

## CLAS Events – Easter Term 2026

Thursday 04 June - 5:00pm | Talk

Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building

### ***Feeling Activism: Emotions, Abortion Rights, and Feminist Politics in Argentina***

**Speaker:** [Barbara Sutton](#) (University at Albany, SUNY)

**Discussant:** [Nayla Luz Vacarezza](#) (Universidad de Buenos Aires - CONICET)

#### **Abstract:**

The struggle for abortion rights has been shaped not only by ideological and political disputes but also by varied emotions. These feelings carry public and political significance and are integral to the evolution, shape, and tactics of movements across different geographical locales and social milieus. This presentation explores the emotional dimensions of abortion rights activism in Argentina amid the “green tide” for abortion rights. It also broadens the frame to consider wider feminist activism in the context of the contemporary resurgence of right-wing politics. Sutton examines the role of emotions before, during, and after abortion legalization, showing how emotions politicize the social reality of abortion, drive and shape the struggle for this right, influence its conceptualization and interpretative frames, and affect how abortion has been perceived and experienced. Furthermore, she addresses how emotions imprint the memory of the struggle, reveal the efforts involved in this activism, and highlight the challenges that lie ahead.

#### **About the Speaker:**



**Barbara Sutton** is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY. She earned a law degree in her country of origin, Argentina, and completed her doctorate in sociology in the United States. An award-winning author, her research focuses on body politics, multiple forms of violence, abortion rights mobilization, and women’s and feminist activism, particularly in Latin American contexts.

Her book *Bodies in Crisis: Culture, Violence, and Women’s Resistance in Neoliberal Argentina* received the Gloria E. Anzaldúa Book Prize from the National Women’s Studies Association. She is also the author of *Surviving State Terror: Women’s Testimonies of Repression and Resistance in Argentina*, which received Honorable Mentions from the American Sociological Association Sex & Gender Section and the New England Council of Latin American Studies

Marysa Navarro Book Prize. She co-edited *Abortion and Democracy: Contentious Body Politics in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay* with Nayla Luz Vacarezza and *Security Disarmed: Critical Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Militarization* with Julie Novkov and Sandra Morgen. Her most recent book is *Bulletproof Fashion: Security, Emotions, and the Fortress Body*.