

# 40 Years Strong *A timeline of feminist*

University of Oregon is home to one of our nation's oldest women's research centers – the Center for the Study of Women in Society. CSWS actively engages in generating, supporting, and disseminating research on the complexity of women's lives and the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities. Made possible through a gift honoring early feminist Jane C. Grant, the Center's history is deeply rooted in four decades of feminist research, teaching, and activism on campus. This timeline traces a few key moments in this history and the evolution of CSWS.

## 1970s

**1970:** A report on "The Status of Women at the University of Oregon" finds women woefully underrepresented among faculty tenure-track and staff positions, earning lower wages, and clustered around stereotypically female disciplines.

Joan Acker teaches "Women's Role in Society" through the Sociology Department, the first course to focus solely on this subject.

**1971:** Federal audits find UO guilty of discriminatory policies against women.

Students organize the University Feminists to fight for women's services and the institutionalization of women's studies on campus.

University Feminists secure gynecological services at the student health center. Women who had been denied health services for decades now had access for two hours each week.

**1972:** Congress passes Title IX legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.



A woman teaches a UO class in 1968. A report in 1970 found that women constituted only 10.5 percent of the full-time teaching faculty at the University of Oregon.

The first Introduction to Women's Studies course is offered at UO, taught by a graduate teaching assistant.

**1973:** More than thirty university feminists take over the steps of Johnson Hall to demand childcare facilities for all university women, immediate hiring of a full-time coordinator for a women's studies department, funding for women's studies faculty, free access to continuing education for low-income women, increased access to women's health care, and a campus women's research center.

The Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW) is founded within UO's Department of Sociology, with Joan Acker serving as director. Faculty members pursue research on women, and graduate students begin writing dissertations on women.

The Oregon State Board of Higher Education approves the formation of a Women's Studies Program at UO, the first of its kind in Oregon.

UO librarian Edward Kemp writes to Fortune editor William Harris to ask about acquiring the papers of his late wife, Jane C. Grant, an early women's liberationist and cofounder of The New Yorker. Harris offers to show Kemp Grant's papers.

## *Looking back...* JUNE 5, 1973 A Proposal for an Institute for Research on Women

“The following is a proposal for the establishment at the University of Oregon of an Institute for Research on Women. The Institute would be under the Graduate School, and its function would be to encourage and carry out multi-disciplinary research as well as graduate research training on the processes of sex differentiation and the changing roles of women and men in society.

“**The Need for the Institute:** Human societies are universally differentiated on the basis of sex or gender. This differentiation is an integral part of the culture; it affects the structure of social institutions and the distribution of power. Almost universally females are subordinate to males. Although the phenomena of differentiation and stratification are well-known, little is understood of the processes by which they develop, are maintained, and evolve. In addition, much of the previous scholarly and scientific work on the social situation of women and on the differences between the sexes has been done in the context of accepting cultural stereotypes of the nature of women and men as immutable and inevitable. This view has prevented researchers from dealing creatively with the processes of change now obviously underway. Consequently, there is a need which is becoming widely recognized to raise new questions from new perspectives. In the social sciences and the humanities there has been great growth in the last three years of interest in previously neglected theoretical and empirical questions relating to women and men and changing sex roles. Evidence of this development is that almost every major social science journal has, in the last two years, devoted an entire issue to the subject...”  
— from the Executive Committee Minutes

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

OFFICE OF THE VICE  
PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC  
AFFAIRS AND PROVOST

EUGENE, OREGON 97403  
telephone (code 503) 686-3400

October 1, 1973

MEMORANDUM

To: Dean Aaron Novick

From: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Subject: Center for the Sociological Study of Women

I am pleased to advise you that President Clark has approved the establishment, within the Department of Sociology, of a Center for the Sociological Study of Women, subject to the conditions set forth in Professor Richard J. Hill's letter of September 13, 1973 and your memorandum of the same date. The Center is approved for a three-year period through academic year 1975-76.

President Clark has authorized a budget of \$5,244 for the Center. This sum will be added to the budget of the Department of Sociology.

HA/km

Harry Alpert

cc: President R. D. Clark  
Vice Provost M. D. Wattles  
Professor Richard J. Hill  
Mr. Ralph C. Sunderland  
Mrs. Myra T. Willard

# research, teaching, and activism on campus



On October 1, 1973, the Center for the Sociological Study of Women was established at UO on a three-year trial basis with an annual budget of \$5,244 to pay for graduate assistants, a student secretary, library acquisitions, supplies, and a telephone. Sociology professor Joan Acker served as CSSW's first director.

**1974:** Kemp meets with Harris in New York to examine Grant's papers. Harris asks if UO has a women's studies program, and Kemp tells Harris about the Center for the Sociological Study of Women. Harris donates Grant's papers and talks about establishing a fund for the study of women at UO.

UO President Robert Clark meets with Harris in New York to discuss the fund. Harris expresses frustration that other universities have wanted to use the money he intends to donate for purposes other than women's studies.

**1975:** President Clark receives a letter from a law firm announcing that William Harris intends to bequeath a very substantial portion of his estate to the "University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women." Harris visits Eugene as the guest of President Clark and meets with leading UO faculty doing research on women.

Two years following its approval by the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, the Women's Studies certificate program is launched at UO.

University Feminists change their name to Women's Resource & Referral Service and continue advocating for women's rights on campus.

**1976:** The UO Library Special Collections Department receives the papers and

photographs of Jane Grant, as well as her personal book collection.

**1977:** William Harris sells White Flower Farm and changes his will to reflect, with a few small exceptions, that his entire estate is to go to "the University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women."

The Women's Resource & Referral Service (WRRS) coordinates the first weeklong Women's Symposium.

**1979:** The WRRS organizes the first campus Take Back the Night rally, march, and speak-out in conjunction with Sexual Assault Support Services, called the Eugene Rape Crisis Center at that time.

## 1980s

**1981:** The UO Foundation receives a \$3.5 million endowment from the estate of William Harris for a women's research center. At the time it was the largest gift UO had received from a single donor. Planning begins to expand the mission of the Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW).

**1983:** CSSW changes its name to the Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) to reflect its broader mission to generate, support, and disseminate research on women.

**1987:** CSWS expands its annual publication into a glossy magazine format with full-color cover. The CSWS Review is designed to acquaint a broad scholarly audience with the center and its ongoing research projects.

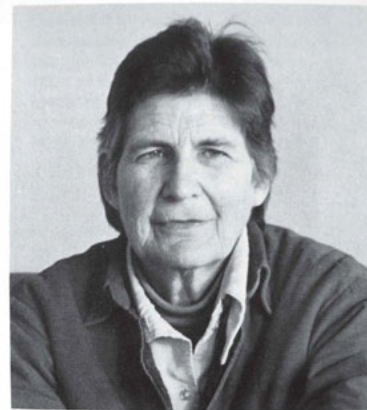
**1988:** Project Safe Ride, the Women's Resource & Referral Service, Women in Transition, and the Women's Task Force join to form the ASUO Women's Center.



In 1983, campus, community, and noted guests celebrated the opening of the expanded and renamed Center for the Study of Women in Society, endowed by a gift from the estate of William Harris, New York publisher, in honor of his wife: publisher, activist, and feminist Jane Grant. Pictured at the November 6 opening celebration, from left, are Barbara Pope, Mavis Mate, Jean Stockard, Marilyn Farwell, Mary Rothbart, Joan Acker, Miriam Johnson, Jessie Bernard, Donald Van Houton, Carol Silverman, Kay McDade, and Patricia Gwartney-Gibbs.

## Looking back... 1988

### "The New Pioneers" Lecture



Belle Shalon, Arcata, California, 1985

### Mountaingrove

“We wanted to have a dream circle around what was the future of the women's movement, so we gathered on this land and we kept close to the middle of the circle. We were all going to sleep in the dream circle. And from the coast we brought rope to make weavings, and everyone wove a weaving that she was going to sleep under, in her sleeping bag. Some women wove very beautiful weavings. Now mine was a symbolic weaving. It lasted through the night. Some women wove beautiful weavings with shells and feathers.

“One of the dreams I remember was dreaming of a woman who was going down a spiral, down, down, down into a forgotten city where there was treasure. She was going down to find her treasure, which I think is what we have been doing in the second wave of feminism, finding our treasure.”

Artist Ruth Mountaingrove delivered a slide-illustrated lecture on her photographs and her personal history in the feminist communal movement in the winter of 1988 at the University of Oregon, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society and the Photography at Oregon Gallery, which also jointly sponsored an exhibition of Mountaingrove's work at the UO Museum of Art's photography gallery. At her talk she underscored the need for feminists to preserve their history and promised her papers and photographs to the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, a promise made good.

—From the 1988 CSWS Review

# Timeline continued

## 1990s

**1990:** CSWS implements "A University for Everyone," a two-year curriculum program to integrate scholarship on women of color into large survey classes in the social sciences and humanities. It represents the first full-scale attempt to promote curriculum integration of materials on either race or gender at UO.

**1992:** Further shaping its identity as a center for research on women, CSWS launches *Women in the Northwest*—a major initiative to promote, support, and disseminate research on women in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, as well as across regions, national borders, and racial, ethnic, and class lines.

**1993:** The Women's Studies Program and the Center for the Study of Women in Society move to the third floor of Hendricks Hall. CSWS hosts "At the Epicenter: Women, Research & Communities" to celebrate ten years since the \$3.5 million gift from William Harris made the Center's mission possible.

**1995:** CSWS honors life-long Oregon resident and centenarian Mazie Onorato Giustina for her gift of \$100,000 to support the *Women in the Northwest* Research Project. In the coming decades, the initiative will fund numerous visiting scholars, research conferences, and publications.

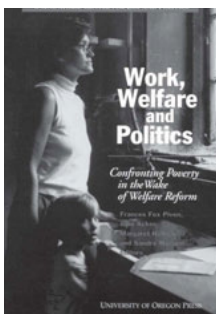
**1997:** The State Board of Education approves the Women's Studies major at UO, though the Women's Studies Program remains without independent departmental status.

**1999:** CSWS launches *Policy Matters*, a series of reports that consider issues of public policy affecting women and their families and communities in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. *Policy Matters* was produced as part of the Center's *Women in the Northwest* research initiative.

The UO Knight Library exhibits materials from the Jane C. Grant collection, "Talk of the Town: Jane Grant, 'The New Yorker,' and the Oregon Legacy of a Twentieth-Century Feminist."



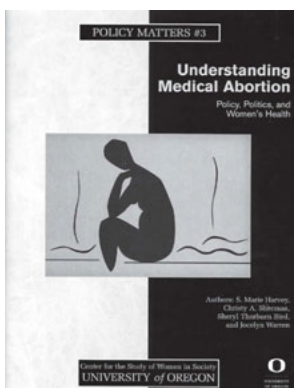
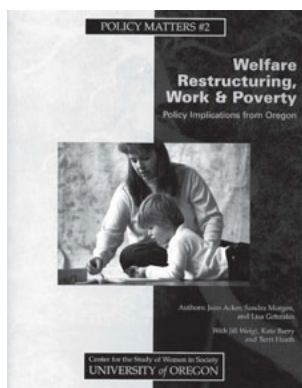
Clockwise from left: In 1995, donor and friend Mazie Onorato Giustina was honored by CSWS and Dave Frohnmayer, then UO president, for her generous gift to the CSWS Women in the Northwest initiative. ▪ The CSWS Welfare Research Team, funded by the Giustina gift. From left, Lisa Gonzales, Joan Acker, Sandra Morgen, and Jill Weigt (not pictured, Kate Barry and Holly Langan). ▪ A page of a brochure for University for Everyone, a two-year curriculum program initiated in 1990. ▪ Covers of *CSWS Review* and *Policy Matters*. ▪ Poster for Work, Welfare, and Politics conference, Feb. 2000. ▪ Cover of the book *Work, Welfare and Politics* ▪ Work, Welfare, and Politics conference attendees.



a ♦ university ♦ for ♦ everyone



Please write or call Barbara Corrado Pope or Maria DePriest to register for workshops or get more information. Address inquiries to A University for Everyone, 636 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403. Telephone (503) 686-5015; after February 10, 1990, 546-5015.



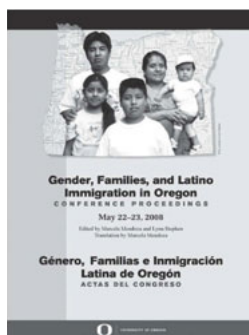
# 2000s

**2000:** Major research initiatives at CSWS include the *Women in the Northwest* project, the *Feminist Humanities Project*, the *Women's Health and Aging* initiative, and *Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred*.

**2005:** CSWS provides support to establish the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality Studies at UO. The goal of CRESS is to highlight intersectional research being done by faculty at UO and to generate a climate of intellectual exchange and conversation about that work.



**2007:** Through a Research Interest Group on the Americas, CSWS begins incubation of a new center that will focus on Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations.

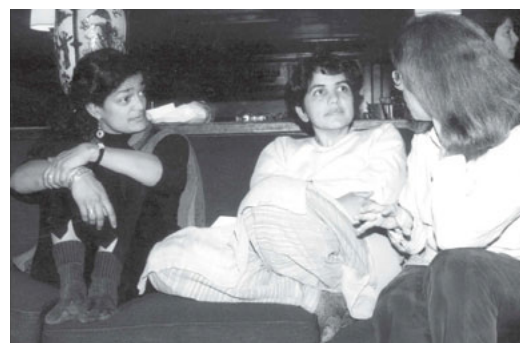


**2009:** The Women's Studies Program becomes the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at UO. The *Queer Studies* minor is established in WGS, and the *Sally Miller Gearhart Fund for Lesbian Studies* is established to enable WGS to bring outstanding scholars to campus.



**2010:** After three years of development within CSWS, the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies is established as an independent research center at UO. The purpose of CLLAS is to facilitate collaborative research, scholarship, intellectual community, and community outreach focused on Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations.

**2013:** On November 7-9, CSWS, WGS, and ASUO Women's Center present a 40th Anniversary Celebration of feminist research, teaching, and activism on the UO campus.



Clockwise from top: An ASUO- Women's Center "Take Back the Night" rally, 2013. ▪ Then-CSWS director Sandi Morgen with visiting CSWS-Rockefeller Scholars Primila Jayapal and Brinda Rao, participants of the CSWS-hosted Rockefeller Foundation resident fellowship program *Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred*, which brought together a diverse group of scholars and activists over three years to engage in dialogue on a host of scientific philosophical, political, and spiritual discourses addressing our human interactions with the non-human world / May 2002. ▪ At the first UO Sally Miller Gearhart Lecture in Lesbian Studies (from left): Donella-Elizabeth Alston, coordinator, Ethnic Studies Department; Sally Miller Gearhart, founder and designer, Women's Studies Program at San Francisco State University; Carol Stabile, director, Center for the Study of Women in Society) / 2009.

Right: A poster from the project: *Women's Acceptability of the Vaginal Diaphragm* (2001, 2002), a project of the Women's Health and Aging Initiative led by Dr. Marie Harvey. Harvey received funding to study whether women are willing to use a diaphragm not just to prevent pregnancy but also to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases. The three-year project interviewed current and former diaphragm users and tried to get young women at risk of contracting STDs to use the device.

Funding Source: National Institutes of Health

Principle Investigator: Marie Harvey

Department: Center for the Study of Women in Society

Amount Funded: \$1,000,000

