

Center

from the

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

Girls at the Center

Creating a New Research Agenda

By Sandra Morgen

What do girls learn from the generations that came before them? Who decides the research agenda for and about girls today? What issues are painfully similar—or different—for girls in Asia, Africa, and North America? Questions like these—and many more—will come to the fore at the next CSWS conference, “Girls, Generations, and Globalization,” on February 27. Scholars affiliated with CSWS Research Interest Groups (RIGs) and invited speakers from University of California-Berkeley, UCLA, Portland State, and an independent scholar from New York, will participate in panels that spotlight exciting work on girls, intergenerationality, and globalization. This conference—the annual “RIG-A-Fair”—is free and open to other scholars on campus as well as to the larger community.

The morning plenary panel, “Beyond Ophelia, Anorexia and Teen Pregnancy: Creating a Research Agenda for and about Girls in the United States,” will examine issues about work, sexuality, popular culture, and intergenerationality. The title reflects a desire to expand the discourse about girls beyond today’s media obsession with a narrow range of issues, specifically eating disorders, teenage pregnancy, and the problem of girls’ falling self-confidence as adolescence progresses. This panel brings four distinguished speakers together to discuss their own research and to collectively envision a broad research agenda about girls and young women. They include:

- **Carol Stack**, professor of Women’s Studies and Education at University of California, Berkeley, and author of the acclaimed books *All Our Kin* and *Call to Home*, who will focus on young people and work, specifically her research on low-income youth working in the fast-food industry in Oakland.
- **Sharon Thompson**, author of *Going All the Way: Teenage Girls’ Tales of Sex, Romance and Pregnancy*, and co-author of *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*. She spent almost a decade interviewing 400 girls from poor, working-class, and middle-class backgrounds, with almost one-third of her sample being girls of color. Her work is one of the few studies of teenage sexuality and pregnancy that draws on such a diverse sample, and that makes girls’ experiences the center of her narrative analysis.
- **Kathleen Karlyn**, assistant professor of English at the University of Oregon and author of *The Unruly Woman: Gender and the Genres of Laughter*, who will address girls and popular culture. Karlyn’s current work considers the emergence of a number of television shows and movies that feature girls and young women as heroines—and why producers see girls as important media consumers.
- **Claudia Long**, a private consultant with the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Child Welfare Partnership at Portland State University, has done research on prenatal care and childbirth among Native American women and Native American resiliency. She will discuss teen pregnancy and intergenerational transfer of knowledge. Long is a member of the Nez Perce nation.

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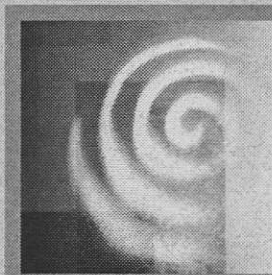
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CSWS

By Sandra Morgen, Director

Over the past year CSWS has stepped up our efforts to increase the funds we can make available to our research initiatives and to the many talented researchers on campus affiliated with CSWS. As we move forward with development, it is important to recognize what we have been able to accomplish in the past and the ways so many people are ultimately involved with successful development efforts. This summer I received a letter from former University President Robert Clark who, in the interest of preserving history, documented aspects of the history of the Harris gift that originally endowed CSWS. I am using this column to share excerpts from that letter because it is an important part of our history.

[A] central figure [in securing the William B. Harris endowment] was Edward C. Kemp, Acquisitions Librarian. Without his interest in women's studies, his knowledge, his alertness, diplomacy, and plan of action, there would have been no endowment in the name of Jane Grant. Sometime in 1972-73 [I approved] a proposal to establish, in the department of sociology, a Center for the Study of Women in Society. The idea had been proposed by Professor Joan Acker and some of her associates. Meanwhile, Martin Schmitt, director, and Ed Kemp, for the Special Collections Division of the Library, had selected, as one of the categories in which they were interested in collecting manuscripts, the role of women in our society—women leaders, writers,



Sandra Morgen,
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artists. One of Ed Kemp's strategies in seeking manuscripts was to read the obituary columns of the New York Times. One day he encountered the name of Jane Grant, who had been, with her first husband, Harold Ross, co-founder of the New Yorker magazine. She had been not only a noted figure in the world of letters but she fitted precisely the new category in which the library was interested—the role of women in society. [At the time of her death] she had been married to William B. Harris, an associate editor of Fortune Magazine.

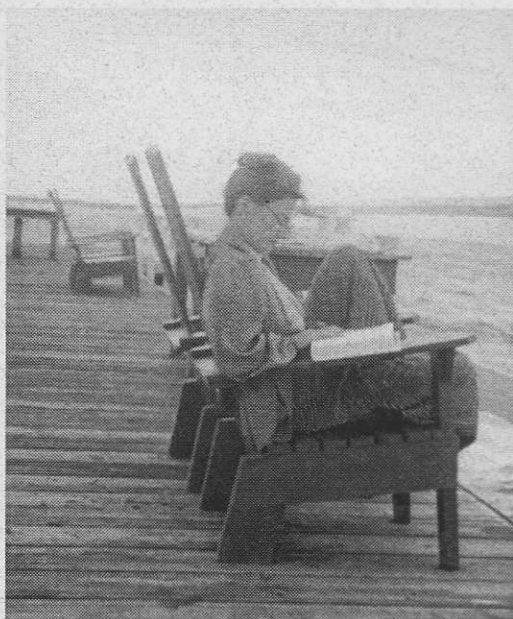
Where were her papers? Would they be available for deposit in the UO's Special Collection? Ed wrote to Mr. Harris, a tentative note of inquiry. Would Mr. Harris be willing to talk with him when he was next in New York? Yes, Mr. Harris replied. Ed saw him several times in the next few months. He learned that Jane Grant had left but few papers, but also that Mr. Harris was interested in establishing a university endowment in her honor.

At some point Ed told Mr. Harris that the UO had established a center in the department of sociology for the study of women in society. [Ed asked Mr. Harris if he would be interested in talking with me, and again he said yes.] I saw Mr. Harris twice in New York. I told him about our program at Oregon, already established, and approved, not by the University alone but by the Chancellor and the governing board. There was no question about our interest in the subject or our commitment.

Mr. Harris came [to Eugene] a short time later for two days, as a guest in [our] home. He was a wonderfully friendly man, full of good talk, and with a curious mind. [We held a dinner and] invited three of the women scholars at the University who were instrumental in the development of the Center, and the head of the department of sociology: Joan Acker and Miriam (Mimi) Johnson, Marilyn Farwell, and Richard Hill. Mr. Harris made it clear that he was seriously considering making a gift to the University. He was, as I thought he would be, persuaded by the quality of people with whom he talked, and by the ideas they voiced, that he had found the university where he could honor his beloved Jane Grant.

After his death in 1981 his bequest to the University amounted to slightly more than \$3 million. A rich bounty for the University, [the Center] is productive of many projects, conferences, research studies, and intellectual enrichment for faculty and students. It has become, as Mr. Harris had hoped—indeed, far beyond his hope—an enduring tribute to Jane Grant, and, although he had not asked for it, a tribute, too, to William Harris.

Very truly yours, Robert D. Clark



Jane Grant

Girls at the Center

Continued from page 1

A noon panel, "Girls and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities," will bring together four scholars with research interests in Japan, Vietnam, Mali, and a number of other African countries to talk about critical issues facing girls on a global scale. The distinguished members of this panel include:

- **Joanne Leslie**, adjunct associate professor in the Community Health Sciences Department at the University of California, Los Angeles, and co-editor of *Women, Work, and Child Welfare in the Third World*. Leslie's recent work focuses on adolescent health in Africa.
- **Karen Kelsky**, assistant professor, anthropology, University of Oregon, will discuss identity construction among girls and young women in Japan. Kelsky is currently completing a book manuscript for Duke University Press called, *The Cosmopolitan Woman: Gender, Race, and Internationalism in Contemporary Japan*.
- **Kadiatou Coulibaly Doucoure**, graduate student, Educational Leadership, Technology, and Administration, first came to the University of Oregon as a Fulbright scholar. Her dissertation focuses on the multiple obstacles girls face in enrolling and continuing in school in Mali.
- **Nguyen Ngoc Bich**, graduate student, Educational Leadership, Technology and Administration, University of Oregon, will discuss gender and higher education in Vietnam, with particular emphasis on the impact of economic restructuring in Vietnam on women's educational needs and opportunities. Bich, an assistant professor in the Department of Vietnamese language and literature at the University of Hanoi for almost fifteen years, has been instrumental in building the Vietnamese language program at the UO.

The afternoon session of the conference will feature concurrent panels organized by the RIGs. Each panel will feature speakers and discussion about conference themes that are directly related to the ongoing scholarship of each RIG. We hope you will join us for this exciting conference and its related events, such as "Girls Night Out" on Friday evening and "Success in the Middle: A Conference for and about Middle School Girls" on Saturday. For more information about these events, see page 14.



Conference Lunch

Box lunches will be provided for \$6 to participants who preregister by February 18. Contact CSWS at 346-5015 or csws@oregon.

Girls, Generations, and Globalization

February 27, 1998, Gerlinger Lounge

**9:30–11:30 a.m.: Beyond Ophelia, Anorexia and Teen Pregnancy:
Creating a Research Agenda for and about Girls in the United States**
Carol Stack, Sharon Thompson, Claudia Long, and Kathleen Karlyn

Noon–2:00 p.m.: Girls and Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities
Joanne Leslie, Kadi Doucoure, Karen Kelsky, and Nguyen Bich

2:30–4:00 p.m.: CSWS Research Interest Group (RIG) Panels

Girls and Globalization in Asia

Adding Voices of Women, African-Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos to Math,
Science, Technology, and Engineering

Before 'Girls'? A Roundtable Discussion on Historicizing Girls

Intergenerational Trauma and Survival in Native American Communities

Girls and the Media

Girls, Poverty, and Welfare Reform

Community Conversations about Girls at Risk

Take a Walk on the Mild Side: Girls and the Environment

What's a Nice Jewish Girl Like You Doing in Eugene? An Intergenerational Conversation

7:00–9:30 p.m.: Girls Night Out!

Casanova Center

Intergenerational Dialog and Entertainment

This evening event is co-sponsored by the organizers of "Success in the Middle: A Conference for and about Middle School Girls," on February 28 at the University of Oregon.

Research Interest Groups (RIGs)

Women and Media

The Women and Media RIG is a diverse group of faculty members and graduate students that meets every other Monday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room. Our interests range from the representation of women across different media to the production and consumption of media texts and communication technology by women. The RIG also explores the intersection of gender, race, and class as they pertain to media and communication. We will devote this term to reading sessions centered on popular culture texts such as television shows and films. For the RIG-A-Fair, we plan to address girls and media.

Long-term goals for our RIG include inviting speakers and film and video makers to present their work in the area of women and media. We would also like to host a conference that focuses on issues facing women and media.

Women's Health and Development

This winter the Women's Health and Development RIG is participating in the RIG-A-Fair on February 27 and hosting a gathering called "Success in the Middle: A Conference for and about Middle School Girls" on February 28. There are two foci with which our group is contributing to these weekend events. One is related to violence and girls; the second is in opening connections between people, groups, and organizations related to girls' issues. Our RIG is interested in women's health and development across the life span. We are an interdisciplinary group that includes faculty members, researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, and community members. Our RIG meets every other Friday, from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room. Leslie Hall has been the RIG coordinator since March; another coordinator will take over in 1998.

Reclaiming the Past

"Before 'Girls'?"

The Reclaiming the Past RIG will be taking on the topic of historicizing girls during a roundtable discussion at the RIG-A-Fair, and will sponsor a joint discussion with RIG² on teaching girls. Other events for

this winter include a talk by Anne Dhu McLucas, Dean of the School of Music; and a meeting in February with the graduate subgroup (NFIG—New Feminist Interpretation Group) to discuss Julia Kristeva's "Stabat Mater." The RIG will also be participating in the Hildegard of Bingen celebration by sponsoring a colloquium on March 5.

Please note that the RIG will be team-teaching a women's studies course, "Gender and History," during spring term, coordinated by Stephanie Wood (swood@darkwing).

Susan Boyton, School of Music, will take over as RIG coordinator from Clare Lees winter term.

Jewish Feminist

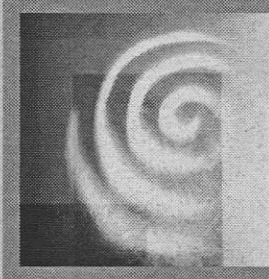
The Jewish Feminist RIG is a relatively small, cozy group whose members come from both the academic and larger Eugene communities. We meet monthly on Thursday evenings and discuss readings. At times, we read and discuss a member's work-in-progress. When a member requests, we also discuss her upcoming course, providing suggestions for readings, films, etc. RIG members enjoy being together and having this time to relax and talk in a warm, non-competitive atmosphere.

This year our readings will include: Jane Lazarre, *Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness*; Elaine Marks, *Marrano as Metaphor*; Daniel Boyarin, *Unheroic Conduct*; Rebecca Goldstein, *Mazel*; Victor Ferrera, *The Cross and the Pear Tree*; and Natalie Zemon Davis, *Women on the Margins: Three Seventeenth-Century Lives*.

Wired

Our RIG provides web publication services to CSWS and to the RIGs and initiatives associated with CSWS. We will create a CSWS Web site for the RIG-A-Fair, continue to work on the Virtual Resource Bank of the Feminist Humanities Project, and are developing a virtual "room" for Hildegard of Bingen. In addition, we will start a listserv for Wired RIG members. Our RIG is a meeting "place" for people interested in exploring the Web's use in promoting research on women and gender. We will hold an organizing meeting sometime early in winter term. People interested in this RIG who are unable to meet in real time and space can E-mail Judith Musick (musick@oregon) for details.

The RIG has a new co-coordinator: Zoe Borovsky. We welcome men as well as women to participate.



Women and Environment

Ecofeminism is a planetary social movement embracing feminist, peace, health, ecological, social justice, spiritual, and cross-cultural concerns. Our RIG studies the significance of this movement in its theoretical and political dimensions, focusing on the radical and visionary elements. Currently the Women and Environment RIG is finishing plans to produce a journal, (re)Evolution: Ecofeminism, Science, and the Sacred. The RIG is planning a speaker series on Ecofeminism, Science, and the Sacred for winter or spring term. We meet on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room. Jeff Land (jland@oregon.uoregon.edu) is now the contact person for our RIG.

Native American

Our film and book discussion series will continue during winter term. In February, we hope to host a prominent Northwest native poet. For the Girls conference, we are planning to address the topic of intergenerational approaches to trauma and healing in Native communities. Our RIG's goal is to foster a place for native voices in the university and to provide intergenerational community support for Native Americans in academia. The RIG supports culturally appropriate research and strives to be community-oriented in its work. We are currently exploring ways to collaborate with the Native American Research Team at the Oregon Social Learning Center.

Gender in TransNational and Historical China

This RIG is for anyone interested in and knowledgeable about gender in Chinese society and culture. "TransNational" indicates that we discuss Chinese culture in different locations in the globe, and "historical" that we welcome investigations into different historical periods. We have worked with the UO/Lewis & Clark Asian Studies collaboration to develop and present a workshop on "Gender in 20th-Century China" in December. With the collaboration of Professor Zhang Yuping, from the Women's Study Center at Tianjin Teachers College in China, the workshop will be expanded to a Summer Session offering.

For the Girls conference, we are working with the Vietnam RIG to jointly present a discussion on girls in Asia. The China RIG is planning a future conference on the topic of Gender and Power in China.

Leadership in Education

Our RIG is looking forward to having a fun, interactive session on women in leadership at the RIG-A-Fair that will probably include our daughters.

Our RIG is an international group of women educators from fourteen countries. In our studies here, we came to realize that women's issues, and issues related to international perspectives, were not addressed in our departments. In 1995, we started meeting to read and discuss books and articles, which inspired us to start the life history research study of our group. We wanted to explore how women from such diverse backgrounds had developed similar academic interests and career tracks. Together we designed the research project and developed interview questions, and this full participation by all members in all aspects of the research is important and deeply meaningful to us. We usually meet every other Monday, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for social time, and from 7:30 to 9:00 for discussion.

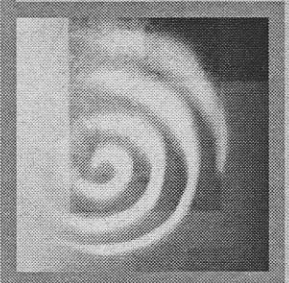
Women and Gender in Vietnam

The Women and Gender in Vietnam RIG is continuing its exploration of the effects of Doi Moi (economic restructuring) on women's work, families and education. In December, the RIG began a reading and discussion series that will continue through winter term.

The RIG works closely with the University of Oregon-Viet Nam Sister University Project. Nguyen Bich, a graduate student in EDPM, will be representing the RIG as a speaker on the Girls and Globalization panel at the RIG-A-Fair in February.

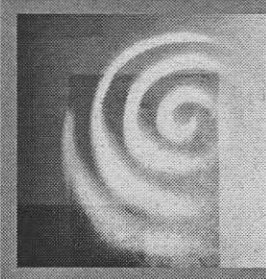
Rationality, Intuition, and Gender (RIG²)

RIG² is continuing as a reading group on topics related to gender and science. One of the RIG members, Charlotte Behm, who has been working on an NSF-sponsored program to promote the success of students in science in four under-represented groups (Native American, African-American, Hispanic, and women) at local schools, will be participating on a panel at the RIG-A-Fair. The RIG will also participate with Reclaiming the Past in a roundtable discussion on teaching girls. Current coordinator Madonna Moss will be on research leave during winter and spring terms, and Nancy Tuana will serve as the RIG coordinator.



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

Teaching the Past in the Present



Virtual Resource Bank

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~fhp/vrb>



Louise Bishop, English and honors college, welcomes presenters and participants to the conference.

It was hard to tell whether the participants of the "Teaching the Past in the Present" conference in October were more concerned about the past or the future.

Looking at the schedule, one might think only history was on their minds: What kind of power did queens wield in the Middle Ages? How did the absence of mothers in Shakespeare plays affect fathers and daughters? How did Puritan theology construct gender identity in early New England?

But looking at what came out of the conference, one may conclude that their interest was more about the future: The introduction of an interactive Web site known as the "Virtual Resource Bank" for sharing teaching aids, syllabi, bibliographies, images, and scholarly works. A continuing dialog between scholars and teachers at the university and high school levels. A workshop on Hildegard of Bingen in March. Plans for another conference in three years.

"The work of the past is never finished," said Clare Lees, associate professor of English, in opening remarks at the conference. Lees is one of the directors, along with Louise Bishop, Gina Psaki, Zoe Borovsky, Barbara Altmann, and Judith Musick, of the Feminist Humanities Project that sponsored the event.

The FHP, which grew out of the Reclaim-

ing the Past Research Interest Group at CSWS, is designed to create a new and dynamic intellectual community of scholars who work in high school and university settings, a goal that was clearly expressed as secondary teachers shared the stage with university faculty members at the conference.

Diane Downey, a language arts instructor at Thurston High School in Springfield, presented her work on gender and Shakespeare during the "Women and Power" panel.

"As a teacher of literature, gender comes into everything I teach," Downey said. "The kids know where I'm coming from. When I talk about gender, I don't just talk about women—I talk about male gender constructions as well.

"It's been hard for me to meet people with the same focus I have on gender and literature," she said. "I like being involved with the FHP because it keeps me going intellectually."

Louise Bishop, the primary organizer of the conference and senior instructor in English and adjunct assistant professor at the honors college, predicted that the work of the Feminist Humanities Project would "change the culture of our activities in teaching and research."

Links Scholars

Gary Guttormsen, an art teacher at Thurston High School, agreed. He said the Virtual Resource Bank, coordinated by Zoe Borovsky, assistant professor of Germanic languages and literatures, will serve to carry on collaborations that began at the conference. "It's an incredible resource for public schools," he said. "We always think we're in the trenches and (university professors) are 'up there' doing research. This gets a dialog going."

Mary Ann Peters, a graduate student in English who helped organize the October 25-26 event, called the event "one moment in the life of a much longer project. Research co-ops will continue to grow and develop long after this weekend."

The Virtual Resource Bank is located at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~fhp/vrb>. For more information about the Feminist Humanities Project, contact Judith Musick at CSWS at 346-5099.



Christina Calhoon, Diane Downey, and Heather Tanner speak on the "Women and Power" panel.

Hildegard of Bingen Events Set

The Reclaiming the Past RIG will be participating in "Hildegard of Bingen at 900: A Celebration of Her Spirituality and Music"—a series of events, largely sponsored by the School of Music during March 2-5—by presenting a RIG-sponsored colloquium: "Hildegard of Bingen and Women's Spiritual Traditions" on Thursday, March 5, Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00-9:00 p.m., featuring RIG speakers Jan Emerson, Suzanne Kocher, and Amanda Powell, with Louise Bishop and Barbara Corrado Pope as respondents. Other events include a keynote lecture on the music of Hildegard of Bingen by Margot Fassler, director of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, 3:00 p.m., Monday, March 2, Knight Library Browsing Room; a concert of music by Hildegard of Bingen and Robert Kyr, by the early-music vocal ensemble, Tapestry (Laurie Monahan, director) 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, Beall Hall; pre-concert lecture by Kyr and Susan Boynton, member of the Reclaiming the Past RIG from the School of Music.

For further information about these events, contact Susan Boynton (boynton@oregon.uoregon.edu) or the UO School of Music.



WOMEN'S HEALTH AND AGING



Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative

Program Director
S. Marie Harvey
Research Associates
Cynthia Adams
Sheryl Thorburn Bird
Judy Hibbard
Research Assistant
Meredith Roberts

The Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative, one of the three major initiatives at CSWS, is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women across the life span. In addition to conducting research to further understanding of women's health issues, members of the initiative are dedicated to ensuring that research findings translate into policies and practices that promote women's health. This commitment is reflected in the five current projects described below.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION: ONCE A SECRET, NOW AN OPTION

Emergency contraception (EC), is a form of post-coital contraception which has been known about for approximately twenty years but rarely made available. The method involves taking specific doses of oral hormonal contraceptives starting within seventy-two hours of unprotected sex. While not as effective as consistent use of a reliable contraceptive, it nonetheless provides an option to women who have either experienced a contraceptive failure, had unprotected intercourse, or who have experienced coerced sexual activity. The major barrier to accessing EC has been lack of knowledge about the method for both health care providers and consumers.

In an effort to increase provider and consumer awareness about EC, the Consortium for Emergency Contraception was founded by seven organizations working internationally in women's reproductive health. One of these groups, the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, is working closely with CSWS to understand women's experience with this potentially important method of preventing unintended pregnancies. In a study funded by the Packard Foundation, S. Marie Harvey and Sheryl Thorburn Bird are currently conducting focus groups with Mexican women living in U.S.-Mexico border communities to explore their perceptions and attitudes about emergency contraception. The focus group data will provide important information on what Mexican women know about EC, any misconceptions they may have, and their thoughts and feelings about actually using EC.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL CONTEXTS OF ABORTION

Abortion is a common medical procedure in the United States, utilized yearly by 1.5 million women. Despite its widespread use, the right to abortion is highly controversial. The national debate is often uninformed by empirical evi-



Meredith Roberts, Cynthia Adams, Sheryl Thorburn Bird,
Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative.

dence, and most of the existing, recent books on abortion are uni-disciplinary, focusing on the historical, legal, or political aspects of the controversy.

With her colleague, Linda J. Beckman, at the California School of Professional Psychology, S. Marie Harvey is editing a book titled *Abortion in the United States: Psychological, Social, and Political Contexts*, to be published by the American Psychological Association. This book provides a multidisciplinary perspective on the sociopolitical, cultural, and psychological contexts of abortion in the U.S. as they influence 1) the availability and provision of abortion services; 2) individual and group attitudes and beliefs about abortion; and 3) the consequences of the decision to terminate a pregnancy through abortion. Marie also co-authors a chapter on the acceptability of medical abortion among women in the U.S. In the final chapter, Sheryl Thorburn Bird joins the editors in discussing recommendations to strengthen the availability and quality of abortion services, promote public policies that both protect women who seek abortion and reduce the societal need for abortion, and provide empirical support for policy and legislative initiatives.

TRANSCENDING CULTURAL BARRIERS

Domestic violence is increasingly recognized as a pervasive public health problem, affecting all areas of society. In reaching ethnic communities, violence prevention is particularly challenging, because information must be conveyed in culturally pertinent and appropriate ways. To address violence in a culturally specific manner, the project *La Comunidad Sana* (the Healthy Community) was implemented in Hood River, Oregon, where Hispanics represent 25-30 percent of the population. Funded by the W.K.

AGING RESEARCH INITIATIVE



Judy Hibbard, and S. Marie Harvey lead the

Kellogg Foundation, the project addresses domestic and youth violence resulting from the area's seasonal farm work, long periods of unemployment, and poverty within the community.

La Comunidad Sana takes a multifaceted approach to violence prevention. Its most crucial component, however, lies with the work of Hispanic community health promoters (CHPs). Their unique role and background permits CHPs to transcend barriers to accessing health care within the Hispanic community, such as language, financial, geographic, and cultural barriers. The CHPs undergo regular training in violence prevention and treatment, and implement the program's components.

The CHPs are working closely with S. Marie Harvey and Meredith Roberts on the third year evaluation. Together they have identified several goals for the coming year, such as conducting a community-wide survey and designing evaluation tools for a batterer's treatment group and a women's support group. It is hoped that these evaluations will help other communities replicate the successful endeavors of *La Comunidad Sana*.

A NATURAL HISTORY OF COGNITIVE CHANGES DURING PERIMENOPAUSE

In the next decade, more than twenty million U.S. women will be making the transition to menopause, passing through a period known as perimenopause. This transitional time lasts, on average, four years, and marks the beginning of hormonal changes. Many women report cognitive changes during perimenopause such as forgetfulness and "fuzzy thinking." Yet little is known about the exact nature and course of reported cognitive changes, or the extent to which such changes are due to hormones, other aging processes, stress at midlife, or some combination of these factors. Such omissions

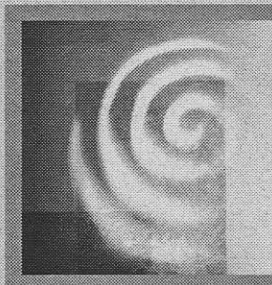
create significant gaps in our scientific knowledge about the developmental course of cognition across the life span, as well as in our knowledge about midlife women's health and menopause. Toward filling these gaps, Cynthia Adams (in collaboration with Fredda Blanchard-Fields of Georgia Tech in Atlanta) recently submitted a grant application to document a natural history of cognitive changes during the perimenopausal years. The study is designed to track cognitive changes over a five-year period in two cohorts of initially premenopausal women (White and African-American), while at the same time tracking fluctuations in hormone levels, mood, stress, activity, and sleep patterns. Information derived from the proposed study would contribute to a better scientific understanding of the normative patterns of cognitive change during a woman's midlife years and the integrative workings of women's bodies and minds.

MEDICARE AND MANAGED CARE

Judith Hibbard is the principal investigator on a study funded by the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP), to examine how well Medicare beneficiaries understand their health care choices, particularly managed care (HMOs). About 70,000 Medicare beneficiaries use their Medicare benefits to enroll in an HMO each month. As this growth in the HMO market is new, there is little research on what the effects of this shift are having on beneficiaries' experiences.

The study assesses the knowledge of 1,364 Medicare beneficiaries, aged sixty-five to eighty, in four regions of the United States that are high penetration Medicare managed care markets. Half the sample are enrolled in the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program, and half are enrolled in HMOs. The assessment focuses on how well beneficiaries understand the basic mechanisms of managed care (e.g., primary care provider, network, capitation, and physician financial incentives), and the potential positive and negative implications for care, choice, and costs to the consumer. The findings are particularly important given the recent Medicare changes enacted under the 1997 Congressional Balanced Budget Act (BBA). The BBA calls for an expansion on the plan options for Medicare beneficiaries (increasing from two to eight choices in 1998), and mandates education for beneficiaries on their choice. The study results will show how well Medicare beneficiaries understand their choices, and if more consumer education is needed.





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.

Profile: Kathleen Karlyn

By Beth Hege Piatote

Kathleen Karlyn has chosen a fitting sequel to her book on unruly women: unruly girls.

"It's in response to what I see happening in popular culture now," she said. "There's an apparent interest in girls in television programming, independent movies, and works directed by women. There's more attention to relationships between mothers and daughters, more attention to rites of passage, and more roles for teenage girls where there haven't been before."

Karlyn, assistant professor of English at the UO and author of *The Unruly Woman: Gender and the Genres of Laughter*, is now working on a second book that considers girls in popular culture. These days, she's videotaping seven television shows a week, from *Daria* on MTV to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* on network television. She plans to analyze the collection next summer—but already, she said, certain themes are emerging. "A lot of these shows have to do with girls and power," she said. "These shows are speaking to a time of passage, when girls are trying to figure out their desire for power and are unsure of what power is available to them. "It's interesting that their power happens to be in fantasy—the vampire slayer, the teenage witch. It is as if there's no realistic way to deal with strong girls. The conventions aren't out there," she said. "In contrast, boys know that power is part of their patrimony, their inheritance, and they are groomed for it."

Karlyn is collaborating on the book with Ellen Seiter of the University of California—San Diego, with the intent of taking a broad and interdisciplinary approach to the topic. The collaboration came about because they are both "intensely feminist in orientation" and because they have a long history of knowing each other's work, Karlyn said. "We want to look at many contexts, from the industrial end of production to the audience. The text is in the middle," she said. "My focus is on the text, while Ellen is doing interviews with people in the industry. Methodologically, it is making for an exciting study." Karlyn said she wants to investigate why there's a sudden boom of teenage heroines on television and in movies. "I wonder if it is because feminism has made an impact and now women are in the positions to make these decisions? Or is it simply that teenagers are the latest market?"

Kathleen Karlyn, a member of the Women and Media RIG, will be presenting her analysis of the independent film, Gas Food Lodging and talking about girls in popular culture at the RIG-A-Fair on February 27 during the morning plenary session.

Profile: Kadiatou Coulibaly Doucoure

By Beth Hege Piatote

Kadi Coulibaly was the only one of ten children to earn a degree. Growing up in Mali, there were never more girls than boys in a class. As a high school teacher in the capital city of Bamako for ten years, she saw that too few students were completing school. And she wanted to find out why.

Coulibaly, who came to the University of Oregon in 1992 as a Fulbright Scholar, is now writing her dissertation in education leadership, technology, and administration on the problem of girls' retention in her homeland of Mali.

In her study, Coulibaly interviewed parents, teachers, and middle school students in a rural and urban area about the obstacles to completing school for girls. Among their responses:

- **Money.** "Even though education is free, parents have to buy everything, including desks and books. If a father has ten children and can't even afford to feed them, there's no way he can send them to school," Coulibaly said.
- **Housework.** "I noticed that whenever a girl said chores were weighing her down, she was not living with her parents. It is common to give your child to a sibling, but that child has every chance to become a slave to that person. Some girls were doing housework for their teachers," she said.
- **Teachers.** "Some teachers are too severe and use corporeal punishment. . . . others sexually harass young women."
- **Marriage.** "It is a cultural thing. If a girl is not married by twenty something is wrong," she said. "One mother had two daughters removed from school at thirteen and fourteen to be married. She said that she was powerless. If a father decides to marry his daughter, he will do it . . . the family of the groom has to pay a dowry."
- **Economy.** "It used to be that if you finished school the government would hire you. But that changed in 1983 because of the World Bank and structural

adjustment. The ones who manage to graduate are left without jobs."

Coulibaly said the girls she interviewed considered education important, even if it did not translate into a job. "Several of them said, 'At least you can write your own letters.' After I heard it so many times, I started to realize

how important it was to them."

Kadiatou Coulibaly Doucoure, a member of the Women in Leadership RIG, will be talking about structural adjustment and girls' education in Mali during the afternoon panel at the "Girls, Generations, and Globalization" conference on February 27.

CSWS Visiting Scholars

Katherine Gibson, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Julie Graham, Department of Geosciences, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

We came to UO and CSWS quite by chance, actually. Kathie and her family had arranged a house swap with a faculty member from the UO who wanted to spend some time in Melbourne, and Julie was a friend of Sandra Morgen's from her days at the University of Massachusetts. Those were our real if relatively nonprofessional "reasons" for settling here for our sabbaticals. But even though the location was chosen somewhat randomly, Eugene, the UO, and CSWS have provided a wonderfully supportive environment for our sabbatical endeavors. The rain (mostly) held off, the coffee was good, CSWS was very welcoming and facilitating, and we found local examples of alternative economic enterprises to explore in our research. Our principal scholarly activities involve completing two edited volumes on class as a dimension of social and economic difference and beginning a new research project called "Diverse Economies: Imagining and Enacting Noncapitalist Futures." This research follows on from our recent book entitled *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy* (by J.K. Gibson-Graham, Blackwell, 1996) in which we argued that representations of capitalism as necessarily and naturally dominant had both obscured and discouraged noncapitalist economic activities on the contemporary economic scene. Collaborating with community-based researchers in Australia and the U.S., we are attempting to revision and revalue some of the many unpaid, nonmarket, and noncapitalist economic activities that people are engaged in every day. The goal of this research, which has been influenced and inspired by feminist theorists of sexual and gender difference, is to contribute to the production of a discourse of economic difference—a discourse that has the potential to reinvigorate the economic imagination and to foster a politics of economic innovation. CSWS and the UO (not to mention Breitenbush Hot Springs!) have provided us with the intellectual and social resources to start this research and reinforced the spirit of community in which the project was conceived.

—KG and JG

Suzette Henke, Thruston B. Morton Sr. Professor of Literary Studies, University of Louisville

I've visited the University of Oregon several times during the last few years and, in the spring of 1997, had the pleasure of attending the CSWS conference, "enGendering Rationalities." At the time, I spoke to Sandra Morgen, who introduced me to CSWS. I was tremendously impressed with the quality and talents of the University of Oregon faculty and with the spirit of intellectual community fostered by the center. When Professor Morgen was kind enough to offer me an affiliation with CSWS as a visiting scholar, I felt thoroughly delighted by the prospect of spending my 1997–98 sabbatical year in Eugene.

I'm currently revising the manuscript of "Shattered Subjects: Women's Life-Writing and Narrative Recovery," to be published by St. Martin's Press in 1998. Using the psychoanalytic theories of Freud, Lacan, Kristeva, and Irigaray, and drawing on trauma research by Judith Herman and Cathy Caruth, this book sets out to examine the profound impact of traumatic experience on the autobiographical reconstruction of female subjectivity in twentieth-century women's life-writing. Beginning with a study of Colette's autofictions, I go on to analyze the practice of scriptotherapy in Hilda Doolittle's Fraudian autographs, Anais Nin's psychoanalytic self-imaging, African-American biomythography by Audre Lorde, Janet Frame's *New Zealand Autobiography*, and Sylvia Fraser's Canadian memoir of incest and recovery, *My Father's House*.

Eugene has proven to be an extremely amiable environment for research and writing, and I'm particularly pleased with the university contacts I've been able to make through CSWS. My seminar in November was well-attended, and members of the audience raised some important, thought-provoking questions that will indeed prove helpful to my work in progress. —SH



Visiting scholars: Suzette Henke, Julie Graham, and Katherine Gibson.

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 sixteen travel grants during the fall funding cycle. The recipients are as follows:

Jacqueline Cruz, assistant professor, Romance languages, to present her paper, "*El Cuerpo Mutilado: La Represion De La Sexualidad Femenina en Amantes* (The Mutilated Body: The Repression of Female Sexuality in Lovers)," at a conference in Atlanta sponsored by the Asociación de Literatura Femenina Hispánica.

Geraldine Moreno, associate professor, anthropology, to travel to a meeting of the American Anthropologist Association in Washington, D.C., as the newly elected treasurer.

Judith Raiskin, associate professor, women's studies, to present her paper "Teaching Postcolonial Literature," at the international conference on International Perspectives on English, American, and Cultural Studies in Asia in Bangkok, Thailand.

James L. Rice, professor, Russian, to present his paper, "*Eros in Dostoevskogo* (Eros in the World of Dostoevsky)," in Russian at the Sex and Gender in the Russian Culture conference in Moscow.

Tze-lan D. Sang, assistant professor, East Asian languages and literatures, to present a paper on "Writing Popular: Femininity and Eileen Chang's Theory of the Vulgar," at the international conference on the Theories of Arts and Literature and Popular Culture in Taipei, Academia Sinica.

Anne D. Simons, associate professor, psychology, for life event assessment training at Georgetown University Medical Center.

Mary J. Fechner, graduate student, anthropology, to attend an NSF summer institute in research design for cultural anthropologists in Irvine, California.

Kate Harkness, graduate student, psychology, to attend a training in the "Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse" interviews and rating system seminar for CECA at the Royal Holloway College, University of London.

Margaret Johnson, graduate student, English, to present her paper, "The Return of the Comic," at Currents and Crosscurrents: Women Generating Creativity and Change conference sponsored by the National Women's Studies Association held in St. Louis.

Alice Wahl Lachman, graduate student, DELTA, to do library research in Tokyo and to be part of a panel presentation on Trends and Transitions, HALT twenty-third international conference.

Kasia Marciniak, graduate student, English, to present her paper, "Quivering Ontology: Body in Translation in Eva Hoffman's *Lost in Translation*" at the thirty-ninth annual convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association in Chicago.

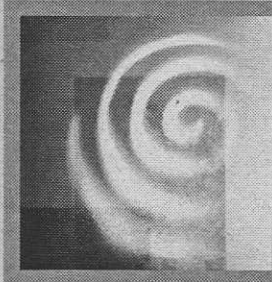
David Markley, graduate student, psychology, to present his paper, "Automatic Thinking, Depression History, and Post-Treatment Symptomatology: Evidence for Sex-Specific Associations, and Correlates of Mental Health in an Older Adult Sample: Sex by Marital Status Interactions," at the thirty-first annual convention: The Integration of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies into Health Care for an Aging and Diverse Society in Miami.

Claudia Asuka Ponton, graduate student, art history, to do thesis research at the Fine Arts Library, University of Texas, Austin.

Susann E. Suprenant, graduate student, theater arts, to present her paper, "The Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines: Traditional Characters/Contemporary Concerns," at the Shakespeare in Popular Culture conference in Baltimore.

Marina Chu-chih Tackett, graduate student, anthropology, to do research at the library at the Institute of Ethnology at Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

Camilla H. Mortensen, graduate student, comparative literature, to present her paper, "Efficacious, Economic, and Psychologically Soothing: A Behavioral Analysis of One Woman's Equine Folk Medicine," at the American Folklore Society's 1997 annual meeting in Austin, Texas.



CSWS to Offer Award for Graduate Student of Color

The Center for the Study of Women in Society is proud to announce the creation of a new award that recognizes and supports outstanding scholarship among students of color and rewards collaborative or mentoring relationships at the University of Oregon. The CSWS Laurel Research Fellowship will be given each year to a graduate student of color to support research on issues of gender, feminist theory, or any aspect of women's lives, including research that focuses on issues particular to the recipient's own community. The recipient will receive \$2,500 plus a tuition remission from the Graduate School for one term. In addition, an additional amount of up to \$350 will be given to a faculty member for expenses directly related to mentoring or collaborative research. This award is designed to enrich the professional relationship between the student and the faculty member.

Graduate students must be nominated with a letter of recommendation by a UO faculty member, and the student must complete a standard application form, attach a copy of a current curriculum vita, and provide an explanation of the proposed research project. Complete guidelines for the award will be available at CSWS by January 5, and the deadline for applicants will be April 13.

CSWS Grant Program Deadlines for 1997-98

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

All applications can be picked up outside the CSWS main office, 340 Hendricks Hall, downloaded from our Web site, or mailed to you (make your request by E-mail: csws@oregon.uoregon.edu or call Shirley Marc, office manager, at 346-5015).



Public Hours

CSWS is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Marie Harvey Receives CDC Grant

You think you understand Two

Because you understand One and One . . .

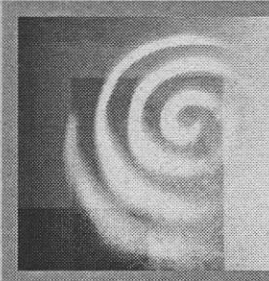
But you must also understand And.

—Sufi saying

Marie Harvey is the principal investigator on a \$3 million study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This five-year project assesses predictors of sexual risk behavior and designs, implements, and evaluates a couple-based intervention to reduce unprotected intercourse among young Latina women and their sexual partners. The research builds on her

previous work that examined the impact of couple dynamics and communication patterns on reproductive decision-making among inner-city Mexican couples.

Sexual behaviors are, by definition, interactive in nature. Sexual, family planning, and childbearing decisions are, therefore, made or are potentially made by both partners in a couple. Although the need to focus on couples when examining unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease and AIDS prevention is obvious, most of this literature is based on studies of only one gender or unrelated groups of men and women. The proposed project will collect data from and intervene with both members of a sexually active couple.



Girls Night Out!

Come out Friday night, February 27, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. for "Girls Night Out!" This special event, for girls of all ages, features theater, fashion, and shared stories depicting the experience of middle school girls through the ages. Music by Babes with Axes. Expect fun! The fee is \$1 for girls and \$3 to \$5 sliding scale for adults. "Girls Night Out!" will be held in the Pittman Room of the Casanova Center, next to Autzen Stadium.

"Success in the Middle" Brings Girls to the Center

By Jayne Mickles

"Success in the Middle: A Conference for and about Middle School Girls" is set for February 27 and 28, 1998, on the University of Oregon campus and surrounding sites.

The event begins with a fun-filled "Girls Night Out!" from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the Pittman Room of the Casanova Center next to Autzen Stadium.

The day-long Saturday event is for girls of middle school age from throughout Lane County. It offers exciting, hands-on experiences that will help girls survive and thrive during middle school and beyond. Participants will find answers to some of their most important questions; enjoy art, music, and theater; sample careers; and have fun! The \$15 registration fee includes lunch and a t-shirt. The conference kicks off at the Paul Olum Atrium of Willamette Hall at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m.

Also held on the UO campus, the Saturday conference component for parents, educators, and service providers features a nationally-recognized authority on girls, Sharon Thompson, as well as local experts. The event includes a variety of stimulating workshops, networking opportunities, and resource displays plus an entertaining and thought-provoking lunch-time theater performance. The cost is \$5 for the morning only and \$10 for the full day (including lunch).

"Success in the Middle: A Conference for and about Middle School Girls" is presented in conjunction with the "Girls, Generations, and Globalization" conference by CSWS. Other sponsors include the Lane County Saturday Academy; Eugene School District 4J; the Lane County Gender Equity Council; Advocates for Women in Science, Math, and Engineering; Girls, Inc.; Child and Family Services, Office of Human Resources, University of Oregon; and other private supporters.

Call Saturday Academy at (541) 346-3084 for further information on conference events and ways you can be involved.

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 an occasional "Happy Hour" speaker at

January 21

Shelley Kowalski, graduate student, sociology, "Fading Pictures and Growing Photo-worlds: The Case of Doris Ulmann."

February 11

Monica Szurmuk, assistant professor, Romance languages, "Women Travelers/Traveling Women: Gender, Collective Identities, and Writing in Modern Argentina."

March 4

Elizabeth Ramirez, assistant professor, theater arts, Ethnic Studies Program, "A History of Chicanas/Latinas on the American Stage: The Emerging Female as Political Subject."

March 18

Suzanne Kocher, graduate student, Romance languages, "Gender and Power in Marguerite Porete's *Mirror of Simple Souls*."

April 15

Jennifer Freyd, professor, psychology, "Adaptive Blindness for Abuse in Dependent Relationships."

April 29

Cynthia Adams, research associate, Women's Health and Aging Initiative, CSWS, "Menopause and Memory: Am I Going Out of My Mind?"

May 13

Zoe Borovsky, assistant professor, Germanic languages and literatures, "Gender, Giants, and the Generation Gap."

From the Garden: A Note on Development

By Judith Musick, Development Director

Plants grow well here. They also grow somewhat differently than in San Francisco. They say it is the climate. I think it is more than that. The same plants that, in my former home, stay nicely contained within predictable and relatively small spaces become giant, tall, free-ranging visions of vitality here. They grow as if they had somehow absorbed fully the wild "individualism" of the Oregon spirit and not simply thrived on ample water and nourishment. They defy the circumscribed areas that I plan for them, forcing me to toggle back and forth between forceful pruning and transplanting on the one hand and acceptance and re-conceptualization on the other.

In the year and a half that I have been here, center activity has been at fever pitch. We have produced five issues of this newsletter; four major conferences; handled and absorbed the effects of several key staff changes; proposed, discussed, and approved major programmatic and budgetary changes; and launched three potentially enormous research initiatives. In the midst of all the activity, I have noticed, with an increasing appreciation, that we are truly growing something quite wonderful.

My job—to secure financial support for the emergent research and programs of the center—sometimes feels like the wildness of the garden I work at taming every weekend. There are so many ideas, so much talent, such an extraordinary opportunity to do good and important work for women and girls, that the challenge for me is to initiate development efforts that neither strangle nor are strangled by the exuberance of possibility.

In the next few weeks two specific development efforts will be launched by CSWS. The first is an annual campaign directed at securing financial support for our new programs and initiatives and expanding the number of people who know and support CSWS. The annual campaign will be as much about friend-raising as it will be about fund-raising. Our mail and telephone efforts will provide us with a greater sense of who is interested in the work we do and a basis for developing regional and national outreach programs.

The second development related activity of the center is the inauguration of a new Research Interest Group—Women in Philanthropy—that will bring together development professionals, staff members of local nonprofit organizations, women with wealth, and academics to explore issues related to patterns of giving by and to women. The focus of this research and discussion group will be on exploring two interrelated questions: the relationships of women to money and the relationships of women to philanthropy, as donors.

I see both efforts as means of extending the boundaries of CSWS and expanding our "membership." In seeking financial support from individuals such as yourselves, we are asking you to endorse and possibly shape the directions we have already taken. By engaging in thoughtful consideration of historical, cultural, economic, and social psychological factors affecting women's relationship to money and giving, we are seeking to understand and affect the ways women may bring our resources to bear on behalf of women and girls. But there is more. I believe that this process of collaboration, and of self-consciously looking at the ways donors might participate in this feminist enterprise, will surely result in a new and wonderful way of doing development and magnify the vitality of our garden.



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.

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!

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I would like to make a donation. Amount enclosed _____

Thank you!

"13 to 30" Bridges Issued

By Clare Kinberg

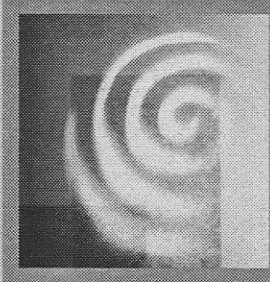
More than three years ago the editors of *Bridges: A Journal for Jewish Feminists and Our Friends*, brainstormed doing an issue by young Jewish women. All of us were over thirty—some well over—and aware that younger generations experience Jewish feminism in new ways. We also felt the need to listen to them. As Angela Davis recently reminded an audience in Eugene, she was twenty-five when she first became an international icon of protest and radical change. In fact, many revolutionary and transformative movements have been led by youth: activists in the labor, anti-war, Civil Rights, and feminist movements; early Zionist pioneers; and the fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. We were familiar with several new anthologies of writing by young feminists and lesbian, gay, or bisexual activists, none of which included more than a smattering of pieces addressing Jewish identity and activism. We intended *Bridges'* young women's issue to fill that gap. We

began by inviting an ad hoc group of young women to solicit and select the work. The group chose Amanda Seigel, a nineteen-year-old junior at Hampshire College, to coordinate their editorial process. Seigel had told us she constantly questions and challenges different facets of her identity, and that she experienced a lack of community in college. But, she says, through editing this volume and "learning through the images and words of other young Jewish feminists" she has countered this isolation.

Some of the issues addressed in the "13 to 30" issue of *Bridges* are sexual identity, cross-cultural friendship, racism within the Jewish community, and the effects of the Holocaust on the third generation after. From an interview with three fourteen-year-old friends who each identify with a different stream of Judaism, to a well argued confrontation with the contradictions within Jewish feminist identity, this volume crackles with honest energy.

The young women's issue of *Bridges* is available for \$7.50 from *Bridges*, P.O. Box 24839, Eugene OR 97402.

Clare Kinberg is a member of the Jewish Feminist RIG.



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

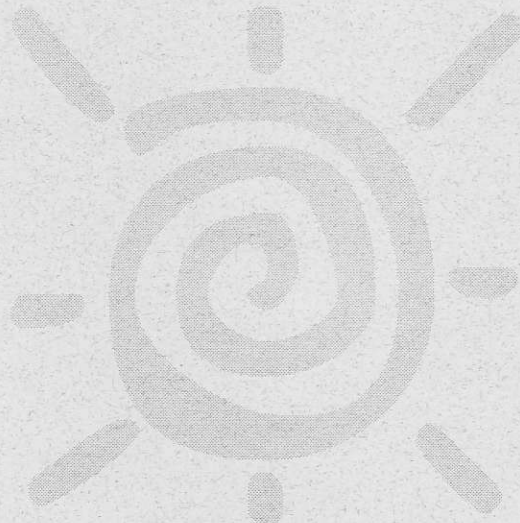


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