

1999

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

CSWS Offers Exciting Slate of Events

Mark Your Calendars Now—Beginning with the New Women Faculty Reception

Conferences, celebrations, workshops, seminars, research, and receptions—we've got it all this coming year at the Center for the Study of Women in Society. And it seems like now, with summer fading and fall term coming into full swing, is as good a time as any to ask you—our wonderful community of affiliates—to mark a few dates on your calendars of events you won't want to miss.

During fall term, welcome new members of the University of Oregon community and get re-acquainted with colleagues at the annual **New Women Faculty Reception** on October 6 at Gerlinger Lounge. This free event features refreshments, music, informal visiting, and introductions of new women faculty, and is co-sponsored by CSWS, the Women's Faculty Resource Network, and the Women's Studies Program.

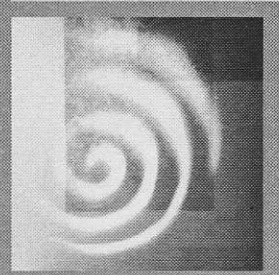
You can have a ball in November, when the second annual **Women of Excellence** celebration is held on November 4 with the theme "Setting a Standard" at Gerlinger Lounge. This event brings together a team of CSWS scholars and community leaders to introduce the UO women's basketball players and their coach, Jody Runge. Free tickets to this event will be available from CSWS starting in mid-October.

The rains of winter term won't dampen one of the biggest events of the year for CSWS, the **Politics of Work and Welfare** conference to be held February 28 and 29. This conference, co-sponsored by the Labor Education and Research Center and the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, will bring scholars, policy makers, and advocates together in a series of plenary sessions and workshops to discuss issues of welfare reform, poverty, and low-wage employment in Oregon. Conference highlights will be plenary presentations by political economist Frances Fox Piven, this year's holder of the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics. Related activities throughout the year include a graduate and faculty seminar on Piven's work and four research projects by UO faculty. These events are supported by a grant from the Wayne Morse Chair.

On the heels of the conference will be a celebration of Women's History Month called **Transformations: Women and History** on March 3. This one-day teach-in will bring area high school teachers and students to campus for short presentations and workshops that celebrate women's accomplishments. This free event is sponsored by the Feminist Humanities Project, which will also be hosting a monthly "Teaching and Tea" seminar throughout the year.

Spring will bring a new opportunity for contemplating gender and ecology when the **Ecological Conversations** project hosts the first of three annual conferences on May 12-14. This informal "working conference" will feature presentations by the five visiting research fellows who will be in residence at the UO at various times throughout the academic year. The project, "Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred," is supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

On-going events at CSWS include real and virtual meetings of our Research Interest Groups; a "brown bag" series of lunch-time presentations; grant-writing workshops; and co-sponsorship of various campus events. This year we're making an extra effort to reach out to graduate students and new programs are in the works for this constituency. As always, we encourage CSWS affiliates to apply for travel and research grants, get involved in a RIG or two, and let us know how we can better help you generate and disseminate research on women and gender and all aspects of women's lives.



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CSWS

By Sandra Morgen, Director

I want to take this opportunity NOT to write about the millennium, though for those of us who write periodic columns, it is an easy temptation. But I will bypass this opportunity not only because many of us are already tired of the reference, but also because for many of the world's peoples the convention of counting time relative to the rise of Christianity in Europe is not meaningful. How we make meaningful the passage of time, how we mark and remark upon cycles—these are issues that should be explored and considered, not presumed and imposed.

For those of us in academia, one cycle that is almost always meaningful is the start of the academic year. For those of us who are Jewish, the beginning of this cycle coincides closely with the start of the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashana. It is an excellent time to take stock of both our past and future. On a promising note, the university starts this new year with better funding from the state than we have seen in almost a decade. Many of us were involved in the work that led to this situation: not only those tireless lobbyists and university leaders who met with legislators and the governor, but also we who, through our research, teaching, or public service, have made a commitment to serve the students and citizens of this state.

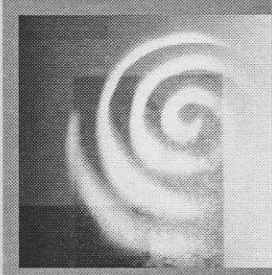
CSWS has contributed to this collective effort in numerous ways. One particularly important way we did so during the legislative session was through the publication of our inaugural policy paper, *Valuing Families: The State of Oregon's Families*, which was distributed widely to legislators and policymakers last spring. We still have lots of

copies for those of you who might find it useful for research, teaching, or advocacy work, and we look forward to this book continuing to serve communities in Oregon well into the future.

Another promising aspect of the new year is the arrival of a cohort of new faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students to our campus. On behalf of CSWS I welcome each and every one of you. We hope some of you will find your way to our offices on the third floor of Hendricks Hall or to our many programs throughout the year. CSWS relies on the important scholarship and dedicated involvement of faculty and graduate students on campus, and we are honored that so many of you have been part of this center for years. But we also value highly the visions and fresh energies of those of you who are new to campus. Though many of the programs and research agendas at CSWS are deeply rooted and ongoing, there is always room for innovative ideas and your involvement.

How can you become involved? New members of our community are specifically welcomed at the New Women Faculty reception on October 6, but don't hesitate to drop by CSWS at any time to find out more about us. There are Research Interest Groups to join and opportunities to form new RIGS; there are brown-bag research talks and sponsored speakers and conferences during the year; there are grant opportunities both from CSWS and from external funders; and more.

We are counting on you to share your ideas and visions with us so that CSWS can continue to generate, support, and disseminate outstanding research that will make a difference on and off campus. I wish you all a fulfilling year ahead and hope to see you during the year.



Sandra Morgen,
Director, CSWS

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The Politics of Work and Welfare Conference Attracts Scholars, Activists

Current welfare policy in the United States is premised on a series of assumptions about the relationship between work, public assistance, and poverty. Among these core beliefs are that any type of work is better than welfare, and that participation in the labor force is the key to moving families out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. Welfare reform is taking place against the backdrop of grim economic realities faced by many low-wage workers, political and economic policies that have diminished the power of labor, and what Frances Fox Piven calls "the breaking of the American compact." The Politics of Work and Welfare conference, slated February 28 and 29 at the University of Oregon, aims to explore the wisdom, impact, and political context of welfare reform and related labor, tax, and economic policies across class, race, and gender lines.

The conference coincides with the residency of Frances Fox Piven, holder of the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics. Piven is one of the foremost authorities on poverty and politics in the United States. Her research has spanned over twenty-five years of work on social welfare policy, poor people's political mobilization, and electoral politics. Piven will give a keynote address at the conference.

The goal of the conference is a dialogue between and among researchers, faculty and students, policy makers, human service providers, labor organizers, poor people's organizations, and members of the local community. Two types of conference presentations will take place: academic research papers that provide a strategic analysis of work and welfare issues; and more informal presentations by community groups, welfare rights organizations, policy makers, and other practitioners in the field. The core areas to be addressed include:

- **Welfare Reform: Is it Working?**

How has the wellbeing of low-income families been affected by changing policies, including welfare and labor policies in the past decade? Do policies such as "work first," family caps, time limits, and other features of recent workfare programs effectively serve the interests of poor families? How is the role of motherhood being reformulated in light of welfare reform?

- **Limits to Opportunity: Employment Conditions for Low-Income Americans**

Beyond the specific focus on welfare recipients, what are the broader economic realities of the low-wage labor market? Are there enough decently paying jobs? Are people able to support themselves or their families? Are they able to move out of poverty? How have economic changes of the past few decades affected the compensation, quality of work life, upward mobility and security or insecurity of workers in the low-wage labor market?

- **The Politics of Anti-Poverty Policy**

What is the relationship between welfare reform and other social and economic policies of the past two decades? What is the political context for understanding welfare reform? What political dynamics created the consensus for welfare reform? What are the prospects of effective political mobilization behind alternative policy agendas? How are welfare recipients, welfare advocates, and other poor people's organizations responding to the politics of welfare reform?

This free conference is co-sponsored by CSWS, the Labor Education and Research Center, and the Wayne Morse Chair of Labor and Politics. For more information about the conference, contact Terri Heath at CSWS, 346-5286 or dtheath@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Don't Miss the Fun!

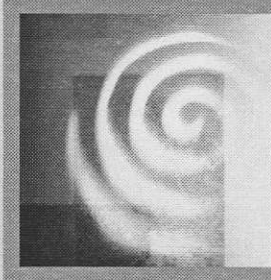
RECEPTION FOR NEW WOMEN FACULTY AND CSWS AFFILIATES

CSWS, the Women's Studies Program, and the Women's Faculty Resource Network welcome new women faculty members and affiliates with a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 6 at Gerlinger Lounge.

The event will feature food, music, informal visiting, and a short program to introduce new women faculty members and present some of the programs responsible for research, teaching, and institutional advocacy for women.

Please join us in welcoming our new colleagues and greeting each other at the beginning of this new academic year. RSVP to 346-5015 or E-mail csws@oregon.uoregon.edu.





Our RIGs Will Take You Far

When some people talk about “rigs” they’re talking about their trucks. But not here, where “RIG” means just one thing: Research Interest Group. And even though our RIGs don’t have wheels, they can definitely take you places. A RIG, a la CSWS, is a group of innovative, accomplished scholars who have come together to collaborate and support research in particular areas of interest. Many of the RIGs are described in brief below, with a few notes about upcoming activities. RIG membership is open to anyone, so don’t hesitate to get involved—there’s always room for more!

Gender in Historical and TransNational China

The Gender in Historical and TransNational China RIG meets regularly to discuss current scholarship and work-in-progress by members. We are currently engaged in the process of grant-writing for an international conference (“Gender in Motion: Social Activity and Divisions of Labor in Late Imperial and Modern China”) to be held fall 2000. Our organizational meeting for 1999–2000 will take place the week after classes begin. For information contact Bryna Goodman at bgoodman@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Jewish Feminist Theory

Contact Lizzie Reis, lzreis@oregon.uoregon.edu, or Diane Baxter, dbaxter@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Native American Communities

This group will hold weekly informal meetings on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room at CSWS; all are welcome. Currently the group is developing a vision statement and considering a number of potential projects and events. For more information about the RIG, contact any of the following members: Alison Ball, aball@oregon.uoregon.edu, Serena Charley, scharley@darkwing.uoregon.edu, Allison Davis-White Eyes, allisonb@oregon.uoregon.edu, Beth Hege Piatote, piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu,

Leece Lee, lee_le@eug4ja.lane.edu, Shari Huhndorf, sharih@oregon.uoregon.edu, and Patricia Penn Hilden, hilden@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Rationality, Intuition, and Gender

Contact Nancy Tuana at ntuana@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Reclaiming the Past

Reclaiming the Past has a large and diverse membership, with interests running from the classical world through to the twentieth century and beyond. Our common thread is gender in history, literature, and the arts and a desire to talk across the boundaries of traditional disciplines and chronological periods. This coming year we will have two RIG coordinators, Barbara Altmann and Ayse Agis, who will coordinate two series of events: one will focus on the pre- and early-modern, the other on (post)modernities. For information or to be put on the mailing list, contact Barbara Altmann at baltmann@oregon.uoregon.edu or 346-4033.

Sex, Gender, and the Law

The Sex, Gender, and the Law RIG hopes to build on the research and teaching interests of its members to promote research and teaching on sex, gender, and the law. Its goals include conducting a faculty and graduate student research-in-progress series; producing CSWS policy papers on issues related to sex, gender, and the law; exploring ways to encourage graduate and undergraduate research; and offering assistance on historical and legal questions to the Women in the Northwest Research Initiative. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact RIG Coordinator Peggy Pascoe at ppascoe@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Wired

Meeting largely in cyberspace (there is a listserv for members), the Wired RIG provides collaborating opportunities for people interested in exploring the use of the Web in promoting research on women and gender.

Currently, we are engaged in a number of activities in support of the Feminist Humanities Project and "Wiring the Humanities," a project jointly sponsored by CSWS and the College of Arts and Sciences. Members of the RIG also provide Web publication services to CSWS, including its RIGs and three initiatives. If you are interested in the RIG, contact Judith Musick, musick@oregon.uoregon.edu, or Shirley Marc, shirmarc@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Women and Gender in Vietnam

Members of the RIG hope this year will prove a culmination of their long-term efforts to further collaborative relations between the United States and Vietnam, building on the following accomplishments: Tra Nguyen received an M.A. in international studies; Bich Nguyen received the CSWS Jane Grant dissertation award and doctoral candidacy in EDPM; and Jessica Aalami-Rothenberg received a Fulbright to Vietnam and doctoral candidacy in geography. CSWS and the UO-Vietnam National Universities (VNU) Sister Universities Project will co-sponsor a conference with VNU's Center for Women's Studies next spring in Vietnam. We welcome new members; contact Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami at gear@ips.net or jra@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Women and Leadership in Education

Contact Mary Dalmau, maryd@oregon.uoregon.edu, or Naimah Ishak, naimah@darkwing.uoregon.edu.

Women and Media

The Women and Media RIG provides a space for interdisciplinary research, discussions and projects relating to a broad range of topics concerning the intersection of gender, culture, and media. Discussion topics include issues of representation, commercial and alternative media, media activism, and media production. Our current project is to make information and short reviews about various videos and films available on-line to faculty and students. Meetings are held once a month. Contact Ellen Riordan at eriodan@darkwing.uoregon.edu for more information.

Women and the Environment

The Women and the Environment RIG is interested in understanding the gendered dimensions of environmental issues and human relationships to the natural world. The RIG will be gearing up this fall for regular bi-weekly meetings to read and discuss the writings and work of the visiting scholars for the Ecological Conversations program. The fellows will be in residence at CSWS beginning in January (see related article, p. 8-9). Contact Barbara Cook at bjcook@oregon.uoregon.edu and join the "enviro-rig" listserv.

Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring

For the past two years, members of the RIG have been involved in a major research project on welfare reform. These members will be presenting their findings at the upcoming *Politics of Work and Welfare* conference in February (see related article, p. 3). The group is not meeting regularly, but will host a meeting in the fall to update people on the welfare research and discuss other interests. People who might be interested can get in touch with Joan Acker at jacker@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Women's Health and Development

The Women's Health and Development RIG will be undergoing changes in the fall. The subgroup mind/body/spirit will be incorporated into the RIG, while the menopause subgroup will continue to meet as a reading and discussion group. The Women and Violence subgroup has been approved as a separate RIG, now called the Violence, Gender, and Society RIG. This year the Women's Health and Development RIG will meet once a month to discuss a question or topic within the broad range of women's health and development issues. Ideally a different member will choose the issue and will forward it to other members prior to each meeting. To get the time and location of the meetings, contact Lin Reilly at lreilly@oregon.uoregon.edu or 346-2262; or Lisa Foisy at lfoisy@oregon.uoregon.edu or 346-0640.



Program Updates

Women in the Northwest

The CSWS Welfare Research team is halfway through our yearlong study of families who left or were diverted from TANF (cash assistance) or food stamps in the first quarter of 1998. From January through May we conducted a telephone survey that reached 960 families across the state. In the summer five of us fanned out across Oregon to interview eighty families who represent some of the diversity of the larger sample, including by race and ethnicity, where they live, and whether they had left food stamps or TANF or had been diverted from cash assistance.

During a the twenty- to thirty-minute telephone interview we asked nearly 200 questions on a broad range of topics, including how families were faring both economically and in more general terms in the twelve to fifteen months since they left some form of public assistance; what services they had used and which had been most valuable for their families; why they left assistance; what kind of job they had found (if working) and what kind of wages, training, benefits, and other opportunities were associated with their jobs; how well their family's health care, child care, housing, transportation and other needs are currently being met; what they think about welfare reform and how they think welfare programs could better meet the needs of families.

The in-depth interviews are giving us an opportunity to hear from families in more detail and in their own words about many of these topics. We are grateful that they have taken the time to share their views and experiences with us and ultimately with welfare administrators, workers, and state and national policy makers with whom we will share our research. We believe that the best judges of how welfare reform is working are the families whose lives have been profoundly affected by changing policies. A report based on our research will be available some months after the last round of interviews next winter. We will also be presenting some of our findings at the *Politics of Work and Welfare* conference next February.

—Sandra Morgen

Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative

This past spring, with the Oregon Center for Applied Science (ORCAS), Cynthia Adams and Marie Harvey completed their

National Institute on Aging-funded CD-ROM program on menopause that received rave reviews from midlife women in an evaluation study conducted by ORCAS. Adams launched an interview study this summer exploring women's experiences of memory and other cognitive changes during the perimenopause years. She has also submitted grant proposals to the National Institute on Aging on memory and aging and to the National Institute on Mental Health on cognition and perimenopause.

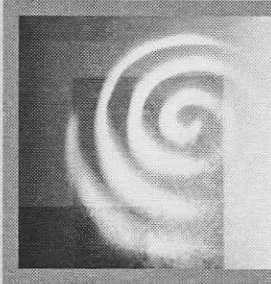
With colleagues at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research and the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, Harvey and Sheryl Bird are in the final stages of a CDC-funded study in Portland on the prevention of unintended pregnancy, HIV, and other STDs among young African-American women. Bird and Harvey submitted a grant proposal to the National Institute of Child and Health Development for a project to develop measures of male-female relationship characteristics. Harvey and Bird were also both invited to give presentations as part of a symposium on critical issues in women's reproductive health at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Boston in August.

Judith Hibbard and colleagues are starting two new projects this fall. One study focuses on examining ways to present comparative health care quality information so that consumers can effectively use the information in decisions. The other study examines the skills consumers possess for using comparative information in decision making and assesses whether skill level is related to desire for assistance in making decisions. This work is being supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Health Care Financing Administration, and the Public Policy Institute of AARP.

—Sheryl Thorburn Bird

Feminist Humanities Project

The Feminist Humanities Project has spent the summer months planning for a busy and exciting year. The Teaching the Past in the Present branch of FHP is sponsoring two new events this year in addition to continuing the successful Teaching and Tea series. We are planning an on-campus workshop, "Teaching Gender and History," for area high school teachers to be held on October 8. The workshop will feature presentations by four university professors. In honor of Women's History Month 2000, we are planning a celebration on March 3 titled "Transformations: Women and History,"



to which area teachers and students will be invited. The celebration will showcase teaching modules and Web sites on gender and history, as well as feature workshops and speakers. Teaching and Tea, our informal monthly series on how to develop and implement Web-based teaching resources for the classroom, begins in November and continues until May. Visit the FHP Web site to find more information and schedule updates on Teaching and Tea. If you would like to receive a full schedule and reminders for Teaching and Tea, subscribe to the Teachpast listserv by sending the following message to majordomo@lists.uoregon.edu; subscribe teachpast your name; end; or visit the FHP web site at <http://fhp.uoregon.edu>.

In addition to these events, we have continued to build our presence in

cyberspace. As of this writing, we have launched seven Web sites for the purpose of enhancing undergraduate and secondary school instruction. These digital teaching units focus on the visions and writings of Hildegard of Bingen; the role of women in medieval medicine; women and gender in Meso-America; Charlotte Perkins Gilman and the status of women in the workplace; and women and witchcraft in 1692 Salem. Each of these units combines primary text and visual material, as well as suggestions for incorporating the primary materials into classroom teaching, to enhance existing course syllabi at the University of Oregon, and to serve as the core of a collaborative course titled "Gender in History."

—Jan Emerson
and Dan Gilfillan



Kudos!

Joan Acker, sociology, Women in the Northwest Initiative, was a plenary speaker at a conference on Gender and Work at the Simmons College Center for Gender and Organizations in May in Boston. She will be teaching at the University of Stockholm in October.

Richard Bear, Wired RIG, completed an M.S. in arts and administration in June.

A piece by **Nora Beck**, Reclaiming the Past RIG, called "Two Topless Girls on the Beach" appeared in the summer issue of *Phoebe: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Feminist Scholarship* published by SUNY, Oneonta.

Aletta Biersack, anthropology, has published "Horticulture and Hierarchy: The Youthful Beautification of the Body in the Paiela and Porgera Valleys" in *Adolescence in the Pacific Island Societies*, eds. G. Herdt and S. Leavitt, University of Pittsburgh Press. In addition, she has published a chapter in *Myth, Ritual, and Philosophy in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea*; a policy paper for Australian National University; a forthcoming article in *American Anthropologist*; and edited the book, *Ecologies for Tomorrow: Reading Rappaport Today*, in which she also has a chapter and introduction.

Louise Bishop, English, Reclaiming the Past RIG, has published "Dame Study and Women's Literacy" in the *Yearbook of Langland Studies 12*.

Linda F. Ettinger, arts and administration, has received a grant from the Northwest Academic Computing Consortium to stimulate innovative instructional uses of the Web in higher education and to spur collaborative undertakings.

Law professors **Caroline Forell** and **Donna Matthews**, Sex, Gender, and the Law RIG, have published *A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man*, to be released this fall by New York University Press.

Teresa Garcia, Native American Communities RIG, was selected as one of twelve Morris K. Udall Congressional interns. Garcia, an international studies and environmental studies junior, is one of the youngest interns to ever participate in the program, which was designed for graduate and law students. Her ten-week internship in Washington, D.C., included travel, lodging, living expenses, and a \$1,200 scholarship.

Daniel Gilfillan, CSWS, completed an intensive three-week workshop in Technology and Language Instruction at Middlebury College's Center for Educational Technology in Middlebury, Vermont. The workshop was sponsored by the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

Leslie Harris, Sex, Gender and the Law RIG, gave two public presentations: "The Dual System of Family Law at the Turn of the New Century" at the International Society of Family Law North American Regional Conference, Albuquerque; and "Child Support Under the New American Law Institute Principles: What Can Oregon Learn?" at the Oregon Family Law Conference, Willamette University College of Law.

Continued on page 13

Good News!

Do members of your RIG have good news to share? Drop a line to Beth at piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu and put "kudos!" in the subject line.



Mark Your Calendars!

MAY 13-15, 2000
First-year conference for
Ecological Conversations

Details to be posted soon
on our Web site:
<http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>

The Conversation Begins: Scholars to Share Perspectives on Gender and Ecology

By Lynne Fessenden

CSWS welcomes the following five scholars as participants in the first year of the Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship Program "Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred." The fellows will be in residence for three months each between January and June of 2000. The following biographical sketches provide a glimpse of the breadth of perspectives on gender and ecology that our fellows will bring to the first round of "conversations." If you are interested in learning more about the program's related seminars and conferences, or in contacting a particular scholar regarding giving a presentation of their work to your department or a lecture to a class, contact Lynne Fessenden, program manager, at 346-5399 or lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu. For more detailed information on the fellows, their research, and their publications, see our Web site: <http://ecocon.uoregon.edu>.



BRINDA RAO is a sociologist, feminist scholar, and a community activist doing research at the intersections of feminism, environmental studies, and the sociology of medicine in an overarching context of global political economy.

She writes, "Throughout my academic career, the main thrust of my research has been on integrating global phenomena such as colonialism, globalization, and the formation of diaspora to local issues pertaining to the changing significance of race/class and gender hierarchies, the politics of identity, and the subjective realities of people's lives."

Since 1992, Rao has been involved with women's health and environmental movements in India, leading several health-related and eco-leadership workshops in rural areas and serving as a consultant to national conferences on women, the environment, and indigenous health practices. She founded the Association of Indigenous Science and Healing Arts, a non-profit organization that documents the contributions of indigenous women healers worldwide.

Rao is the author of *Dry Wells and Deserted Women: Gender, Ecology and Agency in Rural India*. She received a master's degree in history from the University of Bombay and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. As a research fellow at the Center for Women and Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Rao is presently exploring the connections between women's activism, spirituality, and religion. While in residence at CSWS she will be working on two chapters of her new book, *Women and Indigenous Science: Colonialism, Religion, and Women Healers in India*.



CATE SANDILANDS is an assistant professor in environmental studies at York University in Toronto. Her areas of research include contemporary social theory on nature and environmental themes, ecofeminist theory, gender, and sexuality. In

particular, her work has focused on understanding ecofeminism in light of contemporary social and political thought concerning questions around democracy, feminist "postmodernist" understandings of identity, and most recently, explorations of sexuality.

She is the author of *The Good-Natured Feminist: Ecofeminism, Identity and Democracy*, and has also authored articles on nationalism and nature, addressing wilderness and national park issues in Canada. Sandilands received her Ph.D. in sociology from York University. While in residence at CSWS, she will be working on a collection of articles exploring eroticism as a central ethical and political dimension of ecofeminism.

She writes, "I understand questions of eroticism, like those of democracy and identity, to be both 'specific problems' and basic epistemological/ontological concerns for ecofeminists. My aim is not to summarize or synthesize ecofeminist conversations on sexuality, but to show the diverse ways in which ecofeminism both enriches and is enriched by a focus on eroticism, and to give a sense of the ways in which it converses (or can converse) with other intellectual and political traditions in this area. Most notably, I would like to consider these questions as part of the development of an ecofeminist understanding of ecological citizenship, in which eroticism and sexuality are actively included in ethical, political, and spiritual struggles."



KAMALA PLATT is a poet, activist, comparative literature scholar, and visiting assistant professor at the University of Texas, San Antonio. Her research investigates contemporary narratives that expose and analyze environmental racism and demand environmental justice. To broaden her understanding of the practice and theory of political struggle, she creates her own visual, performance, and written works, and supports grassroots activism toward environmental, gender, and racial justice.

Platt received her Ph.D. in comparative literature at the University of Texas, Austin. Her book in progress, *Environmental Justice Poetics: Cultural Representations of Environmental Racism from Chicanas and South Asian Women*, investigates the practice, theory, and aesthetics of women generating cultural poetics that promote environmental justice. "Influenced by their socio-historical terrains," she writes, "these women's texts offer local historical narratives that chart a space of overlapping social concerns and often contrast with representations from outside the environmental justice movement. Furthermore, they map out global concerns that suggest an interrelated history between environmental justice and colonial and postcolonial issues."

Prior to receiving her doctorate, Platt received a master's in interdisciplinary arts from Columbia College in Chicago and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. While in Oregon, she will be working up the results of an environmental justice poetics study in the border regions of Texas and Mexico and conducting a comparative study of environmental degradation in the working and living conditions of local migrant farm workers.



OHAD EZRAHI is a leading Jewish Studies scholar and a co-director of the MINAD Institute for Spirituality and Jewish Renewal in Israel. His research focuses on the inter-relationship between spiritual and environmental studies, with a specific emphasis on the feminine component in Jewish mysticism, specifically within Lurianic Kabbalah.

Ezrahi is a naturalist, an environmental and political activist, and a photographer, as well as a teacher of the Kabbalah. In Jerusalem, he studied Kabbalah at the Sha'ar HaShamayim and philosophy, religions, Kabbalah, and literature at Hebrew University.

Ezrahi is the author of *Two are the Cherubs*. While in residence at CSWS, he will be working on a book project describing the intersections of

ecofeminism and Jewish mythic thought, specifically the female dimension implicit in the texts of Lurianic Kabbalah.

He writes: "[W]hile it is true that Judaism, or more specifically, the original Hebraic religion, grew out of a struggle with nature and the natural gods, nonetheless, the development of Kabbalah in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries signaled a revolution that progressively overturned more and more aspects of the original Hebrew religion. Kabbalah returned religious credibility to Jewish mythic thought, and at the same time, began to openly recognize the feminine side of divinity, and even more, the feminine nature within the entire creation and within the human being—man as well as woman."



SASKIA VAN OOSTERHOUT is an agricultural biologist specializing in the conservation of crop plant genetic resources and the effects of gender dynamics on traditional crop agriculture in rural Zimbabwe. As project leader for the Southern African Unit for Land Resource Development (SALRED) she has developed an integrated research program which monitors seed resource allocation and has created a community seed banking system in rural areas of Zimbabwe.

She writes, "During our research on why traditional crop varieties, which had played such an important role in people's lives for centuries, were now neglected, we learned how deeply resource management was tied up with people's spiritual connection to their ancestral lands. Once this connection was broken during the colonial era . . . people's self-esteem and valuation of the cultural heritage was broken down and became secret knowledge, mainly kept in the hands of women farmers who continued to cultivate the traditional crops for ceremonial and ritual purposes."

Van Oosterhout received her Ph.D. in agricultural biology from the University of Zimbabwe in a collaborative program with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden. She will use her residence at CSWS to write a paper examining women's views, roles, and actions in the conservation of biodiversity of traditional crops, and assessing the institutional support factors that have led women to take leadership in the management of local plant genetic resources.



Program-Related Courses and Seminars

WINTER TERM

Suzanne Clark will lead a seminar on Women, Writing, and the Environment

SPRING TERM

Irene Diamond will lead a seminar on Feminine Ecology

During both winter and spring terms there will be a bi-weekly lecture series featuring our fellows and several faculty members with research interests related to the program.



Patricia Penn Hilden



I am currently involved in three research projects. First, I am working with Shari Huhndorf, assistant professor of English, on a collection of essays about the ways in which ethnicity (particularly that involving Native America) is represented in museums, public celebrations, public memorials of various kinds, and so on. We are also editing a collection of essays that take up broader questions of ethnicity and representation, including issues that arise from First World tourism in the developing world.

Second, I am finishing a book of essays about the racialization of the U.S. West. These essays include examinations of the genealogy of Joaquin Murieta; race in *Sunset Magazine* from its founding (as the official journal of the Southern Pacific Railroad) to the 1970s; Newt Gingrich's *Saturday Evening Post* (which he told *The New York Times* held the true picture of what "we" used to be when we all knew what it was to be an American—in the 1950s); and race and Oregon Trail celebrations.

My "real" research, however, is much longer-term and involves a study of those North American Natives captured and sold into slavery in the Caribbean in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. I am beginning by studying those captured and sold by the English invaders, mostly to Barbados. From the anglophone Caribbean, I shall move on to study Haiti and the Dominican Republic where thousands of North American Indians were enslaved by the French and sold from the port of New Orleans. The last areas of research will be the Spanish and Dutch Caribbeans.

Given the enormity of the enslavement of North American Indian peoples by Europeans and their descendants, and the neglect of this subject by historians of Europe and the United States (and of slavery itself, which usually concentrates solely on the more extensive enslavement of Africans), this project is a large one. I expect it will help address the problem that has long seemed to me to distort the learning of United States history, the problem Carlos Fuentes famously addressed when he described this country as the "United States of Amnesia." Historical forgetting has, in my mind, been endemic on this continent, bolstered by the curious notion (first remarked by Jose Marti) that "our" past has its roots somewhere on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. School

children thus learn that the "cradle of our civilization" is in the Middle East while they learn almost nothing about the civilizations of our Americas. I hope to make some contribution toward correcting practices of erasure and distortion, not least as the demographics of the United States shift attention away from Greece and Rome and toward the great indigenous empires of the Americas.

Patricia Penn Hilden is director of ethnic studies, a professor of history, and a member of the Native American Communities RIG.

Karen McPherson



I tend to work on what impassions and obsesses me. I spent my dissertation years thinking, reading, and writing about women's guilt. Now, as I approach my fiftieth birthday in the year 2000, I am preoccupied with the future. My current project grew out of questions that stayed with me at the completion of my book, *Incriminations: Guilty Women/Telling Stories*. In the final chapter of that book, I explored Québec author Nicole Brossard's feminist reading of the "postmodern catastrophe" in her novel *Le Désert Mauve*. My reading of Brossard's work served as a "post(modern)script" to my analyses of the complex interrelations of narration, transgression, and gender in the works of an earlier generation of twentieth-century women writers (Woolf, Beauvoir, Duras, and Hébert). But I found myself wanting to explore further the implications of Brossard's millennial vision. While my earlier book was generated by questions of how women had come to be "incriminated" in and by writing (including their own), my current project has been articulated around questions of how recent women's writing has continually attempted (through different kinds of "archaeology" including memory work, alternative histories, and translation) to transmute the death sentence that seems to loom at the end of every narrative.

In my earlier project, the incrimination of women was shown to be associated frequently with the fact of their survival. Survival remains a critical preoccupation for me, not only because literature seems always to be making a desperate bid for it but also because the age we live in is constantly calling it into question. Many contemporary women writers are addressing the question of survival in provocative and distinctly

gender-inflected ways. In my current book, *Archaeologies of an Uncertain Future: Recent Generations of Canadian Women Writing*, I explore how a number of these writers (among them Nicole Brossard, Marie-Claire Blais, Anne Michaels, Margaret Atwood, Joy Kogawa, Daphne Marlatt, and Madeleine Ouellette-Michalska) are writing at, and of, the end of the twentieth century in a world at risk. I am interested in how they confront past and present in order to try to imagine future(s). Examining how they grapple in their novels with the tensions between degeneration and survival, memory, and amnesia, I ask what kind of role writing plays for them in the struggle against loss. My consideration of these writers' approach to our fin de siècle necessarily takes place in reference to ongoing critical discussions concerning the relationship of feminism to postmodernism, two already complex and contested theoretical constructs. Such debates have also recently been further complicated by productive if troubling encounters with cultural, postcolonial, and queer theories, all struggling with the dilemmas of identity politics and the paradoxes of a binary model of inclusion and exclusion. Within the context of these theoretical discussions, I am trying to determine what it means to be crossing the millennial threshold, what the legacies are that we bring with us, what the visions are that may move us into the future, and what the role and unique power of literature may be in conveying and realizing some of these.

Karen McPherson is an assistant professor of Romance languages.

Ellen Riordan



If you listened to what music writers said about this year's Grammy's, you might think this was the "Year of the Women" in music since the two most prestigious awards went to Celine Dion and Lauren Hill.

Even though the marked presence of women at the Grammy's this year is undeniable, this might not mean exactly what popular culture says it does.

Understanding the meaning of women in the music industry is the topic of my dissertation. More specifically, I'm looking at how college music and radio stations give voice to feminist issues. While my research in the past has been on film and television, I believe it's important for women to analyze the music

industry as a form of popular culture, since most scholarly writing in this area has been done by men, and feminist movements have often been overlooked.

Quantitatively speaking, the numbers of women in the music industry both as musicians and in management have grown. Yet as past research has shown, greater numbers don't necessarily translate into a better environment for women.

The music industry shapes and constrains the musical aesthetic, whether it be feminist or not. However, two small record labels, Kill Rock Stars and K Records, both based in Olympia, Washington, have made an effort to produce and promote women recording artists who don't shy away from expressing their rage and anger. Both of these record labels have a solid reputation in college radio for producing, promoting, and distributing feminism with an edge.

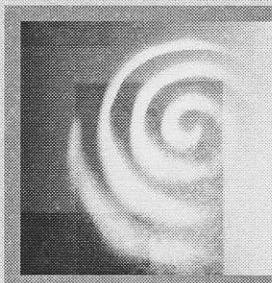
One feminist musician I'm looking at is Kathleen Hanna, formerly of the band Bikini Kill, who successfully uses college radio and underground "zines" to put forth a feminist agenda. Bikini Kill and Bratmobile, two bands from Olympia, as well as other women musicians, brought attention to what has been termed the Riot Grrrl movement. Riot Grrrls are young women who specifically use music and art to make personal experiences of sexism, racism, homophobia, sexual harassment, and date rape public. For many young women, the Riot Grrrl movement represents the third wave of feminism.

Scholars have just begun to interrogate the assumptions behind third wave feminism, and I hope to disentangle some of the mixed messages with my research into college music and the Riot Grrrl movement. Many young women who identify as third wave feminists challenge and critique existing power structures and demand change. However, there are some younger women who claim to be third wave feminists, yet have lost sight of a feminist collectivity and confuse their male-identification as power. Often a sex positive message of third wave feminism gets confused with women using their sexuality as power, presenting a lot of contradictions for feminists.

It's easy to think women have made significant strides in the music business, but when situated in a larger context of feminism, corporate media practices, and aesthetics, women's success at this particular time takes on an entirely new meaning.

Ellen Riordan is a graduate student in the School of Journalism and Communication and a member of the Women and Media RIG.





CSWS Welcomes Finnish Researcher

CSWS welcomes Marjo Vuorikoski, a researcher from the University of Tampere in Tampere, Finland, who will be a visiting scholar during fall term. As a visiting scholar, she will be developing a new research project on gender and education and investigating the gendered dimensions of traditional academic writing.

This is not Vuorikoski's first experience with the UO or CSWS. Four years ago, she participated in an exchange program and taught Finnish in the Germanic languages and literatures department. She took a few courses in women's studies and met with the International Women and Leadership RIG. When her husband, Veikko, a journalist, was awarded a Fulbright grant this year, they chose to locate in Eugene. They plan to make some site visits to newspapers in California, but will remain based at the UO. Previously, they had studied together at Stanford University. Vuorikoski, who completed her Ph.D. in adult education at the University of Tampere this past spring, says being in the United States gives her much better access to the feminist scholarship she is seeking. "Here it is much easier to get books and materials," she says. "In the U.S., there are a lot of feminist researchers who have already been writing for many years. In the field of education in Finland, there are hardly any."

Through CSWS, she plans to be involved with the Rationality, Intuition, and Gender RIG and welcomes any suggested readings by CSWS affiliates on education and autobiographical writing. When she completes her work at the UO, she will return to the University of Tampere, where she has worked as a lecturer and senior researcher since 1990.

Wednesdays at Noon

CSWS is continuing to host lunchtime talks and workshops, affectionately known as "Brown Bags," on Wednesdays between noon and 1:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Conference Room, 330 Hendricks Hall. We invite you to join us.

October 13

Denise Matthews, assistant professor, School of Journalism and Communication, "Gertrude Bass Warner Documentary Project" (video showing and discussion).

October 20

CSWS Grants Workshop, Judith Musick, associate director, CSWS. For submission deadline for CSWS Research Grants of November 15, 1999.

November 3

Bonni Cermak, graduate student, history, "Redefining Rape in Paradise: Remembering the Massie Incident."

November 17

Linda Fuller, associate professor, sociology, "Emeralds, Furs, and Sex Tours: Luxury and Global Inequality."

December 1

Marjo Vuorikoski, senior researcher in education, University of Tampere, Finland, and CSWS visiting scholar, "Gender and Education."

January 19

Alison Snyder, assistant professor, architecture, "Women and Placemaking in Traditional and Modern Turkish Villages."

When Policy Matters . . .

This year, show the public policy advocate in your life how much he or she matters to you by giving a gift that he or she will turn to again and again. *Valuing Families: The State of Oregon's Families* is packed with the latest trends, analysis, and hard data on employment, health care, housing, taxes, child care, and other vital issues facing Oregonians. It's a perfect gift for anyone who cares about the future of Oregon families—including you. Order your copies today for only \$10 each from CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403; or call (541) 346-5015.

IFU Wants YOU!

The International Women's University (International Frauenuniversität—IFU) based in Hanover is seeking applicants for its first semester to be held July 15–October 15, 2000, at six sites in Germany.

The program will select 900 women from around the world to participate in one of six topic areas: body, city, information, migration, water, and work. The IFU will provide regular courses and cooperative research with traditional workshops and lectures, as well as more nonconventional forms of cultural expression and communication. The 150 instructors will come from around the world.

For more information, pick up a brochure at CSWS or check the Web at <http://www.int.frauenuni.de>. Deadline to apply is October 15, 1999.

Kudos!

Continued from page 7

S. Marie Harvey and **Sheryl Bird**, CSWS, received funding to compare women's acceptability of two abortion methods as part of a multi-site clinical trial. The clinical trial is being funded by the Packard Foundation.

Linda Kintz, English, has been invited to join the executive committee for the women and theatre focus group of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. In addition, her article, "Performing Capital in Caryl Churchill's *Serious Money*," is forthcoming this fall in *Theatre Journal*. Last spring she gave presentations at Performance Studies International, Aberystwith, Wales; the University of Detroit–Mercy, Religious Studies Department; and Western Washington University, Bellingham.

Cheris Kramarae, Women and Environment RIG, taught a gender and language course at the International College at Beijing last spring. In addition, she has a chapter, "Feminist Fictions of Future Technology" in *Cybersociety 2.0: Revisiting Computer-Mediated Communication and Community*, Steven G. Jones, ed., Thousand Oaks: SAGE; and the article "The Language and Nature of the Internet: The Meaning of Global" in the journal *New Media & Society*.

Nancy Leeper, geography and CSWS GTF, received an International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) fellowship to participate in the Southeast European Area Studies Program in Macedonia in August. The fellowship included a language seminar in the city of Ohrid and opportunities to meet with scholars in Skopje at the University of Saints Cyril & Methodius and with representatives of various NGOs to lay groundwork for her dissertation research on humanitarian aid networks and self-help organizations in Southeastern Europe.

Deb Merskin, journalism, has the article "Adolescence, Advertising, and the Ideology of Menstruation" forthcoming in the journal *Sex Roles*. She is on leave this year at the School of Communication, University of Idaho.

Judith Musick and **Daniel Gilfillan**, CSWS, presented the paper, "The Feminist Humanities Project: Gender in History through Technology" at the annual Digital Resources in the Humanities conference in London in September.

Elizabeth Reis, history, Jewish Feminist RIG, was awarded a one-month fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. She spent July researching her book, *Angels, Gender, and American Religions*.

Kathy Saranpa, Germanic languages and literatures, received a Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies travel grant and used it for a two-week research tour in Sweden and Finland during July.

Anne Simons, psychology, and Paul Rohde of Oregon Research Institute, are Co-PIs on a National Institute of Mental Health study investigating the treatment of depression in adolescents. The study will be conducted at nine sites across the country examining the comparative effects of Prozac, individual cognitive behavior therapy, a combination of the two, and a pill placebo in teens.

Arlene Stein, sociology, has published two recent essays: "Rock Against Romance: Gender, Rock 'n' Roll, and Resistance," in *Stars Don't Stand Still in the Sky: Music and Myth*, Karen Kelly and Evelyn McDonnell, eds.; and "Clinton, the Rightwing, and 'Civilized' Sexual Morality" in the journal *SEXUALITIES*.



Calling all Women of Excellence

CSWS affiliates are invited to **Women of Excellence '99**, a reception to introduce the UO women's basketball team and honor our community's outstanding women leaders.

Join us on Thursday, November 4, 4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

The program begins at 5:15 P.M. in Gerlinger Lounge, University of Oregon.

RSVP to 346-5015 by October 26.

Research Support Grants

By Meredith Roberts Branch

CSWS awarded eleven research support grants, two Jane Grant dissertation awards, two Laurel awards, and one RIG development grant during the spring funding cycle. We extend our congratulations to the awardees. The recipients, amounts received, and proposal titles are as follows:

RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS

Wendy Larson, professor, East Asian languages and literatures: \$2,500—"In their own words: Women writers in contemporary China." Larson will interview six contemporary well-known women writers in China on women's situation in literature and more general questions concerning women. She will then translate and publish six novellas by the same authors, with the addition of a critical introduction.

Seri Luangphinit, graduate student, English: \$1,000—"Dissertation research on the literature of Hawaii." For the purpose of analyzing literary genres predominant in Hawai'ian literature, Luangphinit will do research at various institutions in Hawaii. She will also study the language, as many texts require translation from Hawai'ian into English.

Karen McPherson, assistant professor, Romance languages: \$6,000—"The future of memory." McPherson will write a book chapter examining the complex workings of memory in relation to loss, mourning, and memorializing in Kogawa's *Obasan*, Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces*, and Dupré's *La Memoria*.

Judith Raiskin, associate professor and director, women's studies: \$5,640—"Gender, ethnicity, and national identity in Hawai'ian women's writing." Demands for national sovereignty are often grounded on complicated negotiations on claims by "the indigenous" and recognitions of cultural diversity, hybridity, and creolized culture. Raiskin will write two articles that explore this tension in the fields of Hawai'ian feminism and literature.

Jessica Rothenberg-Aalami, graduate student, geography: \$1,000—"Engendering networks: The global/local in Vietnam." By examining gender in terms of global and local networks and their influence on enterprise and labor, Rothenberg-Aalami hopes to increase our understanding of the effects of export-oriented growth associated with economic renovation and regional development in Vietnam.

Sheryl Smith, graduate student, international studies: \$1,000—"Prenatal nutrition in Hawai'ian environmental spirituality." Smith's research will illustrate how food, typically viewed as medicine in Hawai'ian culture, is significant to Hawai'ian prenatal care in a religious, environmental, and medicinal sense.

Kathleen Sullivan, graduate student, women's studies/English: \$1,500—" (Trans)gendering monstrosity: Norman Bates, Buffalo Bill, and Ed Gein." This project is an investigation into the origins of the cinematic trope of the transgender/transvestite serial killer and the conflation of sexual psychopathology and transgender identity. She will critique cultural homophobia/transphobia and reveal cultural anxiety over both "proper" masculinity and "improper" mothering.

Ann Tedards, associate professor, music: \$2,100—"Twentieth-century American women composers: A retrospective." Tedards will research and present a concert of vocal chamber music composed by American women of this century.

Mary Wood, associate professor, English: \$6,000—"This puzzling narrative: Narratives of schizophrenia." For the purpose of writing two chapters of a book-length project, Wood will explore the intersections and contradictions among four genres that examine schizophrenia: psychiatric research publications, psychiatric diagnostic literature, advice and information texts directed at the general public, and autobiographies by those labeled as schizophrenic.

Stephanie Wood, assistant professor, history: \$2,500—"Mexico's founding mothers and fathers: Early Mesoamerican gender complementarity." This project will improve the Web-site *Women in Mesoamerica* by reorganizing the image database, constructing a text database, and completing an essay.

LAUREL AWARDS (two awards of \$2,000 each)

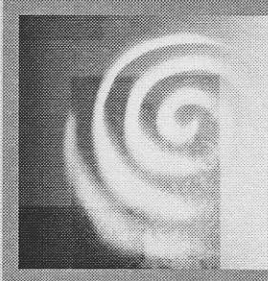
Lorraine Brundige, graduate student, philosophy. "A return to reciprocity." In order to demonstrate the importance of reciprocity among Native American women and the surrounding communities and culture, Brundige will examine the complex and interconnected nature of traditional Native values and identity, and their relationship to the feminist movement in contemporary North American society.

Yen-Ling Tsai, graduate student, anthropology. "The body of Chinese: Media representation of gendered violence in Indonesia and its effects on Chinese diaspora." This project aims to understand how the ethnic-Chinese women raped during the 1998 anti-Chinese riots in Indonesia have been portrayed by the media and conceptualized by Chinese groups overseas. Specifically, Tsai will examine how the events in Indonesia have affected the individual and group identities of Chineseness among two Chinese diaspora communities.

JANE GRANT DISSERTATION AWARDS (two awards of \$10,000 each)

Ulrike Anne Müller, sociology. "Women, national identity, and political activism in Germany." Müller's project focuses on the national identities of feminist activists, how they are imagined and articulated, and how this, in turn, affects political practices. She argues that the knowledge of how the relationship between national identity and political practices works will aid feminist activists in using difference as a force of mobilization to form global alliances.

Bich Nguyen, educational leadership, technology, and administration. "Gender equity in higher education of Vietnam: A case study of women faculty at Vietnam National University." Based on interviews with women faculty and administrators at Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Nguyen's study will assess current educational equity issues facing women in Vietnamese higher education. Her research will also explore whether gender equity strategies in education might serve as valuable policy initiatives during Vietnam's economic restructuring.



CSWS Grant Program Deadlines for 1999-2000

CSWS offers competitive grants to UO scholars whose research, travel, or study focuses on women, gender, or any aspect of women's lives.

Travel Grants

October 25, 1999, and April 10, 2000. Awards up to \$400 for graduate students and faculty

Research Support Grants

November 15, 1999, and April 24, 2000. Awards up to \$2,000 for graduate students and \$6,000 for faculty

Jane Grant

Dissertation Fellowships

April 24, 2000. Awards of \$10,000 for doctoral students

CSWS Laurel Awards

May 1, 2000. Awards of \$2,500 for graduate students

Executive Grants

Open deadline. Awards up to \$100 for graduate students, faculty, or affiliates

RIG Development Grants

Open deadline. Awards up to \$5,000 for RIG projects

Speakers and Events Grants

Open deadline. Awards up to \$300 for support of a free public event

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on dates stated; the last date to apply for an "open deadline" grant is May 1, 2000. Applications are available outside the CSWS main office door, 340 Hendricks Hall, or by mail if requested: 346-5015 or csws@oregon.uoregon.edu.

From the Garden: Notes on Development

By Judith Musick, Associate Director

I recently traveled to Kyoto to tour the gardens of my dreams. I have wanted to make this particular trip for as long as I can remember. My son, Justin, who has been living and working in Japan for over a year, invited me to visit in early April so that we could together see the real places in the many picture books that have long been a part of our home.

For three weeks we walked all over the city of Kyoto, the historic capital of Nara and the suburban hamlet of Ohara. We saw spectacular gardens and temples—all the famous spots. But as our trip progressed, I found myself increasingly and curiously underwhelmed by these historic and awesome places. Oh, the gardens were beautiful, as “perfect” as gardens can be. I didn’t see a forgotten weed that needed pulling or a single rhody to “deadhead.”

The temple gardens of Japan are reflections of the most elite, militaristic, and masculine elements of historical Japan. They are “perfect” gardens for us to look at, but I found that they are not places I could have or would have created.

In returning home, I realized how important it is to me that I am involved in what I care about. Observation is not enough. The gardens of my imagination are ones in which I can have a hand. They are places that need MY energy and creativity. They are places where I can experiment with new elements. They are never finished, never perfect. My gardens are limited by money, time, and space—the very considerations the historic temple gardens seem to defy.

These same limitations—money, time, and space—affect our CSWS garden. And I would like to invite you to help. I want you to become a financial supporter of CSWS.

Expanding our CSWS garden is an effort in which you can have a hand. You can contribute “seed” money. Every small and large gift adds to what we are able to accomplish. Large gifts can be directed to fully fund specific grants, awards, projects, or publications. Smaller gifts can be pooled with other small gifts to collectively support CSWS. For example:

Grants and Awards for Faculty and Graduate Students: Research Travel Grants, \$500 each; Graduate Student Research Awards, \$2,000 each; Faculty Research Awards, \$6,000 each

Dissemination of Research: Teaching and Tea: Bringing together UO humanities faculty members and local high school teachers to share ideas on how and what to teach about women and gender in history, literature, and foreign languages, \$250; Curriculum Grants: Awards to UO departments to incorporate research on women and gender in courses, \$10,000; Policy Matters: Our policy series, \$20,000 per issue

Center-Directed Research Projects: Menopause and Memory—How does aging and menopause affect the short-term memory of women? We are seeking \$25,000 to conduct a pilot study for this project; Welfare Reform and Family Well-Being in Oregon—\$10,000 provides an annual stipend for a graduate student research assistant.

If you want to know more about helping to support our programs, please contact me at (541) 346-5099 or by E-mail at musick@oregon.uoregon.edu.



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 Publications Order Form

- Please send me a copy of *Valuing Families: The State of Oregon's Families*. Enclosed is my check for \$10 per copy made payable to “UO/CSWS.”
- Please put me on the CSWS mailing list to receive newsletters, conference brochures, and other announcements.
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Passionate Journeys: Why Successful Women Joined a Cult

University of Michigan Press, 1999

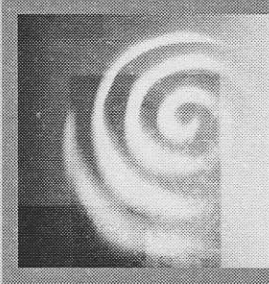
By Mimi Goldman

Passionate Journeys explores the fascinating personal stories of American women who left their families, careers, and past identities to follow Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh to his luxurious communal city in central Oregon in the 1980s. Hundreds of thousands of young Americans and western Europeans passed through the Rajneesh Ashram in Pune, India, during the previous decade, and several thousand eventually settled amidst the boutiques and cafes that they built at Rajneeshpuram, their thriving community on the Big Muddy Ranch.

The extensive interviews with the accomplished women who lived at Rajneeshpuram provided insight into how and why they affiliated with a spiritual master and the movement surrounding him. The devotees' life histories illuminate the general ways in which American women balance love, work, and spirituality. While the women who lived at Rajneeshpuram are intriguing in them-

selves, they share the restless search for confirmation in the eyes of others that is embedded in the experience of many, if not most, other women.

In their quests for spiritual meaning, the women of Rajneeshpuram embodied the great shifts that reshaped America's religious marketplace after World War II. Their searches for significance, value, and positive senses of self represented the intersection of their personal quests for meaning with the changing social institutions of their times. More than a decade after Rajneeshpuram collapsed, the Osho/Rajneesh movement continues and all of the women still quest for spiritual fulfillment. The University of Oregon Knight Library's Special Collections houses a wonderful archive of published and unpublished materials by and about the women and men who lived at Rajneeshpuram. There are other collections that also deal with issues of gender, spiritualities, and movements for social change.



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