

The Women's and Gender Studies Program presents:
Anita Hill: Speaking Truth to Power

Anita Hill's story, a critical precursor of the #MeToo Movement, reveals the origins of sexual harassment, a term that didn't exist before the 1970s.

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When: 5:30 p.m. Thurs. October 4, 2018

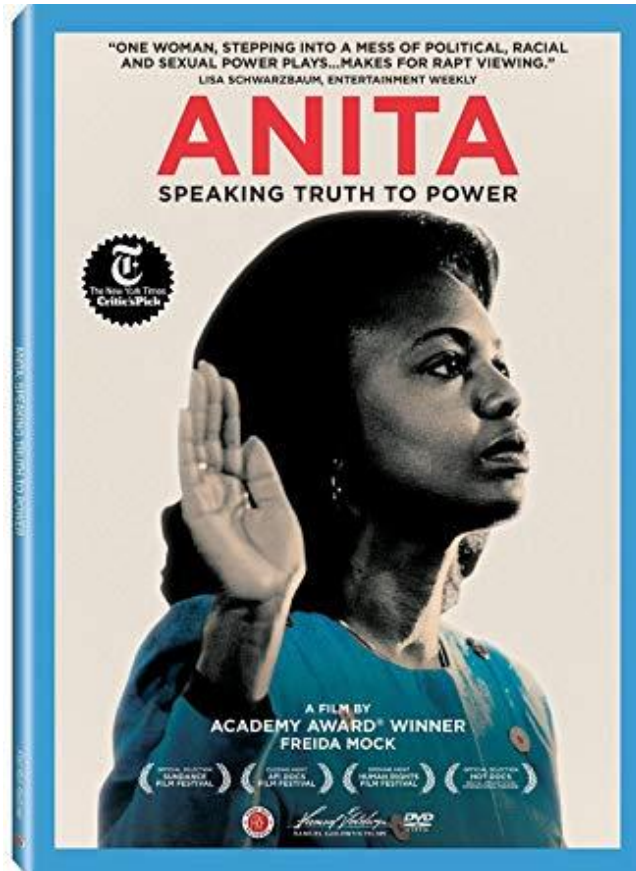
Where: Myers Auditorium, 260 McComsey Hall

Who: The following professors will lead a discussion following the film

***Dr. Nivedita Bagchi**, Associate Professor of Government & Political Affairs and Director of the International Studies Program

***Dr. Frederika Schmitt**, Associate Professor of Sociology & Criminology and Co-Coordinator Green Dot Violence Prevention Strategy

***Dr. Christine Filippone**, Coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Program



U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, has been accused of sexual assault and by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, when they were both in high school. The Senate Judiciary Committee, which confirms Supreme Court Justices, has agreed to give Dr. Ford a hearing. A similar hearing took place in 1991 when attorney Anita Hill accused then Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment in the work place. Many years before the current #MeToo movement, sexual harassment was barely discussed and ill-defined. Members of the all-male, and all white, Senate Judiciary Committee accused Anita Hill of lying. The committee proceeded to confirm Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court, where he still serves. Anita Hill was vilified by many for making her story public. Today she is professor of social

policy, law, and women's studies at Brandeis University and a faculty member of Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy and Management. The film documents an historical moment that rhymes with our current one.

“An entire country watched as a poised, beautiful African-American woman sat before a Senate committee of 14 white men and with a clear, unwavering voice recounted the repeated acts of sexual harassment she had endured while working with U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Anita Hill's graphic testimony was a turning point for gender equality in the U.S. and ignited a political firestorm about sexual misconduct and power in the workplace that resonates still today. Against a backdrop of sex, politics, and race, *Anita: Speaking Truth to Power* reveals the story of a woman who has empowered millions to stand up for equality and justice. Directed by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Freida Mock, the film celebrates Anita Hill's legacy and provides a rare glimpse into her private life and career.”

Reviews

"CRITIC'S PICK! 'Anita: Speaking Truth to Power' is an important historical document about an event that prompted a larger cultural conversation about sexual harassment. But, perhaps more important, it conveys Ms. Hill's journey from an accuser alone to an activist who shares with, and listens to, others." -- Miriam Bale, The New York Times

"One woman, stepping into a mess of political, racial and sexual power plays...makes for rapt viewing." -- Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly