

FEMINIST *trajectories*

Newsletter of Rutgers University
Women's and Gender Studies Department

Spring 2011



photo courtesy of Anna Sampaio

Notes From the Chair: Leslie Fishbein

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Chairing the Women's and Gender Studies Department for the 2010-2011 academic year while appointed in American Studies and Jewish Studies has been a challenge and an opportunity to explore new frontiers of interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship, and activism. It has been a privilege to chair a department ranked third in the nation and whose members are such active and original scholars and dedicated and engaging teachers. This letter includes only a few of our department's many accomplishments and is meant merely to whet your appetite for the richer coverage of what we have achieved that appears throughout the rest of *Feminist Trajectories*.

As a department we have mounted a highly successful "Affective Tendencies" conference organized by **Liz Grosz** and **Ed Cohen** that attracted scholars from across the globe, and our graduate students organized their own well attended and lively conference, both of which are described in greater detail in this newsletter. We completely redesigned the departmental web site and created our own departmental logo based on an award-winning design from our 35th-anniversary design

competition. We also sent our Undergraduate Director **Carlos Decena** to a planning conference in the Dominican Republic that will allow our department to compete for inclusion in the next phase of the GEMMA Exchange, which involves sending our own students and faculty members to our European and Latin American partner universities instead of exclusively hosting exchange students and visiting scholars ourselves.

Uncivil Gadgets

As part of our effort to extend the kind of scholarship performed by Women's and Gender Studies to the wider Rutgers community, we have initiated a partnership with Project Civility at Rutgers and many other academic and student life units to create "Uncivil Gadgets II: When the Internet and Public and Private Spaces Collide," a sequel to a panel this past Fall 2010. Our Wednesday, March 9, 2011 panel, to be held at 8:00 P.M. in the Busch Campus Center, will be chaired by our faculty member **Jasbir Puar** and will explore the question of where privacy, freedom of speech, criminal acts, and public spaces begin and end and

what are student, civil, and human rights on these issues. We will ask whether we have acquired technological gadgets at the expense of face-to-face social skills and intimacy. "Uncivil" Gadgets II will continue the conversations on how law and university policy should negotiate the balance between the need to prevent and to punish sexual and other forms of victimization and bullying and the need to safeguard civil liberties on the Internet.

Honors, Awards and Publications

Our faculty members have garnered many honors, awards, and other forms of scholarly recognition. **Radhika Balakrishnan**, faculty member and executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, has concluded her first year of leadership, securing grants in excess of \$600,000 for the program and operations of the center. The fundraising effort included a Ford Foundation award for Rethinking Macro Economic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective, a multi-year project that includes research, international advocacy and training involving human rights groups and economic policy scholars and practitioners. **Ethel Brooks'** op-ed essays on the expulsion of Romani people in various European countries have recently appeared in *The Guardian*. In Summer 2010 Brooks' book *Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007) received the award for Outstanding Book for 2010 from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. **Susan J. Carroll** and Richard L. Fox recently published *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics* (Cambridge University Press 2010).

Carlos Decena is scheduled to have his book *Tacit Subjects: Dominican Transnational Identities and Male Homosexuality in New York City* pub-



lished by Duke University Press in early 2011. **Mary Hawkesworth** is spending her sabbatical year in Graz, Austria and continuing with the editorial work of *Signs*, which has had a record number of submissions this year. She also is working on a book, *Political Women in the 21st Century: Activism, Advocacy, and Governance*. The book's premise is that, in order to gain a richer understanding of contemporary women's political activism, it is important to supplement accounts of women's engagement with official institutions of state, political parties, campaigns and elections, and international institutions with consideration of political frames that encompass transformative efforts and a more comprehensive understanding of power that can be gained by placing women's lives at the center of analysis.

In addition, **Mary Hawkesworth**, Women's and Gender Studies (Co-PI); **Sarah Tobias**, Institute for Research on Women (Co-PI); **Lisa Hetfield**, Institute for Women's Leadership; and **Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel**, Institute for Research on Women, have been awarded a Rutgers University Fair Cycle III grant for their study *Beyond the Gendered Plateau: Identifying and Addressing Barriers to Women Faculty Advancement through*

the Academic Ranks, which attempts to account for the fact that women's academic careers in higher education tend to plateau at the mid-ranks of faculty, while men's careers tended to proceed to the highest rank.

Nancy Hewitt spent the 2009-2010 academic year in England. As the Pitt Professor at Cambridge University, Hewitt delivered lectures at Oxford University, Queen's University, Belfast, and the Centre for Gender Studies at Cambridge. She also delivered the keynote address at the British American Nineteenth-Century History conference. In recognition of her many achievements, Hewitt was selected by her alma mater, The State University of New York at Brockport, to receive an honorary de-

gree and to deliver the Commencement Address on May 15, 2010. Hewitt also published the edited volume *No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of U.S. Feminism* (Rutgers University Press, 2010), a book of seventeen essays that interrogate the utility of the "wave" metaphor for capturing the complex history of women's rights by examining both historical and contemporary aspects of the diverse movements that comprise U.S. feminism.

Jasbir Puar delivered the Annual Distinguished Lecture at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and the Noted Scholar Public Lecture at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Puar is the co-editor, with Julie Livingston, of a special issue of *Social Text* on "Interspecies." In 2010 her op-ed essays on sexuality, nationality, and homonationalism appeared in *The Guardian*. **Yana Rodgers** worked on three consulting projects for the World Bank to examine women's well-being in Nepal, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The projects included presenting research results at a February 2010 workshop on gender and well-being in Vietnam and a December 2010 workshop on gender and conflict in Norway.

Graduate Students' Achievements

Our graduate students have been productive scholars whose achievements have been recognized by a variety of fellowships and awards. Doctoral candidate **Agatha Beins** currently is a graduate fellow in the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis 2010-11 seminar themed "Narratives of Power." Beins published the article "Sisterly Solidarity: Politics and Rhetoric of the Direct Address in U.S. Feminism in the 1970s" in *Women: A Cultural Review* 21(3):293-308. Both **Anahí Russo Garrido** and **Stina Soderling** have been awarded fellowships in the 2011-12 Institute for Research on Women (IRW) Seminar on "(De)generations: Reimagining Communities." In 2010 doctoral candidate **Jillian Hernandez** received a graduate scholarship award from the National Women's Studies Association. **Magda Grabowska** was awarded a Marie Curie Three Year Post-Doctoral Fellowship to be held 2010-2013. **Nafisa Tanjeem** was awarded the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) International Peace Scholarship offered to selected international students who are pursuing their graduate studies in the USA or Canada.

Anahí Russo Garrido presented a lecture, "Entre Cuerpos, transformaciones, yoga y despapaye: El Big Bang de los espacios lésbicos en la Ciudad de México" for the Gender Studies Program (PUEG) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico

City on May 26, 2010 She presented a paper in the session on Queer Sym-biosis: Negotiating Intimacy in Queer and Domestic Spaces in Mexico City at the Tepoztlan Institute for Trans-national History of the Americas in Tepoztlan, Mexico, July 21-28, 2010. She also was an invited panelist in the session on The Politics of Solidarity in Early Lesbian Networks in Mexico City at the CLAGS Conference on Lesbians in the '70s held in New York City, October 8-9, 2010. **Eunsung Lee, Ashley Falzetti, Bahia Munem, Jillian Hernandez, Stephanie Clare, Sonja Thomas, Ariella Rotramel,** and Nafisa Tanjeem presented papers in 2010 at the National Women's Studies Association conference. **Miriam Tola** presented at the conference on Empire: A Retrospective at The University of Pittsburgh; Stina Soderling presented at a conference entitled Queering the Countryside in Bloomington, Indiana; **Laura Lovin** organized a panel and presented at a Critical Geography conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; **Sara Perryman** will present at the Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, in March 2011. All of these students have received travel conference awards.

Job Placement

Dr. Danielle Taylor Phillips, a recent graduate of the Women's and Gender Studies Department, has accepted a tenure-track position in Women's Studies at Texas Woman's University where she will begin teaching in Fall 2011. In July 2010, doctoral candidate **Catherine Sameh** became the Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women. Sameh's article "Discourses of Equality, Rights and Islam in the One Million Signatures Campaign in Iran" was published in the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, Volume 12, Issue 3 (2010). The Department congratulates **Valsala Kumari**, who successfully defended her dissertation "Microcredit as a Poverty Alleviation Strategy, Women's Empowerment, and Gender Relations." Valsala will continue to work as Secretary to the Government of Kerala, India, in the Labor and Employment Department.

WGS New Directions

Women's and Gender Studies is devoting this academic year to renovation. Under the leadership of our Undergraduate Director Carlos Decena, the Undergraduate Committee is working toward completion of a substantial revision



of the undergraduate major. Simultaneously under the leadership of our Graduate Director **Anna Sampaio** the Graduate Studies Committee is revising procedures for graduate exams, for their evaluation, and for faculty commentary to be returned to the students. Under the direction of **Charlotte Bunch** our Women's and Gender Studies Department is undertaking a two-stage retreat to evaluate the current status of the department and to reimagine its future. The first stage of that retreat will be held on Friday, March 25, 2011 in the Cook Campus Center and will be followed by a second stage to be held early in the Fall 2011 semester when the department is under new leadership.



Postdocs and Visiting Scholars

We also have been privileged to have several visiting scholars enrich our course offerings and provide lectures and research briefings. **Diane Elson**, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Great Britain, was the 2010 Laurie Chair in Women's and Gender Studies. **Marta Zarzycka**, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies, Department of Media and Culture Studies and the Research Institute for History and Culture, Utrecht University, was a visiting scholar in the Fall 2010. **Tetyana Bureychak**, Harvard University Shklar Fellow, Spring 2011; Assistant Professor, Department of History and Theory of Sociology, I. Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine) will be a WGS Visiting Scholar in Spring 2011. **Kyla Schuller** is our Women's and Gender Studies ACLS New Faculty Fellow and Postdoctoral Associate, 2010-2012. **Yvette Taylor**, a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Geography, Politics, Sociology, Newcastle University, holds a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar's Award for the 2010-2011 academic year. Clearly this academic year has been a rich and promising one for Women's and



Gender Studies at Rutgers. We hope to build on these achievements and to make our teaching, scholarship, and activism available to the wider academic community and the world at large.

(Pictured, page 2, top center: Professor Leslie Fishbein, mid-center: Professor Radhika Balakrishnan, lower center: Professor Jasbir Puar. Page 3, clockwise: recent graduate Danielle Taylor Phillips, doctoral candidate Yurika Tamura presenting at the Affective Tendencies conference, Professor Ed Cohen introducing the graduate student panel at the Affective Tendencies conference, visiting scholar Tetyana Bureychak, Professor Charlotte Bunch).

Upcoming Events Spring 2011

Monday, March 7

Women's and Gender Studies
Research Briefing:

"Pushing Back: Women-led Grassroots Activism in Contemporary New York City's Transnational Communities of Color."

Ariella Rotramel,
Doctoral Candidate

12:00 - 1:30p.m.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

Sponsor: Department of
Women's and Gender Studies.

Wednesday, March 9

Panel: "'Uncivil' Gadgets II: When the Internet and Public and Private Spaces Collide."

Panelists:

Jasbir Puar, moderator, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University

Barbara A. Lee, Esq., Professor of Human Resource Management, School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University

Anne Newman, Director of the Office of Student Conduct, Rutgers University

James Mandala, Psychologist, Assistant Director, Counseling, ADAPS, and Psychiatry, Rutgers University

Joe Rollins, Associate Professor of Political Science, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

Maurice J. Elias, Professor of Psychology and Academic Director, Rutgers Civic Engagement and Service Education Partnership Program (CESEP)

8:00-10:00pm

Multipurpose Room, Busch Campus Center

Co-sponsored by: Project Civility at Rutgers, Dean of Students Office, Office of Undergraduate Education, College Avenue Campus Dean, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, School of Communication and Information, School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University Libraries, American Studies Department, Psychology Department, Women's and Gender Studies Department.

Tuesday, March 22

Women's and Gender Studies
Research Briefing:

"Imag(in)ing Hegemonic Masculinities and Nations: The Case of Sweden and the Ukraine."

Tetyana Bureychak,
Harvard University
Shklar Fellow, Spring 2011
and Assistant Professor,
Department of History and
Theory of Sociology, I. Franko
National University of Lviv
(Ukraine)

12:00 - 1:30p.m.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

Sponsor: Department of
Women's and Gender Studies.

Monday, March 28

Vital Voices: A Semi-Annual
Emerging Interdisciplinary
Scholars Lecture Series



Melissa Gregg,
Department of Gender and
Cultural Studies, University of
Sidney, Australia.

"Affective Labor: Past and Present."

2:00 - 4:00p.m.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
Sponsor: Women's and Gender Studies
Graduate Students Association,
Department of Women's and Gender
Studies, Department of Journalism and
Media Studies.

Monday, April 18th

Women's and Gender Studies
Research Briefing

"Coloniality of Diasporas in the Insular Caribbean: Creolization and Beyond."
Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel,

Professor of Latino and Hispanic
Caribbean Studies and Comparative
Literature; Director of the
Institute for Research on Women

12:00-1:30 P.M.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

Sponsor: Women's and Gender
Studies Department.

Thursday, April 21st

**Women's and Gender
Studies Department Honors
Presentations**

3:00-7:00 P.M.

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

Sponsor: Women's and Gender
Studies Department.

Tuesday, April 26th

"Liberation Mythologies: Mary Magdalene and other Caribbeanist Dreams of Freedom."

Raquel Z. Rivera,
Affiliated Scholar at the Center
for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter
College

4:00 P.M. Reception

4:30-6:30 P.M. Lecture

Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building

Sponsor: Women's and Gender
Studies Department.



Pictured, lower left: logo of Rutgers' Project Civility, center: Melissa Gregg, lower right: Raquel Z. Rivera photographed by Jorge Vasquez.

interview:

ANNA SAMPAIO

Anna Sampaio joined Rutgers University in 2009 as Associate Professor and currently serves as Graduate Director of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. A specialist in Latina/o politics, immigration, gender, ethnic and racial politics, post-colonialism, and transnationalism, she is currently teaching a graduate seminar in Feminist Knowledge Production that aims "to expose students to a broad range of disciplinary methodology and epistemological questions." She edited *Transnational Latina/o Communities: Politics, Processes, Cultures* with Carlos Vélez-Ibáñez and currently is working on a new book project on the impact of post 9-11 immigration policies on the lives of Latino/a immigrants. Prior to joining Rutgers University she taught at the University of Colorado Denver.

What was the main challenge in your transition to the position of Graduate Director?

As a new faculty member I had to familiarize myself with university policies and resources. The Rutgers administrative level is extremely complex. There is a multitude of interlocking institutional partners and offices that one needs to know. Plus, I recently had a baby, Eva. Spending time with her is incredibly rewarding but, of course, I need to be much more careful with my schedule. In my daily life with Eva I have learned to be always five steps ahead with planning. I had to adopt a long-term vision that is very useful in my work with graduate students.

What are your main goals as

Graduate Director?

Given my background in political science, I tend to be a big fan of rules, transparency and standardized processes. My goal is to increase the efficiency of the department and to make sure to provide students with a clear picture of program requirements, rules and opportunities. One case in point is the qualifying exam for doctoral students. It is a step that requires significant effort on their side, and I want to figure out how to improve the ways to give them feedback on what they have produced. Another key issue is facilitating the job placement of our doctoral graduates. A few months ago we launched a new section on our website with the updated profiles of all the students on the job market. Additionally, we are introducing a new Graduate Student Award for Teaching Excellence for two students who have been teaching in the department.

Are there upcoming activities and events that graduate students should keep an eye on?

For the Fall 2011 we are planning a series of professionalization workshops focusing on the job market, on the qualifying exams, and on how to obtain approval for human research from Rutgers Institutional Review Board (IRB).



Let's talk about your research. What are you currently working on?

I'm working on a few projects right now. The largest undertaking is *Terrorizing Latino Immigrants: Race, Gender and Immigration Policy Post 9/11*, a book project that examines the impact on Latino communities of US immigration politics post 9/11. I draw on Iris Marion Young to show how the State adopts the father position and the language of protection and security to take aggressive action against the immigrant other. Those who are targeted, and they are disproportionately Latinos, are racialized as foreign regardless of their immigration status. The first chapters of the book will offer a review of the history of immigration politics and a content-analysis of Congressional bills. The second part will give a compendium of raids and roundups through the content analysis of newspapers available on the database Lexis-Nexis for the years 2001-2008. The book also will include the study of three court cases involving American citizens apprehended in the war on terrorism which will show how the State begins to act toward its citizens in the same way it act toward immigrants.

Are things changing with the Obama administration?

In my book I show that while there are no radical shifts in policy, we are moving away from the discursive construction of immigrants as terrorists. The current administration created a slightly less intimidating environment for immigrants.

What do you do outside the department if relevant?

I've worked with several organizations serving the Latino community. I'm a member of the Board of Directors of Latina Initiative, a nationally recognized nonpartisan leadership and education, voter registration, and mobilization project aimed at increasing the civic and political engagement of Latinas in Denver, Colorado.