

# FEMINIST TRAJECTORIES

Newsletter of Rutgers  
Women's and Gender Studies Department



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## Summer in Peru

By Kaylin Padovano, WGS major

During summer break I worked at a *wawa wasi*, an early childhood education center focusing on primary development and nutrition in the heart of Villa el Salvador, Peru, where I helped to feed and wash anywhere from ten to twenty-two children daily as well as provide them with vital language strengthening skills and early educational principles. The *wawa wasi* played a vital role in the lives of community members, as can be seen through the turbulent history leading up to its inception. The story begins roughly in late April 1971, when more than 50,000 people from inner city Lima, Peru, fed up with overcrowding and squalid conditions, invaded lands on the outskirts of the city originally designated for residential houses of upper-class people. Although they met violent resistance from the local government, they later were permanently relocated in a desert area without any services about 19 kilometers from the capital city. Villa El Salvador formed as a shantytown or "pueblo joven", in the resourceless desert, without any external governmental or NGO assistance. (Continued on page 8)

## Women's and Gender Studies Awards First Ph.D.s



Academic year 2007-2008 was a milestone for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies as two of our doctoral students, Zenzele Isoke and Rama Lohani Chase, successfully defended their dissertations.

In July 2007, Zenzele Isoke became the first student to complete a Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers. Her dissertation draws upon African American experience, Black feminist theory, and original research to examine the practice of politics within low-income communities of color in urban environments. Through interviews and focus groups with a wide array of African American women who are politically engaged in the poorest neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey, Zenzele documents distinctive forms of political activism within African American communities. Focusing on black nationalist and LGBTQ organizations as well as the National Hip Hop Convention, she illuminates dimensions of political life that have been neglected by mainstream scholars. Zenzele currently has a postdoctoral fellowship in women's and gender studies and political science at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. (Continued on page 3)

## A Note from the Chair

The department has been in the midst of transition this fall. We are deeply grateful to Professor Joanna Regulska for the wonderful leadership she provided the department over the past six years, to Professor Samira Kawash for her sterling performance as Graduate Program Director for three critical years in the program's development, and to Professor Josephine Diamond, who provided superb support for the graduate students this fall. Beginning in January 2008, Yana Rodgers will serve as the Director of the M.A. Program and Ed Cohen will assume the responsibilities as the Ph.D. Program Director. Barbara Balliet will continue as Director of the Undergraduate Program.

At the forefront of Rutgers global initiatives, WGS has expanded its international programs this year. Through the generosity of Wendy Lee and the leadership of Professor Abena Busia, the department created a summer internship program in Ghana in 2007, which enabled three undergraduate students to work with women's NGOs for two months. Under the leadership of Professor Joanna Regulska, four graduate students and two faculty members participated in the Dubrovnik Interuniversity Centre Seminar on Feminist Critical Analysis. Professors Elizabeth Grosz, Sue Cobble, and Yana Rodgers participated in a research exchange with the University of Bergen in Norway. And faculty and graduate students from thirteen countries participated in the Conference on the Future of Feminist Theory that Professor Elizabeth Grosz organized in October.

Women's and Gender Studies has also launched several new initiatives in New Brunswick this fall. With the approval of the School of Arts and Sciences and the support of many departments across campus, WGS introduced its new interdisciplinary minor in Critical Sexuality Studies. Drawing upon the expertise of Professor Beth Hutchison and with financial support from the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, WGS is sponsoring an international film series, "Resisting Images,"

which examines the works of women film makers from around the world. The department's 2007-2008 Lecture Series features feminist scholars of national and international renown, including Professor Adriana Garcia Piscitelli (Sao Paulo, Brazil) on "Tropical Sex in First World Countries;" Professor Jyl Josephson (Rutgers, Newark) on "Sexual Citizenship;" Professor Oksana Kis (Lviv Research Center on Women and Society, Ukraine) on "Beauty Will Save the World: The Case of Julia Tymoshenko;" Professor Selma Leydesdorff (University of Amsterdam) on "The Layered Memories of the Women who Survived Srebrenica;" and Professor Anna Sampaio (University of Colorado, Denver) on "Terrorizing Citizens: the U.S. PATRIOT ACT at Home." Our research briefings have featured our eminent colleagues: Bonnie Smith, Cheryl Wall, Chris Clark, Julie Rajan, Angelique Haugerud, and Abe Busia.

We are also celebrating several important milestones this year. Zenzele Isoke, the first student to complete her Ph.D. in our program, has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Minnesota. Five faculty and one doctoral student published seven path-breaking books in 2007, an impressive record that few departments could match. And ten of our undergraduate students will represent Rutgers at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Women's Worlds / *Mundos de Mujeres* Conference to be held next summer in Madrid.

We look forward to continuing and expanding these vibrant initiatives for students and faculty in 2008.

Mary Hawkesworth  
Professor II and Chair



## Women's and Gender Studies Awards First Ph.D.s

Continued from page 1

Rama Lohani Chase was the second doctoral student in Women's and Gender Studies to successfully defend her dissertation. Rama's dissertation explores changing gender dynamics during crisis and armed conflict to see how global trends in movements of people, labor, and capital impact the appropriation and production of gender at the local level. Her work focuses on the decade long (1996-2006) "People's War" in Nepal and the effects of three key processes -- militarization, displacement, and gender embodiment -- on Nepali women. Through the study of women's position in Nepali political and cultural history and multi-sited ethnographic research on the Nepali crisis, she examines how crisis induced displacement and violence shape gender dynamics at the local level and Nepali men's and women's mobility at the transnational/global level. The "call to arms" for women in Nepal raises important questions for the feminist politics of representation *vis a vis* other movements around the globe for peace and social justice. To that end, her dissertation explores the ways in which the bio-politics of body, gender, and sexuality are enmeshed with nationalism, ideology and economics and work in the production of the "military woman" and the "revolutionary woman" in contemporary times of transnationalism and globalization.

## Publications

**Nikol Alexander-Floyd** published *Gender, Race, and Nationalism in Contemporary Black Politics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

**Ethel Brooks** published *Unraveling the Garment Industry* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007).

**Ethel Brooks** and **Dorothy Hodgson** edited a volume of the *Women's Studies Quarterly* titled "Activisms" (Volume 35, Numbers 3&4, Feminist Press 2007).

**Anahí Russo Garrido**, WGS Ph.D student, with Lydia Alpízar Durán and Noël D. Payne edited *Building Feminist Movements and Organizations: Global Perspectives* (Zed Books, 2007).

**Judith M. Gerson**, with Diane L. Wolf, edited *Sociology Confronts the Holocaust: Memories and Identities in Jewish Diasporas* (Duke University Press 2007).

**Mary Hawkesworth** and Karen Alexander co-edited *War and Terror: Feminist Perspectives* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

**Jasbir Puar** published *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press, 2007).

**Bonnie Smith** published *Europe in the Contemporary World: 1900 to Present: A Narrative History with Documents* (Bedford 2007) and edited *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History* (Oxford 2007).

**Jessica Valenti**, WGS Masters alumnae '01, published *Full Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters* (Seal Press 2007).

## **Meditating in and on the Archive**

Agatha Beins, Ph.D. Student, WGS

The Sophia Smith Collection is housed in the Smith College alumnae gymnasium, where the first women's basketball game was held. Still reflecting some of its gymnastic aura, the reading room is spacious and airy with exposed beams across the ceiling. Posters from the suffrage campaign, human rights campaigns, the U.S women's movement, and other social justice movements decorate one of the walls and large windows flank another. It was a room in which I enjoyed spending time.

Each morning I signed in at the front desk and then divided my stuff between the cubby locker and the research room. Everything except my laptop, scrap paper, and a pencil went into the cubby. Thanks to funding from Rutgers and the Sophia Smith Collection I was able to spend nine days in August in the archive, looking through their Valley Women's Center records, the Women's Liberation Collection (1959-1998), the Voices of Feminism Oral History Project, and the extensive collection of feminist periodicals. As part of my predissertation research, the purpose of this trip was to start figuring out what might or might not eventually become a part of my dissertation.

Although this was a working trip, it was also a break at the same time. I found something meditative and relaxing about being in the archive, starting with the process of shedding all the things I normally lug around and continuing with the process of shedding mental preoccupations. The only work I needed to do was page through newspapers, mimeographed essays, letters, meeting minutes, pamphlets, and other ephemera from the U.S. feminist movement in the 1970s. The only things I had during those hours in the reading room, I could carry in one hand. My time at the archive had a singularity about it that is so rare in the rest of my life, which is filled with distractions and different demands for my attention.

I began this research knowing that I was interested in newsletters and newspapers published by feminist collectives in the 1970s,

but without any real agenda, my time at the archive had a freeing quality. There was nothing I needed to find, no product I needed to display at the end of the trip. On the other hand, it was a little overwhelming: almost everything seemed to have potential, to be the inspiration for a different dissertation chapter. I took almost fifty single-spaced pages of notes, much of which I haven't revisited yet. But I am revisiting the archive. This January I plan to forget the rest of the world for another week and learn a little bit more about the women whose activism is such a significant part of my academic life not only because it is the topic of my dissertation, but also because it enabled academic work like mine to become possible.

## **Ghana Internships, 2007-2008**

Thanks to funding from Rutgers alumna, Wendy Lee, three undergraduate students spent two months in Ghana in summer 2007, working and learning about women's lives, struggles, and dreams, as well as their efforts to organize for social justice and change. This pilot international service-learning program, co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for African Studies, selected three outstanding students, Jessica Akunna, Karina Martinez, and Marta Zuleta for field placements in Ghana. Following preparatory work under the supervision of Professor Abena Busia during spring 2007, the students went to Africa, where they completed internships with women's organizations focusing on economic empowerment, peace building, health, and political participation. The work undertaken by the students ranged from strategic planning to developing educational materials for children to help them understand the concept of rights, and interviewing women at refugee camps on the Cote D'Ivoire border.

In summer 2008, Professor Busia will arrange the field placements, accompany and supervise the second cohort of student interns to Ghana, including Awo Dede Mankatah, Hawwa Muhammad, and Chinyere Ojini.



## Student Accomplishments



WGS Ph.D. students celebrating their completion of qualifying exams: Stephanie Clare (left), Danielle Phillips, Agatha Beins, and Laura Lovin

**Anahi Russo Garrido** (WGS Ph.D.) presented two papers: "The Challenge of Multigenerational Leadership in the Global Women's Rights Movement" at New Directions in Feminist Scholarship at Emory University (March 2007); and "Chicana Feminism and Spirituality: A force of mobilization" at Constructing Knowledge: A Graduate Student interdisciplinary conference at Rutgers University (October 2007), in addition to publishing "And We Were Mexicanas": Notes on the Use of National Symbols by Lesbian Groups in Mexico" *WSQ: Activisms*, vol.35, nos. 3-4 (Fall/Winter 2007).



Visiting Scholar Claus Halberg (left), with recently graduated WGS MA students: Morgan McLoughlin, Kathy Blake and Hoa Thi Mai Nguyen

**Jillian Hernandez** (WGS Ph.D.) organized the panel "Ego Trippin: Addressing Self Esteem and Providing Tools for Resistance for Girls of Color" for the National Women's Studies Association conference (June 2007) in which she presented the paper "Because I Finally Had Freedom: An Educator's Journey from Feminist Art to Girls' Studies." Jillian also curated a show that opened in Oct. 2007 at the Bas/Fisher Invitational alternative art space in Miami titled "MOD 11: Discourses with Incarcerated Girls", for which she organized and moderated a panel discussion with the artists.



IWL Leadership Scholars Alexis Kennedy (left), Ruchi Pandya and Christie Irizarry at the WGS holiday party

**Danielle Phillips** (WGS Ph.D.) presented "Who wants to be a 'mother'? Lessons from English and African American domestic workers" in Dubrovnik last Spring. She also presented "(Re)Shaping Race, Class, and Gender in the 'home': Irish, African American, and Afro-Caribbean domestic workers in New York City, 1880-1940" at a Caribbean Studies conference at the University of Miami in June.



Anahi Russo Garrido (left), Hoa Thi Mai Nguyen, Anel Méndez Velázquez & Stephanie Clare

**Christie Irizarry** (WGS Minor) received the 2007-2008 Latina Leadership Potential Award from The Associate Alumnae of Douglass College.

**Ashley Falzetti** (WGS Ph.D.) presented "Working with What We've Got: Reconceptualizing Agency" at the Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference on Civic Discourse in Little Rock Arkansas (October 2007); and "Performativity and Social Kinds: Constructing Philosophical Notions of 'Race'" at the Constructing Knowledges Conference hosted by the Rutgers Sociology Department (October 2007).



WGS MA students: Lana Sacks, Somer Phegley, Jessica Mertz and Zara Rapoport

## Rutgers Delegation to Mundos de Mujeres/Women's Worlds Conference in Madrid, Spain

With the support of the Vice President for Undergraduate Education, the Dean of Douglass, the Institute for Women's Leadership and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies is providing funding to support the participation of 10 undergraduate students in the 2008 International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women in Madrid, Women's Worlds / Mundos de Mujeres. The motto of the Congress is "Equality: No Utopia" and the general theme is "New Frontiers: Dares, Challenges and Changes." The conference will attract thousands of feminist activists from all parts of the world, presenting workshops on feminisms and women's movements, women's history, economics, political and legal action, education, health, science and technology, communication and media, creativity and art, dislocations and frontiers, violence and migration, territories and environment.

Students selected through an open competition include: Sara Afayee, Ayana April, Desiree Ficula, Candace Irabli, Christie Irizarry, Sophonie Joseph, Corinne Kleinman, Samantha Liu, Julia Moon, and Kaylin Padovano. The students will be accompanied by Institute for Women's Leadership Director Mary Hartman, Associate Director Lisa Hetfield and WGS faculty Joanna Regulska and Mary Trigg. In addition to presenting papers at the conference, students will participate in the cultural, social, and tourist programs associated with the Conference.

### **Feminist Memoir Project**

**October 18, 2007**

*The Feminist Memoir Project* (Rutgers University Press, 2007) captures the energy, excitement, challenges and frustrations of the U.S. Women's Liberation Movement in the 1960s and 1970s through the thoughtful reminiscences of 32 feminist activists. Internationally renowned scholars and activists, **Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Ann Snitow, Barbara Emerson and Meredith Tax**, celebrated the book's release with a panel discussion that explored the vibrancy and the challenges of contemporary feminism. The panel was followed by a book signing and reception at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

## **Dubrovnik**

By Danielle Taylor Phillips, Ph.D. Student, WGS

Nervousness made it difficult for me to imagine that I would have such rich experiences in Dubrovnik when I boarded the plane at Newark's Airport enroute to the "Feminist Critical Analysis: Race, Discourse, and Biopolitics" Seminar. My nervousness quickly diminished during the first day of seminar presentations as I found myself engrossed with many of the participants' research projects. I was intrigued by the range of topics, from the oppression of Romani women throughout Europe, labor migration between Japan and Brazil, to gendered medical discourses that serve as barriers to effective drug treatments for women in Eastern Europe. The profound interest shared among the seminar participants created a supportive atmosphere where learning and discussions could take place outside of the pretentious performances that sometimes shape classrooms and conferences. Such an environment also created special opportunities for participants to get valuable feedback about their work.

Deeper connections between the participants were fostered through the activities we planned together after the seminar. Toward the end of the trip, we would meet in the vibrant downtown area lined with ancient city walls and monasteries to talk about politics in Eastern Europe, our plans for the future, and life in general as we drank wine and listened to the local jazz band and gospel choir. Connections between the participants from Rutgers also strengthened over the course of the trip. If the walls could talk in the hotel room that Kathleen Powers and I shared, they would say that there was never a dull moment between us. (*Continued on page 10*)



## New Faculty



**Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd**, an interdisciplinary scholar whose work and teaching integrate the study of politics, law, women's studies, and Black studies, joined the

Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers in Fall 2007. Holding both the JD and Ph.D., Dr. Alexander-Floyd teaches courses on race, gender, and the law, Black women in the U.S., and feminist theory. Her current research explores the gender politics of contemporary Black nationalism, and has appeared in such journals as *Frontiers*, the *International Journal of African Studies*, and *Meridians*. She is Co-Founder, along with Rose Harris, of the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics. Her first book, *Gender, Race, and Nationalism in Contemporary Black Politics*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2007.

### ***The Future of Feminist Theory Conference***

October 19-20, 2007

More than 150 people attended the Future of Feminist Theory Conference in October, which brought together students and faculty from across the U.S. and abroad for two full days of presentations and lively debate. Conference participants came from the Women's Studies Program at Duke University and the Women's and Gender Studies Program (SKOK) at the University of Bergen, Norway, which also sponsored 20 Scandinavian PhD students to attend. Guest speakers included Linda Alcoff, Rey Chow, Ellen Mortensen, Avital Ronnell and Robyn Wiegman, along with Rutgers Professors Nikol Alexander-Floyd, Ethel Brooks, Elizabeth Grosz, and Mary Hawkesworth. Graduate student panelists included Stephanie Clare, Kelly Coogan and Anel Méndez Velázquez.

## Visiting Faculty

**Anna Sampaio**, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado at Denver, is Visiting Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies during Spring 2008. Dr. Sampaio is an award-winning teacher and scholar whose areas of specialization include feminist theory, Latina/o politics, immigration, ethnic/racial politics, gender politics, post-colonialism, and transnationalism. Her major works include the co-edited book, *Transnational Latino/a Communities: Politics, Processes and Cultures* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002); and *Terrorizing Latino Immigrants: Race, Gender and Immigration Policy Post 9/11* (forthcoming). Dr. Sampaio's articles have appeared in leading journals including the *American Political Science Review*, *New Political Science*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Latino Studies*, *PS: Political Science and Politics* and the *International Feminist Journal of Politics*. She currently serves as President of the Latino/a Caucus of the American Political Science Association and as President of the Women's Caucus of the Western Political Science Association. She has worked with and served on the board of several non-profit and community based organizations serving the Latino population including the Latina Initiative, *Escuela Guadalupe*, *Escuela Tlatelolco*, and the Mexican American Community Service Agency

**V.G. Julie Rajan** joined the Department of Women's and Gender Studies as Visiting Assistant Professor in 2007-2008. Dr. Rajan's areas of specialization include South Asian feminism, women's fiction and non-fiction, literatures of immigration and diaspora, feminist theory, cultural studies, terrorism and resistance. Her major works include *Home and World: South Asia in Transition* (2006) and *Language, Mysticism, and Iconography: Exploring the Cultural Interface Between East and South Asia* (forthcoming, 2008). She is currently completing a book, *Narratives of Violence: The Phenomenon of Women Suicide Bombers*.



## Summer in Peru, continued from page 1

Its inhabitants formed the organization "Comunidad Urbana Autogestionaria de Villa El Salvador (CUAVES)," to support and guide its citizens' quest for a better future. Most settlers in Villa are originally from Peru's Altiplano regions, who seek better opportunities in the vast city of Lima.

Within ten years, Villa El Salvador was recognized as a legal municipality with 300,000 inhabitants. It elected a mayor and organized the Popular Women's Federation that played a leading role in defining community problems. Maria Elena Moyano, who later became mayor of Villa and was assassinated by the terrorist "Shining Path" group, was elected the President of *Federación Popular de Mujeres de Villa El Salvador* (FEPOMUVES). Under Moyano's guidance, FEPOMUVES was able to enstate public kitchens or "comedores," health committees, the *Vaso de Leche* program (which supplied children with milk), income-generating projects, and committees for basic education. Women played a vital role in the birth and strengthening of Villa el Salvador, working to equalize their power as citizens and build a stronger society as a whole.

The program I worked with was the "Programas no Escolarizados de Educación Inicial en Peru," one of the earliest initial education programs in Latin America. This program included the community's *wawa wasi* or early childhood educational and nutritional center. The site I worked at not only served as a school, but also contained a small communal kitchen where members of the neighborhood could get a daily meal for little or no charge. The teachers in my classroom lived and raised their families in the same community, and showed an inspirational enthusiasm and love for each child in their classroom. Using the little resources they had, the *mamacuidas* would build educational tools that focused on early language and motor skills, besides ensuring that each child received the daily nutrition that their own families may not even have access to. Within the *wawa wasi*, I believe the revolutionary spirit of Villa El Salvador's remarkable history was embodied in these teachers. Though they may not receive the recognition they deserve, they fight each day for the rights of the children as well as themselves; their rights as citizens, as women, and as human beings.

Villa's people, like the amazing women I worked side by side with, have not escaped from poverty, but their municipality has proven strength and resilience unique to their poor community. For instance, Villa can boast to have Peru's highest literacy rate and primary school attendance reaches 98 percent. The child mortality rate dropped far below the national average. It manages over 250 food service establishments, hundred of women's clubs, cultural, artistic sports and other groups. Villa's people constructed 38,000 houses, 60 Community Houses, 64 educational centers, 22 popular libraries, 41 Health Education and Rehabilitation Centers and several drugstores. It planted 500,000 trees. The women of Villa El Salvador may stand as a marker for the vast societal inequalities that still exist in Peru, but also as a new symbol of the change and hope that can occur at the hands of its remarkable people.

## WGS Holiday Party



Harriet Davidson (left) & Joanna Regulska



Agatha Beins (left) & Danielle Phillips



Kayo Denda (left) & Barbara Balliet



Magda Grabowska (left) & Wanda Nowicka



Mary Hawkesworth with  
visiting Scholar  
Jasmina Lukic



## Faculty & Staff Honors and Awards

In spring 2007, **Nikol Floyd Alexander** received the highly coveted **Edward S. Diggs award** at Virginia Tech. The Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholar Awards were established in 1992 to recognize outstanding teaching and exceptional contributions to the teaching program and learning environment. Diggs Scholars are dedicated to promoting excellence, imagination and commitment to teaching and student learning. In addition to receiving a plaque and a stipend, Nikol participated in the Diggs Roundtable in fall 2008, presenting her work to a large audience of faculty and students.

### **Ethel Brooks, 2007 Faculty of Arts and Sciences Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education**

A versatile and original scholar who works at the intersection of international political economy, comparative labor studies, feminist theory, and globalization studies, Professor Brooks has developed a wide repertoire of undergraduate courses including "Dynamics of Race, Class, and Sex," "South Asian Feminism," "Comparative Feminisms," "Sociology of the Third World," and "Research Methods in Women's Studies." Her contributions at the graduate level have been equally impressive, ranging from "Comparative and Historical Methods in Sociology," and "Women and Work," to "Gender and Globalization" and the WGS proseminar, "Gendered Borders/Changing Boundaries." The number and diversity of her course topics, the outstanding quality of her teaching, and her exceptional contributions to co-curricular activities on and off campus were cited in the presentation of the FAS Teaching Award for Assistant Professors.

**Kayo Denda**, Rutgers women's studies librarian, received the **2007 Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Award**. Presented by the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Significant Achievement award honors noteworthy contributions to women's studies librarianship.

**Joanne Givand**, Women's and Gender Studies Department Administrator, was one of a select group chosen to receive the **2007 President's Recognition Program for Excellence in Service Award**. Excelling in every aspect of her job from financial management and course scheduling, to building renovation and community-building, Joanne Givand single-handedly meets the needs of 27 voting faculty members, 80 affiliated faculty

members, 29 Ph.D. students, two dozen M.A. students, 80 graduate certificate students and nearly 200 undergraduate majors and minors. Her extraordinary performance in all these domains provided the grounds for the President's Outstanding Performance Award.

### **Elizabeth Grosz, 2007 Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research**

One of the most eminent scholars writing in the English language today, Professor Grosz has helped to create and define the field of feminist philosophy. Through her prolific and path-breaking scholarship, she has theorized sexual difference and demonstrated its importance to ontological and epistemological debates within philosophy, as well as to a wide array of fields outside of philosophy ranging from literary, cultural, political, social, and postcolonial theory to architecture, mathematics, science and technology studies. The scope and significance of her contributions in combination with the brilliance of her insights were cited in the presentation of the Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research.

### **Mary Hawkesworth, 2007 Graduate School Award for Distinguished Contributions to Graduate Education**

An award-winning scholar, Professor Hawkesworth served as the first Graduate Program Director in the newly created Department of Women's and Gender Studies, assuming primary responsibility for transforming the idea of a Ph.D. program into a reality, developing challenging interdisciplinary proseminars, recruiting faculty to teach grad courses and present their scholarship in department research briefings, recruiting excellent doctoral students and grooming them for their first teaching experiences, and working with private foundations, donors, and federal agencies to secure additional fellowship-funding for the program. She has also taught numerous core courses for the M.A. and Ph.D. programs including "Feminist Theories," "Feminist Genealogies," "Feminist Methodologies," and "Feminisms: Theory and Practice," "Gender and Political Theory," and "Epistemology" and supervised and served on many thesis and dissertation committees.



## In Memorium

### Kathleen Powers, 1972- 2007



The women's and gender studies community at Rutgers mourns the loss of Kathleen Powers, who died unexpectedly in August.

Kathleen's passion for feminist studies was well known. In her application to our Ph.D. program, Kathleen expressed her "unwavering desire to pursue advanced interdisciplinary feminist training which promotes social justice in knowledge production and pedagogy." Her particular interests included disability, gender, race, and political economy, biopower, cultural studies, and the role of affect in contemporary life. Miranda Joseph, one of her teachers at the University of Arizona, described Kathleen as

"deeply committed to her intellectual projects and to her academic career;" noting that "she works hard and thinks hard. And she is very, very smart." Similarly, Caryl Flinn, another University of Arizona faculty member, characterized Kathleen as "a scholar of dazzling intellect, extremely erudite and well read—particularly in contemporary theory." Professor Flinn predicted that Kathleen's dissertation would make crucial contributions to cultural studies, social policy, psychoanalytic studies, political economy, transnational health, and disability studies. In her three years at Rutgers, Kathleen lived up to the expectations set by her mentors at UA. She excelled in her course work, participated in the Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Organization, and in her spare time, played guitar and drums with Stunner Thrum, a New York band.

Death strikes a blow whenever it appears, but it seems particularly cruel when it takes someone as young as Kathleen, someone whose life was full of promise and whose work was just beginning to unfold. In a university community, whose rhythms are geared toward beginnings, whose final act is always a commencement, death's finality, its absolute cessation seems woefully out of place. Making a mockery of all human potentialities and dreams, death's untimely occurrence appears an unmitigated calamity, signifying for this young scholar, the extinction of all hope. Our hearts go out to Kathleen's family and friends in this time of sorrow.

## Dubrovnik, *continued from page 6*

We talked about the issues raised in the presentations sometimes until 4:00 in the morning when we heard the rooster under our window singing. Dubrovnik gave us the opportunity we never took advantage of in New Brunswick to talk to each other about our ideas.

I also reached out across the globe to my family, rushing to the computer lab during lunch breaks to share my thoughts about the presentations and experiences outside of the seminar. The seminar schedule was organized in a way that allowed us time to enjoy the tourist sites of the city. I wrote to my aunt Tara, a seafood connoisseur from Louisiana, about what I called the "Departmental Seafood Feast," when Professors Ethel Brooks and Joanna Regulska treated the Rutgers students to a delicious array of fresh seafood including squid, mussels, calamari, and oysters at a restaurant overlooking the deep blue waters of the Adriatic Sea. I also wrote to my family about the scrumptious grilled fish I ate while passing breath-taking vistas of fruit trees and ancient forts in a boat headed toward the beautiful beaches of the neighboring islands.

When I landed at Newark's airport after returning from Dubrovnik, I felt simultaneously refreshed by the calming waters of the Adriatic Sea, disappointed that I was no longer eating mouth-watering squid, hungry for more knowledge about the rich history of Dubrovnik, and inspired by the research of other seminar participants and the feedback I received about my own work.



## Spring 2008 Lectures & Research Briefings

### Feb. 27 Research Briefing

Professor Julie Rajan, Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

12:00 Noon, RDJC Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### March 5 Professor Anna Sampaio,

"Terrorizing Latina/o Immigrants: Race, Gender, and Immigration Policy Post 9/11"

4:30 pm, RDJC 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room

### March 24 Research Briefing

Professor Angelique Haugerud, Anthropology Rutgers University, New Brunswick

12:00 noon, RDJC 1<sup>st</sup> floor Conference Room

### April 9 Research Briefing

Professor Abena Busia, English, Women's and Gender Studies, & Africana Studies Rutgers University, New Brunswick

12:00 Noon, RDJC

### April 24 WGS Honors Presentations

3:00 – 5:00 pm RDJC

### May 5 WGS End of Semester Party

5:00 p.m, RDJC

## Resisting Images: Women's & Gender Studies Film Series 2007-2008

Thanks to the intensive labor of IRW Associate Director Beth Hutchison, WGS is hosting a series of six film screenings this academic year. Associated with WGS course offerings, the screenings and discussions are designed to create a heightened awareness of women's past and present roles in creating films that undo and create alternatives to the familiar stories and characters promulgated by the Hollywood studio system. Some of the films undermine dominant images by creatively repeating them, others pioneer narrative strategies so that audiences can see through the truisms about love and desire and about women's proper role in society circulated by more traditional films.

The series began with a film directed by Dorothy Arzner, the most significant and one of the very few women directors in Hollywood from the 1920s to the 1940s. Arzner's films emphasize women's friendships and devalorize heterosexual romance. The second screening featured short films which employ a variety of strategies as well as clips from the Hollywood's Golden Age to critique the studio system and its dominant media representations of colonized people, and conventional love stories. The scene shifted away from Hollywood in the final screening of the Fall semester with a documentary about women filmmakers from Africa and the Diaspora followed by two short films by African women filmmakers.

The first screening of Spring Semester took on the variety of ways women filmmakers in Europe, Africa and the U.S. depict desire and sexuality, paired with a short documentary about how a top-rated Nicaraguan *telenovela* was conceived by two women to change social attitudes about sexuality and violence against women. The second screening of the semester highlights critical reworkings of familiar cinematic genres by First Nations, Afro-Canadian, and Central American women directors. The series' final evening will feature a film about Surrealist artists Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore, who led the Resistance on the Isle of Jersey and were sentenced to death by the German occupiers. The screening will include a talk by Cahun scholar Shelley Rice and conclude with a reception.

Spring Showings: Art History 100, 6:30 p.m. (Douglass Campus)

**February 26: *Sexto Sentido*** includes one complete episode from the Nicaraguan telenovela referenced in *Novela, Novela*, offering a new take on the highly popular television form. An all-Native production, ***Honey Moccasin*** combines avant garde elements with a mix of film genres (musical, detective, melodrama) to depict life on Reservation X (Shelly Niro 1998). Dana Inkster takes on documentary conventions as well as heteronormativity in ***Welcome to Africville*** (1999), a meditation on the aftermath of an Afro-Canadian community destroyed through environmental racism.

**March 25:** Barbara Hammer's most recent film, ***Lover/Other: The Story of Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore*** (2006) tells the story of Surrealist artists Cahun and Moore and their gender-bending art in the context of their resistance to the German occupation of the Isle of Jersey. The pair are best known for Cahun's photographs, which attracted recent attention for their reimaginings of the stability of both gender and identity but the film also includes a re-enactment of a dialogue found in Cahun's papers after her death. The 50-minute film will be introduced by Shelley Rice, a noted theorist and curator of photography at the Tisch School, NYU whose book *Inverted Odysseys: Claude Cahun, Maya Deren, Cindy Sherman* helped bring Cahun's work to critical notice. Professor Rice will lead a post-film discussion & reception.

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