

## NCRW to Host Toni Morrison Tribute to Paula Giddings, Biographer of Anti-Lynching Activist Ida Wells

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### For Immediate Release

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New York, March 23, 2009 – In a rare engagement, Nobel Laureate **Toni Morrison** will sit down with social historian **Paula J. Giddings** to discuss the latter's book *Ida: A Sword Among Lions, Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*, now out in paperback (Amistad). Hosted by the National Council for Research on Women and the NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, **the event will be held from 3-5 PM on Friday, March 27 at the Rosenthal Pavilion at the Kimmel Center**, NYU (60 Washington Park South).

“We are privileged to share this thought-provoking discussion with the public. The perspectives of these two extraordinary women will provide new awareness about why the world needs to hear how women shape and affect history – and our futures,” said Linda Basch, President of the National Council for Research on Women.

Welcoming remarks will be made by Dr. Basch; Dean Catharine Stimpson, NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences; and Dr. Phillip Harper, Chair, Department of English, NYU. Co-Sponsors of the event include the English Department at NYU; Fordham University Department of English/Arts and Sciences; the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College; and the Women Donors Network.

Hailed as a “groundbreaking biography,” by *O Magazine*, Giddings's book is “history at its best – clear, intelligent, moving,” and, “as priceless as its subject, according to Morrison.

Born to slaves in Mississippi, Ida Wells began her activist career by refusing to leave a first-class ladies' car on a Memphis railway and rose to lead a national campaign against lynching. Through her compelling and insightful narrative, Giddings provides an engaging look into Wells's life, her mission and one of the most tumultuous periods in American history. Morrison, a towering literary figure, will explore Giddings's work in detail and her focus on women writing history.

**Paula J. Giddings** is the Elizabeth A. Woodson Professor of Afro-American studies at Smith College and the author of *When and Where I Enter* and *In Search of Sisterhood*. **Toni Morrison** is the award-winning author of *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula* and *Beloved*, among many others.

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