

# Center

from the

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

## A Crowning Year of Conversations

By Lynne Fessenden, Ecological Conversations Program Director

During the final year of Ecological Conversations, CSWS welcomes another five resident research fellows. The Rockefeller Foundation-funded program, *Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred*, has brought together a diverse group of scholars and activists to engage in scientific, political, and spiritual discourses raised by the global nexus of women's and environmental movements. During the past two years, several UO faculty and graduate students have joined the conversation via an ongoing program seminar, a public lecture series, and CSWS-sponsored retreats and conferences.

Creating a context where a diverse cohort of scholars are given the opportunity to interact and participate in an ongoing dialogue has had a catalytic impact on the work of all involved. In addition to providing stimulation for individual research endeavors (collectively, six book manuscripts have been submitted and four journal articles published), this arrangement has sparked a number of creative collaborations, including publishing opportunities for graduate students. The participants, though rarely in agreement on issues, have gained a great deal in recognizing the tangible value of bringing a variety of perspectives to the table.

The theme for this third and final year of conversations is the integration of scientific and sacred epistemologies in investigations of ecology, cosmology, health, and healing. We intend for the dialogue to aid us in reconceptualizing our relationships to place, land, and other living beings. Two international fellows will be joining us fall term, **Imelda Bacudo** and **Veronica Brady** (see page 9). During winter and spring term, three fellows from the United States will visit. **Nimachia Hernandez**, a Native American of Blackfoot descent and a scholar of linguistics and human development, has spent the past several years interviewing Blackfoot elders about their creation stories, cosmology, and views of nature. Philosopher **Edrie Sobstyl** is researching ways in which science and the sacred are entwined and reconciled in ecofeminist science fictions. And religious studies scholar **Sarah Taylor** is currently documenting and analyzing the growing movement of environmentally active Catholic nuns in North America—specifically the green nuns' radical resistance to biotech and genetic engineering technologies as spiritual crusades. (See public lecture schedule on page 9.)

The Rockefeller Foundation has generously provided funding so that all fifteen of our Ecological Conversations fellows will return to the University of Oregon for a program finale next May. This event will allow the fellows from different years to meet one another, as well as offer the public and the greater university community a chance to hear some of the culminating ideas from the three-year project.

This final gathering of fellows will focus our collective insight toward a dialogue of re-imagining. Even as we critique current environmental discourses for their limitations and exclusionary practices, we will imagine paradigms and power structures that are inclusive of all life forms; that take diverse spiritual beliefs and nontraditional ecological practices seriously as ways of knowing; and that aim to nourish more just and sustainable relationships among humans and other forms of life, men and women, those who currently over-consume the earth's resources, and those whose basic needs for food, shelter, health, safety and dignity are unmet. We will pivot the focal point among the triad of terms that have guided our three-year conversation: gender, science, and the sacred—as we work to build a provocative vision connecting ecological sustainability and social justice.

For more information and continual updates, visit the Ecological Conversations Program website at: <http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>, or call Lynne Fessenden at (541) 346-5399.

AUTUMN



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# An Ecological Conversation with Giovanna Di Chiro

Giovanna Di Chiro is assistant professor of environmental science at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the transformation and production of environmental science by women environmental justice activists engaging in community-based politics. She was a Rockefeller Humanities fellow at CSWS last spring and is currently at work on a book, *Uncommon Expertise: Women, Science, and Environmental Politics*.

**Q:** Your research focuses on women who work along the “margins” of the environmental policy arena due to their race, class, ethnicity, and nationality. How are such activists gaining access?

**A:** What I’ve been seeing in this country and many others around the world is the phenomenon that women community-based activists are the dominant force in the rank and file of most environmental organizations. The women activists I’ve seen aren’t necessarily the ones with the microphones in front of their faces, but they’re the ones with the staying power beyond the time when it becomes frustrating or when it’s no longer flashy in the media.

One of the reasons ordinary women get involved in environmental struggles is due to the daily experiences and observations they make while fulfilling their responsibilities to take care of their families—they recognize when things aren’t going well, when things are starting to deteriorate: the quality of the water; the capacity of the fields to grow food; the health of the farm animals or pets; the health of children, the elderly, etc. These are the kinds of things that women notice. And, that kind of knowledge, which is conventionally viewed by the scientific establishment as anecdotal or not very systematic, is very important in understanding how our environment and our relationships to it can be made more sustainable.

**Q:** Are these women part of a new movement?

**A:** The environmental justice movement is, I think, an extension of the civil rights movement and other social justice struggles with a more explicit focus on human relationships with the environment. It thinks about the environment as a very basic relationship with nature—eating, breathing, drinking, making a living, raising children—

that insists that humans are part of nature. This is different than the more rarefied, upper-class notion of environmentalism that separates humans from nature. A big irony in my mind is that “saving nature” in the mainstream environmentalist sense is about separating yourself from nature. It’s a way of occluding close-to-home, everyday nature and justifying that by protecting “wilderness” or exotic, out-there nature.

**Q:** That means you write-off what’s in the city.

**A:** And the city is coded as a place where poor people live, factory workers, and people of color, what was termed in the nineteenth century as the “dangerous classes.” So the urban environment is already “lost to nature;” it’s considered dangerous. “Nature” becomes the domain of the middle- and upper-middle classes. The environmental justice movement, again, largely a movement of women, is showing that, rather than being separate, humans are profoundly a part of nature.

**Q:** Do women have a special ability to grasp such issues and to work together in ways that men can’t?

**A:** I think that it’s a historical and sociological phenomenon, not a biological or hormonal one, that has placed many women where core environmental planning is felt most strongly. It has to do with who has responsibility for what in the society; historically, women’s social roles have included the task of figuring out what people need. As a result, the focus of women’s organizations tends to put people at the center.

**Q:** I guess women working together within these emerging networks, trying to live harmoniously with nature and make their communities healthier is a hopeful sign. We get so much doom and gloom regarding the environment.

**A:** I certainly think the environmental justice movement is driven by hope. That is one of the things that has inspired me. I’ve traveled around the world and interviewed a lot of women, including women who live in really terrible circumstances. But, because they have adopted an activist standpoint, these women have a sense of hope. One woman activist I spoke with puts it this way, “This is not revolution. This is evolution.” It’s a kitchen-table, person-by-person form of change.



Giovanna Di Chiro

#### CSWS FACULTY AND STAFF

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#### Ecological Conversations

**Program:** Lynne Fessenden, Tina Richardson

#### Feminist Humanities Project:

Jan Emerson, Dan Gillfilan, Eric Lawson

#### Welfare Project:

Joan Acker, Kate Barry, Lisa Gonzales, Terri Heath, Jill Weigt

#### Women’s Health Research

**Initiative:** Sheryl Thorburn Bird, Judy Hibbard

#### Special Projects:

Barbara Sutton

For more information:

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## Events

### OCTOBER

**5-7:** Conference: *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*. Gerlinger Lounge, University of Oregon. Contact Lori O'Hollaren for information, 346-1521, loholl@oregon.uoregon.edu.

**10:** Brown Bag: "For the Love of the Tune: Irish Women and Traditional Irish Music," Carol Spellman, folklore. 330 Hendricks Hall, noon-1:00 P.M.

Teaching and Tea: "Minding the Gaps: The Feminist Humanities Project Does England," Judith Musick and Dan Gilfillan, CSWS, 330 Hendricks Hall, 4:00-5:30 P.M.

**15:** Reception: CSWS affiliates and new women faculty members, Collier House (1170 East 13th Avenue, across from the EMU), 3:30-5:30 P.M. RSVP: 346-5015.

**17:** Brown Bag: CSWS Grants Workshop, S. Marie Harvey, CSWS research director, 330 Hendricks Hall, noon-1:00 P.M.

**25:** Ecological Conversations Public Lecture: Imelda Bacudo, "Healers in Contemporary Third-World Economic Realities," Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 P.M. (See page 9.)

### NOVEMBER

**7:** Teaching and Tea: "Poésie en ligne: Poètes du Québec," Karen McPherson, Romance languages, 330 Hendricks Hall, 4:00-5:30 P.M.

**8:** Ecological Conversations Public Lecture: Veronica Brady, "Recovering Sacred Ground," Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 P.M. (See page 9.)

**14:** Brown Bag: "Native Women, Identity, and Cultural Survival," Leece Lee, international studies (2000 Laurel Award recipient), 330 Hendricks Hall, noon-1:00 P.M.

**28:** Brown Bag: "Transparence and Transcendence in a Dance Aesthetic: The Language of Self Portrayed in Contemporary Concert Dance," Jennifer Knight Dills, dance instructor, 330 Hendricks Hall, noon-1:00 P.M.

### DECEMBER

**4:** Teaching and Tea: "Hints from Hildegard: Medieval Medical Recipes from Hildegard of Bingen," Jan Emerson, CSWS, 330 Hendricks Hall, 4:00-5:30 P.M.



CSWS is continuing its schedule of interesting talks and workshops by faculty members and graduate students who are recipients of CSWS Research Grants. These "brown bag lunches" take place on Wednesdays at noon. We invite you to join us. Call 346-5015 if you have questions.

## Do Conspiracy Beliefs Foster High-risk Behaviors?

CSWS research associate Sheryl Thorburn Bird is pursuing an exciting research project that examines how perceptions of discrimination affect family planning and contraceptive services. Along with colleague Laura Bogart, an assistant professor of psychology at Kent State University who is a CSWS affiliate, Bird has looked at patients' reports of discrimination by health care providers on the basis of race and socioeconomic status. Not surprisingly, they have found evidence that such experiences affect both utilization of and satisfaction with medical care.

Bird and Bogart now are looking more specifically at the relationship between race-based discrimination and reproductive health care. Their preliminary work suggests that perceiving discrimination when seeking family planning or birth control services can affect or limit contraceptive choices.

A related issue is the prevalence of conspiracy beliefs among African Americans regarding birth control and HIV/AIDS. Bird says the notion that HIV was engineered by the government or that AIDS medication is a form of crude experimentation is not surprising given the historic context. "It's not bizarre when you look at real things that have happened," she says. For instance, in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, public health workers studied the effects of untreated syphilis in African American men for forty years. And even in recent years, initiatives have tried to force the Norplant device onto poor mothers.

A previous study showed that one-quarter of African Americans in a sample believed that family planning programs were a form of genocide. Prior research has also found that as many as 70 percent of African Americans endorse conspiracy beliefs regarding HIV/AIDS. Bird and Bogart now want to examine whether such beliefs are associated with high-risk sexual behaviors and, thereby, pose a barrier to HIV prevention.



Do you want to join a RIG or start a new one?

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



The **Gender in Historical and Transnational China** RIG is holding an interdisciplinary conference October 5–7, 2001, in Gerlinger Lounge. Two years in the planning, *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China* offers an international forum for more than twenty invited scholars across the social sciences and humanities to share their research on the changing definitions of gender boundaries and the spatial division of labor in late-imperial, Republican, and the People's Republic of China. For information on the conference, contact Lori O'Hollaren, 346-1521, [loholl@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:loholl@oregon.uoregon.edu).

The interdisciplinary "China" RIG brings together those interested in Chinese culture and society. It focuses on the study of the interaction between the representation of gender, ideology, and cultural practices in all periods of Chinese history. Typically, members meet once a month to discuss recent publications in the field or their own works in progress. Contact Maram Epstein, 346-4017, [maram@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:maram@oregon.uoregon.edu).

Members of the **Native American Communities** RIG will be attending the *All Women of Red Nations: Weaving Connections* conference at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut, in October. Five RIG members from different disciplines will be holding a panel on Native women in higher education. The RIG engages in topics related to American Indian/Alaskan Native research issues, including literature, film, and academic works. Contact Zelda Haro, [zelda157@juno.com](mailto:zelda157@juno.com).

The **Social Sciences Feminist Network** has been awarded a RIG Development Grant (\$6,000) and has designated two new coordinators for the upcoming year. Members will continue working on a CSWS history project, hold three retreats throughout the academic year (one each term), and develop the RIG's website (<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ssfnrig/>).

Contact either Hava Gordon, [hgordon@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:hgordon@darkwing.uoregon.edu), or Mara Fridell, [mfridell@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:mfridell@darkwing.uoregon.edu).

The **Jewish Feminist Reading Group** meets monthly to discuss specific readings, including literary, historical, and theoretical works, which contribute to the ongoing discourse on the changing roles and historical understandings of women in Judaism and in Jewish life and culture. Over the year, RIG members may share their work and the group may host speakers from other institutions. An initial meeting will take place in October to set the reading list for the year. Contact Judith Baskin, 346-5984, [jbaskin@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:jbaskin@oregon.uoregon.edu).

Last year, the **Sex, Gender, and the Law** RIG sponsored three visiting scholars: Adrienne Davis, a leader of the emerging field critical race feminism; Hendrick Hartog, a leading legal historian; and Eileen Boris, professor of women's studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The RIG plans to continue the visiting seminar series during 2001–2, sponsoring one visitor each term. Fall term's visitor is feminist legal theorist Katherine Franke of Columbia Law School, who will discuss her newly published article on conceptions of sexuality, "Theorizing Yes." Contact Peggy Pascoe, 346-3406, [ppascoe@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:ppascoe@darkwing.uoregon.edu).

The **Violence, Gender, and Society** RIG promotes research, community collaboration, and information dissemination in the area of violence and gender. This year members are engaged in a program evaluation of the Transitional Program, a component of Womenspace, the local agency responding to domestic violence. This year RIG members plan to finish this evaluation, use it as pilot data for grant writing, and bring in speakers of interest to the research community relative to gender and violence. Contact Deborah Olson, 346-2483, [dlolson@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:dlolson@oregon.uoregon.edu).

The **Women and Economic Development** RIG has existed in suspended animation for some time, as some of its members have been consumed by a research project on welfare reform in Oregon (see <http://csws.uoregon.edu/welfare/welfare.shtml>). That work is ongoing, but they plan to hold a general RIG meeting this fall. For information, contact Joan Acker, 344-5727, [jacker@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:jacker@oregon.uoregon.edu).

#### Other RIGs

The **Reclaiming the Past** RIG supports scholars and students working in all humanities disciplines with a focus on the past. Contact Gina Psaki, 346-4042, [rpsaki@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:rpsaki@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, 346-5099, [musick@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:musick@oregon.uoregon.edu).

## Kudos!

**Judith Baskin**, Judaic studies and religious studies, gave several invited papers last year, including the plenary presentation, "Religious Marginalization and Personal Empowerment: The Elements of Jewish Women's Piety in Early Modern Central Europe," at *Attending to Early Modern Women: Gender, Culture, and Change*, sponsored by the Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies at the University of Maryland. She produced a number of publications (in both English and Hebrew), among them: "Women in Contemporary Judaism," in *The Blackwell Companion to Judaism* (Blackwell, 2001), and "Women Saints in Judaism: Dolce of Worms," in *Women Saints in World Religions* (SUNY Press, 2000).

**Liz Bohls**, English, received a Humanities Center Research Fellowship for full term to work on her book, whose working title is "Caribbean Crossings: Identity and Place in the British West Indies, 1770–1833."

**Lorriane Brundige**, philosophy, organized the first annual conference for the Center on Diversity and Community last spring. The Office of Multicultural Affairs gave her an Excellence Award and she was one of three recipients of the UO Award for Graduate Service. She also co-organized *Aboriginal Rights and Philosophy* in Winnipeg, Canada, last June, where she gave a presentation on ways in which academic philosophers can continue to dialogue with Aboriginal people regarding issues of "human rights."

**Barbara Cook**, English, contributed "Enclosed by Racist Politics: Space and Place in Harriet Jacob's Slave Narrative" to *The African American Environmental Imagination* (Rutgers University, forthcoming). She also contributed to two composition conferences, presented a paper at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) conference, and was appointed as 2001–03 graduate liaison to the ASLE.

**Jennifer Knight Dills**, dance, received a grant to help fund the presentation of the second annual concert of her contemporary dance company, the Performers Project, this February.

**Bonnie Doren** and **Mike Benz**, College of Education, published "Gender Equity Issues in the Vocational and Transition Services and Employment Outcomes Experienced by Young Women with Disabilities" in *Double Jeopardy: Addressing Gender Equity in Special Education* (State University of New York Press).

**Joy Gall**, College of Education, co-author of *Educational Research: An Introduction*, was honored, with co-author Meredith "Mark" Gall, by the translation of their book into Chinese for use in mainland Chinese education.

**Amalia Gladhart**, Romance languages, presented "The Performance of Memory or the Memory of Performance?" at *Performance and Politics in the Americas: Memory, Atrocity, and Resistance* held in Monterrey, Mexico, in June (with the help of a CSWS faculty travel grant).

**Margaret Hallock**, Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, is receiving the Woman of Achievement Award this year from the Oregon Commission for Women.

**Susan Hardwick**, geography, has a new book out, *Mythic Galveston: Re-inventing America's Third Coast* (Johns Hopkins University Press), and was recently appointed to serve on the National Council of the American Geographical Society.

**Ellen Herman**, history, was awarded a major research grant for 2001–2003 from the National Science Foundation Science and Technology Studies Program for her project "Kinship by Design: Adoption Science and Scientific Adoption in Modern America." She's also participating in a Mellon Foundation seminar on "Contested Childhood in a Changing Global Order" at the University of Michigan's Advanced Study Center.

**Kathleen Karlyn**, English, presented her paper "I'm Not My Mother': Third Wave Feminism, Girl Culture, and SCREAM" at *Console-ing Passions*, an international conference on feminism, video, and television in Bristol, England.

**Karen Kelsky**, anthropology, has her first book coming out this fall from Duke University Press, *Women on the Verge: Japanese Women, Western Dreams*. She's also giving the keynote address at *Transforming Cultures/Shifting Boundaries: Asian Diasporas and Identities in Australia and Beyond*, a conference at the University of Queensland in Brisbane this November.

**Sonya Lawson**, music, is now an assistant professor of music history and viola at Middle Tennessee State University, where she will be teaching American music, undergraduate music history, and private lessons to viola students.

**Judith Raiskin**, women's studies, received a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Research Fellowship at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, where she will be working through the Office for Women's Research on their initiative, "Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific." The fellowship will allow Raiskin to spend time in library collections of the Pacific Islands and Hawai'i in support of her forthcoming book, *Navigating the Narratives of the New Pacific*.

**Tina Richardson**, English, presented "Ecofeminist Literary Activism: An Emerging Tradition" at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment meeting and "Corresponding Realities: The Letters of Rachel Carson and George Crile Jr." at the First Annual Writers' Conference in Honor of Rachel Carson. She also has a paper forthcoming in *The African American Environmental Imagination*.

**Janet Wasko**, journalism and communication, has two new books in print: *Understanding Disney: The Manufacture of Fantasy* (Polity Press) and *Dazzled by Disney? The Global Disney Audience Project* (Leicester University Press), edited with Mark Phillips and Eileen Meehan.



## Overwhelmed?

Because of all the incredible things CSWS affiliates are doing, we had to save some announcements for the winter issue. But keep the good news coming. E-mail notices to Cheri Brooks, [cbrooks@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:cbrooks@darkwing.uoregon.edu), about papers published, awards won, presentations made, and honors bestowed.



### TEACHING AND TEA

A monthly series of informal seminars whose purpose is to facilitate teaching about women past and present, encourage collaboration among high school and university teachers, and make use of new digital technologies to enhance the teaching of gender in history. 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon; 4:00–5:30 P.M.

#### FALL SCHEDULE

##### Tuesday, October 10

*Minding the Gaps: The Feminist Humanities Project Does England*  
Judith Musick and Dan Gilfillan, CSWS

##### Wednesday, November 7

*Poésie en ligne: Poètes du Québec*  
Karen McPherson,  
Romance languages

##### Tuesday, December 4

*Hints from Hildegard: Medieval Medical Recipes from Hildegard of Bingen*  
Jan Emerson, CSWS



By Judith Musick, Associate Director

The entire core group of the Feminist Humanities Project (FHP)—seven of us—went to England this summer on a research trip with the combined support of FHP and a Research Interest Group (RIG) development grant. Barbara Altmann and Gina Psaki from Romance languages, Louise Bishop from the honors college, and Stephanie Wood from history (all members of the Reclaiming the Past RIG) joined FHP staffers Dan Gilfillan, Jan Emerson, and me in what was a truly unique experience in collaborative humanities research.

Our purpose was to look at medieval manuscripts and refine a number of research ideas for which we could seek external support and to start the process of expanding our virtual resource bank to include material on women in medieval Europe. We spent most of our time at the Wellcome Trust Library of Medical History in London and the Bodleian Library at Oxford, with a few shorter visits to the British Library, the Imperial War Museum, and the British Museum.

That we went at all was the partial fulfillment of a dream Stephanie Wood and I first articulated last summer when we visited the Bodleian in search of images for our first women in history database, “Women and Gender in Ancient Mesoamerica.” We agreed that it would be grand if others in FHP could come to Oxford for a couple of weeks and spend days in the manuscript collections and evenings in informal seminars. And we were right—it *was* grand.

At the Wellcome we discovered many incredible slides, medical recipes, and other texts. We found so much that we will probably have to spend at least a month or even two just to make a clear listing of it all. On July 11, Jan enthusiastically recorded in her travelogue:

“Stephanie, Dan, and I found great stuff in the iconographic catalogs. Looked at the first amazing MS. It’s a star! Has . . . *wound man* and diagrams of female reproductive organs. It’s in bright colors—we’ve only seen black and white reproductions until now. The small painting of a caesarian operation stood out—especially the red. I can’t imagine such operations being performed 800 years ago.”

The medievalists among us were thrilled to go to the Bodleian and to see so many wonderful manuscripts firsthand. Barbara Altmann wrote on July 16:

“Oxford and the Bodleian! We all got chills going into the Duke Humphrey manuscript room. These preeminent collections have such a reputation, and are such cornerstone resources for medievalists, that getting access, obtaining a reader’s card, is a pilgrimage of sorts. Louise was visibly moved—it is, above all and not surprisingly, a shrine of English materials.”

# ROAD M The Feminist Project Doe



### LIBRARY LOGISTICS

I wasn’t completely naïve about the complexities of starting this project, but I did underestimate just how much time and effort it would take to sort out each library’s rules and learn their systems. I am glad we concentrated on only two. Jan’s journal entry (July 12) about our trip to the British Library reminds me of one of my doubting moments.

“Judith and I went to the British Library to get reader cards and file the recommendation letter with manuscripts so we can gain access. A long, long wait. It was hard for Judith to not think of it as a waste of time. It could be more efficient—we sent all the material ahead of time. But they still do individual photos and processing onsite. The manuscript people seemed very open to our accessing the manuscripts—a very different attitude from that in the e-mails. So now anyone in the project can come here for individual and project research for the next five years.”

In every case, meeting and talking to the library staff personally was invaluable. It helped

NOTES:

# Humanities in England

us gain access to actual manuscripts instead of reproductions, and will aid in securing the permissions necessary to publish the images on our website (another dreadfully time-consuming logistical process). I believe we have initiated relationships that may well lead to significant international collaboration.

## GETTING TOGETHER

To me the most interesting part of our summer came from trying to understand how we each work and then experimenting with ways to work together—to do collaboratively what most of us had only done alone. On July 17, Barbara reflected:

“Something that has become apparent is that most humanities scholars are used to working alone, with a great deal of freedom and independence, and are not in the habit of sharing protocols, checking in with others on their progress, etc. It really is like trying to herd cats. It is a hard balancing act, to look at things of interest to me but also to contribute to the growing database.”

Balancing the needs of a database and the thrill of scholarly treasure-hunting sometimes was tricky, as Dan explained in one of his journal entries:

“I feel that I have to curb their enthusiasm and remind them of the needs of the database. It is in this management capacity that I feel less comfortable, because I understand the excitement and awe that comes with looking at these old manuscripts and discovering their richness. The question I keep reminding myself of is: How do we obtain the minimal bits of information we need for the database without impeding on scholarly research, without extinguishing this excitement?”

We spent a lot of time talking about what we were doing and how to do it. It was fascinating but sometimes frustrating. As Jan put it:

“We really do work individually most of the time as scholars and writers. I feel we have too many meetings, yet when we’re in them I see the need for them—we have to keep correcting goals and communications. We can go off on our own, come back, meet together, disagree, and work it out. Basically mutual support is what I see, feel.”



Yet we continually taught each other about fresh materials, vocabularies, approaches, and sensibilities. On July 13, I wrote:

“It’s university in reverse—where I am the lone student and my six colleagues are the teachers. Imagine a classroom where the student stands in front and asks the assembled faculty any questions she wishes. It is the humanities education that, as a student of sociology, I never had.”

Because we all brought different backgrounds and skills to the group, we learned the value of collaboration, as Barbara explained:

“It occurs to me that this road show we are producing as we go is really a faculty seminar. I have learned a good deal from my colleagues on any number of subjects, and I see that for those of us who have done little or no manuscript research before, this is hands-on training with more experienced guides to help out. Louise is the case in point. But Dan, too. He was obviously thrilled to have touched a 600-year-old book. I have become conversant, at least a little bit, with the sort of medical texts that circulated in the late Middle Ages. And I have watched Jan, Dan, Stephanie and Judith make use of iconographic archives that I would never have approached on my own. I believe we’ve created a unique training program.”

The next day she added:

“I have looked at types of manuscripts and texts I knew existed but had never seen before, have had to read and work with manuscripts in Latin and Middle English as well as French, have had to call on my colleagues to help explain, decipher, evaluate. I feel better educated as a medievalist for having done all this. It has caused me to broaden, to leave my usual area of expertise and investigate other vital areas of medieval culture. In that sense, this is a rare privilege.”

In addition to gleaning enough material to feed our collective and individual imaginations for at least the next ten months, we also had a great deal of fun. There was much laughter, a birthday party (for Jan), good meals, and the sharing of discoveries. It was an amazing adult field trip. I am ready to do it again. Next time—Italy?



The Feminist Humanities Project (FHP) is dedicated to advancing the historical study of women and gender in all areas of humanities teaching and research. Launched in the spring of 1997, FHP is a major research initiative of CSWS that grew out of the successful collaborative efforts of the Reclaiming the Past RIG. Keep track of the progress of FHP’s Virtual Resource Bank on its website: <http://server.fhp.uoregon.edu/FHP/index.html-ssi>.

*Photos—left to right: Celebrating Jan’s birthday in Oxford. Louise, Barbara, Gina, and Jan in front of the Bodleian Library. Barbara and Louise at the Wellcome Trust Library of Medical History. An evening seminar at Oxford.*



## 2001-2 CSWS Executive Committee

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Philosophy

## Sandra Morgen Honored by Colleagues

In May, the University of Oregon recognized CSWS director Sandra Morgen as a champion of free speech and assembly in education with the 2001 Charles E. Johnson Memorial Award. First bestowed by the UO faculty in 1980, the award honors faculty members who demonstrate exceptional service to the university and its community and who exemplify the principles affirmed by former UO President Charles E. Johnson.

The Johnson Award is the most prestigious award given to any faculty member at the University of Oregon.

Morgen's work reflects the confluence of research, public service, and social change, such as her study of Oregon families who left welfare and her subsequent testimony before Oregon legislative committees. UO President Dave Frohnmayer remarked that her "tireless efforts to connect scholarly research with social change and her valuable service . . . make this a particularly fitting award."

Linda Fuller, professor of psychology, noted, "Sandra Morgen restructured CSWS and opened the organization to graduate students, community members, and minority groups whose voices weren't being heard. She established research interest groups . . . that got people who weren't always talking to begin dialogues with one another."

Morgen received the Johnson Award just after learning that she'd been promoted to full professor at the university. If that wasn't enough, she also recently completed a book, *Into Our Own Hands: The Woman's Health Movement in the United States* (Rutgers University Press), and edited an anthology with Nancy Tuana, *Engendering Rationalities* (SUNY Press). Congratulations, Sandi!



## Beth Heads South to Stanford

CSWS's newsletter editor and dissemination specialist, Beth Hege Piatote, has left Oregon to join the doctoral program in Modern Thought and Literature at Stanford University.

Her work will focus on Native American literature and comparative ethnic studies. A highly sought-after scholar, Beth has been awarded a prestigious Ford Foundation fellowship for three years, in addition to a Stanford fellowship.

Beth came to CSWS in 1997, where a part-time appointment allowed her also to teach journalism and English courses. A gifted writer, she took on additional freelance projects and held a ten-week writing residency in Joseph, Oregon.

Beth says, "Working at CSWS helped me to define my academic goals because I was exposed to so many exciting ideas and great thinkers on a daily basis."



"I loved working at CSWS and will miss my colleagues and the stimulating environment a great deal. I am especially grateful to Sandra Morgen for finding a place for me at the center and for always supporting my work and interests."

—Beth Hege Piatote

She adds, "I had a lot of fun working on the various publications of the center and will miss collaborating with our amazing designer, Lori Howard, who also became a dear friend."

Beth's replacement, Cheri Brooks, has a background in writing, editing, and communications. She has been handling publicity for the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics and has a master's degree in environmental studies. She is excited to be collaborating with all the wonderful scholars and incredible people at CSWS. Contact her at [cbrooks@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:cbrooks@darkwing.uoregon.edu) or 346-2264.

# Fall Fellows Hail from Pacific Nations

By Lynne Fessenden, Ecological Conversations Program Director

CSWS will host two visiting research fellows fall term through the Rockefeller Foundation funded Ecological Conversations Program. Imelda Bacudo will be in residence the entire term and Veronica Brady will join the center during the months of November and December.



**Imelda Bacudo** is currently working as an assistant environmental economist for the National Integrated Protected Areas Programme (NIPAP), a special project of the Philippine government. She works

with multiple sectors (agri-fishing communities, indigenous people, women, government, and tourism) to map out management plans for protected areas of her country. Holding a B.A. in communication and an M.A. in women and development, Imelda (who goes by Dada), has long combined her activism with her scholarship by working for several NGOs that advocate for women's issues in the context of third-world economic poverty. After shifting to full-time environmental work in recent years, she maintains active links with the Philippine women's movement as a volunteer.

While in residence at CSWS, Dada will be writing up her research on a precolonial, matriarchal religious sect inhabiting the sacred site of Mt. Banahaw in the Philippines. The practice of this nationalistic, matriarchal, and Christianized but animistic religion is deeply connected with nurturing the earth. Dada's case study will trace the movement's roots and survival, determining its prospects and contemporary role (as natural resource managers) in modern third-world economies.



**Veronica Brady** is a senior research fellow in the Department of English at the University of Western Australia. She is also a Roman Catholic nun. Her research interests in Australian literature, society, and culture,

combined with her theological perspective, have led her to a decade-long involvement in indigenous writing and culture. Her focus on indigenous literature has gradually unfolded into activism in the political struggle for justice for Australian indigenous peoples, and she is now in the forefront of community and government coalitions working within the movement for reconciliation. Veronica works closely with the School of Social Ecology at the University of Western Sydney, and she has published widely on the spiritual aspects of ecological and indigenous issues.

The premise of her fellowship project concerns an exploration within Western culture toward recovering an authentic sense of the sacred—for it is this lack of understanding of the sacred that she feels comes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. During her residency, she plans to conduct an extended study of the suppressed feminine strain within Western mystical tradition, as well as insights into the nature of reality offered by contemporary science.



The Ecological Conversations Seminar—the ongoing discussion session between faculty members, graduate students, and the visiting research fellows—will meet fall term on alternate Thursdays at 3:00 P.M. in 330 Hendricks Hall. If you are interested in joining us or in finding out the topics for discussion this fall, please call Lynne at 346-5399, or e-mail [lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu). Read more about the Ecological Conversations Program online at <http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>

## Ecological Conversations Public Lecture Series

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

### October 25

Imelda Bacudo  
*Healers in Contemporary Third-World Economic Realities*

### November 8

Veronica Brady  
*Recovering Sacred Ground*

### February 7

Edrie Sobstyl  
*Finding the Sacred in Ecofeminist Science Fiction*

### February 21

Nimachia Hernandez  
*Mokakssini: A Blackfoot Theory of Knowledge*

### April 18

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

## Spring 2001 Research Support Grants

By **S. Marie Harvey**, Director of Research, and **Meredith Branch**, Administrative Assistant  
**C**SWs awarded fourteen research support grants, two Jane Grant dissertation awards, and two Laurel Awards during the spring funding cycle. We extend our congratulations to the awardees and thank the members of the review committees.

**Sherrie Barr**, associate professor, dance: \$5,797—"The play of narrative in performance: Autobiography in the contemporary dance solo." Barr will examine the recent development of solos in contemporary dance and how autobiographical themes are represented through this choreography.

**Kathy Becker**, graduate student, psychology: \$2,500—"Precursors of men's physical and sexual abuse of women and girls." Becker's study aims to gather new information on the ways that men's early abuse experiences are related to adolescent and adult offenses of sexual and physical abuse against women and girls.

**Charli Carpenter**, graduate student, political science: \$2,500—"Gender norms in international society: Men, 'women and children' in discourses of justified intervention." Carpenter will examine the "women and children" trope in justifications for humanitarian interventions, and evaluate the impact of these gender beliefs in political responses to complex emergencies.

**Debra Eisert**, associate professor, Center on Human Development/Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior: \$5,839—"Reducing academic and social risks in middle school girls." Eisert will develop, implement, and evaluate a girl-specific program aimed at reducing risks of school disaffection in at-risk sixth grade girls.

**Tina Eskes**, graduate student, creative writing: \$1,313—"River in the Sea: A novel-in-progress." Eskes's novel focuses on her mother's childhood in the Netherlands and her family's involvement in the Resistance to the Nazi occupation in Holland.

**Elke Heckner**, assistant professor, Germanic languages and literature: \$6,000—"Unruly bodies: Displacements of modernity." Hecker will use her award to work on her book, which recasts modern German representations of gender as articulated in selected literary, historical, philosophical, and psychoanalytical texts, into a broader, transnational reworking of modernity.

**Marcy Hunt-Morse**, graduate student, counseling psychology: \$1,198—"Adolescent mothers' psychological development: Implications for parenting." Hunt-Morse will sample adolescent mothers in Ohio and Oregon in order to increase our understanding of how specific developmental factors influence individual differences in adolescent mothers' parenting.

**Florence Ramond Journey**, graduate student, Romance languages: \$2,500—"Telling their own stories." Journey will use her award to complete a chapter of her dissertation that focuses on women constructing a female community within which they can express themselves.

**Linda Kintz**, professor, English: \$6,000—"An evening with dead whiteness: Adrienne Kennedy and the return of the Southern repressed." Kintz's project examines the work of African-American playwright Adrienne Kennedy and asks how her work historicizes the unconscious imagery at the very origins of signification, psyche, body, and social order.

**Shannon Parrott**, graduate student, history: \$2,486—"Female incarceration and the correction of mind and body: Women at the Oregon State Penitentiary and Oregon State Hospital from 1854-1917." Parrott's work will focus on women who spent time at the penitentiary with particular attention given to women who were sent to the hospital while at the penitentiary.

**Amada Powell**, senior instructor, Romance languages: \$2,500—"Translation and study of love poems to women by Sor. Juana Ines de la Cruz." Powell's project will shed new light on central, but previously ignored or distorted, aspects of these love poems.

**Ramonu Sanusi**, graduate student, Romance languages: \$2,500—"Representations of Sub-Saharan African women in colonial and post-colonial novels." Sanusi will explore the depiction of women in francophone Sub-Saharan African literature and its evolution throughout the colonial and post-colonial periods.

**Shelly Withrow**, visiting assistant professor, creative writing: \$5,947—"Burning daylight: Life histories of women sharecroppers, their daughters, and granddaughters." Withrow will research women's stories imbricated with the economic and social histories of literacy, class, and race in Alabama and Texas.

**Amanda Wright**, graduate student, art history: \$2,350—"The patronage of Qidan imperial women and its impact on Liao Dynasty Buddhist sculpture." Wright will use her award to travel to China to investigate Buddhist sculpture from the Liao Dynasty.



### Grant Deadlines for 2001-2

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\*).

#### Executive Grants

Open deadline (last request by May 1, 2002): Awards up to \$100 to UO graduate students, faculty, or CSWS affiliates

#### Speakers and Events Grants

Open deadline (last request by May 1, 2002): Limited supplemental financial support (\$100-\$300) for speakers and events addressing scholarly or creative work relating to gender

#### Travel Grants

October 22, 2001 and April 15, 2002: Awards up to \$500 for UO graduate students, faculty, and staff

#### Research Support Grants

November 12, 2001 and April 8, 2002: Awards up to \$2,500 for UO graduate students; up to \$6,000 for UO faculty and staff

#### RIG Development Grants

November 19, 2001; February 18, 2002; May 6, 2002: Awards up to \$6,000 for CSWS-sponsored RIGs

#### \*Stanton Scholarship for Health Research

April 1, 2002: Award 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 Fellowships

April 8, 2002: Awards of \$10,000 for UO doctoral candidates

#### CSWS Laurel Awards

May 6, 2002: Awards of \$2,500 for UO graduate students

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@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:csws@oregon.uoregon.edu) or call 346-5015); or download and print from our website, <http://csws.uoregon.edu>.

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# Still Rockin' at Thirty

By Sandra Morgen, Director

Do you remember that saying from the '60s: Never trust anyone over thirty? Some of us who once smiled at that probably cringe now that we are one or two or three or more *decades* past thirty. Yet that phrase is running through my head now as I think about an upcoming milestone. In 2003, CSWS will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary!

Think about it—thirty years of promoting research on women and gender at the University of Oregon. Given how far ahead we have to plan in academia, CSWS staff and executive committee members have begun thinking about our thirtieth anniversary celebration, scheduled to take place during the 2002–3 academic year. And we want and need your ideas.

Many newsletter readers have helped build CSWS and encouraged it to fulfill its lofty and still critical mission. Some of you have received research grants, others have served on committees; some of you have attended or helped plan events, others have worked in our office. A few of you know us exclusively through print. But we are seeking input from one and all on how you would like us to honor this important event.

Speaking of anniversaries, the University of Oregon is celebrating its own this year—number 125. CSWS has been part of the university for almost one quarter of its institutional life. In musing on our intertwined histories, we've been recognizing important milestones for women at the UO. For instance, Ellen "Nellie" Condon was the first woman to graduate at the university, in its first class of 1878. Mary Boise Spiller was part of the UO's first faculty (she taught from 1876–1887), and she was the first to lead a fight for fair wages. Alice Bahrs was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. at the UO in 1930. She later became a physician in Corvallis.

Many fascinating and accomplished women have taught and been taught at the University of Oregon, such as Mary Josephine Shelley ('26), a pioneer of modern dance. But 1973 was a pivotal year for women in Oregon higher education. Not only was the Women's Studies Program launched, the Center for the Sociological Study of Women was also founded in the Department of Sociology, with Joan Acker named as its director. That center grew into CSWS, with the help of donor William Harris (who gave in honor of his wife, Jane Grant), as well as subsequent generous donations from some of you.

For our thirtieth birthday, we want to remember, commemorate, and celebrate. But we also want to envision and plan for a vibrant future. Please take a few moments and think about possible aspects of a CSWS anniversary celebration. And then communicate your ideas. You can e-mail us at [csws@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:csws@oregon.uoregon.edu), or give us a call, 346-5015. We'd love to hear from you.

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## JANE GRANT DISSERTATION AWARDS

**Barbara Cook**, English: \$10,000—"Southwestern Ecotone: A zone of literary resistance and environmental justice." In Cook's dissertation, she will trace the development of southwestern regional writing by women as it relates to the land itself. Cook also seeks to understand how literary texts reveal environmental justice issues as they impact race and gender.

**Jill Weigt**, sociology: \$10,000—"The work of mothering after welfare reform." Through in-depth interviews, Weigt's dissertation will focus on the process of mothering in poverty, particularly when combined with the work or work activities mandated by welfare reform.

## LAUREL RESEARCH AWARDS

**Jane Gathoni Njoora**, education: \$2,500—"Teenage Mothers in School Tell Their Stories." Through her research, Njoora seeks an understanding of how teenage mothers are supported in continuing their schooling in the local school district.

**Susana Salgado**, counseling psychology: \$2,500—"Reactions of Ethnic Adolescent Females to Feminist Theory." Salgado's project will examine how the pedagogy of feminist theory affects adolescents; more specifically, she will explore how the feminist identity development process is facilitated for an adolescent female of color.



*Sandra Morgen,  
Director, CSWS*

**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](mailto:musick@oregon.uoregon.edu)

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

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

## Constituting Workers, Protecting Women: Gender, Law, and Labor in the Progressive Era and New Deal Years

By Julie Novkov. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001.

During the Progressive Era and New Deal years, courts often invalidated generalized protective legislation, but frequently upheld measures that limited the terms and conditions of women's labor. In focusing on the importance of gender as an analytical category for the legal system, Julie Novkov, assistant professor of political science and CSWS affiliate, explores the reasoning within court cases decided between 1873 and 1937.

Novkov's study analyzes reported state and federal opinions, as well as materials from the women's movement and briefs filed

in the U.S. Supreme Court. Her book shows that considerations of cases involving women's measures ultimately came to drive the development of doctrine.

Novkov rejects purely political interpretations of the so-called *Lochner* era, in which the courts invalidated many legislative efforts to ameliorate the worst effects of capitalism. By addressing the dynamic interactions among interested laypersons, attorneys, and judges, she demonstrates that no individual or institution has complete control over the generation of constitutional meaning. Rather than abstract struggles over laissez fair economics, constitutional considerations of protective laws for women were the analytical battlefield on which the legal community reworked the balance between private liberty and the state's authority to regulate.



### Other new books by CSWS affiliates:

*Mythic Galveston: Re-inventing America's Third Coast*, by Susan Hardwick, geography (Johns Hopkins University Press)

*Women on the Verge: Japanese Women, Western Dreams*, by Karen L. Kelsky, anthropology (Duke University Press)



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