

Center

from the

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY · UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

WINTER



No Longer WHARI

Introducing a Revamped Research Program on Women's Health

The former Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative at CSWS has renewed its focus and commitment to conducting and supporting research that improves understanding of the diverse factors affecting women's health. Renaming themselves the "Research Program on Women's Health," program members wanted to clarify the purpose and mission of this five-year-old CSWS initiative.

"We have moved beyond an *initiative* and become a recognized *program* in the field of women's health," says Marie Harvey, director of the research program. "In addition, our new title clarifies that our focus includes research on women's health across the life span, not just aging."

The Research Program on Women's Health will continue to have a special emphasis on women's reproductive health and the study of health care decision-making and access. Areas of inquiry will continue to focus on the prevention of HIV/STDs and unintended pregnancies; the acceptability of new reproductive technologies, including abortion methods, to women and providers; and improving health care access and quality.

For example, Harvey and Sheryl Thorburn Bird, one of the program's research scientists, are examining the acceptability of the vaginal diaphragm for the prevention of HIV/STDs among women, a study funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Harvey also has been spearheading a five-year project, funded by the CDC, evaluating a couple-based intervention to decrease unprotected intercourse among young Latina women and their male partners.

In a new Robert Wood Johnson-funded project, Judy Hibbard, another program research scientist, will examine the question: If hospitals' performance records on preventable complications, deaths, and medical mistakes were made public, how would that affect consumer choice of hospitals, and would those hospitals make greater efforts to improve their care?

These are just a few of the more than twenty-five research projects undertaken by members of the program.

What makes the Research Program on Women's Health so productive? "Dedication, hard work, and tenacity!" says Harvey. "You write a lot of proposals that never get funded. But, you keep at it, and then you get one funded. It makes it all worthwhile."

Along with generating a great deal of research, the program is extremely successful in securing external funding for the support of their endeavors. This funding helps CSWS not only to accomplish its mission of generating research, but also brings in new assistants, associates, and GTFs to work on funded projects.

The program has enhanced the reputation of CSWS as a research center that is nationally recognized for its contributions to the advancement of women's health. To this end, Hibbard was an invited expert witness for the U.S. Senate budget committee in June 2001. She testified on the information needs of Medicare beneficiaries, based on her research examining the ability of older beneficiaries to use comparative information to make health care choices. In addition, Harvey and Bird recently presented papers at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Atlanta.

Given the new focus and continuing productivity of the program, Harvey is excited about its future. "Still, there is much to be done. Women are disproportionately affected by many significant public health problems that are the focus of our research," she says. "We are committed to doing research that has direct implications for policy and programs."

Facts about the Research Program on Women's Health
 Research scientists: *three*
 Research affiliates: *five*
 Project staff members: *four*
 Studies completed or in progress: *twenty-five +*
 Articles published in peer-reviewed journals: *fifty-five +*
 Presentations made at conferences: *sixty +*
 External funding brought to the UO: *over \$3.7 million*

What's Next?

Look for a forthcoming report on medical abortion in the CSWS *Policy Matters* series.

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An Ecological Conversation with Veronica Brady



Veronica Brady

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From the Center is published three times per year by the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon. It is designed by Lori Howard, University Publications, and edited by Cheri Brooks, with assistance by Shirley Marc.

A Roman Catholic nun, environmental activist, and scholar of English literature, Veronica Brady served as a Rockefeller Fellow at CSWS during November and December 2001. Her involvement with Aboriginal Australians began with an academic interest in indigenous writing and theology and led to her participation in their political struggle for justice.

Q: Does your religious training as a Roman Catholic nun come into conflict with the more mystical traditions of Aboriginal Australians?

A: Well there's a great mystical tradition in Roman Catholicism. Women in the Catholic Church have largely been underground. But then also I've got half Irish in my blood. And I've always been interested in Celtic spirituality. Besides which, if you separate religion from faith and the sacred, at the origins they're all indescribable and beyond words.

The first of my ancestors was sent to Australia as a convict in 1817 because he was out after curfew. My genes have been in Australia for a long time. So I, too, have a feeling for the land.

Q: Do most Australians have a spiritual connection with the land?

A: Australia is probably the most secular society in the world. In America, most people go to church or use religious language. America was founded by Pilgrims and other religious groups. Don't forget that Australia was founded by convicts. I think the only notion of a "god" is success. So we can't admit that we've made mistakes, because that savage god won't forgive us.

This savage god matches a land that looks savage. It isn't when you learn about it. As one of my Aboriginal friends says, "The desert is very generous." But we don't see it. So to us the land is very violent.

Even as a kid I remember in the bush thinking, there's something here that doesn't like me. The town we were living in had been a gold rush town, so perhaps there'd been massacres out there. Or, I was in a place as a little girl I shouldn't have been. Because there are places sacred to women and places sacred to men.

Q: You have said that questions about the land and its inhabitants are beginning to haunt Australians. Why?

A: In the past, we really didn't pay much attention. The land was our enemy. Australia

is one of the most highly urbanized societies on earth. Something like 95 percent of all Australians live in cities.

From the end of the nineteenth century until about 1975, we did develop what was called "the Australian tradition," the sense that this was a land of a new beginning, where everybody had a right to "a fair go." Australia was the first country in the world to pass a law making it an obligation to pay everyone a basic minimum wage.

But something's happened. The gap between rich and poor is greater in Australia than it's ever been. Not only has Prime Minister John Howard refused to apologize to indigenous people, he's seriously damaged the social welfare system.

Q: How is the reconciliation movement seeking to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people?

A: There is a solid core of decent, caring Australians. And increasingly, we're beginning to realize the true story of our settlement. It's not what we were told.

One of Howard's first acts as prime minister was to attack what he called "the black-arm-band school of history," because, finally, historians have been writing history from the other side of the frontier, from the Aboriginal point of view. He said that was dreadful, that "we are, after all, a great country." They don't want to face it. The Australian legal system was based on the fact that our country was empty. There were no treaties signed. We're a nation of thieves. But the high court has found that was wrong.

The previous prime minister, Keating, made a speech in which he apologized to the Aboriginal people and set up a reconciliation council. Its task was to bring about some kind of reconciliation by the year 2000. Of course, Howard destroyed it.

The problem with reconciliation, my Aboriginal friends say, is that it's just making whites feel good. What about, they say, when they took every Aboriginal child who had white blood away from their natural parents, put them in a reserve or mission, and forbade them from speaking their language? They call it the stolen generation. One of the recommendations of a government report on this tragedy was that there should be recompense. In other words, it's all well to say you're sorry. What are you doing about it?

CSWS Winter Calendar

JANUARY

16: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Karen McPherson, Romance languages, "Memory Work in Canadian Women Writers' Fictions of Loss"

4:00–5:30 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Teaching & Tea: Louise Bishop, "The Medicine of Gender: New Images from British Manuscript Collections"

30: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Lea Williams, comparative literature, "Writing on All Fronts: Gender, Testimony, and the Literature of War"

FEBRUARY

7: 7:00 P.M., Knight Library Browsing Room, Ecological Conversations Lecture: Edrie Sobstyl, "Finding the Sacred in Ecofeminist Science Fiction"

12: 4:00–5:30 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Teaching & Tea: Amanda Powell and Stephanie Wood, "Sor Juana as Icon: Then and Now"

13: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Tina Eskes, creative writing, "River in the Sea: A Novel-in-Progress"

21: 7:00 P.M., Knight Library Browsing Room, Ecological Conversations Lecture: Nimachia Hernandez, "Mokakssini: A Blackfoot Theory of Knowledge"

27: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Mary Fechner, anthropology, "A Change of Heart: A Cultural Study of Heart Disease in Post-Socialist Germany"

MARCH

6: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Marie Harvey, CSWS, "CSWS Grants Workshop"

8: 8:45 A.M.–3:00 P.M., Gerlinger Lounge, Women's History Day (Call Jan Emerson to register, 346-2263.)

13: Noon–1:00 P.M., 330 Hendricks Hall, Brown Bag: Matthew Dennis, history, "Seneca Possessed: Witchcraft, Gender, and Colonialism on the Frontier of the Early Republic"

A Day of Celebration and Learning

Women's History Day, organized by Jan Emerson of the CSWS Feminist Humanities Project, is in its third successful year. The day offers a chance for high school students to hear a keynote lecture and attend workshops led by UO professors and CSWS affiliates. The event not only celebrates women's history, it also helps expose young students to new perspectives and cutting-edge scholarship on gender and history.

This year's sessions will provide insight into the status of women in Muslim states; the lives of so-called witches in the seventeenth century; the reactions of modern teenage girls to the *Scream* films; along with seven other fascinating workshops.

Students and teachers will convene at Gerlinger Lounge on Friday, March 8, at 8:45 A.M. for the welcome plenary session. Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College, will deliver this year's keynote address. Groups of students will attend four workshops throughout the day and reconvene for an afternoon reception.

Women's History Day has become extremely popular and space is limited. For more information or to register (by March 1), contact Jan Emerson, 346-2263, or jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu. Teachers can register groups or individual students.

Schedule

Keynote Address: Mary Spilde, President, Lane Community College

Workshops:

Confess or Deny? Witches' Choices in 1692
Elizabeth Reis, history

American Women Nature Writers
Tina Richardson, English and CSWS

Frida Kahlo: Mexican Artist—World Icon
Stephanie Wood, Romance languages and history

Jewish Women in the Middle Ages
Judith Baskin, Judaic studies

The Maiden Knight
Gina Psaki, Romance languages

Race-ing Towards Pluralism: Nineteenth-Century Black Women Writers Imagine an Egalitarian United States

Colleen O'Brien, English

Teen Girls and the Scream Films
Kathleen Karlyn, English

Warrior Women in Anglo-American Folksong and History

Dianne Dugaw, English

Women, Empowerment, and Discrimination in Muslim States

Anita Weiss, international studies

Women and Social Movements in Latin America
Lynn Stephen, anthropology



Take Note

Some CSWS grant deadlines have moved up. See page 10 for details.



What:
Women's History Day

When:
Friday, March 8, 2002,
8:45 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

Where:
Gerlinger Lounge,
University of Oregon

Who to contact:
Jan Emerson, (541) 346-
2263; jemerson@oregon.
uoregon.edu



RIG Updates



The **Social Sciences Feminist Network** held its first retreat in Waldport and will hold two more this year. The retreats provide a unique setting outside of academia for graduate students and faculty members to connect with each other and to share work and ideas. RIG members welcome any and all who are interested to attend. In addition, the Social Sciences Feminist Network holds writing review meetings twice a month to present, review, and discuss works in progress in a supportive, informal environment. Those preparing dissertations, papers, theses, grant-proposals, or other project, who want some preliminary feedback, can present at these meetings.

This RIG holds a coffee hour every Thursday from 1:00–2:00 p.m. at Café Roma (on East 13th Ave. near campus). All are welcome. For more information, contact Hava Gordon, hgordon@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or Mara Fridell, mfridell@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

The **Gender in Historical and Transnational China** RIG brings together those interested in Chinese culture and society, studying the interaction between the representation of gender, ideology, and cultural practices in all periods of Chinese history. The RIG's interdisciplinary and international conference, *Gender in Motion*, held over the first weekend of October, was a great success.

Although several participants were unable to attend in the aftermath of September 11, twenty scholars, including several from China and Europe, talked, argued, and ate China, chewing on the impact of work and travel on gender roles during the long transition from late-imperial China through the Republican period to current trends in post-socialist urban culture.

RIG coordinator, Maram Epstein, notes,

"It is becoming clear to many of us that it is only through broad efforts such as this that we can fill in the many silences of certain kinds of documents and enable ourselves to go beyond the limits of traditional sources."

The conference volume to be edited by Bryna Goodman (history) and Wendy Larson (East Asian languages and literature) promises to make significant contributions to the understanding of gender, work, and travel in the China field.

For more information on the China RIG, contact Maram Epstein, (541) 346-4017, maram@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The **Jewish Feminist Reading Group** meets monthly to discuss specific readings, including literary, historical, and theoretical works, that contribute to the ongoing discourse on the changing roles and historical understandings of women in Judaism and in Jewish life and culture. Contact Judith Baskin, (541) 346-5984, jlbaskin@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The **Native American Communities** RIG engages in topics related to American Indian and Alaskan Native research issues, including literature, film, and academic works. Contact Zelda Haro, tharo@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

The **Reclaiming the Past** RIG supports scholars and students working in all humanities disciplines with a focus on the past. Contact Gina Psaki, (541) 346-4042, rpsaki@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The **Sex, Gender, and the Law** RIG is continuing a visiting seminar series, sponsoring one visitor each term. Contact Peggy Pascoe, (541) 346-3406, ppscoe@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

The **Violence, Gender, and Society** RIG promotes research, community collaboration, and information dissemination in the area of violence and gender. Contact Deborah Olson, (541) 346-2483, dlolson@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The **Wired** RIG provides collaborating opportunities for people interested in exploring the web's use in promoting research on women and gender. Contact Judith Musick, (541) 346-5099, musick@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Throughout fall term, members of the **Women and Economic Restructuring** RIG concentrated on their research on welfare restructuring. However, the RIG is now gearing up for its winter–spring 2002 program and will be submitting a development grant proposal. For information, contact Joan Acker, (541) 344-5727, jacker@oregon.uoregon.edu.

New RIG Forming

Want to be part of a Feminist Environmental Research Group? Contact Tina Richardson, CSWS, tinalr@darkwing.uoregon.edu, if you are interested in helping to develop a program for winter–spring 2002.

Get details about starting a RIG on the CSWS website, <http://csws.uoregon.edu>, or contact Shirley Marc for materials and information, (541) 346-5084.

Kudos!

Joan Acker, sociology and CSWS, is serving on an international committee evaluating the women's studies programs at all Finish universities. She also spoke about U.S. welfare reform at the University of Lund in Sweden and at the University of Oslo in Norway.

Sheryl Thorburn Bird, CSWS, is first author on a paper with **Marie Harvey**, CSWS, and colleagues published in *The Journal of Sex Research* that examined strategies that men and women at risk of HIV/STDs would use to influence their partners to use condoms.

Lowell Bowditch, classics, published *Horace and the Gift Economy of Patronage* in a series on Classics and Contemporary Thought (University of California Press). He also presented "Hermeneutic Uncertainty and Female Subjectivity in the *Ars Amatoria*: The Procris and Cephalus Digression" at the American Philological Association meeting in San Diego.

Gaylene Carpenter, arts and administration, authored "Using Individual and Group Processes to Enhance an Understanding of Concepts Related Leisure and the Quality of Life," which was published in *Scholé*, the journal for the Society of Park & Recreation Educators.

David Castillo, Romance languages, received the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching last summer. His book, *(A)wry Views: Anamorphosis, Cervantes and the Early Picaresque*, was recently published by Purdue University Press.

A presentation by **Jan Emerson**, CSWS, "Monks in the Wild West: The Early Days at Mt. Angel Abbey," has been selected for the Oregon Council for the Humanities 2001-2003 Chautauqua Program.

William Hamilton, women's studies, gave the paper "Satire and Subversion on the Haymarket Stage: Haywood's Dramatic Engagement with Walpole and Fielding" at the annual DeBartolo conference at the University of South Florida.

Leslie Harris, law, has several new publications, including a paper in the *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy* on child support. She has been invited to write entries for the *Oxford Companion to American Law* on "Marriage and Spousal Support" and was elected to a one-year term on the Lane County Bar Association's Board of Governors.

Marie Harvey, CSWS, has been named president of the Population and Environmental Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association. She also is serving as president-elect of the Population, Family Planning and Reproductive Health Section, American Public Health Association.

Ellen McWhirter, psychology, received the Fritz and Lynn Kuder Early Career Scientist Practitioner Award from the Counseling Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association.

Debra Merskin, journalism, published "Winnebagos, Cherokees, Apaches, and Dakotas:

The Persistence of Stereotyping of American Indians in American Advertising Brands," in the latest issue of *The Howard Journal of Communications*.

Linda Kintz, English, has an article, "Performing Virtual Whiteness: The Psychic Fantasy of Globalization," in the forthcoming issue of *Comparative Literature*. She made several presentations, including "How to Be Nice While You Corporatize Democracy: George W. Bush, Cokie Roberts, and the Performance of Niceness" in Monterrey, Mexico.

Former CSWS director **Cheris Kramarae's** report, *The Third Shift: Women Learning Online*, has just been published by the AAUW Educational Foundation.

The book *Ballet and Opera in the Age of Giselle* by **Marian Smith**, music, won the Torre Bueno Prize, which is awarded by the Dance Perspectives Foundation each year for "the most distinguished original book of dance scholarship in English published during the previous calendar year."

Lynn Stephen, anthropology, published a book, *Zapata Lives! Histories and Cultural Politics in Southern Mexico*, with the University of California Press (January 2002).

Audrey Vanderford, comparative literature, and **Tina Richardson**, English, are co-authors of "Butterflies and Boobs (or, How to Manufacture an Environmental Pin-Up Girl)" forthcoming in the anthology, *Women and the Media: National and Global Perspectives* (SUNY Press), edited by Theresa Carill and Jane Campbell.

Anita Weiss, international studies, has given more than fifty public talks and interviews (radio, television, newspaper) to help educate people about issues in the Muslim world, particularly regarding Muslim women. She is presenting the distinguished lecture at the general meeting of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists.

Louise Westling, English, gave a number of presentations and published several papers, including "Participatory Knowledge and the World in Virginia Woolf" in *Engendering Rationalities* (SUNY Press) and "Earth" in the *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Women*.

Uncontained: Urban Fiction in Postwar America, by **Elizabeth Wheeler**, English, was selected by *Choice* magazine as one of the Outstanding Academic Titles of 2001.

Stephanie Wood, history, presented "Frida and Coyolxauhqui: Teaching Gender in Mexican History with the Net" at the American Historical Association in Boston. Another paper, "¿El otro otro? Interpretando imágenes y descripciones de españoles en los códices y textos indígenas," appears in a recently released book about Mexican codices and documents, edited by Constanza Vega.

"Philosophical Aspects of the 1998 AAA [American Anthropological Association] Statement on Race," by **Naomi Zack**, philosophy, appears in *Anthropological Theory*, December 2001. Zack is chairing the executive committee of CODAC, the UO Center on Diversity and Community, until 2003.



Share Your Good News

Send notices of papers published, awards won, presentations made, and honors bestowed to Cheri Brooks, cbrooks@oregon.uoregon.edu



CSWS Welfare Research Team

Joan Acker,
principal investigator
Sandra Morgen,
principal investigator
Kate Barry,
research associate
Lisa Gonzales,
research associate
Jill Weigt,
research associate
Holly Langan,
graduate assistant
Look for the second
edition of *Policy Matters*,
an expanded analysis and
narrative about the effects
of welfare reform in
Oregon. (See excerpt on
page 7.) Copies will be
available through the
Women in the Northwest
website: <http://wnw.uoregon.edu/>. Or call
CSWS, (541) 346-5015.

Getting Off Welfare is Only Half the Battle.



Health Plan, housing and childcare assistance, and earned income tax credits are still critical for many poor families. However, these resources often disappear before a family's need for them diminishes, because of income eligibility limits and unaffordable co-payments.

Welfare reform must have the flexibility to help poor people meet their family's basic needs—whether or not the economy is flourishing.

Results and Recommendations from the Welfare Research Team

This year, Congress will decide whether to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program, part of the federal legislation that brought welfare reform in 1996. The CSWS study of Oregon Families who left TANF and Food Stamps sheds light on the success of welfare reform, and members of the Welfare Research Team issued recommendations to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which administers the TANF program.

The CSWS study showed that the effects of welfare-to-work policies are neither simple nor uniform. Two years after leaving or being diverted from TANF or Food Stamps, a substantial proportion of respondents were employed; however, their earnings were low, and families were struggling mightily to make ends meet. Two years after exit, families were nearly evenly divided between those with household incomes just above and those below the federal poverty level.

Today, Oregon's status as a state officially in recession and the expected loss of jobs in all sectors puts low-income families at an even higher risk of hardship and increased poverty. Oregon currently has the second highest unemployment rate in the United States.

Programs such as Food Stamps, the Oregon

CSWS's recommendations for TANF reauthorization center on the following broad principles:

1. Secure the Safety Net—States must end programs that deny needy families immediate entry into TANF and must demonstrate a benefit level that meets families' minimum needs.

2. Protect Working Families—Assistance for low-wage workers who lack benefits should be bolstered by expanding the umbrella of health care, childcare, and transportation subsidies, as well as Food Stamps.

3. Encourage Poverty Reduction—TANF recipients should receive better support for training and education; higher education should count as a work activity (for up to four years); poor college students should be allowed to receive Food Stamps.

4. Put Children First—Subsidies and reimbursement rates for day care should increase; parents caring for young children should be supported.

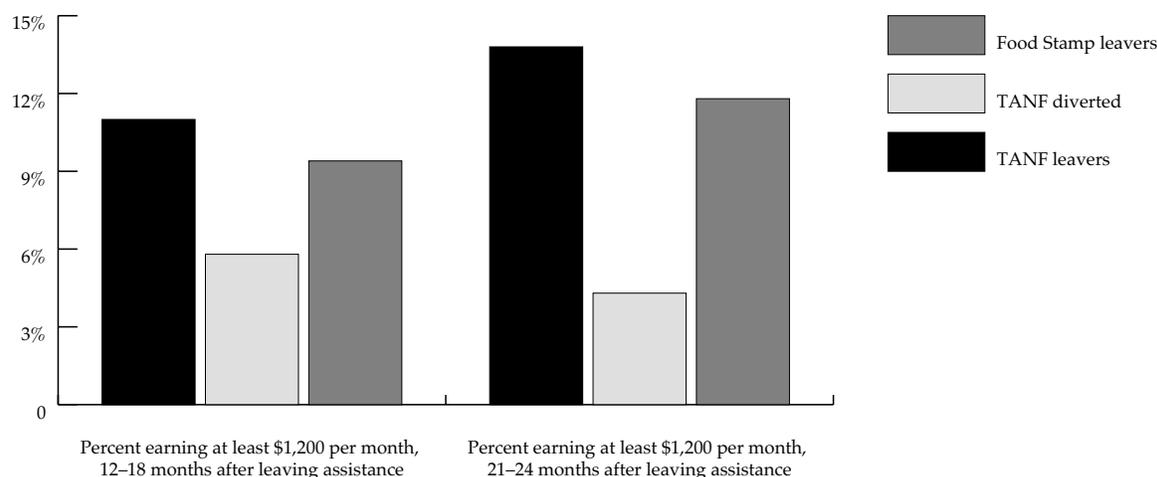
To download a complete copy of CSWS's recommendations to the Office of Family Assistance on TANF reauthorization, check the new Women in the Northwest website: <http://wnw.uoregon.edu/>

The Struggle of Single Parenting

The vast majority of respondents in the Welfare Research Team's study of *Oregon Families who Left Temporary Assistance to Needy*

The Other Half is Living Off Welfare.

Former Welfare Recipients with Good Jobs*



*A "good job" is defined as including at least thirty-five hours per week; take-home earnings over \$1,200 per month; predictable shifts; sick leave; some paid vacation; and health insurance.

Families (TANF) and Food Stamps, were heads of single-parent households. Most were single mothers.

The question of what makes a good job for these single parents is a difficult one, especially since they have the additional and constant responsibility of home and family care. Most single parents reported difficulties balancing employment with their children's needs, and voiced frustration with the fact that a significant portion of the wages from their ill-paying jobs went to paying childcare providers.

Besides decent pay and benefits, single mothers—and in a few instances, fathers—also need a certain level of flexibility to take care of their dependent children. The kinds of jobs available to low-income parents create a terrible bind. Many low-wage jobs offer neither important benefits nor flexibility to meet family needs. When positions—teacher's aide, for instance—do offer flexibility around daycare demands, sick children, and school functions, single parents often seek out that type of employment. Better paying jobs become difficult to find and keep as more responsibility and increased pay often mean less flexibility around family needs. And overall, the balance between work outside the home and the enormous responsibility of caring for a family is overlooked in the welfare system—there is little recognition of the unpaid labor necessary in maintaining a family and household, or of the time such work takes.

"I really want to get out and better myself and

get a better job," TANF leaver Pamela Stewart** told CSWS researchers. "But either that's going to come with more school or with lots of time. The time is what I don't have. I don't have the freedom to go do interviews, to go fill out applications."

Like many interviewed in the study, Stewart—the mother of two toddlers—spent every hour juggling her low-income job and childcare. And while she was determined to provide financially for them, she also wanted to preserve a relationship with her children. "If I had the opportunity, I'd be home more with my kids than I am now," she said. "I would like to be more involved in their lives. I would certainly like to have the choice. I think that's very important."

But CSWS researchers discovered that choice is elusive for people on the edge. Sitting with women and men in their own homes, or discussing their hopes and frustrations with them over the phone, allowed the Welfare Research Team to discount the myth of low-income people using the system to avoid work. Almost uniformly, these people wanted to make a living and yearned for the sense of fulfillment that comes from meaningful work. Yet many found the system does not allow a pursuit of education and training; others had serious health problems and a lack of health insurance; and many struggled to create deep and lasting bonds with their children, particularly in light of the limited time they have to spend with them.

Excerpted from Policy Matters II, text by Debra Gwartney.

**Names of respondents have been changed.



The Women in the Northwest Research Initiative has a new website. Check out this work-in-progress at <http://wnw.uoregon.edu> (or link to it from the CSWS main website: <http://csws.uoregon.edu>).



CSWS Receives Diversity Award

On October 25, 2001, the ASUO Multicultural Center awarded CSWS a "Weaving New Beginnings Departmental Honor" in recognition of its work and dedication to diversity both on and off campus.

FHP Bring "Humanities Computing" Scholar to the University of Oregon

By Daniel Gilfillan, FHP Research Associate

Part of the role of the CSWS Feminist Humanities Project (FHP) is to encourage digital proficiency among the faculty within UO humanities' departments. Over an energetic three-day period in November, FHP, in conjunction with the Wired Humanities Project, had the opportunity to host Willard McCarty, a senior lecturer at King's College in London and an expert in humanities computing.

A scholar of the classics, Professor McCarty arrived on campus to launch a discussion about the potential for a humanities computing program at the UO, and he was able to engage a number of faculty in the merits of humanities computing as a discipline. The visit (sponsored in part by the Oregon Humanities Center, Division of Special Collections and University Archives, and the Department of Romance Languages) included a public lecture and a faculty seminar with twenty participants.

McCarty's lecture explored the emergent discipline of humanities computing, looking at its unique position amid more traditional academic disciplines. He explained, "Like comparative literature, humanities computing takes its subject matter from other disciplines and is guided by their concerns, but it returns to them ever more challenging questions and new ways of thinking through old problems."

McCarty believes that the convergence of humanities research and computing methods is revolutionizing how traditional scholars conduct research and teach courses. His visit was designed to help faculty visualize—beyond word processing—how computing can be integrated into their work.

It was, perhaps, in the individual and small-group meetings with McCarty that members of FHP and core staff of the Wired Humanities Project were able to benefit most from his knowledge and insight, which will help us in the digital projects that we are in the midst of developing. And, we gained affirmation that the direction these projects are taking has value. After departing, McCarty wrote, "I had a wonderful time . . . and really enjoyed being in the working environment you and your colleagues have built . . . You have your hands on primary experience in humanities computing and so the basis for pushing our thoughts about the field. Lots of



people are involved these days, but few seem to notice that, in the course of project work such as yours, new insights about humanities computing are everywhere possible."

It is with these thoughts fresh in our minds that we continue our promotion of digital scholarship and our pursuit of a digital research environment for feminist scholars.

Faculty Grant Awarded to Physicist

Greg Bothun, professor of physics, was awarded a CSWS faculty grant in conjunction with the Ecological Conversations Program this year. Although Professor Bothun's field of specialization is observational astrophysics, his proposal to CSWS, "Supernova and the Primal Female: A Morality-Based World View," emphasized his interest in cosmology. Bothun describes the scientific support for notions of the "Primal Female" or "Cosmic Womb" or the "Circle of Life" value systems, which posit a holistic and connected view of the universe. Bothun, and his graduate student Karen Barrows, will use the grant to conduct a search for evidence of this scientific corollary within ecofeminist and spiritual literatures.

Sacred Conversations Continue

By Lynne Fessenden, Ecological Conversations Program Director

Discussions on the intersections of science and the sacred will continue winter term when CSWS welcomes two new resident fellows in the Ecological Conversations Program.



Edrie Sobstyl is an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she currently teaches courses in feminist and environmental philosophy, as well as ethics and philosophy of

science. A focus on social transformation through the combination of critical inquiry and political activism defines Sobstyl's research and is at the root of her fellowship project, "Finding the Sacred in Ecofeminist Science Fiction," in which she plans to illustrate the ways in which science and the sacred are entwined and reconciled in science fiction narratives written by women.

Sobstyl received her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Alberta. Her contributions to professional philosophy are considerable, yet she continues to embrace new forms of cultural and political expression as her work crosses the academic borders of philosophy, feminist theory, literary theory, and environmental theory and practice, seeking to unify that which has become divided in human understanding.

While in residence at CSWS, Sobstyl will apply her interdisciplinary approach toward science fiction to explore the connections between women and science, women and the sacred, and women and the environment. Of particular interest to her is the process by which ecofeminist science fiction becomes a literary forum in which all three of these connections are unified. She writes, "I have been struck by the multiply complex ways in which science fiction by women brings together rigorous 'hard' science with themes that are stereotypically regarded as opposed to science: feminism, environmentalism, and the spiritual."

In addition to her ongoing research and writing, Sobstyl will be teaching "Feminist Epistemology" (PHIL 543) and "Science, Technology, and Gender" (WST 331) during winter term.



Nimachia Hernandez is an assistant professor of Native American studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where she currently teaches courses in "Native American Philosophy" and

"Theories and Methods in Native American Studies."

Hernandez completed her doctorate in human development and psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, along with an Ed.M. in teaching and curriculum. She has also done advanced study in applied linguistics at Georgetown University.

A specialist in Native American philosophy, her research has focused most recently on the epistemology of the Blackfoot. In researching her dissertation, "Mokakssini: A Blackfoot Theory of Knowledge," Hernandez (herself of Blackfoot descent) spent three years in the field interviewing elders about their creation stories, cosmology, and relationship to the Blackfoot homeland.

"Mokakssini" is a fascinating delineation of the cosmological, spatial, environmental, and sacred elements of Blackfoot knowledge. It is perhaps the only such sustained, focused study of Native American epistemology.

While in residence at CSWS, Hernandez will apply her cross-disciplinary abilities to further develop and articulate the philosophical orientation contained within sacred stories that form the foundation of Blackfoot culture.

She writes, "By revealing the basic understandings and presuppositions of the Blackfoot worldview, I am better able to appreciate both the similarities and differences between the Blackfoot and other indigenous peoples' life ways. As a result, I am better able to assist in my work as a cultural translator in ways that I believe enhance mutual understanding and improve educational practice."

Nimachia Hernandez and Edrie Sobstyl will both be in residence through May.

For more information on Ecological Conversations, including the seminar series, call (541) 346-5399, e-mail lfessend@uoregon.edu, or visit the website: <http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>.



Ecological Conversations Lecture Series

Thursday Evenings, 7:00 P.M., Knight Library Browsing Room, University of Oregon

FEBRUARY 7

Lecture by Edrie Sobstyl, *Finding the Sacred in Ecofeminist Science Fiction*

FEBRUARY 21

Lecture by Nimachia Hernandez, *Mokakssini: A Blackfoot Theory of Knowledge*

APRIL 18

Lecture by Sarah Taylor, *The Genetic Monastery: Green Nuns, Seed Sanctuaries, and the Crusade Against Biotech Colonization*

MAY 6-9

All fifteen Ecological Conversations fellows return for a final program event

Ecological Conversations website: <http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>

Fall 2001 Travel Grants

By Marie Harvey and Meredith Branch

The Center for the Study of Women in Society awards travel grants to UO faculty members, staff, and graduate students. These awards facilitate travel to present papers, serve on panels, or do research on issues regarding women and gender. CSWS awarded sixteen travel grants during the fall funding cycle. The recipients are as follows:

Cecilia Lopez Badano, graduate student in Romance languages, to present "Santa Evita, cadáver exquisito y postmodernidad" (about Eva Perón's biography) at the Latin American Studies Association's 23rd International Congress.

Kathy Becker, graduate student in psychology, to present "Relations among parents' disassociation, use of harsh and inconsistent discipline, and children's externalizing behavior" at the International Society for the Study of Dissociation's Conference in New Orleans.

Lisa DeMarni-Cromer, graduate student in psychology, to present "Assessing and describing dissociation in young children" at the International Society for the Study of Dissociation's Conference in New Orleans.

Andre Djiffack, assistant professor of Romance languages, to present "Debates and discoveries on the nature of African Diaspora and the degree of cultural interaction over time and location" at the African Literature Association's 28th Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

Maria Elva Echenique, graduate student in Romance languages, to present a paper on the house and the domestic as metaphors of social oppression at the Latin American Studies Association's International Congress 2001 in Washington, D.C.

Rachel Goldsmith, graduate student, psychology, to present "Adolescents' experiences with trauma, alexithymia, and dissociation" at the International Society for the Study of Dissociation's Conference in New Orleans.

Carol Jeffers, graduate student in anthropology, to present "The interface of health and ecology: An ethnobotanical study of natural resource use and collaborative conservation in Raven Creek" at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Florence Ramond Journey, graduate student in Romance languages, to present a paper about the ways in which Caribbean women relate to their island of origin at the Fourth International Conference on Caribbean Literatures in Fort de France, Martinique.

Kathleen Karlyn, associate professor of English, to present "'I'm not my mother': Third wave feminism, girl culture, and *Scream*" at a conference in Bristol, England.

Karen McPherson, assistant professor of Romance languages, to visit the Bibliothèque Nationale and the offices of *Notre Librairie: Revue des Littérature du Sud*, an important journal of francophone studies, to research the diasporic literary communities in Paris and Montreal.

Ellen McWhirter, associate professor of counseling psychology and human services, to present "Perceived educational barriers among Mexican-American and white adolescents" at the American Psychological Association's annual conference in San Francisco.

Christa Orth, graduate student in history, to take research trips to lesbian and gay collections at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland and the University of Washington library as part of her research on the formation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender working-class identity.

Jennifer Rowan, graduate student in art history, to present "Danger and devotion: The mother of demons in art and myth of Buddhist Central Asia" at Barnard College's 13th Annual Feminist Art History Conference in New York.

Lynn Stephen, professor of anthropology, to present "The life of the strawberry: Gender, ethnic, and labor relations in northwest agriculture" at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Sarah Thompson, assistant professor of art history, to present "Gendered space in the spiritual cosmos: female deities in Buddhist art" at Barnard College's 13th Annual Feminist Art History Conference in New York.

Amanda S. Wright, graduate student in art history, to present "Two images of Kichijoten and their relation to political and religious symbolism in eighth-century Japan" at Barnard College's 13th Annual Feminist Art History Conference in New York.



CSWS Grant Deadlines

CSWS provides support for research, travel, or scholarship within a wide range of disciplines and a variety of topics that focus on some aspect of gender, feminist theory, or women's experience (with the exception of the Stanton Scholarship*). See specific applications for details and eligibility requirements.

Speakers Grants

Open deadline (last request by May 1)
Limited supplemental financial support (\$100-\$300) for speakers addressing scholarly or creative work relating to gender

Travel Grants

April 15
Awards up to \$500 for UO graduate students, faculty, and staff

Research Support Grants

April 8
Awards up to \$2,500 for UO graduate students; up to \$6,000 for UO faculty and staff

RIG Development Grants

February 18 and May 6
Awards up to \$6,000 for CSWS-sponsored RIGs

*Stanton Scholarship for Health Research

April 1
Awards of \$1,000 for a UO graduate student in the social and behavioral sciences who is conducting research in disease prevention, health education and promotion, women's health, epidemiology, or related areas

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship

April 8
Award of \$10,000 for UO doctoral candidate

CSWS Laurel Award

May 6
Award of \$2,500 for UO graduate student

Applications must be received by 5:00 P.M. on dates stated. For grant applications stop by CSWS at 340 Hendricks Hall; request a copy by campus mail (e-mail csws@uoregon.edu or call 346-5015); or download and print from our website, <http://csws.uoregon.edu>.

Note: April grant deadlines have been moved up. (See Stanton, Research Support, Jane Grant, and Travel.)

War on Terrorism Should Not Attack AIDS Prevention

By Marie Harvey, Associate Director for Research

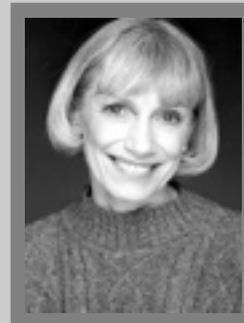
In the wake of the horrific events of September 11 and the threat of bioterrorism, we have witnessed a renewed interest in an old profession, public health. While I am heartened to see the profession and its important work being recognized, I fear that a focus on bioterrorism may derail or, at a minimum, deter our important efforts to improve the health of the public. Let me be more direct.

AIDS has rapidly emerged as a serious public health threat to women in the U.S. The proportion of HIV and AIDS cases targeting women is steadily increasing. Women represent 30 percent of new HIV infections and comprise 23 percent of new cases of AIDS. African Americans and Latinas account for 63 percent and 18 percent, respectively, of female cases of AIDS infection reported in 1999. In the absence of an effective vaccine or cure for AIDS, efforts to reduce the risk of HIV infection among women have focused on behavioral risk reduction. Thus, federal funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have funded interventions to reduce unprotected intercourse among young women and men at increased risk of HIV/STDs.

A recent article in the *Washington Times* reports that a letter sent to HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson by three Republican representatives criticized the CDC's funding of "inappropriate" AIDS prevention programs and suggested that such funding "could be better used for our war on terrorism." In response to the letter, Thompson stated that the inspector general of HHS will investigate all AIDS-prevention grants.

My concerns are twofold. First, conservative Republicans appear to be using the horrific events of September 11 to tout the AIDS epidemic as a moral crisis instead of a medical/public health crisis. To effectively prevent the sexual transmission of HIV, programs must explicitly discuss sexual behaviors. In order to attract high-risk individuals to prevention programs, course materials need to appeal to young men and women and promote not only "safe sex" but also "great sex."

Second, although resources are needed to confront the war on terrorism and to address the threat of bioterrorism, I am strongly opposed to usurping resources from other critical areas of public health. We must remember that only a few people have contracted and died from anthrax. In contrast, in January 1995 AIDS surpassed unintentional injury to become the leading cause of death among all Americans aged twenty-five to forty-four.



Marie Harvey,
Associate Director
for Research

Would you like to help support CSWS? For information on getting involved as a donor, contact Judith Musick, (541) 346-5099, musick@oregon.uoregon.edu

Change of address: Contact Diana Taylor, (541) 346-5015, csws@oregon.uoregon.edu

Publications and information on CSWS programs: Check out our new and expanding website: <http://csws.uoregon.edu>

Stanton Scholarship for Health Research

In spring 2001, CSWS awarded two Stanton Scholarships for Health Research to the following graduate students:

Susan Verscheure, exercise and movement science: \$500—"The effect of estrogen on anterior cruciate ligament laxity and active knee shear in women." Verscheure is using her award to investigate the effect of estrogen level on passive ACL laxity and dynamic knee shear across different blood estrogen levels.

Jennifer Hess, exercise and movement science: \$500—"Strength training to enhance balance in frail older adults." Hess' study is testing the hypothesis that high resistance strength training to key postural muscles in balance-impaired adults will result in improved balance ability.

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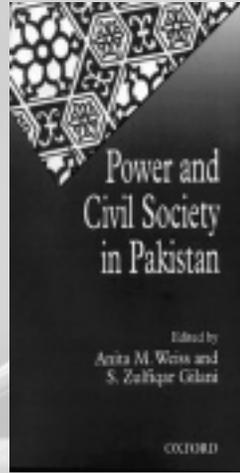


Power and Civil Society in Pakistan

Edited by Anita M. Weiss and S. Zulfiqar Gilani. Oxford University Press, 2001

Pakistan is gripped today by a number of fundamental crises that have created extreme distortions in state and society. There is a dramatic increase in the perception and tendency that it is necessary and acceptable to attain power by any means. This has contributed significantly to a sense of uncertainty and social chaos.

The social aspects underpinning these problems have been largely ignored, as has their relationship to the delayed emergence of a vibrant, effective civil society in Pakistan.



This volume seeks to create a baseline understanding of the historic relations between traditional structures of power and authority. More importantly, it grapples with the causes behind the disintegration of a consensus within Pakistani civil society and questions if, indeed, one ever existed.

Co-edited by Anita Weiss, CSWS affiliate and professor of international studies at the UO, and S. Zulfiqar Gilani, vice chancellor of the University of Peshawar, the book focuses on shifting power relationships in various social domains (including the economy, the military, political infrastructure, and NGOs). The authors examine these changing power dynamics and their effect on existing social contracts, as well as the emergence of alternative contracts between peoples.

You can order this book at the Oxford University Press–Pakistan website: <http://www.oup.com.pk/>.

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