched conception of solidarity better suited to address core problems of contemporary societies, including entrenched inequalities and crossborder crises like climate change.

Friday, April 21, 2023  
at 5:00 pm,  
COE, Room 164  
An Informal Reception to Follow