“The sacrifice of Islanders and military personnel during nuclear testing in the Pacific cannot be represented without threatening the legitimacy of colonial power, so nuclear technology becomes gendered and domesticated. In the end the female body is appropriated by a colonial discourse to successfully disguise the horror of the bomb.”

Teresia Teaiwa

UPCOMING: Teresia Teaiwa on Women and Indians on the Island of Fiji: Wednesday, October 18, 2006
A Conversation with the UO’s First Woman Provost

Linda P. Brady, the UO’s new senior vice president and provost—and the first woman to hold such posts at this institution—began her job on July 1, 2006. Brady arrived from North Carolina State, where she served as dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and professor of political science. For years, she worked in Washington, D.C., in the State Department and the Department of Defense, focusing on international negotiations pertaining to a range of issues, and on arms control. She led the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology and is a former distinguished professor of national security at the United States Military Academy. Brady has published in the fields of American foreign policy, international negotiation, and arms control. Her current research focuses on the role of negotiation in war termination.

Earlier this summer, CSWS Interim Director Linda Fuller sat down with Linda Brady to discuss her upcoming goals as the new UO provost and the leadership roles she sees for women in academia, which is also the topic of a workshop on September 11, 2006, that is cosponsored by CSWS.

LINDA FULLER: How has being a woman made academic leadership harder or easier for you?

LINDA BRADY: The hard parts relate to the fact that, especially when I started out, my fields included few women. I became used to being “the first and only.” I was the only woman in the offices where I worked in the Pentagon. I was the only woman in poli sci at Vanderbilt. There were not many women in higher positions at Georgia Tech. I didn’t think about it then, but with hindsight I recognize the obstacles. The bar is often set higher for women, especially in administration.

Generalizations are tricky, but I think women often have different leadership styles than men and that styles shape the leadership environment. Many women are more focused on identifying individual strengths and reinforcing those. Women tend also to be more personally supportive of the development and advancement of others. There are exceptions, of course, women who say, “I had to fight my way up so everyone else can do the same.”

The fact that I’m a woman brought certain advantages to the teams I worked on in Washington, where the ability to listen was key. It helped that I didn’t see things in night-and-day, zero-sum terms, and it was more productive to think of one’s counterparts not as adversaries but as colleagues. Much of this has applicability to universities. Women’s perspectives on problem solving are perspectives universities need. There’s been a dramatic increase in the appointment of women presidents at universities over the past decade. Part of this is a pipeline issue, but another part is that the skills and abilities many women have are what universities are now looking for.

So being a woman has imposed some challenges, but these have been offset by working with wonderful people over the years. I have had strong mentors, men and women, going back to undergraduate days. Long ago I made the commitment to mentor others. It’s part of giving back.

LINDA FULLER: What would you like to see happen at the UO in the future?

LINDA BRADY: Our most critical challenge is to sustain and build academic quality. We must focus deliberately on this. We must focus on recruiting, retaining, and promoting faculty. The academic job market is very competitive right now—in the next decade over 50 percent of faculty in higher education will be of retirement age.

The salary issue is serious, both in terms of compression and inversion. There’s a major gap between UO and our private sector comparators, as well as a substantial gap between UO and our public institution peers. We must work with the state to solve the salary issue. We need to work with the legislature and on private sector fundraising over the next five years.

In addition, we need to focus on support for faculty research, especially in the humanities and within the social science disciplines where external funding is scarce.

We must focus on the quality of education, especially in regard to undergraduates. Are we challenging them enough? Are we offering the kinds of opportunities that challenge them?

Our presence in Portland is a big academic opportunity for UO.

Then there’s the budget. However, you can’t begin there, with the budget. If you do you’d spend all your time worrying about how much you don’t have and you’d never get to setting goals and priorities. Budget restrictions can’t be the starting point.

A much longer version of this interview is available at csws.uoregon.edu. Please visit our website.
Grants and Fellowships Awarded

By Shirley Marc

The Center for the Study of Women in Society congratulates the awardees of our 2006 grants and fellowships and sincerely thanks the members of the review committee. The recipients, awards received, and project titles follow. For a more comprehensive description of the funded research, please visit our grants awards page on the web at csws.uoregon.edu/newsletter/grantrecips.

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship


Laurel Research Award

AMARAH Y. NIAZI, graduate student, international studies and planning, public policy and management, $2,250, “Bringing Gender Sensitive, Sustainable Redevelopment to Earthquake Ridden Pakistan.” Her adviser and mentor, Anita Weiss, professor, international studies program, will receive up to $250.

Research Support Grants

ALISON ALTSTATT, graduate student, music history, $2,355, “Reconstructing Monastic Women’s Musical and Liturgical Life in the Northern Middle Ages.”

SEAN M. LAURENT, graduate student, psychology, $2,250, “Gender Identification, Sex Roles, and Gender Role Conflict Measurement: Development and Refinement of the Gender Traits and Behaviors Scale and the Gender Role Conflict and Traditionalism Scale.”

LILLIAN DARWIN LÓPEZ, graduate student, comparative literature, $2,220, “Women’s Hip-Hop in Brazil.”

JESSICA MEENDERING, graduate student, human physiology, $2,400, “Oral Contraceptives and Vascular Health in Young Women.”

ROBYNE ERICA MILES, graduate student, art history, $1,000, “Two for Tea: The Tearoom Designs of Margaret Macdonald Mackintosh and Charles Bennie Mackintosh.”

JUYEON SON, graduate student, sociology, $1,650, “Immigrant Health Effect? The Intersection of Gender, Class, and Race in Immigrant Health Status.”

MICHAELLE “MICKEY” STELLAVATO, graduate student, English (folklore), $447, “Personal Resistance through the Body Aesthetic.”

SHARON SHIN SHIN TANG, graduate student, psychology, $2,100, “Feminist Perspectives on Gender Differences in Traumatic Stress.”

MONIQUE BALBUENA, assistant professor, Clark Honors College, $6,000, “‘The Self Between Languages and Places’ as part of Diasporic Sephardic Identities: A Transnational Poetics of Jewish Languages.”

YVONNE BRAUN, assistant professor, sociology, $6,000, “Impacts and Perceptions: Gender, Dams, and Development in Lesotho.”

BRYNA GOODMAN, professor, history, $6,000, “Emotional Appeal: Newspapers, Political Parties, and Public Adjudication of Love in 1920s China.”

SANGITA GOPAL, assistant professor, English, $6,000, “No Place to Hide: Gender, Conjugality and Nationalism in Contemporary Hindi Film.”

BONNIE MANN, assistant professor, philosophy, $6,000, “Sex, Style and War: Aesthetics and Politics in Post 9/11 America.”

FABIENNE MOORE, assistant professor, Romance languages, $6,000, “Across Genres and Gender, Anne Le Fevre Dacier, a Reformist Translator in Late 17th Century France.”

DOROTHEE OSTMEIER, associate professor, German and Scandinavian, $6,000, “Poetic Encounters: Gender Constructs in German Literature of the Early 20th Century.”

Visit KUDOS on the CSWS Website

For reports of significant accomplishments by UO faculty members, graduate students, and community members, visit csws.uoregon.edu.

HIGHLIGHTED THIS ISSUE

Two pieces of good news from the Department of Romance Languages:

Professor GINA PSAKI received the 2006 Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Associate Professor AMALIA GLADHART published her translation of Ecuadorian novelist Alicia Yáñez Cossío’s The Potbellied Virgin in June (University of Texas Press).

Looking for news about your department, program, colleagues, and friends? Please visit KUDOS on the web at csws.uoregon.edu.
“The bomb and the bikini remind us of the militarist and tourist notions that shaped a particular historical moment in the West and continue to shape the contemporary Pacific Islands (PI). At their inception, the bomb and the bikini reflected a supreme ambivalence in Western thought: the valorization of woman as Nature, the abom(b)ination of nature manifested by military and scientific technology, the naturalization of racial difference, and the feminization or domestication of military technology.”

—Teresia Teaiwa, from “bikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans,” 1994

When Adria Imada talks to students about the Hawai‘ian [native Hawaiian spelling] Islands, she often poses a couple of key questions: How many people visiting or even living in Hawai‘i know that the U.S. military controls more than 20 percent of the land there? How many realize that Hawai‘i is the actual command center of the largest military region in the United States?

Imada, a UO ethnic studies assistant professor whose research areas include U.S. empire and gender, performance and popular culture in Hawai‘i, the Pacific Islands, and Asian America, has long urged a more thorough understanding of imperialism of Hawai‘i and the other Pacific Islands—a region that she and others say is too often discounted in the discussion of global militarism.

“In U.S.-controlled Pacific Islands like Hawai‘i and Guam, the military occupation has been so naturalized that residents there hardly question its necessity or even its presence,” she says. “U.S. militarism in the Pacific is often ignored because these islands have been colonized for over a century and are considered ‘American.’ Empire as a way of life in the islands remains visible yet nearly unspeakable.”

Associate Professor Judith Raiskin agrees: “The Pacific is often overlooked as a central site for U.S. imperialism.” And on the subject of the Hawai‘ian Islands specifically, she adds that, “Many of my students have no idea why Hawai‘i is a state. They’ve never thought about the fact that ours is a country that pretends it has no colonies, or why that is.”

Raiskin, whose research focuses on the construction of racial, sexual, and national identities particularly in the context of colonial and neocolonial politics, economics, and education, explains that scholars throughout the Pacific region—including such countries as Australia and New Zealand, and smaller islands such as Tahiti, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Easter Island, and others—are beginning to expand their research beyond anthropology and history to investigate dimensions of culture as well. One scholar who has been drawing attention to such dimensions for more than a decade is Teresia Teaiwa, senior lecturer and program director of Pacific Studies at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

“As a central scholar in the new field of Pacific Island cultural studies, Teaiwa, along with a
whole generation of PI scholars, has moved beyond the traditional anthropological or archaeological approach to studying the Pacific to interdisciplinary work drawing from all areas of cultural production and critical theory,” Raiskin says.

Imada adds that, “Teaiwa’s concept of ‘mili-tourism’ has been particularly helpful to my work and that of my students.” She goes on to explain that, “‘Mili-tourism’ points to the nexus of militarism and tourism operating in the Pacific and Caribbean. Militarism and tourism are often twinned processes in neocolonialism and both are highly gendered and racialized. Island economies are dependent on both military spending and tourist dollars, and little other economic development is encouraged.”

Teaiwa will speak on such subjects on the University of Oregon campus on Wednesday, October 18, 2006 (please see page 7 for details), as part of the Gender, Race, and Militarization Program co-sponsored by CSWS and the Women’s and Gender Studies Program and supported by a Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage grant. Though she will speak primarily about the country of Fiji during her UO visit, Teaiwa, born in Honolulu and raised in Fiji, is probably best known for her 1994 groundbreaking article, “bikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans.” In the article, she explores the conflation of the U.S. nuclear exploitation and destruction of the Bikini Atoll and its people with the revealing bathing suit launched in 1946 to celebrate the Allied efforts in World War II.

“She examines the exposure of the female body, especially the exoticized Pacific Island woman, as a means of obfuscating the U.S. nuclear use of the Pacific,” says Raiskin.

In her article, Teaiwa writes: “The mass production and distribution of seminude female images are forms of sacrifice—or symbolic atonement—that substitute and domesticate the unrepresentable chaos of nuclear war.”

Later in the article she notes that, “The sacrifice of Islanders and military personnel during nuclear testing in the Pacific cannot be represented without threatening the legitimacy of colonial power, so nuclear technology becomes gendered and domesticated. In the end the female body is appropriated by a colonial discourse to successfully disguise the horror of the bomb.”

Teaiwa has more recently explored similar ideas related to culture and the military in her writings about the nation of Fiji.

“The military in Fiji affects and promotes particular ideals of gender, race, religion, caste, and class. The military is as much a product of Fiji’s indigenous, colonial, and postcolonial cultures as militarism is a force that shapes those very same cultures,” Teaiwa wrote in “Articulated Cultures: Militarism and Masculinities in Fiji during the Mid-1990s.”

In the article she deepens a central premise that applies to all previously or currently colonized Pacific Islands, writing about how “Military values and ideas influence as well as reflect social, political, and cultural divisions in Fiji.”

She points out that unofficial estimates put the size of the current standing army in Fiji as high as 10,000, making it the “most militarized independent nation in the Pacific.” Furthermore, the country has experienced much political and social upheaval, culminating in two military coups, one in 1987 and the other in 2000, both of which were spurred largely by racial and ethnic tensions.

“And then the military came to be viewed not only as a threat to democracy, but also a bastion of Fijian masculinity and a threat to multiculturalism,” Teaiwa writes. “Indigenous Fijian ideology constructs a notion of reciprocal gender relations that does not contradict patriarchal power structures,” she continues.

Women Faculty Members Engage in Leadership Training

More than twenty UO faculty members recently had an opportunity to come together to learn new ways to envision themselves as effective leaders, to gain practical skills, and to pass on supportive information to other women on campus. The one-day Faculty Negotiations Seminar, led by Barbara Butterfield and Jane Tucker, was cosponsored by CSWS and the Office of Academic Affairs, and was held on Monday, September 11.

Butterfield, the chief human resource officer for Academic and Staff Human Resources and Affirmative Action at the University of Michigan, and Tucker, senior manager of the Administration Systems Management Group at Duke University, are workshop leaders for the Committee on the Advancement of Women Chemists (COACh). UO professor Geraldine Richmond is a key member of that organization and has described the leadership training program as “enormously beneficial.”

During the recent UO session, faculty members who are currently, or may in the future be, campus leaders practiced negotiating issues that academic women often face at the advanced leadership and senior faculty levels. Participants identified their personal negotiating styles and initiated negotiations specifically designed to meet the challenges of their careers and disciplines.
Transitions in Women’s and Gender Studies

By Julie Novkov, former director

This is a crucial year for women’s and gender studies (WGS), a program that has just been through an active and creative phase of its history. We know our friends and supporters will be watching us eagerly to see how we move this energy forward as we adjust.

Unfortunately, I will be leaving the University of Oregon to take a new position as an associate professor of political science and women’s studies at the University at Albany–SUNY. I have greatly enjoyed my two-year stint as director of WGS, and only regret that it was so short. However, I am happy to announce that Ellen Scott, associate professor of sociology, will be our next director. She will manage the transition over the summer, and the program’s faculty and staff members are looking forward to her energetic facilitation of the program’s business starting in August. Professor Scott’s main areas of expertise include the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality; poverty and welfare reform; and feminist organizations and social movements. Her research thus reflects her abiding interest in feminist theory and activism, and her experience as the associate head for sociology will be helpful to her as she takes on the administrative load for the program. Professor Scott is an ideal choice for the next director, and we feel fortunate to have persuaded her to head the program.

We also are delighted to announce another transition—now-associate professor Elizabeth Reis has achieved tenure. This promotion reflects and rewards her outstanding record of teaching and service, combined with her path-breaking new research on the history of intersex. We congratulate her on this hard-earned and well-deserved accomplishment.

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome a new faculty member into our program. Jointly with Ethnic Studies, we have convinced Ernesto Martinez to depart from Binghamton University–SUNY to come to the University of Oregon as an assistant professor of women’s and gender studies, ethnic studies, and English. Professor Martinez’s primary area of interest is comparative ethnic literature with focus on sexualities. We are excited that his joint appointment in WGS and ethnic studies will strengthen the ties between our programs, and we especially look forward to the work he will do building upon our strengths in sexuality.

A New Women’s and Gender Studies Tenure

The Women’s and Gender Studies Program extends congratulations to faculty member Elizabeth Reis, who has been promoted to associate professor. Reis, who joined WGS in 2002 and who earned her doctoral degree from the University of California at Berkeley, is currently at work on a book, Impossible Hermaphrodites: Intersex in America 1620–1960, which she says attempts to answer the question: how did we get where we are today in American medical practice regarding intersex protocol?

“Current intersex activists are struggling to eliminate unwanted genital surgeries and to ensure ethical medical care for those born with disorders of sex differentiation,” she writes. “My book explores the changing definitions and perceptions of ‘hermaphrodites’ (a term used historically) from the colonial period to the mid-twentieth century, when so-called corrective surgery became routine in this country. I am concerned less with the medical history of surgical procedures or the professional history of doctors than with the cultural history of how American doctors and lay people regarded bodies and identities that fell outside their conceptual boundaries of ‘normal’ female and male categories. What did it mean to be male or female? Who had authority to answer this question and what were the criteria?”

“Impossible Hermaphrodites will be organized chronologically and thematically; each section will explore the evolving commitment to biological foundations of identity and the deep anxiety, expressed differently in different eras, about what is ‘natural.’”

Did You Know?

If every faculty member who received a CSWS research grant over the past ten years contributed EVEN 1 PERCENT of what she or he received from CSWS, we could fund:

- One additional faculty research grant or
- Sixteen additional travel grants

If every graduate student CSWS has funded over the past ten years contributed EVEN 1 PERCENT of her or his grant, we could fund:

- One additional dissertation support award
- Sixteen additional travel grants support awards, become a member of CSWS (csws.uoregon.edu).

Send your check (payable to CSWS-UO Foundation) to: CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201.
Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 18
GENDER, RACE, AND MILITARIZATION COLLOQUIUM
“Militarism beyond the Military: Culture in Post-Coup Fiji”
Noon, Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall

PUBLIC TALK
“On Women and Indians: The Politics of Exclusion and Inclusion in Militarized Fiji”
7:00 p.m., Browsing Room, Knight Library, 1501 Kincaid Street
Teresia Teaiwa, senior lecturer and program director at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand

OCTOBER 26
PUBLIC LECTURE
The Women in the Northwest Initiative Project on Gender, Families, and Immigration is pleased to announce its first speaker: Patricia Zavella, professor of Latin American and Latino studies at the University of California–Santa Cruz. Professor Zavella will give a public lecture, “Where You Go is What You Want: Immigration and Mexican Family Formation,” at 4:00 p.m. in the Browsing Room of Knight Library.

All events are free and open to the public.
For more information, call (541) 346-5015 or visit our website, csws@uoregon.edu.

Wednesday at Noon Series
Noon, 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon
For more information call CSWS at (541) 346-5015.

OCTOBER 11: Transforming Cultural Identities: The Eradication of Female Genital Cutting, Courtney Smith, graduate student, political science.

NOVEMBER 1: Struggles within Islam: The Emergence of Human Rights Discourse for Women in Bangladesh, Lamia Karim, assistant professor, anthropology

NOVEMBER 8: Vodka and Popcorn: The Life and Times of Lisa Blue, Mickey Stellavato, graduate student, master of arts, English (folklore), University of Oregon.

NOVEMBER 29: CSWS Grants Question and Answer Seminar, Judith Musick, associate director, Center for the Study of Women in Society. Bring your questions about CSWS grants and get a head start on your CSWS research grant applications.

CSWS Transitions
CSWS has recently bid farewell to our director of fifteen years, Sandra Morgen, who has joined the women’s studies faculty at Penn State, and we have welcomed Linda Fuller, who will oversee the center as interim director during the search for a permanent director. We’ve had several other changes, as well, noted below. We wish each of these CSWS staff members and affiliates the best as she moves to the next stage of her career.

• MARIE HARVEY, director of the CSWS Program on Women’s Health, has moved permanently to Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she will serve as chair and professor in the Department of Public Health. She will continue her research on unintended pregnancies among young Latinas in rural areas, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and on relationship dynamics and sexual risk behaviors, funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

Former research assistants Meredith Roberts Branch, Jocelyn Warren, and Kate Burns have joined Marie at OSU.

• BÁRBARA SUTTON, research associate for CSWS, has begun her new position as assistant professor of women’s studies at the State University of New York–Albany. She will continue research on body politics in Argentina and on gender, racism, and democracy in the age of globalization.

• DEBRA GWARTNEY, dissemination specialist for CSWS, has begun a new position as assistant professor of nonfiction writing at Portland State University.
Zapotec Women: Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Globalized Oaxaca


On the evening of February 25, 2001, Tzeltal Zapatista Comandante Esther addressed a huge crowd in front of the city hall of Juchitán, Oaxaca. Juchitán has a long history of indigenous autonomy and fierce independence. More than 15,000 men, women, and children from the Zapotec, Huave, Chinante, Zoque, Mixe, Chontal, and Mazatec ethnic groups received Comandante Esther and 23 other EZLN commanders representing the Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Tojolabal, and Chol ethnic groups. Each comandante received a necklace of flowers and was addressed by representatives in the languages of all the Oaxacan native groups present. The ceremony of necklace presentation was done without a word of Spanish. The Zapatista comandantes and the Oaxacan indigenous representatives who presented the necklaces spoke in their own languages. Subcomandante Marcos took up the subject of speaking in his address before Esther addressed the crowd. “The struggle for constitutional recognition of indigenous rights and culture is the struggle for respect for our languages. Again and again, the false gods of money have wanted to take our languages away from us because they know that without our languages, we would not be who we are and they could take everything away from us.”

In her address, Comandante Esther emphasized that the ability to speak Spanish is equivalent to silence, to not being heard—to being denied a political voice and cultural recognition. When Señora Marta said, “I don’t know how to speak,” it was Spanish she meant. In her mind, if she could not speak Spanish on the radio, then she could not be heard. Marta’s concept of speaking and Esther’s reminder to thousands of indigenous listeners in Juchitán that indigenous women who don’t speak Spanish are not respected captures the struggle in which indigenous women in Mexico and elsewhere in the world are engaged: to be heard, respected, and granted rights as indigenous women—to stake their claims to cultural citizenship. What some people in Mexico call “indigenous feminism” attempts to protect ethnic rights and women’s rights all at once. The experience and analysis of leaders like Aurora Bazán and Comandante Esther begin at the level of lived experience for indigenous women in Oaxaca and Chiapas and link it to wider political struggles in Mexico. Many people see “ethnic” or “indigenous” rights as collective rights and women’s rights as pertaining to the individual, but indigenous women activists see no dichotomy and emphasize that ethnic and gender rights potentially unite collective and individual rights and can function together in an expanded sense of citizenship. For example, the right to speak in an indigenous language and to have that language legitimized in legal, educational, and official political arenas involves both the right of the individual to speak and the collective right to have the language recognized.