The Worldliness of Jane Addams’ Cosmopolitan Education

W.F. (Bill) Pinar

Jane Addams was a social activist and theorist who was born in 1860 in Cedarville, Illinois, and died in Chicago in 1935. It is how she traveled from Cedarville to Chicago that Dr. Pinar will discuss, an educational journey that began at home in her father’s library, was formalized at Rockford Female Seminary (now Rockford College), and continued during her two tours of Europe during which she met Leo Tolstoy and visited Toynbee Hall in London, where her inchoate conception of public service took a more specific, indeed singular, form. As her biographers make clear, Addams sought lived experience to supplement academic study, thereby reconstructing both, transposing her devotion to her family into devotion to the world. From teaching her neighbors to teaching her fellow human beings, Addams’ quietly passionate life was expressed in profound public service. Dr. Pinar suggests that Addams personifies – in a singular, still echoing form – the worldliness of a cosmopolitan education affords.

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12 - 1:30 pm
UBC Green College
Coach House
6323 Cecil Green Park Road
Free and Open to the Public

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