Equality under law and basic personal freedom—the right to control choices about one's own health and body—has been an ongoing struggle for women over time and across the globe. With the new administration, abortion retains its place in the American political system as one of the most divisive issues despite women’s health being at stake. The GOP Platform explicitly states the desire of the Republican party to curb access to reproductive rights, and vice-president Pence has long been one of the most vociferous anti-choice politicians, vowing to overturn Roe as soon as possible. Many state governments have enacted legal measures that block access to abortion and other health services or mandate that women receive incorrect and misleading information. The shift in government and the ongoing attacks on abortion service providers and their capacity to provide safe healthcare for women means that we are entering one of the most anti-choice and misogynist times in recent memory. The struggle for reproductive justice continues to animate activists and theorists around the globe – to protect what little we currently have and to forge productive and wide-ranging social justice strategies. This daylong symposium - creatively engaging both on-the-ground activism and more academic understandings - is our attempt to bring into dialogue current debates around reproductive justice and to place those debates and political strategies in historical context.
No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice
Schedule of Events
Friday, March 17, 2017

8:30 am
Arrival and Registration
Coffee and light breakfast will be served

9:00 am
Welcome and Introduction
Suzanna Walters, Professor of Sociology and Program Director of WGSS, Northeastern University; Editor-in-Chief, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society
Uta Poiger, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities

9:10 am
Without Apology: Historical and Cultural Contexts
Moderator: Margot Abels, Northeastern University
Dázon Dixon Diallo, SisterLove, Inc.
Kelly O’Donnell, Historian
Rickie Solinger, Historian
Katha Pollitt, The Nation

5 minute break

11:15 am
Undivided: Reproductive Justice and Social Change
Moderator: Sarah Jackson, Northeastern University
Laura Harrison, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Loretta Ross, Five Colleges Women’s Studies Research Center
Carly Thomsen, Middlebury College

12:45 pm
Lunch Break
Submit questions for moderated roundtable at end of day
No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice
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1:30 pm
Unbound: Reproductive Justice and Legal Impediments
Moderator: Laura Green, Northeastern University

Khiara M. Bridges, Boston University Department of Anthropology &
Boston University School of Law
Shoshanna Ehrlich, University of Massachusetts Boston
Kimberly Mutcherson, Rutgers University School of Law

3:00 pm
On the Ground: Activism and Health Praxis
Moderator: Moya Bailey, Northeastern University

Nashira Baril, Birth Sanctuary Boston
Bayla Ostrach, Boston University School of Medicine
Susan Yanow, MSW, Reproductive Health Consultant

4:30pm
A Concluding Conversation
Moderator: Suzanna Walters, Northeastern University

A discussion based on curated questions submitted by the audience.

5:00 pm
Reception, Dockser Hall Commons
Welcome and Remarks, Jeremy Paul, Dean, Northeastern University School of Law