Center For the Study of WOMEN IN SOCIETY - UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Girls, Generations, and Globalization

A conference focusing on girls and young women in this era of global change February 27, 1998

By Sandra Morgen

When the women's movement re-emerged in the late 1960s, young women (emphatically not girls) flocked to feminism, bringing youthful energies and a host of issues to a political landscape that had long marginalized both women and women's issues. In the next quarter century much changed for women and girls, though today's girls and women still struggle with many of the same issues that motivated so much scholarship and activism during this period. Moreover, a number of popular books and popularized social issues have recently attracted attention to the fact that in the U.S., pre-teen and adolescent girls are at higher risk than their male counterparts in their families (suffering from incest and other forms of sexual abuse), their classrooms (under continuing gender and racial inequities, disincentives for female success, especially in math and science), on the streets (facing harassment, rape), in the economy (children and youth have the highest poverty rates of any age group), and in interpersonal and sexual relationships (suffering from date rape, teenage pregnancy, pressures to conform to limiting roles). Even more troubling, young people in the U.S. today report growing anxiety and cynicism about the future and their own hopes and dreams.

CSWS plans a one-day conference on February 27, 1998, to explore three related sets of questions:

1) Girls: What does cutting edge research about girls suggest are some of the most pressing issues facing pre-teen and adolescent girls today? Does the agenda that has been delineated for girls encompass the needs of girls across racial, ethnic, and class lines and does it recognize the particular needs of girls with disabilities and girls whose sexual identities differ from the heterosexualized norm so prevalent in youth culture?

2) Generations: Why do so many girls and young women today reject the label feminism? If feminism is to remain vital into the future, how can transgenerational dialog and leadership emerge, particularly given the ways issues primarily affecting youth have been marshaled to support a conservative social agenda?

3) Globalization: How are global economic, political, and cultural changes shaping the dreams of young people in the West and the developing world? How can young people (traditionally with very limited political power) translate those dreams into policies nationally and internationally?

The *Girls, Generations, and Globalization* conference is our annual opportunity to promote dialog within and between RIGs and to spotlight the work of our various RIGs. While none of our RIGs has a sole focus on girls, many RIGs are developing research agendas or scholarly foci that center on girls and young women.

The conference will include researchers from CSWS RIGs as well as several nationally renowned researchers whose work on girls and young women should be of broad interest. One of those speakers will be Carol Stack, an anthropologist and professor of women's studies and education at the University of California at Berkeley who has just completed a multi-year study of young people who work in the fast food industry in Oakland.

We look forward to your involvement in the conference.



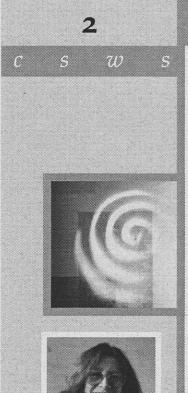
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Sandra Morgen, Director, CSWS

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CSWS

By Sandra Morgen, Director

In late June I made my annual trip to the meeting of the National Council for Research on Women (NCROW) in Washington, D.C. This conference offers a yearly opportunity to meet with our sister women's research centers across the U.S. What I most appreciated this year was the opportunity to learn about the excellent work being generated and supported by more than seventy-five women's research centers across the U.S.

We are a diverse bunch—some from colleges and universities, others from freestanding entities or research divisions of women's advocacy groups. Our missions, institutional, contexts, resources, and substantive interests are quite different. Nevertheless, we share fundamental assumptions and goals, some of which distinguish CSWS and our sister research centers from many other research centers and institutes on university campuses. It was inspiring to hear my colleagues at sister research centers talk about research projects, curriculum development efforts, joint work with women's advocacy or policy groups, and innovative forms of intellectual engagement. It was equally heartening to see their interest in CSWS's research initiatives and in the RIG process.

CSWS Executive Committee 1997–98

Cynthia Adams, Community affiliate T.C. Dumas, Sociology, graduate student Judith Hibbard, Planning, Public Policy and Management Ajuan Mance, English S. Marie Harvey, CSWS Sandra Morgen, CSWS Judith Musick, CSWS Peggy Pascoe, History Gina Psaki, Romance Languages Judith Raiskin, Women's Studies Program, English Carol Silverman, Anthropology Anne Simons, Psychology

Perhaps my appreciation of the power of the existing and potential connections between and among scholars linked to and through our network of women's research centers is fueled in large part by my continuing concern about some of the changes affecting higher education today. In the wake of simultaneous demands for increased "productivity" and shrinking resources we must find ways to better share the burdens of work, as well as the available resources, so that we can continue to do excellent research and to model innovative ways to bridge research, teaching, and policy and public education goals. One example of this is the effort of the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington to help coordinate research on women and welfare reform, including the new project being developed within the Women in the Northwest Initiative at CSWS.

As we work to develop opportunities for enhanced research collaboration within CSWS and with scholars affiliated with other women's research centers, I am mindful of the need to work within our institutions to ensure that the ways in which"productivity" is measured capture the time, energy, and contributions of those who are involved in our RIGs and related collaborative activities. I would welcome any suggestions along these lines that you might have.

Just as the network of women's research centers represented by NCROW has great potential to marshal the excellent work of member centers as a critical mass, so, too, does the research collaboration fostered and nurtured by CSWS have the potential to make a real difference beyond what most of us can hope for from our individual work. I look forward to what we can accomplish together in this coming year, and I invite each of you to be part of this exciting work. Have a great year!

An Enduring Presence

Mazie Giustina, longtime friend and benefactor of CSWS, died June 8 at the age of 102. All of us at CSWS will miss her, but her memory will live on through the work of the Women in the Northwest Research Initiative, which she endowed two years ago.



CSWS Sponsors Embracing Midlife II

CSWS is a proud cosponsor of *Embracing Midlife II*, a menopause conference. Presented by All Women's Health Services, the conference offers an opportunity to explore women's midlife health concerns and a range of self-help and treatment options. We are especially excited to be hosting Nancy Woods, Ph.D., R.N., who is an expert in menopause research and a speaker at the conference.

In addition to a stimulating array of speakers and workshop topics, the conference keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Joycelyn Elders. Former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Elders is the first African American woman to hold that post.

Jocelyn Elders

Dr. Elders is Jocetyn Eulers now a pediatric endocrinologist and professor of medicine at the University of Arkansas Medical School, dividing her time between the classroom and the clinic and continuing her commitment to education and women's health. Her talk on *Women in Midlife* promises to be rousing and inspirational.



The conference is all day Saturday, November 1, 1997. Dinner with Dr. Elder's keynote speech is at 7:00 p.m. To attend the dinner (\$50), the conference (\$50), or both (\$75), or to find out more about the conference, call (541) 683-7545 or visit the conference web site at http://www.efn.org/~awhs2.

New Women Faculty Members Reception

October 22, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. CSWS, the Women's Studies Program, and the Women's Faculty Resource Network (WFRN) would like to welcome all new women faculty members with a special reception in Gerlinger Lounge on October 22 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The program will include brief introductions of the new women faculty members, short presentations by CSWS, women's studies, and the WFRN to introduce new faculty members to some of the programs responsible for research, teaching, and institutional advocacy for women and gender, and some good food and spirits.

New faculty members and CSWS affiliates are invited to join us to welcome our new colleagues and greet each other upon our return after the summer.

Wednesdays at Noon

This year CSWS is continuing its schedule of talks and workshops on Wednesdays between noon and 1:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall. We invite you to join us. Watch for our fliers about our noon talks and occasional "happy hour" speakers at 4:00 p.m.

October 22

Anita Weiss, associate professor, international studies, *Working for Women's Empowerment in Pakistan after Bejing: National Priorities and Responses.*

October 29

CSWS research support grants workshop for submission deadline of November 17.

November 12

Dianne Dugaw, associate professor, English, 'Deep Play,' Eighteenth-Century Cultural Politics and the Satire of John Gay.

November 19

Suzette Henke, CSWS visiting scholar and Morton Professor, University of Louisville, Shattered Subjects: Women's Life-Writing and Narrative Recovery.

December 3

Arlene Stein, associate professor, sociology, Beyond the Culture Wars: An Ethnographic Study of Contested Sexuality in Rural Oregon.



Dr. Thanh Le, director of the Centre for Research and Training for Women at the Pedagogic Institute, Viet Nam National University, during a month-long visit in May to the University of Oregon sponsored by the Women and Gender in Viet Nam RIG and the UO–VNU Sister Universities Project.



New RIG Forming

A new Women and the Media RIG is set to form this fall: We are interested in starting a RIG that focuses on women and the media. Since there are many people throughout the university and community concerned with issues relating to this topic, we think that a RIG would be an excellent way to bring us together. With a RIG we hope to provide a space for interdisciplinary research, discussion, and projects that focus on the intersection of women, culture, and the media. We will hold an informational meeting on October 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, CSWS (330 Hendricks Hall), to discuss the different areas and possible directions that this RIG may want to explore. We look forward to seeing you then. If you are interested in participating but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact us via E-mail: Ellen Riordan. eriordan@darkwing.uoregon.edu, and Beate Gersch, beate@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Research Interest Groups (RIGs)

Native American Women

The Native American Women's RIG has many exciting initiatives for the coming year, including reaching out to native students who haven't been involved with the RIG in the past. We will be developing plans for a summer institute for Native American girls and possibly sponsoring a workshop on publishing.

The Native American RIG will begin a film and book discussion series this fall with a focus on native women artists. The events are free and open to all. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Thursday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.: Welcoming, Knight Library Browsing Room. Food will be served and the film, *Usual and Accustomed Places* by Sandra Osawa will be shown.
- Thursday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.: film discussion with guest Sandra Osawa, Jane Grant Room (330 Hendricks Hall), CSWS.
- Thursday, November 6, 6:30 p.m.: book discussion on *Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich, Jane Grant Room, CSWS.
- Thursday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.: book discussion on selections by Alaskan native writers led by Shari Huhndorf.

We welcome new members. To be added to our mailing list or our E-mail list, leave a message at the CSWS front desk, 346-5015, for RIG coordinator Beth Hege Piatote, or contact her at CSWS@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Jewish Feminist Theory

This fall the RIG members are continuing to read together and critique each other's work. They also hope to assist with the Bridges Long Distance Learning Electronic Classroom on "Feminist Jewish Studies." The group has continued meeting in the summer and will meet once a month this fall. Place and time will be announced in the RIG Update. For more information, contact Judith Raiskin, raiskin@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Gender in Historical and TransNational China

This year the RIG is inviting Professor Li, Wai-yee from Princeton to speak on Gender and the Cult of Qing (love, sentiment, emotion) in traditional China. A meeting will be announced to read and discuss her work before her arrival.

A one-day workshop on Gender in China will be held in December 1997, sponsored by funds from the Ford UO-Lewis & Clark Asian Studies Collaboration Grant. The same workshop will be presented as a one-week, two-credit course (also open to the public) at the UO in summer 1998. It will include lectures by Zhang Yuping, professor of English and women's studies at Tianjin Normal University in China.

RIG members plan to meet once or twice a month to discuss a work in progress or have a book discussion. Place and time will be announced in the RIG Update or you can contact Wendy Larson,

walarson@oregon.uoregon.edu.

The group will also continue planning for a conference titled "Gender and Power in China" to be held fall 1999.

Women and Leadership in Education

This fall RIG members will be writing a follow-up report to their presentations at the AERA conference regarding their unique research methodology and the"Community of Practice." They will continue with regular meetings every other week both to further that research and for readings and discussion. The place and time will be announced in the RIG Update. If you have any questions contact Francoise Bodone, fran@darkwing.uoregon.edu, or Nitza Schwabsky, nitzas@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Women's Health and Development

RIG members share their research throughout the year. Upcoming topics will include: "Being a Women Across the Lifespan," "What Women Do in Their 'Spare' Time," "Theology, Housework, and Mutual Respect in Families," "Reproductive Decision-Making in Couples," "Women and Aging," "A Report on the June Menopause Conference," and the upcoming *Teaching the Past in the Present* conference at the UO.

The Women Against Violence subgroup will share reports of the summer meetings on that topic. The Girls Group (subgroup) will report on their summer meetings with updates on the upcoming conference. Longterm projects for the RIG are violence against women (including in patriarchal religion) and girls' issues.

The group's first meeting will be Friday,

October 3, noon–1:30 p.m. Members plan to meet every other Friday in the Jane Grant Room, CSWS (330 Hendricks Hall). Contact Tevina Benedict, tevinab@efn.org, for information on the Girls Group and Leslie Hall, ldhall@oregon.uorgeon.edu or 345-3047, for general information on the RIG.

Rationality, Intuition, and Gender (RIG²)

This RIG is continuing as a reading group. For each meeting an article, essay, or book section is chosen and a reading is copied for the members to share and discuss on topics such as gender and science. Later this fall the group may also become involved with the Girls Group (a subdivision of the Women's Health and Development RIG) for subjects related to pedagogy.

An announcement of the RIG's first meeting place and time will go out by E-mail on the RIG Update in late September. For more information, contact Madonna Moss, mmoss@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring

A group from this RIG has formed a research team to study welfare reform in Oregon as part of the Women in the Northwest Program Initiative.

At this time our collective energies are going into learning everything we can about Oregon's JOBS and JOBS Plus programs, which predated federal welfare reform and are being looked at by some states as a model of welfare-to-work programs.

We are also preparing to write grant proposals to study the realities of welfare reform in Oregon, including its impact on ex-AFDC (now TANF) recipients and their children, on the low wage labor force in the state, and on state workers in the agencies that provide welfare and welfare-related services.

Women and Gender in Viet Nam

After a busy year that included research trips to Viet Nam for several RIG members, hosting Dr. Thanh Le (director of the Centre for Research and Training for Women of Viet Nam National University) for one month last May, and a host of conference presentations, we plan to continue to work closely with the UO-Viet Nam National University Sister Universities project on grant proposals to support our growing collaborative opportunities with VNU and with the Viet Nam Women's Union. This spring we received a CSWS RIG grant that will support a pilot research project with the Viet Nam Women's Union to evaluate a number of their grassroots income generation, primary health care, family planning, and environmental sanitation programs.

We plan to continue our study group on Women and Gender in Viet Nam to support the research of our members, to host a number of brown bag or similar presentations by our members on topics ranging from higher education issues for women in Viet Nam to the changing political economy of women's work and income opportunities, and to prepare for our collaborative project in the winter or spring.

Reclaiming the Past

In addition to all of this year's activities described in the creative center on the Feminist Humanities Project, three subgroups have formed within our RIG: (1) *Teaching the Present in the Past* conference series has its own E-mail list for interested parties: TEACHPAST; list administrator, Zoe Borovsky; (2) Planning committee for women's studies course in spring 1998: coordinator and instructor, Stephanie Wood; and (3) New Feminist Interpretation Group (NFIG), a graduate reading group: coordinator, Mary Peters, mpeters@darkwing.

Meetings for fall have yet to be scheduled. For information on any of these groups, contact the relevant coordinators or Clare Lees, calees@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Wired Women

Meeting largely in cyberspace, this group is working with Zoe Borovsky in support of the Virtual Resource Bank (the web-site project of the Feminist Humanities Project). A meeting will be held early in the fall term to encourage new membership and new ideas. Contact Judith Musick, 346-5099 or musick@oregon.uoregon.edu, for more information.

Women and the Environment

Members of this RIG read and discuss issues of gender and the environment and are producing an eco-feminism journal. The schedule of this RIG will be announced in the RIG Update. Contact Irene Diamond, 346-4873 or idiamond@oregon.uoregon.edu for more information.



CSWS Research Interest Group, contact us at 346-5015 or by E-mail at CSWS@oregon.uoregon.edu engendering

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Lorraine Code, Sarah Hoagland, and Karen Barad.

enGendering Rationalities: Dialog

ver 300 feminist scholars representing disciplines from across the natural and social sciences and the humanities participated in a three-day conference, *enGendering Rationalities*, from April 18–20. The event was sponsored by CSWS.

Over the last two decades, feminist scholars have begun to understand the inadequacies of the traditional query "How do we know?" and the importance of shifting our analyses to questions that reflect the locations of our knowledge practices within society and the relationships between knowledge and power. This attention to situation and to power was a key focus of this conference as participants analyzed such questions as:"Why do we know what we know? Why don't we know what we don't know? Who benefits or is disadvantaged from knowing what we know? Who benefits or is disadvantaged from what we don't know? Which knowledge practices are given authority in our society and who is advantaged or disadvantaged by this approach? Which knowledge practices are ignored or denigrated and who is advantaged or disadvantaged by this denial?"

Our investigations of such questions revealed the complexity of ways in which our conceptions of rationality and our attributions of cognitive authority have been affected by androcentric and Eurocentric biases. Numerous speakers investigated whether standard models of rationality and dominant methodologies in the various disciplines privilege traits viewed as masculine and denigrated those perceived to be feminine. Others provided case studies from the natural and social sciences of theories or research directions that reinforced sexist and/ or racist biases. Many scholars examined resources for alternative knowledge prac-



Audience discussion at the enGendering Rationalities *conference*.



Maria Lugones

tices, some finding resources in women's daily lives, others investigating the possibilities of engaging the resources of the canonical disciplines. One theme that emerged throughout the conference, but was highlighted in the keynote addresses, was the issue of investigating and developing strategies of difference as an epistemological resource.

In her effort to critique the modernist notion of agency and develop a conception of resistance as active agency, María Lugones provides us with the life of Dorotea, a fiftyfive-year-old Chicana who has worked at a posh restaurant for minimum wage since she was thirteen, who places all the dishes in the large ovens and cooks them until they break. Lugones reasons that Dorotea's agency will be rendered invisible by the logics of "common sense." She will be perceived as irrational, perhaps even insane, yet read against the grain of such "common sense," her actions signify her as an active agent enacting the urge to go beyond survival and to resist her oppression.

Both Lorraine Code and Anne Waters, in their keynote addresses, continued this theme of unmasking "common sense." Code looked at the ways in which the "we-saying" that occurs in theorizing—the claim, for example, that we experience life as a journey—actually expresses only the experiences of those in privilege. Waters' develops this contention by arguing that tenets of formal logic, such as the "law of excluded middle"—that nothing can be both true and false at the same time—are anchored in particular cultural locations and are in tension with those Native American worldviews that do not understand dualism through the lens of dichotomy.

The theme of difference as a strategy emerged in yet another way in the conference as participants attempted to dialog

Across the Disciplines



Left to right: Lorraine Code, Sandi Morgen, Nancy Tuana, and Maria Lugones.

between and across our different disciplines, methods, and terminologies, as well as negotiating our divergent experiences. The physicist Barbara Whitten, for example, reminded us that in some disciplines, participating in a conference like enGendering Rationalities would not only not count as scholarly activity, but would be viewed negatively by one's colleagues. The keynote address by Barbara Ehrenreich, as another example, provoked considerable debate about the most productive ways to critically interrogate issues about rationality and to frame the work done by feminist scholars on this topic. From such interactions we learned that strategies of differences are as applicable to our own dialogs as they are to our attempts to transform the academy.

The conference put into practice one of the key tenets of feminism, linking theory to practice, by creating the opportunity for feminist scholars from twenty-seven states, four provinces in Canada, and Australia, Israel, and Sweden to gather together and thereby create a rhetorical space where our concerns and ideas could be productively heard and debated. Too much of feminist scholarship gets lost between the spaces authorized and legitimated by the practices of the academy and the "rules" of cognitive authority. All too often, in our university or community settings, our theories and ideas are treated like Dorotea's cooking of the dishes-mistaken, irrational, lacking in "common sense." Although feminist scholarship has made great strides in the last few decades, its practitioners are often isolated in departments where we have few, if any, colleagues who share our interests. enGendering Rationalities mitigated this isolation by successfully creating a crossdisciplinary discursive space that encouraged an engaged, informed, and responsible examination of feminist scholarship on topics such as the natures of rationality, conceptions of agency, theories of truth, conceptions of objectivity, and the role of the body in knowing. The overwhelming response of participants was that conferences like enGendering Rationalities are not a luxury.



Left to right: Ann Mussey, Ajuan Mance, and Kasia Marciniak

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FEITHINIST HURHANITIES PROJE

G rowing out of the extraordinary success of the Reclaiming the Past RIG, CSWS's Feminist Humanities Project (FHP) was created this past spring. This project is unique in North American universities and, by drawing on the excellent research projects of UO faculty members, has strong potential for attracting external funding to support research and teaching in the fields of gender and history in the humanities. In these endeavors, FHP will work closely with the Oregon Humanities Center. Web site: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~fhp/

Accivicies

The FHP currently sponsors several important and exciting undertakings:

Teaching the past in the present conference See accompanying article. Web site: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~fhp/conference

VIRCUAL RESOURCE Dank

The Virtual Resource Bank (VRB), developed in collaboration with the Wired Women RIG, will provide an electronic resource for the growth of interdisciplinary collaborative research communities within the UO and Oregon and nationally. At this stage, the VRB is closely associated with the *Teaching the Past in the Present* conference. After the conference, the VRB will sustain these virtual communities or co-ops, targeting regular workshops through 1997–98. Web site: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~fhp/vrb

(nedieval reminist newsletter

The Medieval Feminist Newsletter (MFN), the international publication of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS), moved to CSWS in February 1997. MFN has made great strides under the aegis of CSWS: two issues of the newly-designed MFN have been published, and the membership database has been reorganized and improved. The alliance between SMFS and CSWS gives our project high visibility both nationally and internationally.

liender and history: a momen's studies course

In the summer of 1998, RIG members will collaborate in team-teaching an innovative 300-level women's studies course—Gender and History—a project that grew out of collaborative discussions on teaching held by RIG members. The course, designed to introduce students to activities and methods used to study the relation between gender and history, will focus on women and power, women and religion, and women and the arts. The course will introduce UO students early in their academic careers to the range of faculty expertise in the Women's Studies Program, helping the program gain greater prominence at the UO.

Incerest Troups

We will continue to sponsor and work closely with the members of the Reclaiming the Past RIG, and with our new reading group, the New Feminist Interpretations Group (NFIG). NFIG was formed in winter 1997 by graduate students wanting a reading group in the history of feminist theory.

fucure challences

The FHP will work with all of the programs it now supports during the next year as it clarifies its mission, identifying those programs that will be successful in attracting outside funding. Of particular importance will be the implementation of the VRB and its supervised growth to foster research communities within the UO and other academic institutions, as well as to maintain and nourish UO-community projects that grow out of the *Teaching the Past in the Present* conference. Central, too, will be the development of new directions for the conference series.



Feminist Humanities Project coordinators and project directors (left to right): Louise Bishop, Barbara Altmann, Clare Lees, Gina Psaki, and Zoe Borovsky.

ceaching the past in the present

The *Teaching the Past in the Present* conference is set for October 25–26, 1997, on the University of Oregon campus.

This collaborative conference, the first in a series, will involve teachers and scholars in reshaping how the past is studied and presented. Special emphasis will be placed on gendered perspectives, the needs of diverse audiences, and the development of interactive electronic resources. The content of sessions will cross historical periods and cultures.

This conference is groundbreaking in that each session is being prepared by a research coop of high school teachers and university academics who share scholarship and teaching interests. These co-ops will continue to collaborate after the conference, sustaining an ongoing dialog addressing the demands of diverse student bases in relation to historical materials.

At this first event, three primary topics will be covered: women and religion; women and power; and women and the arts. Materials will be drawn from a variety of historical periods and a variety of research methods as well as pedagogical issues applicable to a wide range of high school and college curricula will be discussed.

One of the major elements of the conference is the introduction of the Virtual Resource Bank, an evolving electronic database. This resource will gather sample syllabi, texts, images, bibliographies, and other materials to support teaching and research needs. The conference will take place in the Gerlinger Lounge on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene. Meetings and sessions will take place Saturday afternoon and Sunday, and will overlap with another colloquium, Global Baroque, to be held on campus that weekend. A tentative schedule follows:

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Registration 10:00 a.m.–Noon Overlap with Global Baroque Noon–2:30 p.m. (Lunch, keynote speaker, pedagogy session) Session I: Women and the Arts 3:00–5:00 p.m. Introduction to the Virtual Resource Bank 5:00–6:00 p.m. Evening Events Concert Film: Anchoress

Sundaç, occoóer. 26 Session II: Women and Power 9:30–11:30 a.m. Lunch and VRB Interactive Sessions 11:45 a.m.–1:45 p.m. Session III: Women and Religion 2:00–4:00 p.m. Closing Event 4:00–5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Louise Bishop, (541) 346-0733; lmbishop@oregon.uoregon.edu.





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CSWS Research Interest Groups provide not only an arena for collaborative research and formal group projects, but also a forum for networking and discussion of individual research interests, such as those of the following RIG affiliates.

Breaking Down Boundaries

By Barbara K. Altmann,

When I started my doctoral studies years ago, I was already a confirmed medievalist, planning to write on the poetry by male troubadours of the twelfth century. Somewhat to my surprise, I emerged five years later with a very different dissertation, devoted to one of the only women writers of fourteenth and fifteenth-century France. A good part of my research since then has focused on this unique figure, Christine de Pizan, as a locus for understanding some of the historical, intellectual, and literary phenomena of her day. One of the products of that work is a book currently in press, The Love Debates of Christine de Pizan. In spite of its rather prosaic title, it was a devilishly complex project to complete, largely because it consists of a critical edition of three debate poems of two thousand lines each as well as a critical analysis of their content. Preparing an edition of five-hundred-year-old texts for postmodern readers put me through a training program of all the skills essential for medieval studies: transcription from original manuscripts, editing, preparation of critical apparatus and a glossary, philological analysis, codicological study, and so on. By comparison, the long introductory essay on the poems themselves came easily, as I wrote about the modifications Christine made to a very well-known literary model by introducing a female narrator figure and by inserting the generally absent lady's voice back into the courtly love equation.

The interplay I discovered in Christine's works between tradition and contestatory voices, between male privilege in courtly constructs and the lone female voice, has led me to examine the use of convention in other late-medieval French authors. In a new book project, for example, I am analyzing the poetics of lyric sequences: in other words, how do individual poems interact in a collection to produce something much greater than the sum of their parts? I am curious here, again, about the gendered roles of the protagonists in courtly love relationships, about the nature and function of the emergent authorial persona at this juncture of early literary Humanism, and about how the hierarchies inscribed in the texts are reproduced or challenged in the way they are graphically represented in manuscripts. With those questions in mind, I will leave for a grant-supported term in France this fall with

a suitcase full of works by the foremost authors of late-medieval French verse, both in their printed versions and on microfilm. One of the first papers I hope to produce from this new work concerns the interaction of manuscript and textual space.

In all my work as a medievalist and a feminist I see my role as the breaking down of boundaries between what we and our students are at home in and what seems impossibly removed from us in time and experience. That goal is met head-on by the Research Interest Group I participate in, Reclaiming the Past, along with all the other projects it has launched. The isolation that can result from working in highly specialized fields, perhaps particularly acute in premodern areas, is offset for me by the collaborative approach the RIG adopts to issues in both pedagogy and research.

Barbara K. Altmann is an associate professor in the Department of Romance Languages.

Representation as a Political Practice

By Shari Huhndorf

Last fall, I joined the Department of English faculty after having recently completed a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at New York University. While I primarily teach courses in Native American literature, my research and teaching interests are broad and interdisciplinary. During the past academic year, I also taught courses on autobiography and on film in which we explored both native and non-native texts. In addition, I have strong interests in American cultural history and historical constructions of race, ethnicity, and gender. As a number of

"The study of Native American cultural expressions is by nature an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural enterprise . . . "

other scholars have observed, the study of Native American cultural expressions is by nature an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural enterprise, and I tend to draw upon various intellectual traditions in my teaching and writing.

The majority of my scholarly work is concerned with representation as a political practice. Currently, I am working on two manuscripts for publication. The first work, which is entitled *Going Native: Figuring the Indian in Modern American Culture*, is based on my doctoral research. In this manuscript, I explore a number of instances of mainstream Americans" playing Indian" during key moments of modern history. Among the events and sources I examine are turn-ofthe-century fraternal organizations with Indian themes, travel literature, autobiographical forgeries, and the role of Native Americans in the contemporary New Age movement. The complex intersections of race, gender, and national identity in these events are key elements of much of my analysis. For me, one of the most interesting parts of this project is an exploration of gendered constructions of "Eskimoness" in early twentiethcentury Arctic travel narratives. Not only is this a little-researched subject, it's also somewhat close to home for me since my family is Alaska Native.

The second project that I'm currently working on is a manuscript entitled "Fry Bread and Wild West Shows: The 'New' National Museum of the American Indian," which I co-authored with Patricia Penn Hilden and Carol Kalafatic. This project explores the highly-publicized opening exhibits of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in the contexts of current debates in museology and of the history of displaying native artifacts (and, at times, native peoples themselves) in the U.S. Both of these projects address important recent work in literary and cultural studies which analyzes constructions of "otherness" and the complex relationship of these representations to various forms of oppression in an effort to contribute to social change.

Shari Huhndorf is an assistant professor in the Department of English.

Research on Gender and Organizational Change

By Joan Acker and Don Van Houten

In January, 1994, we began an ethnographic study, partially funded by CSWS through the Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring RIG, of gender relations and organizational restructuring. Other research had shown that in restructuring in which the intent is to reduce middle management and empower workers lower in the hierarchy, a common pattern is that numbers and complexities of tasks increase for lower level workers, while the role of middle management changes or is eliminated, and control becomes more centralized and distant. Women workers in clerical positions and women middle managers seem to be particularly affected. On the other hand, it is possible that a reduction of hierarchy could enrich jobs and increase employees' control over their work. One research question was, then, does reducing hierarchy empower women and reduce gender inequality or is the outcome a reorganization of gender relations that maintains inequality? Another question was whether men and women participated differently in the change process, and whether gendered meanings and identities were embedded in the processes of organizing change. These were the issues we wanted to learn more about.

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research

We investigated these possibilities through analysis of organizational documents, interviews with approximately sixty informants, and observations of various kinds of meetings over a period of two and one half years. We found that the reality of gender and change processes was much more complex and ambiguous than we had expected. The initial effort at planned change had few successes and it seemed to be abandoned. Subsequently, several other, both planned and unplanned or crisisinitiated, changes were set in motion. Most recently we have been studying a project on process redesign or reengineering, underway for the last one and a half years. The goal is to redesign the core support services to remove bottlenecks and increase efficiency. In all of this, we have found instances of the sorts of changes we anticipated; that is, instances in which managerial positions were eliminated or combined and the resulting jobs, filled by women, have become more intense and demanding. However, these instances are not general throughout the organization. Moreover, the distribution of women and men in jobs has remained stable over the period of our study.

Our organization is still stratified by sex and race, in spite of official commitment to reducing such stratification. We have identified ways in which gender is implicated in the various processes we have observed, confirming that masculinities and femininities in organizational contexts are various and multiple. Gender in interactions may be most obvious in moments of conflict and crisis, especially in an organization that has a culture valuing democracy, equality, and participation, such as the one we studied. Our analysis is ongoing at this time and we are writing a monograph.

Joan Acker and Don Van Houten are professors in the Department of Sociology.

Research Support Grants

CSWS awarded six Research Support Grants for the spring funding cycle. We extend congratulations to our nine awardees. The recipients, amounts received, and proposal titles are as follows:

Zoe Borovsky, assistant professor, Germanic languages and literatures, \$5,150, *Gender, Giants, and the Generation Gap.* The Old Norse fornaldar sagas are particularly suited to the study of how notions of sexuality changed in medieval culture; Borovsky's project will demonstrate how these sagas can be placed on a continuum of how difference was portrayed in these late medieval sagas.

Jennifer Freyd, professor, psychology, \$6,000, *Adaptive Blindness for Abuse in Dependent Relationships*. Freyd will use the grant to pursue two related lines of research to test and further develop "Betrayal Trauma" theory, which addresses motivations for, and mechanisms resulting in, unawareness and amnesia for abuse.

Pissamai Homchampa, graduate student, anthropology, \$2,000, *Self-care Practices among Industrial Workers in Thailand: Constructing Perceptions of Health and Wellness in the Factory Setting.* This research focuses on the collection of preliminary data for the preparation of a doctoral dissertation project that will examine the development and role of self-help health practices among people in the industrial sector of Thailand.

Shelly Kowalski, graduate student, sociology, \$2,000, *Fading Pictures and Growing Photo-worlds: The Case of Doris Ulmann.* Kowalski intends to show that artistic merit and lasting recognition has its basis not in the concept of "genius," but in a loosely formed organization of artistic networks determined by race, gender, and socio-economic variables.

Carla Guerron-Montero, graduate student, anthropology, \$1,949, *Pan, Techo Libertad: Women, Gender, and Development in the Afro-Ecuadorian Highlands*. Montero's research focus is to continue and complement a previous study that analyzed two development projects carried out in El Chota about a population of Afro-Ecuadorian peasants in 1993.

Amanda Powell, instructor, Romance languages, \$4,015, A Translation of Maria de San Jose Salazar's 'Book for the Hour of Recreation.' Powell's translation will recover an important feminist voice of Renaissance Christian feminism. It will form part of a critical edition prepared collaboratively with Professor Alison Weber, University of Virginia.

Debra Shein, graduate student, English, \$2,000, *No Canada for Fugitive Wives: Five Novels by Suffrage Leader Abigail Scott Duniway*. Shein's proposal is for the recovery and distribution of five equal rights novels authored by Duniway and published serially in the two periodicals she edited, but never published elsewhere. Shein's research will contextualize the novels in an introduction to each book to establish its import.

Karen Lee Kelsky, assistant professor, anthropology, \$2,500, *The Romance of Europe: Theme Parks and the Marketing of the West to Japanese Women*. Kelsky is completing the final fieldwork segment of a six-year research project about an emerging, eroticized cosmopolitanism among young, urban Japanese women.

Elizabeth Ramirez, assistant professor, theater arts, Ethnic Studies Program, \$2,500, A History of Chicanas/Latinas on the American Stage: The Emerging Female as Political Subject. Her long-range goal is to broaden the annals of theater history by completing a book that traces Latina/Latino theater history from the Precolumbian beginnings to the present. CSWS grant money will allow her to complete the remaining two chapters and the introductory literature review.

CSWS Grant Program Deadlines for 1997–98

Executive Grants Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship Research Support Grants RIG Development Grants Speakers and Events Grants Travel Grants Open deadline May 4, 1998 November 17, 1997 and April 27, 1998 Open deadline Open deadline October 27, 1997 and April 6, 1998

All applications are available outside the CSWS main office door, 340 Hendricks Hall. You can request an application by E-mail: csws@oregon.uoregon.edu or call Shirley Marc, office manager, at 346-5015.



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Travel Grant Recipients

The Center for the Study of Women in Society awards travel grants to University of Oregon faculty members and graduate students to facilitate travel to present papers, serve on panels, or do research regarding women and gender. CSWS awarded twenty-three travel grants during the spring funding cycle. The recipients are as follows:

Cynthea Bogel, assistant professor, art history, to present her paper, *Women and Traditions Made Modern: Textile Design and Engineering by the NUNO Group, Tokyo, Japan*, at the Torsdagsseminar in Denmark.

Carolyn Cartier, assistant professor, geography, to present her paper, *Gendering Development in China under Reform*, at the International Conference on Women in Asia in Singapore.

Lynne Isaacson, instructor, sociology, to present her paper, *Visibility and Invisibility: Gender and Interaction at a Promise Keepers Conference*, at the Pacific Sociological Association Meeting in San Diego.

Karen Addie, Francoise Bodone, Janet Curley, Mary Dalmau, Hilary Goodkind, Naimah Ishak, Rosemary Leas, Mary-Anne Linden, Maureen O'Rourke, Nitza Schwabsky, graduate students, DELTA or EDPM, as members of the Women and Leadership RIG, for an interactive presentation of *A Community of Practice in Higher Education: Great Learners Learning—Inside Looking In: Participatory Life History Research*, at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting in Chicago.

Margaret Dupuis, graduate student, English, to present her paper, Hanging by the Umbilical Cord: Representations of Elizabeth's Maternal Power, at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Society's conference in Alberta, Canada.

Amy Novak, graduate student, English, to present her paper, *Borderland Identities in the Writing of Gloria Anzaldua* at the Midwest Modern Language Association annual convention in Minneapolis.

Jinim Park, graduate student, comparative literature, to present her paper, *The Experiences of 'Soldiers of Fortune*,' at the ASPEC conference in San Jose.

Amy Reiss, graduate student, psychology, to present her paper, *To Become Oneself with Others: Ten Years of Research on Self-Silencing and Depression*, at the American Psychological Society convention in Washington, D.C.

Rageul Ricon, graduate student, Romance languages, to do library research in Bogota, Columbia. **Jaspal Singh**, to present her paper, *Madness as Resistance to Colonial and National Reconstructions of Female Identity*, at the American Comparative Literature Association meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Alexandra Stotts, graduate student, philosophy, to present her paper, *Dewey and Code: Partners in Context*, at the American Philosophical Association annual meeting in Berkeley, California.

Helen Vallianatos, graduate student, anthropology, to present her paper, *Dental Paleopathology Among the Guanches: Analysis of Regional Variation on the Island of Tenerife, Canary Islands,* at the Dental Anthropology Symposium in St. Louis.

Susan Walsh and **Lauren Danner**, graduate students, journalism and communication, to make a panel presentation on *Do the Media Make a Difference? Integrating Women into the Mediated Global Community*, at the International Communication Association in Montreal, Canada.

Congratulations to all of our grant recipients! Your excellent scholarship contributes much in fostering understanding of issues regarding women and gender.

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship Awards

This year the Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship award was increased to \$7,000 for qualified graduate students. The review committee and the CSWS director decided to give two full fellowship awards and one partial award.

Tia Hallberg of the Department of Anthropology, \$7,000, for her proposal *Change and Continuity in Rural Indonesian Midwifery Practices: A Central Javanese Case.* Hallberg plans to complete the writing of her dissertation based on ethnographic fieldwork that investigates how midwives and their clients organize and revise women's reproductive health care by combining elements from two distinct cultures and two dichotomous bodies of knowledge: that of Java and the U.S.

Suzanne Kocher of the Department of Romance Languages, \$7,000, for her proposal *Gender and Power in Marguerite Porete's 'Mirror of Simple Souls.'* Kocher will analyze gendered representations of power within the text of the book, then move outward to discuss the mirror's uses of power in its larger social and political context.

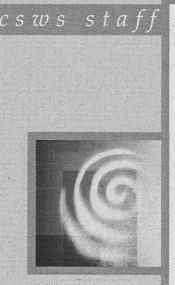
Sheila Page Edwards of the Department of Sociology, \$2,000, for her proposal Longitudinal Assessment of Depression and Treatment of African American Maternal Survivors of Fetal and Infant Mortality. Data from the 1988 National Infant and Maternal Health Survey and the 1991 Longitudinal Follow-up will be analyzed to determine the level, rate, and treatment of depression in African American women resulting from the loss of a child due to late fetal or infant death.

The committee had a very difficult choice since all the proposals were of excellent quality. We thank those who submitted proposals and wish them the best of luck with their research.

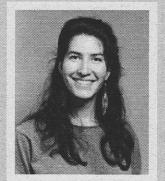


awarded a \$6,000 grant during the spring 1997 funding cycle. The funds are for the payment of a RIG coordinator for the 1997-98 academic year and the proposed activities of the RIG's Girls Group. The funds will support (1) developing a working paper for determining how well the community is meeting the needs of local girls; (2) developing collaborative pilot projects for girls and people who work with them; and (3) laying the groundwork to write proposals for external funding to expand efforts with all of the above.

The Women and Gender in Viet Nam RIG was awarded a \$9,912 grant during the spring 1997 funding cycle. The funds will support (1) a pilot research project about and with the cooperation of the Viet Nam Women's Union; (2) co-hosting a visiting scholar from Viet Nam National University; (3) continued faculty development and exchange including a series of RIGsponsored seminars in the 1997–98 academic year; (4) grant writing based on the pilot research project; and (5) support of related activities by Vietnamese colleagues in the RIG.



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Beth Hege Piatote



Left to right: Marie Harvey, Lin Reilly, Sandra Morgen, Shirley Marc, and Judith Musick

Meet Our Staff

Sandra Morgen, director of CSWS, will be a full time director this coming year to devote more time to building the CSWS Research Initiatives and to complete her manuscript "Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement in the U.S." While she will miss her teaching in sociology, her energies are needed at CSWS in this pivotal year. Sandi is involved in two major research projects for the near future: her collaborative work on and with the Viet Nam Women's Union, and a project (still in the planning stages) on welfare reform in Oregon as part of the Women in the Northwest Research Initiative. Raising two children and being actively involved in a number of community organizations fills out her days and nights.

Marie Harvey is director of research at CSWS and the director of the Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative. Marie is currently the principal investigator on a two-year study funded by CDC on reproductive decision-making and HIV prevention among Hispanic men and their female partners. She is co-editing a book entitled *Abortion in the United States: Psychological, Social, and Political Issues* to be included in the book series of the American Psychological Association. Marie is also an animal lover (with three cats) and enjoys traveling.

Judith Musick, director of development, appreciates everything to do with gardens—horticulture, design, water gardens—even weeding. Judith has been working in a number of areas this past year, most notably in the initiation and planning of our research program initiatives. With faculty coordinators Clare Lees and Gina Psaki, Judith will continue to help direct the Feminist Humanities Project this coming year while taking on, as her main objective, the task of securing foundation and major donor support for the center and its various sponsored projects.

Lin Reilly, our accountant, is worth more than her weight in gold. She has done a great job getting our accounting and budgeting up to speed. She handles the disbursement of monies to all our grant recipients and helps keep careful control of our finances. We discovered recently that Lin not only is an art, music, and biking aficionado, but also a softball player.

Shirley Marc, our new office manager, fit into her new position April 21 with ease. Shirley has been an administrative assistant, teacher, writer, and photographer and has spent fourteen years employed in five different university environments. Starting as a math major but completing her degree as an English major at Central Connecticut State University made her as comfortable with numbers as she is with words. Although a native of Connecticut, she has lived in just about every region of the U.S., and brings that cross-regional experience to the center's front desk. Her hobbies include writing, video production, music, (she plays flute, piano, and guitar) and song writing.

Beth Hege Piatote will be joining our staff in October to work as a research assistant on a variety of writing projects. Beth earned a master's degree in international studies at the UO with a subject focus on indigenous human rights and a professional focus on journalism. For the past three years, she has been working as a reporter for the Associated Press and the *Register-Guard*. Beth has served as the coordinator for the Native American RIG and is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes. She is also a member of the Native American Journalist Association and Wordcraft Circle.

From the Garden: A Note on Development

By Judith Musick, Development Director

In gardening terms, we could describe the activities of the past year as ones of planning the garden, setting out the various planting areas, and seeding some of the beds. These activities are embodied in our three new program initiatives and the continued refinement of our efforts to develop and support collaborative and productive communities of scholars (RIGs).

We have ambitious plans. We are investing significant seed money in each of the three research program initiatives while continuing to fund our various grants and awards to faculty and graduate students.

The successful accomplishment of our best intentions requires that we identify and secure new funding from multiple sources—individual donors, foundations, and federal and state research funding agencies. While we will work directly with the faculty coordinators and principal investigators of our sponsored initiatives to apply for research grants from public and private entities, we are looking to you, our affiliates and supporters, for donations.

There are a number of ways you can help to meet these immediate and long-term financial needs and, therefore, participate in the growing of this rather extraordinary community garden.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

• **Travel Grants**—Each year we provide multiple travel grants to graduate students and faculty members to help them conduct field research, attend meetings, present papers, and, therefore, strengthen the presence of UO scholars within the multiple professional and scholarly networks engaged in the study of women and gender. Your gift of \$400 could fully fund one of these CSWS travel grants.

• **RIG Support**—Donations are sought to help support our highly successful Research Interest Group program. Annual Basic Support grants of \$500 provide RIGs with funds to duplicate reading materials, invite outside speakers, and purchase needed materials. More substantial gifts may be earmarked to support special projects of specific RIGs.

• Graduate Student Research Grants—Each year we give multiple grants of \$2,000 each to support the meritorious research projects of graduate students working on topics related to women and gender. Among this year's grants will be at least one that supports the work of a woman of color. A gift of \$2,500 to CSWS will fully fund one of these designated grants.

• Faculty Research Grants—As traditional sources of external resource funding become more difficult to secure, UO faculty members are turning increasingly to CSWS for funds to supplement or to fully support their research activities. Your gift to CSWS of \$6,000 can provide the funds necessary to allow a promising faculty member to launch a pilot study or take some time off from teaching to conduct all or a portion of their research.

• Women in Vietnam RIG—This RIG needs two or more computer stations (computer, monitor, keyboard, printer, the works!) and desktop publishing software (capable of printing Vietnamese language characters) for its collaborative research work with Vietnam National University and the Vietnam Women's Union. The estimated cost of purchasing and shipping each station is \$7,000.

CSWS Mailing List Information

If you would like to receive this newsletter and other CSWS mailings, please provide us with the information requested below. If you are already on the list, but are receiving duplicate mailings, or if your address has changed, please let us know so that we may correct your label. Thanks!

Name

Address.

City, State, Zip

I would like to make a donation. Amount enclosed

Thank you!





If the idea of supporting the activities of CSWS appeals to you, please call Judith Musick or Sandi Morgen at 346-5015 for more information. Please make checks payable to the University of Oregon Foundation and return them to: Center for the Study of Women in Society, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. author's note

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Sex and Sensibility: Stories of a Lesbian Generation

Sex and Sensibility: Stories of a Lesbian Generation, University of California Press, 1997. (Available in paperback.) By Arlene Stein

Sex and Sensibility: Stories of a Lesbian Generation examines shifts in lesbian identity and culture from the 1970s to the present, and how a generation of women transformed the ideals of feminism into a culture and lifestyle.

Based largely on in-depth interviews with thirty women of the baby boom generation, the book explores the complex issues of identity that lesbians have confronted as they have defined themselves in relation to their communities and to society at large.

Sex and Sensibility suggests that lesbian feminists were split between a"minoritizing" project, which sought to fix lesbians as a stable minority group, and a"universalizing" project, which tried to liberate the "lesbian" in every woman. The tension between these two conceptions of sexuality colored the interactions among women of this cohort.

By the late 1970s and early 80s, the baby

"One category of experience . . . can never completely describe one's relationship to the world."

boom generation settled into families and careers of various forms. At the same time, sexual, racial, and other differences became explosive issues in many lesbian communities. Some grappled with these challenges by acknowledging the complexity of sexual identities. Others found that a lesbian identity no longer suited their needs.

Interviews with a group of younger lesbians suggest that the emergence of "queer" theory and politics is an attempt to address some of the limitations of the lesbian feminist project.

The book argues, in conclusion, that one category of experience, such as sexual identity, can never completely describe one's relationship to the world. But as long as people are categorized and stigmatized according to sexuality, sexual identities are "necessary fictions."

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