

# Center

from the

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

## Piven is Keynote Speaker at Conference

**Work, Welfare, and Politics Offers More Than 100 Presentations February 28-29**

Is any type of work better than welfare? Is participation in the labor force the only way to move families out of poverty and into self-sufficiency? How do new welfare policies impact the lives of service providers as well as recipients? These questions and many more will be addressed at the Work, Welfare, and Politics conference to be held February 28-29 at the University of Oregon. The conference will bring together state and national researchers, advocates, policy makers, and community members 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 event, which features four plenary presentations and twenty-five additional panels, is co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Society and the Labor Education and Research Center with a grant from the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics.

Frances Fox Piven, one of the foremost authorities on poverty and politics in the United States, will give the keynote address, "The Rich, the Poor, and American Politics" at 1:00 p.m. on February 29 in the EMU Ballroom. Piven, distinguished professor of political science at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, has conducted research over the past twenty-five years on social welfare policy, poor people's political mobilization, and electoral politics. This year Piven holds the Morse Chair in Law and Politics at the UO.

Other plenary presentations include:

- **Welfare and Poverty in Oregon**, 8:30 a.m., February 28, Gerlinger Lounge  
Joan Acker and Sandra Morgen, CSWS; Jo Ann Bowman, Oregon House of Representatives, District 19, Portland; Lorey Freeman, Oregon Law Center, Portland; and Sandie Hoback, Adult and Family Services, Salem.
- **The New Welfare Policies and Poverty in the U.S.**, 7:00 p.m., February 28, EMU Ballroom  
Cheri Honkala, Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Philadelphia; Frances Fox Piven, City University of New York; Adolph Reed, New School for Social Research, New York
- **Working Out of Poverty?** 8:30 a.m., February 29, Gerlinger Lounge  
Randy Albelda, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Jared Bernstein, Economic Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.; Carol Stack, University of California, Berkeley

Terri Heath, CSWS research associate, is coordinator of the conference. "This is a unique idea," she says. "There have certainly been welfare conferences, but they've usually been for researchers or practitioners, and they haven't had policy makers, administrators, or advocates at the table." In the early stages of planning, she says there wasn't a strong response from administrators or policy makers. "But we didn't give up. We made contacts with people and invited them to join," she says. "We hope that bringing these groups together will enable them to form working coalitions based on their expertise."

The conference is free and open to the public. A schedule and list of panels is on page 3.

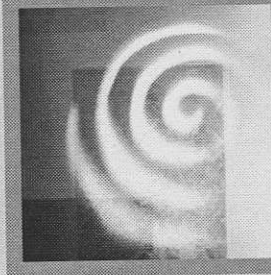
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Frances Fox Piven

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## Wednesdays at Noon

CSWS is continuing its series of noon talks and workshops, known as our "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. Call 346-5015 for information and program updates.

**January 19:** Alison Snyder, assistant professor, architecture, "Women and Placemaking in Traditional and Modern Turkish Villages."

**February 2:** Amalia Gladhart, assistant professor, Romance languages, "Gender and Memory in Contemporary Latin American Women's Fiction."

**February 16:** Elizabeth Reiss, assistant professor, history, "Heaven Help Us: Angels, Gender, and American Religions."

**March 15:** Anne DePrince, graduate student, psychology, "Testing Betrayal Trauma Predictions: Memory and Emotional Meaning for Traumas among Women."

**March 29:** Helen Valliantos, graduate student, anthropology, "Eating for Two: A Biocultural Analysis of Food Consumption during Pregnancy."

**April 5:** CSWS Grants Workshop: S. Marie Harvey, research director, CSWS. For April and May 2000 submission deadlines for CSWS research grants and fellowships.

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

**10:** Shirley Marc will be presenting a synopsis from "The Psychology of Health, Immunity, and Disease" conference sponsored by the National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, to the Women's Health and Development RIG.

**13-14:** Professors Marisa Belaustegoiguitia, University of Mexico, and Norma Alarcon, University of California, Berkeley, will talk about Third Woman Press (which Alarcon founded) and their work with the indigenous women of Chiapas. Sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Program.

**12:** Barbara Altmann, associate professor of Romance languages, will present "Christine de Pizan, First Lady of the Middle Ages," at 4:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, as part of the "Teaching and Tea" series sponsored by the Feminist Humanities Project.

**20:** Professor Esther da Costa Meyer of Princeton University will present "Ladies' Paradise? Consumption, Gender, and Pathology in Nineteenth-Century Paris" at 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the (Post-) Modernities section of the Reclaiming the Past RIG.

**TBA:** Discussion of "Maria's Disease: A National Novel (con)Founded" from Doris Sommer's Foundational Fictions. Sponsored by the Jewish Feminist RIG. For reading selections, contact Shirley Marc at [csws@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:csws@oregon.uoregon.edu).

### FEBRUARY

**9:** Gina Psaki, associate professor of Romance languages, will present "The Maiden Knight: The Roman de Silence and the Romantic Tradition," at 4:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, as part of the "Teaching and Tea" series sponsored by the Feminist Humanities Project.

**28-29:** "Work, Welfare, and Politics" conference co-sponsored by CSWS and the Labor Education Research Center, with a grant from the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics.

### MARCH

**3:** "Transformations: Women in History" is a one-day conference for high school students and teachers to celebrate Women's History Day and learn about women past and present who have shaped history. Sponsored by Teaching the Past in the Present.

### APRIL

**12:** South Eugene High School teacher Florence Alvergue will present "Kate Chopin: A Feminist Voice at le Fin de Siecle," at 4:00 p.m. in the Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, as part of the "Teaching and Tea" series sponsored by the Feminist Humanities Project.

**17-21:** Poet and writer Simon Ortiz will be in residence at the UO, sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Program.

# work, welfare, and politics

## SCHEDULE:

### February 28

8:30–10:30 a.m.

• **Plenary:** Welfare and Poverty in Oregon, Gerlinger Lounge

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

• **Concurrent panels,** various campus locations

1:30–5:00 p.m.

• **Concurrent panels,** various campus locations

7:00 p.m.

• **Plenary:** The New Welfare Politics and Poverty in the U.S., EMU Ballroom

### February 29

8:30–10:00 a.m.

• **Plenary:** Working Out of Poverty? Gerlinger Lounge

10:15–11:45 a.m.

• **Concurrent panels,** various campus locations

1:00–2:15 p.m.

• **Keynote:** The Rich, the Poor, and American Politics, EMU Ballroom

2:30–4:00 p.m.

• **Concurrent panels,** various campus locations

## PANELS:

- Beyond Welfare (Reform) As We Know It: Progressive Policy Alternatives
- Devolving Welfare to the States: Policy Differences and Outcomes

- Framing Messages about Poverty and Welfare
- Higher Education and Welfare Policy
- Historicizing Debates on Welfare
- Low-wage Labor Market
- Networks as a Resource for Poor Families
- Race, Racism, and Welfare Reform
- Reducing Caseloads? Poverty? What is the Relationship?
- ReRegulating the Poor
- Researcher/Advocate Collaboration to Reform Welfare Reform
- Rhetoric and Reality: What is the Real Agenda of State Welfare Policies?
- Success from Whose Perspective?
- The Impact of Welfare Reform on Urban Neighborhoods and Community Organizations
- The Politics of Welfare and Work
- The Unraveling Safety Net
- Welfare Advocacy/Organizing
- Welfare and Citizenship
- Welfare Policy, Motherhood, and Family Law
- Welfare Reform and Family Well-Being
- Welfare Reform and Immigration
- Welfare Workers and Welfare Reform
- Welfare-to-Work: How is it Working?
- Women's Work at Home and in the Community: How Should it be Valued?

## “Transformations” to Celebrate Women’s History

Local high school students and teachers will get a new take on women’s history at the “Transformations: Women in History” symposium on Friday, March 3. The event, sponsored by the Teaching the Past in the Present branch of the Feminist Humanities Project, offers a day of short workshops and plenary sessions on topics as diverse as women painters, poison and power in ancient Rome, and warrior women in Anglo-American folksong, led by CSWS affiliates, UO faculty, and community members. “Our focus—important new research on the intersections of gender, culture, and history—will inspire high school students to celebrate with us the stories and achievements of women past and present, and will provide all participants with the resources to explore these issues in their own lives,” said Jan Emerson and Louise Bishop, organizers of the event. As many as 100 high school students and teachers will begin the day with a session at Gerlinger Lounge, featuring Sen. Susan Castillo, District 20. Two half-hour workshops with between fifteen and twenty-five participants each will be held in the morning; two more sessions will be held in the afternoon. The day’s events will close with a reception.

Workshops include: Dianne Dugaw, “Warrior Women in Anglo-American Folksong and History;” Beth Hege Piatote, “Native American Autobiography;” Paula Butterfield, “Re-visioning Art History: Remembering Women Painters;” Barbara Altmann, “The Many Joans of Arc;” Kathleen Karlyn, “Women and Film;” Cristina Calhoun, “Poison and Power in Ancient Rome;” and Lynn Stephen, “Women’s Participation in Politics in Latin America.”

The planning committee included Jan Emerson, CSWS; Florence Alvergue of South Eugene High School; Diane Downey of the International High School; Louise Bishop of the Clark honors college; and Judith Musick, CSWS. For more information, contact Jan Emerson at 346-2263 or jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu.



## Ecological Conversations Seminar Offered

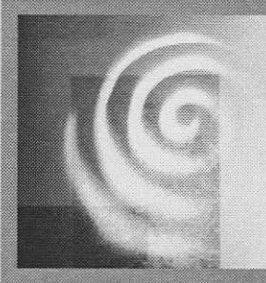
This bimonthly seminar, offered both winter and spring terms, will showcase the visiting fellows in residence at CSWS as part of the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship Program, Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred. Topics include:

- Cultural poetics from Chicana and South Asian women that promote environmental justice
- Women-led environmental justice movements in the United States linking equity and sustainability
- Ecofeminist understanding of ecological citizenship
- Feminine qualities of soil in creating and maintaining our environment
- Women healers and indigenous science in India

**When:** January 13 and 20; February 10 and 24; March 9; 10:00 a.m.–noon

**Where:** To be announced  
**Who:** All university faculty, staff, and students (credit available)

Contact Lynne Fessenden for more information at lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu or 346-5399.



## Alison J. Ball

My professional interests are not separate from my family and tribal obligations: I want to contribute to a higher quality of life for Indian people. Before I began my Ph.D. program in Special Education and Rehabilitation at the University of Oregon, I worked closely with tribal, city, county, state, and federal agencies while developing and implementing educational and social service programs. My dissertation, "How Background Factors Impact Substance Abuse Patterns Among American Indian Youth in Treatment," was a quantitative study designed not only for the scientific community, but so that the community and the treatment center could utilize the results and conclusions for program improvement.

As part of completing my degree, I participated in a leadership grant, "Remediation of Conduct Disorders and Antisocial Behavior Patterns." Working on this program helped ensure that my cohorts and I could work effectively with a range of disciplines and service agencies while addressing serious antisocial behavior patterns and conduct disorders.

I am currently working as a program director with Tom Dishion in the psychology department on the Shadow Project, which studies the benefits of engaging American Indian families in the treatment of their adolescent youth who have been referred for drug and alcohol problems. I also work as the multicultural affairs coordinator for the University Affiliated Program under the College of Education. The program advocates and facilitates access to university and community-based services for people with disabilities.

On a personal note, I am an enrolled Colville tribal member from Washington State. My father gave me the name Humish, meaning Mourning Dove. I come from a family of fifteen brothers and sisters, of which three are deceased. My husband, Tom Ball, who also graduated from the same program, is a researcher at Oregon Social Learning Center. Our son, Kevin, fourteen, attends high school in Eugene. My four stepchildren are all working, raising children, and going to school. I participate in the Native American Communities Research Interest Group (RIG), which supports culturally appropriate research in native communities.

*Alison Ball is a member of the CSWS Executive Committee.*

## Ellen Herman

As a historian of modern behavioral science and social engineering, I am fascinated by the tendency to consider social relations and even personhood as opportunities for ambitious design and control. For the past few years, I have been exploring the history of twentieth-century child adoption in the United States. It is difficult to imagine a more elemental human drama than the one involving children who need new parents. How do they come to know who they are and with whom they belong? How does anyone? In modern adoption, I see the telltale traces of deliberate rationalization as well as compelling stories of identity and belonging. Exchanging children is an ancient and cross-cultural practice. Virtually every human society has devised some means of transferring children between adults and households for reasons of love, labor, and property. But only during this century has the process of "making up" families relied so heavily on professional management, public regulation, standardized laws and procedures, uniform qualifying tests, and scientific research that seeks to reveal what makes adoption—and adoptees—turn out best.

A paradox lives at the heart of modern adoption theory and practice. By turning strangers into kin, non-relative adoption extends the definition of kinship beyond genes and biology. Acquiring children by purely social means challenges the ideology that blood is thicker than water. Yet the social architecture of modern adoption has equated "matching" with authenticity, and "matching" means that adults who raise children born to others should look, feel, and behave as if they had conceived those children themselves. Deliberately engineering similarity (or at least its appearance) has reinforced the cultural superiority of biogenetic kinship over social ties. Campaigns to improve and dignify adoption have often denied one of the most obvious and important things about it: adoption is a different way to make a family.

My research aims to document and interpret the paradoxical story of kinship systematically designed to erase itself, as if it had not been "made" at all. I hope the project will be relevant to contemporary conversations about what families are and what children need, as well as historical scholarship about social knowledge and its public uses.

*Ellen Herman is an assistant professor of history and a member of the Sex, Gender, and the Law RIG.*

## Kudos!

**Ayşe Agiş**, Reclaiming the Past RIG, gave a talk at the "Modernism and Postcolonialism" seminar of the New Modernisms Conference at Penn State University, October 7–10, on "Joyce and Postcolonialism."

**Gaylene Carpenter**, arts and administration, presented the paper, "Stability and Change in Perceptions of Leisure and Wants-Out-of-Life Among Mid-Life Adults: A Longitudinal Examination," at the Leisure Research Symposium for the National Recreation and Park Association on October 21.

Law professor **Leslie Harris** of the Sex, Gender, and the Law RIG, spoke about "Minimally Adequate Parenting" to a state-wide conference in October of juvenile court-affiliated members of Citizen Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocates. In November she addressed "Parental Rights, Children's Rights, and Reasonable Efforts in Child Welfare Cases" at the 1999 Western Regional Symposium on Child Abuse and Sexual Assault (the SCAR Symposium), a meeting attended by police officers, mental health workers, and child welfare and juvenile court officials from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Law professor **Lisa Kloppenberg** spoke about "Judging on the Edge" in October at the annual meeting of the National Association of Women Judges in Miami. She discussed avoiding constitutional questions, alternative dispute resolution, gender roles, and therapeutic judging with this group of judges representing all levels of state courts, federal courts, and administrative agencies.

**Suzanne Kocher**, Reclaiming the Past RIG, completed her Ph.D. in June and accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor in modern languages at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

**Chaone Mallory**, Women and Environment RIG, has written an ecofeminist critique of the hunting narratives in the writings of Aldo Leopold, a "founding father" of the American conservation movement. Her article, "Acts of Objectification and the Repudiation of Dominance: A Critical Analysis of Aldo Leopold and the Ethics of Hunting," will appear in the peer-reviewed journal, *Ethics and the Environment*, in fall 2000.

**Madonna Moss**, Reclaiming the Past RIG, has published "Northern Northwest Coast Regional Overview" in a recent issue of *Arctic Anthropology*.

The research of **Jennifer Freyd** and **Anne DePrince**, both psychology, was highlighted in the September issue of *Psychological Science*, a journal of the American Psychological Society. Their study showed that people with a high level of dissociative behavior may have different ways of attending to and remembering information, and that dissociation—the lack of integrating thoughts, feelings, and experiences into the stream of consciousness—may be adaptive for trauma survivors.

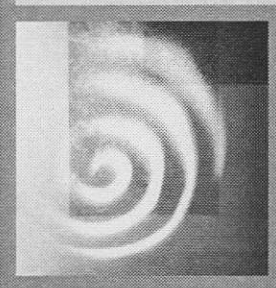
**Lynn Stephen**, CSWS executive committee, was one of three UO faculty members to receive a \$30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Heather Tanner**, Reclaiming the Past RIG, was awarded a Medieval Academy of America travel grant in order to present a paper at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies conference on Alternative Perspectives of the Crusades at Binghamton University in October. The title of the paper was, "In his Brothers' Shadow: The Crusading Career and Reputation of Eustace III of Boulogne." She also organized the panel, "Images and Traditions of the Early Crusades."

The Women in Math Web site created by **Marie Vitulli**, Rationality, Intuition, and Gender RIG, with partial funding from CSWS, has received much praise and recognition. It was chosen by the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse as one of January 1999's digital dozen and as a Site of the Day for August 4, 1998, on New Scientist Planet Science. Visit the site at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~wmmmath>

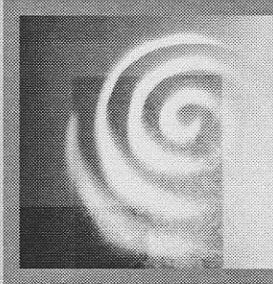
## Women's Studies Faculty Fellowships Awarded

Julia Lesage, English, and Ayşe Agiş, women's studies, are the winners of the 1999 Women's Studies Faculty Fellowship. Lesage will teach a course called "Lesbians and Gays in Film" and Agiş will offer "Women and War" during the 2000–2001 academic year. The fellowship is a CSWS-funded award of \$2,000 for course development and \$1,000 for new course materials.



## Good News!

Do members of your RIG have good news to share? Drop a line to Beth at [piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu](mailto:piatote@darkwing.uoregon.edu) and put **kudos!** in the subject line.



# LISTENING TO AND LEARNING FROM WOMEN ABOUT NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Women's control over their own reproductive health and fertility has been an enduring goal of feminism. Early feminists realized that achieving gender equality rested on women's ability to decide whether and when they want to bear children. If women are to achieve full social and economic equality, they must have full access to a continuum of pregnancy prevention and termination options.

Marie Harvey, CSWS director of research, has made women's acceptability of new reproductive health technologies one of the primary foci of the Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative (WHARI), which she directs. Harvey is also co-editor of the 1998 book, *The New Civil War: The Psychology, Culture, and Politics of Abortion*. This January marks the twenty-seventh anniversary of the historic Roe v. Wade court case, in which women were guaranteed the right to safe abortions and "choice" in decisions affecting their reproductive health. In recent years, new forms of contraception have become available, and WHARI researchers have broken critical ground in studying women's perceptions of and experiences with these new methods. They believe that new reproductive technologies must be developed to fit women, rather than asking women to change to fit technology. The following summaries on emergency contraception and new abortion methods provides insight into the work undertaken by WHARI researchers and their colleagues.

## Emergency Contraception

Advances in reproductive technologies have improved women's health by offering more options for preventing unintended pregnancy. Due to factors such as contraceptive failure, unplanned intercourse and rape, women do and always will need a method of postcoital contraception. The FDA has approved two products for emergency contraception (also known as "morning after pills"). The typical regimen involves taking one dose of pills within seventy-two hours after unprotected sex, followed by another dose



twelve hours later. Recent data confirm that women who follow this regimen will reduce their risk of pregnancy by 75 percent.

Although some health providers have been aware of the emergency contraception regimen since the mid-1970s, the earlier lack of FDA approval kept knowledge of this method among women and providers quite low. Few studies have examined women's experiences and satisfaction with this method. If this new contraceptive technology is to be adopted, women must be willing to use the method and find it acceptable. In order to investigate this issue, Marie Harvey and Sheryl Bird, with their colleagues at

the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, have conducted research that examines women's perceptions of and experiences with emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs). Harvey, along with colleagues Linda Beckman and Diana Petitti, conducted research that involved 235 women who had used ECPs to learn their perceptions of and experiences with the pills. Despite unpleasant side effects, the vast majority of those surveyed were satisfied with ECPs and would use the method again. More than two-thirds were using a contraceptive method prior to their need for ECPs; nearly one-half of this group reported their need for ECPs was based on condom failure.

In another study, Harvey, Bird, and Beckman explored Mexican women's knowledge and perceptions of ECPs. Although a third of the women had heard about ECPs, their knowledge was very limited, and many confused ECPs with the French abortion pill, RU486. Once the women had correct information, nearly all said that they would use ECPs and that they were an important option for women. Nevertheless, participants indicated that Mexican women's acceptance and use of ECPs will likely depend on a host of factors within the broader context of their lives.

### Abortion

Despite the advances made in contraceptive methods, including emergency contraception, women still have unintended pregnancies and need access to abortion. A new abortion method, mifepristone (RU486), originated in France but has not yet been approved for use in the United States. However, in anticipation of mifepristone's approval, Harvey and her colleagues at PIWH conducted a study of potential users, finding that more than one-third were interested in the method and would choose mifepristone if it were available. In a later study, Harvey and colleagues examined women's actual experiences with and perceptions of the drug. Among women in a clinical trial who used mifepristone, the vast majority were satisfied with the method and would use it again. Women in both studies said that mifepristone presented an option for a more "natural" abortion that did not involve a surgical procedure.

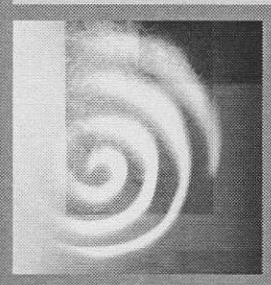
A second, non-surgical abortion method uses methotrexate, a drug that has already been approved—albeit for other medical purposes—and is legally sold in the U.S. Methotrexate is administered via injection; women then complete the abortion in the privacy of their own homes, as the process can take anywhere from two to seven days. In a recent study conducted by Harvey, Beckman and Sarah Satre, 304 women had a choice between a traditional, surgical abortion or a methotrexate-induced abortion. Women who chose medical abortion

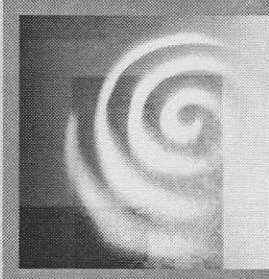
more highly valued a method that is holistic, non-surgical, like a natural miscarriage, and can take place in a less medicalized setting. These women also had higher tolerance than surgical patients for certain characteristics linked to methotrexate-induced abortions (i.e., longer and heavier bleeding, more pain, uncomfortable side effects, and less predictability). In contrast, women who chose surgical abortion placed more importance on the predictability, comfort and convenience of a well-known, and quickly completed method. Whichever method they chose, women were generally satisfied, reported that they would choose the method again, and would recommend it to friends.

Harvey and colleagues have also done extensive interviews with providers of both methotrexate and surgical abortions. A theme that dominated providers' remarks involved the importance of options for women. They also said that women perceived methotrexate abortions as more natural, gentle, and less traumatic than surgical abortions. As one provider mused: "Women who choose it are in what some call the 'granola' group, or, the Santa Fe group. A lot of our patients use alternative therapies for all sorts of things, and are mistrustful of traditional medicine and surgery." However, the method is not for everyone; its prolonged process, lower effectiveness, and greater unpredictability compared to surgical abortion make it problematic for some women.

Another abortion method not widely used in the U.S., manual vacuum aspiration (MVA), involves emptying the uterus with a hand-held syringe. The procedure is very simple, quick, and requires little in the way of expensive technology or equipment. Because no studies to date have examined U.S. women's satisfaction with MVA, Bird and Harvey are working with researchers at Oregon Health Sciences University to explore women's perceptions of and their experiences with MVA. In addition, with researchers at Pacific Institute for Women's Health, Johns Hopkins University, and Oregon Health Sciences University, Bird and Harvey will be initiating a comparison study of women's satisfaction with MVA and the standard electrical vacuum aspiration procedure. If women find this abortion technique as acceptable as the standard surgical procedure, MVA could potentially expand access to abortion services, particularly in rural areas where there are no clinics or hospitals.

New reproductive technologies give women more options and alternatives for controlling their fertility and not one method can fit all. As one study participant said, "You have to process it through your own situation. Maybe you have economic problems or strong religious feelings or whatever. I don't think that the medical facts are the be-all, end-all of the situation."





## EC Grant Opportunity

CSWS invites University of Oregon faculty and adjunct faculty members to submit research proposals on topics related to the themes of the Ecological Conversations Fellowship Program. The second year of the program will address issues of scientific practice. Themes of particular interest are: the history and contemporary understanding of evolutionary theory and natural history; how scientific concepts and research are translated into public environmental discourse; ecofeminist visions of science and technology; new approaches to issues of reproduction and population; the history and practice of indigenous sciences; and studies of new scientific paradigms. Two grants of \$6,000 each will be awarded for the 2000–2001 academic year.

The deadline for proposals is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2000. Contact Lynne Fessenden for applications and guidelines at 346-5399 or [lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:lfessend@oregon.uoregon.edu).

# University Faculty Members to Join Conversation on Gender and Ecology

By Lynne Fessenden

Professors Robin Morris Collin, law, and Greg Retallack, geology, have received CSWS faculty research grants in conjunction with the Ecological Conversations Fellowship Program. The awardees plan to use the funds for ongoing book projects, and will present and discuss their projects during the Ecological Conversations seminar series this term (see page 3). CSWS offered the \$6,000 grants to support faculty participation in the Rockefeller Foundation funded program, Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred, that will bring national and international scholars to the university over the next three years.

### Robin Morris Collin



Robin Morris Collin, professor of law, joined the University of Oregon faculty in 1993; she received her law degree from Arizona State University. Throughout her career, she has been a committed activist and

advocate for environmental justice both nationally and statewide. Collin continues to work at the forefront of the environmental justice movement, which has coalesced around the leadership of women—usually poor women—and people of color, because they have carried an unequal burden from the waste and pollution associated with industrial development. For several years, Collin has stressed the importance of linking equity and sustainability within the environmental movement. She is now beginning to see a shift in environmental decision making that reflects a change in values from an industrial paradigm to one rooted in balancing sustainability and equity.

Collin will use her CSWS grant to finish a book she is writing with her husband, Robert W. Collin, describing this new paradigm, and the ways in which it is being implemented by women-led, community-based groups in the United States. *Right Choices: Sustainable and Equitable Decision Making* will serve as a bridge between the vast literatures of environmental justice and sustainability. She writes, "(T)he literature on environmental justice and the literature of sustainability have acquired a disturbing secondary identification along racial lines. The literature of sustainability and sustainable development in the United States is dominated by white men from privileged institutions, while the literature of environmental justice is primarily by and about people of color. Our work is a necessary bridge between the two dialogues that must be made."

### Greg Retallack



Greg Retallack joined the faculty of geological sciences in 1981. A native of Australia, he received his Ph.D. from the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales. He has devoted his scientific career

to the study of fossil soils, and is puzzled by the popular disregard for the fundamental role soil plays in shaping life on our planet. In between his many field trips to multiple continents to collect soil samples, he has conceived of a book project that aims to popularize the role of soil in creating and maintaining our environment.

Retallack will use his CSWS grant to write *Soil Goddess*, a short trade book aimed at promoting an appreciation for soil. He writes, "Although widely overlooked and underrated, soil is the ultimate real estate for life on this planet. Soil can be considered a physical embodiment of scientific Gaia theory for the regulation of our living world. There is much new evidence from buried soils for control of atmospheric composition, rivers, rainfall, and nutrient cycling back to the beginnings of the planet. A scientific case can also be made for the origin of life in the soil. Soil is the ultimate source of nutrients for all living things. It filters water and air, and recycles the dead. Soil is a feminine principle in our world in the sense that it nurtures and preserves life against violent forces of destruction such as earthquakes and volcanoes. With a mix of scientific fact and hypothesis, mythopoesis and poetry, I hope to engender a new and timely appreciation for soil."



## New RIG: Violence, Gender, and Society

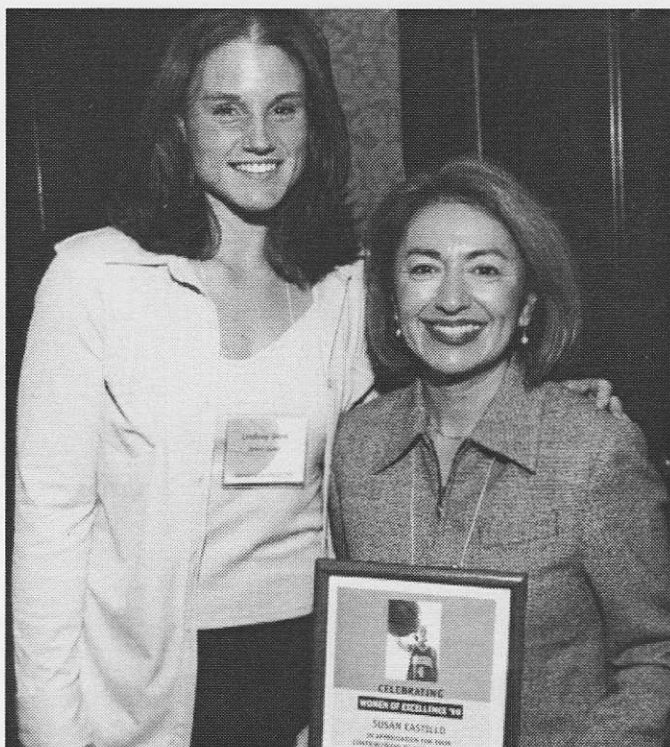
The Violence, Gender, and Society RIG is a newly formed group interested in the many ways violence impacts the lives of women. Formerly a subgroup of the Women's Health and Development RIG, a small core of researchers decided that there was enough interest to address many perspectives on this topic, thus warranting a stand-alone RIG. The research backgrounds of the existing core group represent sociology, developmental psychology, special education, public health, and theology. With a focus on applied research, we decided that an initial activity of the group would be to seek collaboration with a local agency. After contacting Womenspace, a domestic violence shelter, we embarked on a program evaluation of their Transitional Program, which provides case management and, in some cases, housing, to women who have left abusive relationships. This yearlong study will include self-esteem and social support questionnaires, current status and program satisfaction measures, as well as a small number of in-depth interviews with former clients. While focused on this study, the group also hopes to provide a forum for a discussion of issues on a wide variety of topics of interest to other researchers across campus. For more information, contact Deborah Olson, 346-2483 or [dolson@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:dolson@oregon.uoregon.edu).

## Basketball Event Brings New Fans to CSWS

Peg Rees remembers the moment she became a feminist: it was the day she was told she couldn't play sports because she was a girl. "And it was my ball," she told a crowd of 150 CSWS and women's basketball fans at the second annual "Women of Excellence" event on November 4 in Gerlinger Lounge. Rees, director of physical education at the UO, served as emcee to a program that brought together outstanding women leaders from the Eugene community and the University of Oregon Women's Basketball Team.

Fifteen women who had distinguished themselves professionally and in community service were honored by CSWS at the event and served as presenters of the women's basketball team, which has distinguished itself by making six straight NCAA tournament appearances.

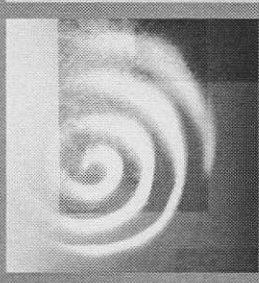
The popularity of women's sports, and of the UO women's basketball team, has grown tremendously in recent years, a trend that Rees sees as an outcome of the passage of Title Nine, a federal law that required schools to support women's sports on par with men's. The CSWS event, she said, brought together women who worked for parity in sports and other activities and continue to do so. "They have different missions now, but the out-



*Lindsey Dion of the UO women's basketball team and State Senator Susan Castillo were two of the "Women of Excellence" honored November 4.*

come is the same: better opportunities for women," Rees said.

Among the women who were honored as presenters were: Ann Aiken, Ruby Brockett, Charlene Carter, Susan Castillo, Liz Cawood, Marian Friestad, Carla Gary, Margaret Hallock, Robin Jaqua, Sue Thorson Keene, Wendy Larson, Jean Phelps, Kitty Piercy, Ann Tedards, and Lois Youngen.



## RIG Directory

**Gender in Historical and TransNational China**  
Bryna Goodman,  
[bgoodman@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:bgoodman@oregon.uoregon.edu)

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**Native American Communities**  
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Ayse Agis, [aagis@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:aagis@oregon.uoregon.edu)

**Sex, Gender, and the Law**  
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**Violence, Gender, and Society**  
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**Women in Vietnam**  
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**Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring**  
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**Women's Health and Development**  
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Lisa Foisy, [lfoisy@oregon.uoregon.edu](mailto:lfoisy@oregon.uoregon.edu)

# Travel Grant Recipients

By Meredith Roberts Branch

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 on issues regarding women and gender. CSWS awarded nine travel grants during the fall funding cycle. The recipients are as follows:

**Geraldine Moreno**, associate professor, anthropology, to attend the American Anthropological Association meeting in Chicago. In addition to presenting two papers, Moreno will be involved in several other professional activities at the conference, many of which revolve around her position as the treasurer of the Association of Feminist Anthropologists.

**Regina Psaki**, associate professor, Romance languages, to attend the conference "Dante 2000" at Columbia University in New York City. Psaki will present a paper entitled "Beatrice, the Body, and the Beatitude in the *Divine Comedy*." In this paper she contests the traditional, scholarly analysis and understanding of medieval thinking about gender and sexuality.

**Barbara Cook**, graduate student, English, to attend a conference sponsored by the Western Literature Association in Sacramento, California. Cook will present a paper entitled "Casting the White Spectator: Do Tarantino's Films Open Space for Black Voices to Speak?" In her presentation, she examines film director Quentin Tarantino's appropriation of black urban culture and his representation of an aging black woman in the movie "Jackie Brown."

**Kari Marie Norgaard**, graduate student, sociology, to attend the Pacific Sociological Association conference in San Diego, California. She will present a paper that examines ecofeminist constructions of closeness between women and nature, and whether these interpretations reinforce gender norms that alienate men. Norgaard investigates the contradictions inherent to this theme by studying the connections between men and nature, and ways that women are more distant from nature.

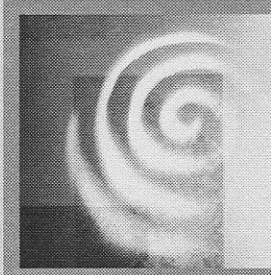
**Robin Pappas**, graduate student, comparative literature, to attend the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She will present a paper entitled "The Topology of Pornotopia," in which she considers the ways pornographic forms project an example of utopian vision by using sexuality as its vehicle for expression. Pappas also explores how utopian ideologies combine with sexual representation to produce fantasy and sociopolitical critique.

**Marcella Salvi**, graduate student, Romance languages, to attend a conference in Tucson, Arizona, on women writers of medieval and early modern Spain and colonial Latin America. She will present a paper that examines the intersection of gender and political power in two plays by Ana Caro and Lope de Vega.

**Kate Sullivan**, graduate student, women's studies, to attend the South Central Modern Language Association conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Sullivan will participate in a panel that deals with representations of gender in the novels of Stephen King. Her paper, "Suffering Men/Becoming a Man," examines the contradictory construction of masculinity in a collection of King novellas, *Different Seasons*.

**Barbara Sutton**, graduate student, sociology, to attend the Pacific Sociological Association conference in San Diego, California. She will present a paper that examines the relationship between women and globalization through the lens of interlocking systems of hierarchy. Through her analysis of the complex and contradictory effects of globalization on women in different countries, she implicates the interacting systems of inequality that have resulted, and explores global resistance strategies that might strengthen women's solidarity across borders.

**Helen Vallianatos**, graduate student, anthropology, to attend a conference sponsored by the Association for Women in Development in Washington, D.C. Vallianatos will participate in a panel discussion on the need for and process of including disability issues, particularly those of women, in international development.



## CSWS Grant Program Deadlines for 1999-2000

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

### Travel Grants

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

### Research Support Grants

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 to 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](mailto:csws@oregon.uoregon.edu)

# Feminist Scholarship Crosses Borders

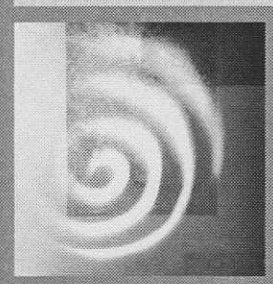
By Sandra Morgen

I write this column in the immediate aftermath of massive protests of the World Trade Organization (WTO) by one of the broadest political coalitions in recent U.S. history. One of the more astute comments by a media analyst of these events was that the Seattle demonstrations suggest a fundamental shift in the framing of a wide variety of issues—from being about world or “free” trade to being about globalization, democratization, and, ultimately, economic and environmental justice. The importance of this reframing should not be underestimated. While political advocates and activists were responsible for the power and impact of this highly successful mobilization, it is important to realize that part of the groundwork for this conceptual shift has been developing in the scholarship of a wide variety of researchers, including feminist scholars, both internationally and in the U.S. At a time when many of us are troubled that so much U.S. feminist theory is only distantly related to the realities of the lives of women and families across the world, it is heartening to see that feminist scholars studying global economic restructuring, “third world” and indigenous feminisms, and international relations have been part of the critical mass whose efforts have culminated in changing the political discourse about world trade.

Today, a number of our Research Interest Groups are involved in scholarly activities both influenced by and contributing to the kind of reframing I discuss above. “Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred,” has at its heart the exploration of the convergence of women’s and environmental movements across the globe.

Other RIGs are similarly positioned for discussions about the increasingly complex linkages between the economies, educational and state apparatuses, popular cultures, and social movements that result from and help to shape global capital flows, corporatization, and the new international political alliances and decision-making bodies that were the focus of so much discussion in relation to the WTO. Both the Gender in Historical and Transnational China and the Women and Gender in Vietnam RIGs are involved in planning conferences that will examine aspects of transnationalism and international collaboration. The Wired RIG and the Feminist Humanities Research Initiative are exploring the use of new technologies to create wider access to humanities materials and to facilitate international collaboration.

At our best, universities are one of the sites where new ideas and visions are incubated, explored, debated, revised, and disseminated. It is one of the most exciting aspects of our mission, and I am proud to be able to work with all of you—the CSWS staff, our faculty, graduate students, community affiliates, and the whole university and larger community—to ensure that the issues that echoed through the streets of Seattle and on the front pages of the newspapers across the world can continue to be discussed, debated, and researched as part of a massive international effort to ensure that issues of economic and environmental justice and global democratization continue to animate scholars, policy makers, and leaders in the new millennium.



Sandra Morgen,  
Director, CSWS

## CSWS Publications Order Form

- Please send me a copy of *Valuing Families: The State of Oregon's Families*. Enclosed is my check for \$12 per copy made payable to “UO/CSWS.”
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## A Law of Her Own

*A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man*, New York: NYU Press, 2000

By Caroline A. Forell and  
Donna M. Matthews

Foreword by Barbara Welke



*A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man* is a great title. Donna Matthews and I have worked hard to make our book's contents live up to it.

In the 1990s a few bold judges applied a "reasonable woman" standard to men's sexist and sexual behavior towards women workers. For the first time the law listened to her story and his story from her perspective by using "the reasonable woman as a measure of man."

We conceived of a book by that title asserting that a reasonable woman standard should measure conduct in areas where men's and women's life experiences and views on sex and aggression diverge and women are overwhelmingly the injured parties: sexual harassment, stalking,

domestic homicide, and rape. Our method for persuading readers that this paradigm change is necessary is to compare how legal cases come out under the reasonable man/person standard and under our reasonable woman standard.

When Donna and I proposed our idea to NYU Press, we were told that the title wasn't catchy enough. We asked ourselves who our book is for. As our introduction begins: "This book is intended for people concerned about how the law treats women." One of the most perceptive writers concerned about how the world treats women was Virginia Woolf. So when Donna suggested "A Law of Her Own" I knew we had the perfect title.

We came to realize that if our vision became a reality, not only women but men and all of society would benefit. A standard that demands respect for a woman's bodily integrity, agency, and autonomy should be the norm for everyone. The time has come for "A Law of Her Own."

## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

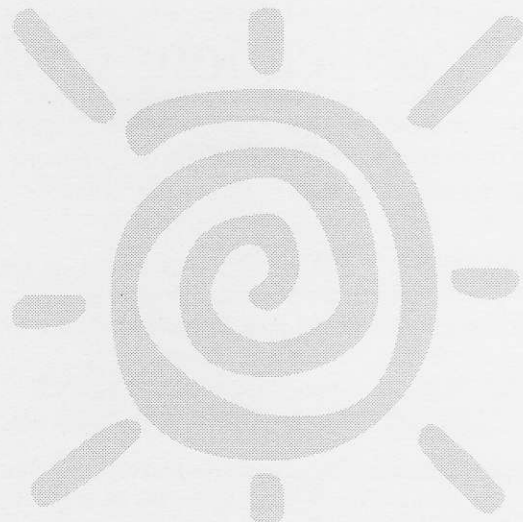



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