



Letter from the Chair

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Dear Colleagues,
Hopefully we are now recovering from the feet upon feet of ice and snow which greeted us at the start of the semester. Although many of our classes were cancelled, I know we have overcome and are back on track. We are now mid-way into an amazing semester.

First I would like to introduce Monique Gregory, our Department Administrator, officially. You know her by now, but she was on medical leave last Spring when our last newsletter came out so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome her formally and to thank her for all the work she does helping to anchor the department.

The semester began with our spectacularly successful conference "Feminist Digital Pedagogies." Not only was it a success in the physical space of Rutgers but, because the entire event was live-streamed, its global reach was beyond impressive. The Office of Instructional & Research Technology shared with us that the off-site engagement is the highest they have ever recorded. We had viewers from 26 nations with over 500 people viewing in total. In addition to 8 Western European countries, we had viewers from 5 Central and Eastern European countries, Russia, 4 Middle Eastern and North African countries, 5 Latin American and Caribbean countries, South Africa, and India. Kudos to Brittney Cooper and Mary Hawkesworth, conference conveners, for a wonderful event. In addition to the gauntlets thrown down about "Percussive Pedagogies: Teaching (And Being Taught) Feminism in Digital Spaces" by Brittney and her Crunk-adelic sisters, there is one other presentation from the conference I would like to single out, the one on "Activist Learning in the Digital Classroom," chaired by our Kelly Coogan-Gehr (PhD 2009), who is now an Educator for the Institute for Health and Socio-Economic Policy of the National

Nurses United at whose suggestion we developed our current project, the online certificate program in Women's Global Health Leadership. That panel, whose three papers —Kelly Coogan-Gehr's on Feminist Coalitions in Unlikely Places, Chrisy Moutsatsos' on Re-thinking Pedagogy and Power and Heidi Hoechst's on Online Classrooms and Inter-generational Interdependence—gave us instructive insights into the challenges and extraordinary potential of online teaching. Most inspiring was

Dr. Abena P. A. Busia



Kelly's presentation which, in her examples of the international reach of this certificate program and the possibilities it gives to "educate into collective disobedience" truly affirmed our decision to embark on this certificate project. We are committed to continuing our ethical self-education on feminist digital pedagogies and developing online courses for our students.

Last fall we also welcomed our Mellon Fellow Annie Fukushima, who will offer the research briefing "Immigrant Crossings & the Invisible/Visible Paradigm of Human Trafficking" next March 24. Also, she is organizing for next fall "From Asia-Pacific to the Americas," a multi-media event that will enable a rich dialogue about militarisms in the 21st century in the framework of the 16 Days Campaign that, organized by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, honors women's human rights and the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee adoption

of the resolution on women human rights defenders. The events invite a dynamic group of scholars, activists and artists working on peace, the environment, anti-violence, policy change, and research and teaching on gender, militarisms, Asia-Pacific and the Americas.

I would also like to congratulate Joanna Regulska for her work as Vice President for International and Global Affairs. Her hard work has been recognized as the Association of International Educators has announced Rutgers University as a recipient of the 2014 Simon Award for their comprehensive internationalization efforts. Named for the late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, the Simon Awards recognize outstanding and innovative achievements in campus internationalization and is among the most prestigious awards for comprehensive internationalization.

The most recent event attended by our students, faculty and staff was the Institute for Women's Leadership's Angelides endowed lecture for Women, Media, and Technology honoring Gloria Steinem. The event was attended by more than 900 people and could not have been more of a success. Our Leadership scholars were honored to meet with Gloria Steinem in our office prior to her university speech. She reminded us that the digital divide is a good proxy for power, and that we must all light the torches of women around us so that we can walk together. In the last of our new media technologies events this semester we are happy to be partnering with the School of Communication & Information (SC&I) to welcome Kimberly Springer, Women's Studies professor, broadcaster and digital media and archives expert, to deliver a public lecture on April 24. We have been hoping to bring her here to visit us for several years, let us turn out to show her a WGS and IWV welcome! ☺



News from the Graduate Director

The Graduate Program in Women's and Gender Studies started the 2013-14 academic year in the wake of some excellent news earlier in the spring. Our department had a winner among the recipients of the Graduate School of New Brunswick's Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Our very own Sara Perryman received the Rutgers Graduate School of New Brunswick Teaching Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. Sara has made outstanding contributions to the success of our Graduate Program, and the Department is honored that her efforts are being recognized. In addition, Stina Soderling received the Linda Rothman Award for teaching excellence in our department.

We also learned that PhD candidates Miriam Tola and Max Hantel both were awarded one year of fellowship support to participate in the 2013-14 seminar at the Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis. In addition, Anel Mendez Velazquez and Ashley Falzetti earned spots in the Institute for Research on Women 2013-14 seminar and fellowship support. Moreover, Jenna Brager was offered a competitive summer 2013 fellowship from the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Poland.

New Cohort and Graduates

In fall 2013 we welcomed a wonderful new cohort of entering MA and PhD students. Their intellectual interests and scholarly backgrounds are as diverse and rich as their living experiences and practical training. And just as our new cohort started their fall coursework, we have begun the new recruiting season, highlighted by a strong presence of our graduate student volunteers at the MA and PhD reception at the November meeting of the National Women's Studies Association annual meeting. This fall we also saw four of our PhD students pass their written comprehen-

sive exams. Many congratulations to Snezana Otasevic, Susana Galan Julve, Taida Wolfe, and Rachel Aparicio!

The fall 2013 semester has already seen several of our graduate students complete their degrees. In October, Sarah Weirich completed her MA degree, and she is currently in the PhD program in Political Science at Rutgers. Also in October, Yurika Tamura defended her dissertation and completed her PhD. Yurika immediately (the next day!) started work in her new Postdoctoral Fellowship position at Rice University's Chao Center. Congratulations Sarah and Yurika!

Dr. Yana Rodgers



Two more students defended their MA theses later in the fall semester in order to graduate in January 2014: congratulations to Kaitlyn Wojtowicz and Kimberly Buckley!

Our recent alums have some good news. Jillian Hernandez, who received her PhD in May 2013, has started her new job in a tenure-track assistant professor position in Critical Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies at the University of California – San Diego. Furthermore, Debotri Dhar, who also finished in May 2013, was selected as the 2013-14 Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Program at Boston University. Congratulations to our wonderful alumni!

Postdoctoral Opportunity

Of note is a call for applications for the 2014-2016 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Women's and Gender Studies. The

School of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies, and the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University are pleased to announce a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Women's and Gender Studies, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The selected fellow will receive a stipend of \$50,000 each year as well as an annual research allocation of \$2,000 and Rutgers University health benefits. The fellow will pursue research and teach three courses in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies during the two-year term of her/his appointment. The fellow also will participate in seminars and other activities organized by the IRW.

International Exchange

Some exciting news from Julie Rajan, our MA Director. Thanks to Julie's hard work, Rutgers University has joined the GEMMA European Exchange Program. The GEMMA Program in Women's Studies features a Consortium of European Universities that offer a Masters in Women's Studies. This Consortium is sponsored by the European Commission. The Program is two years in length. The MA students in our department may visit two European universities in which to complete coursework and benefit from scholarly mentorship. In their fourth term they will return to Rutgers to complete their Thesis. The participating European universities are: Lodz, Poland; Oviedo, Spain; Granada, Spain; Hull, UK; Utrecht, Netherlands; and Bologna, Italy.

Finally, this newsletter contribution would be remiss without thanking, profusely, all the hard work of Monique Gregory, Suzy Kiefer, and Susana Galan Julve in supporting the graduate program. Collectively we are that much more organized, informed, encouraged, and strengthened by their efforts and grace. ☺

"Rutgers University has joined the GEMMA European Exchange Program. The GEMMA Program in Women's Studies features a Consortium of European Universities that offer a Masters in Women's Studies"

News from the Undergraduate Director

Despite the complicated times the public university system is going through, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies has some good news to share. A report elaborated by the Dean of Humanities of the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), James Swenson, shows that our department has had the highest percentage of positive change in enrollment of undergraduate students from 2007 to 2013 in the Humanities. This number is particularly noteworthy given the dramatic decrease of enrollment that the humanities disciplines have suffered in the same period, with a 5.06% reduction for the whole division. According to this data, only Women's and Gender Studies (13.90%), English Writing and ESL (13.27%), Classics (4.01%), Philosophy (2.71%), and French (0.64%) have seen positive changes in their registration figures. In absolute numbers, 3,213 students were enrolled in courses

Dr. Ethel Brooks



offered by our department in the academic year 2012-2013 (compared to 2,821 students in 2007-2008). It is important to note that this does not include students who took classes in courses organized by other departments that were cross-listed with WGS.

Increase of Majors

Another positive development refers to our majors and minors. Between 2008 and 2013, the number of declared majors in Women's and Gender Studies augmented by 50%, one of the highest increases in the

Humanities division, together with Comparative Literature (68.42%) and Linguistics (58.33%). The Department of Women's and Gender Studies has certified nearly 200 majors and minors for the May 2014 graduation.

Grants to India

Nine undergraduate students will have the opportunity this August to attend and participate in the World Women's Congress in Hyderabad, India. Under the mentorship of WGS faculty, the selected students — Shamama Siddiqui, Cierra Kaler-Jones, Ashley Garner, Sarah Stern, Meryem Uzumcu, Juhi Farooqui, Justice Hehir, Eden Mesfun, and Srutika Sabu — have developed papers and organized two panel proposals that will be chaired by Lisa Hetfield, Associate Director of the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL), and Mary Trigg, Director of Research of the IWL. The grants will cover the

transportation, conference registration, lodging and food of the students, as well as their participation in the cultural, social and tourist program associated with this world-wide interdisciplinary gathering instituted in 1981.

New Online Certificate

The department has also recently launched, in collaboration with the IWL and National Nurses United (NNU), an innovative online Certificate Program in Women's Global Health Leadership that seeks to engage students, health care providers, nurses and other community members in conversations about vital issues related to health and healthcare. The program, initiated by WGS faculty member Mary Hawkesworth and PhD alumnae Kelly Coogan-Gehr, has rapidly multiplied its enrollment from its initial 35 students last spring 2013 to the current 63 students this spring semester 2014. ☺

News from Douglass Library

Since fall 2013, Douglass Library has increased its digital and multimedia capability by adding another technology rich space to the Rutgers community. During spring 2014 the ground floor Fordham Commons will serve as the laboratory for four graduate students in the "Digital Curation Internship" co-taught by Mary Hawkesworth and Kayo Denda. The graduate students, three from the Women's and Gender Studies Department and one from the School of Communication and Information, Library and Information Science Department, will use the video intake from the Feminist Digital Pedagogies conference and create compelling feminist digital projects using multimedia tools and expertise. This partnership between the Women's and

Kayo Denda



Gender Studies Department and the Libraries highlights the integral role that the libraries play in the academic ecosystem, both as a partner to the students' academic experience and facilitator of world-class scholarship.

Thanks to Jonathan Saucedo, Music/Performing Arts Librarian, and his grant "Fordham FabLab," two 3D printers and a 3D scanner will soon be in-

stalled in the Fordham Commons. The original Fordham Lab, now the Fordham Lab Classroom, is available to university courses for time slots outside of the courses offered by the Mason Gross School of the Arts.

The Margery Somers Foster Center continues to curate the Douglass Alumnae Oral History Project, a collection of approximately 250 intergenerational interviews of Douglass women from 1925-2005. We have introduced short interview clips from this collection to students in the Knowledge and Power course. The students are exposed to Douglass women's collective ambitions and learn of the historical events that have shaped their alma mater. We also created unique opportunities for contact between

current students and Douglass alumnae, thus enabling students to expand their networks and strengthen pride in their institution and its traditions.

We are also getting ready for a call for the "Fourth Undergraduate Multimedia Award" (deadline March 26, 2014). Please encourage your students with creative multimedia projects to apply.

The Media Center Open House attracted a good crowd. We hope to continue disseminating new media related services to faculty and instructors. Contact Jane Sloan, (jsloan@rutgers.edu), media librarian, for inquiries and additional information. Should you have any questions, inquiries, suggestions or recommendations, please contact me at: kdenda@rutgers.edu. ☺



New Faculty: Sylvia Chan-Malik

Sylvia Chan-Malik joined Rutgers last fall 2012 with a joint appointment with the departments of Women's and Gender Studies and American Studies. She is a literary, cultural studies, and comparative ethnic studies scholar whose work examines the racialization of Islam and, more broadly, the theorization of racial-religious identities in a "post-racial" age. Through her analysis, she reveals the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and religion that construct "Muslim America," and demonstrates how a rich racial and religious syncretism, borne out of the interaction and exchange between Black, Arab, White, Latino, and South Asian Muslim communities, has always been the hallmark of Muslim American identity, community and cultural formation. Chan-Malik has recently published "Cultural and Literary Production of Muslim America" in *The Cambridge Com-*

panion to American Islam, edited by Juliane Hammer and Omid Safi (Cambridge University Press, 2013). She is also the guest editor (with Khyati Joshi) of "Asian American Religions" in the *Amerasia Journal* (Spring 2014). Her essay "Islam in the Arts in the U.S." has been accepted for publication in *The Routledge Handbook of Islam in the West* (June 2014).

Making Muslim America

What does it mean to be a part of Islam? Sylvia Chan-Malik's current manuscript *A part of Islam: Race, Gender, and Making Muslim America, 1923-2013* responds to this question by locating the lives and labor of Muslim women in the U.S. within and through the racialized contexts of their engagements with Islam. Chan-Malik considers historically-situated cultural constructions of Islam and Muslims in the nation's racial imaginary, as well as

the resolutely transnational contexts of geopolitical power relations between the US, South Asia, and the Middle East. Through first-person interviews, archival analyses, the close-readings of literary, visual, media, and digital texts, this book demonstrates how African American, White American, South Asian American, and Arab American Muslim women, from the interwar period into the post-9/11 era, have acted as primary architects and central historical agents of Islam's racial, gendered, and religious presence in the US. Locating what she calls an *affective tradition* of Islam in the US, Chan-Malik argues that Muslim American women have been instrumental in constructing and enabling ethical practices of racial-religious-gendered belonging, *ways of being and feeling Muslim* within the shifting racial, gendered, and religious logics of 20th-21st century US. ☺



Sylvia Chan-Malik has a PhD in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley (2009).

In the spring semester, she is teaching a graduate seminar on Feminist Methodology.

Contact:

s.chanmalik@rutgers.edu



Annie Fukushima has a PhD in Ethnic Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality from the University of California, Berkeley (2012).

In the spring, she is teaching an undergraduate course on Gender & Popular Culture.

Contact:

Annie.fukushima@rutgers.edu

New Postdoc: Annie Fukushima

Annie Isabel Fukushima, PhD is currently an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Associate in Women's and Gender Studies and the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University (2013-2015). Her work explores homo-social violence through examining Asian and Latina/o migrant experiences and categorization as traffickers/trafficked people and the multiple crossings migrants traverse – geographical and socio-political. Fukushima's work is interdisciplinary: sociology of participant observation and participation, media and legal analysis, and a transnational feminist lens. During the spring of 2013 she served as an expert witness on human trafficking in the superior courts of California, San Francisco and is currently evaluating Office for Victims of Crime funded programs in

Northern California – Anti-trafficking Collaborative of the Bay Area. She was invited by the Independent Television Service to be a panelist for the international screening of *Invoking Justice* (August 2013) and she was featured on the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) website in January 2014 as the "Consultant Spotlight."

New Publications

Fukushima is currently working on her book manuscript *Asian and Latina/o Migrant Crossings in the United States and the Invisible / Visible Paradigm of Human Trafficking*. Her recent co-authored work, "Calling the Consumer Activist, Consuming the Trafficking Subject: *Call and Response* and the Terms of Legibility," with Julietta Hua, will be included in

an anthology edited by Lisa Cuklanz and Heather McIntosh, *Documenting Gendered Violence* (2014). She is also the co-editor, with Rosalee Gonzalez, Layli Maparyan, Matt Richardson and Anita Tijerina, of a Third Women Press anthology that will be published in 2015 following the lead of *This Bridge Called My Back* (1982) and other seminal feminist of color and queer of color anthologies. Her article "Beyond Supply & Demand: The Limitations of End Demand-Strategies" is included in *Human Trafficking Reconsidered: Rethinking the Problem, Envisioning New Solutions*, edited by Kimberly Kay Hoang and Rhacel Salazar Parreñas (2014). She has published multiple encyclopedia entries on intimate relations and race, immigration, human trafficking, and comfort women. ☺

Seven Courses for Healing the World

The certificate program in Women's Global Health Leadership is an innovative online project developed by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies in collaboration with the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at Rutgers and National Nurses United (NNU), the largest nurses' union in the United States. The program was approved by the School of Arts and Sciences curriculum committee in the academic year 2012-13. It was launched with support of a generous grant from the Dean of Arts and Sciences in Rutgers-New Brunswick. The online certificate program is designed for undergraduate students who seek to combine their interests in health professions with interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. More than 250,000 nurses who are NNU members are also eligible to pursue the program for meeting continuing

education requirements or moving towards completion of a Bachelor's degree. The twenty-one credit certificate program offers a combination of required, elective, and special



Logo of the program.

topic courses that present a comprehensive overview of social, economic, political, and environmental issues central to health and well-being of women in different parts of the world.

Since the program was launched in 2012, it has attracted students from diverse disciplines, professions, and regions. Students majoring in Women's

and Gender Studies, Nursing, Psychology, Africana Studies, Environmental Economics, Geological Sciences, Philosophy, Political Science, and Public Health have attended the classes. The online format of the program has enabled nurses from Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, New York, Michigan, and Pennsylvania to participate. The program has continued a very high student retention rate of 94%. ☺

Visit www.womensglobalhealthleadership.org to learn more about the program. The website features faculty profiles, course descriptions, requirements, syllabi, student evaluations, digital bookshelf, visual archive, health statistics, films and documentaries, and many other exciting resources on women's health research and activism in various parts of the world.

"Change Is Already Happening"

- Ashley Faults
Registered Nurse, NNU

"I have been working a lot of night shifts over the past few weeks, and on a slow evening recently I fired up my laptop to watch a few of the course's required videos. At one point, a co-worker asked if she could sit and watch, as well. Before too long, a little group was gathered and everyone's eyes were wide. People were shocked to learn about the horrifying truths regarding living and working conditions around the globe. After the films, I was able to talk further about the class, and as you encountered, people were very eager to be enlightened. If even just your sister-in-law and my few co-workers are inspired through what we have learned, then change is already happening. Even subtle change for justice is better than no change!"

Conference on #TeachDigitalFem

Online teaching and the Digital Humanities (DH) are increasingly becoming key components in the development of pedagogical approaches and tools. In order to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that the digital present poses for feminist theory and practice, as well as to learn more about those projects that are already using new technologies and cyberspace for teaching, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies organized on January 23 and 24 a conference on Feminist Digital Pedagogies.

The two-day event featured keynote speeches by Adeline Koh, director of DH@Stockton and assistant professor of literature at Richard Stockton College, and by Anne Balsamo, professor and Dean of the School of Media Studies at The



Poster of the conference.

New School, and Alex Juhasz, professor of Media Studies at Pitzer College. On January 23, the panel "Engaging Students Across the Disciplines in Feminist Dialogues on Technology"

included presentations by Douglass Residential College students participating in the DOCC on Race, Gender and Technology, moderated by Karen Alexander and Elaine Zundl, Dean of Junior and Senior Year Programs and Dean of the Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science and Engineering at Douglass Residential College.

On January 24, the educators for the Institute for Health and Socio-Economic Policy of the National Nurses United (NNU) Kelly Coogan-Gehr, Chrisy Moutsatsos, and Heidi Hoechst talked about the implementation of the Online Certificate Program on Women's Global Health Leadership in the session "Activist Learning in the Digital Classroom." The Crunk Feminist Collective —

integrated by Brittney Cooper, Robin Boylorn, Sheri Davis-Faulkner, Susana M. Morris and Eesha Pandit—discussed "Percussive Pedagogies: Teaching (And Being Taught) Feminism in Digital Spaces." The conference also included a hands-on workshop on how to create feminist content in Wikipedia, facilitated by Adeline Koh, and a session on Flipd with Sesh Venugopal.

The event attracted an audience of about 150 participants on site and over 500 online viewers from 26 countries that could follow the presentations through live streaming. ☺

Watch online: http://youtu.be/ee_Ki4IxeqU (Jan 23) and <http://youtu.be/LAjeR9kDCNs> (Jan 24).





Prof. Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd is co-editing, with Julia Jordan-Zachery, a Special Issue on Black Women in Politics for the *National Political Science Review*. She published "Beyond Superwoman: Justice for Black Women Too," in *Dissent* (Winter 2014, invited article). She has been asked to join the Editorial Board of *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* and to serve as the Chair of the American Political Science Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession. She has also been asked and agreed to serve on the Editorial Board of the journal *Politics & Gender*. She continues to serve on the Editorial Boards of *Signs* and *Feminist Economics*.



Prof. Yanoula Athanassakis (ACLS Faculty Fellow and Postdoctoral Associate) has been revising her manuscript, *Bodies Interrupted: Literature, Nature, and Materiality*, and preparing it for publication. She drafted two articles outside of her book project, one on Steinbeck's early environmentalism and its implications for today's crisis in the humanities, and the other on Greek eco-terrorism. Both works speak to her interest in environmental justice and its ties to the vulnerability of the humanities today. In addition to her writing, she has delivered a number of talks and papers, among them one at Rutgers in Human Ecology, another at the Modern Language Association's annual conference, and a talk at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment on empathy and pedagogy.



Prof. Radhika Balakrishnan published "Debt, Power, and Crisis: Social Stratification and the Inequitable Governance of Financial Markets," in *Race, Empire, and the Crisis of the Subprime*, edited by Paula Cakravarty and Denise Ferreira da Silva (John Hopkins University Press, 2013). She was a speaker at the ERF-UNICEF Workshop on Social and Economic Policies for Child Rights with Equity in Bangkok, Thailand (July 2013), at the Internal Seminar on Macro-Economic Policy and Women at the South African Human Rights Commission in Johannesburg, South Africa (February 2013), and at the Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Governance held by the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa (February 2013). She presented and was a moderator at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 2013). She also presented "Visions and Voices for Human Rights: Integrating Human Rights into the Post-2015 Agenda" (September 2013) and "Human Rights at the Core of Sustainable and Just Development" (December 2013) at the United Nations.



Prof. Alison Bernstein published *Funding the Future: Philanthropy and American Higher Education* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2013), and signed a contract as the general editor of a series of volumes entitled *Junctures: Case Studies in Women's Leadership* for Rutgers University Press. She was invited to join the Board of Scholars for *MS. Magazine*, and published an article on philanthropy entitled "Sustaining a Feminist Future" (Fall 2013). She accepted an invitation to join the Board of IREX, an NGO located in Washington, DC, which sponsors scholarly exchanges. She also joined the Board of Cultural Survival, a Boston and Denver-based non-profit working to advance indigenous rights.



Prof. Charlotte Bunch was honored with the creation of the Charlotte Bunch Human Rights Defender Award to be given to activists from around the world, at the Global Fund for Women's 25th Anniversary Gala. The Center for Women's Global Leadership published a study guide to accompany the film *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*.



Prof. Susan Carroll published with Kira Sanbonmatsu the book *More Women Can Run: Gender and Pathways to the State Legislature* (Oxford University Press, 2013). She also edited a special Critical Perspectives section for the December 2013 issue of *Politics & Gender* entitled "Crossing Borders, Transforming Knowledge: Celebrating 25 Years of the Women and Politics Program at Rutgers University," which includes brief essays written by seven RU PhDs who have received tenure, are well published, are visible and respected professionally, and have had very successful academic careers. They are: Claire Snyder-Hall, Nikol G. Alexander-Floyd, Ronnee Schreiber, Cristina Beltran, Kate Bedford, Rose Corrigan, and Debra J. Liebowitz.



Prof. Ed Cohen published "Human Tendencies" in *e-misférica*, Winter 2013, 10(1). He organized "Three Events with Bernard Stiegler," a lecture and a public conversation by the director of the Institut de Recherche et d'Innovation at the Pompidou Center in Paris (April 2013).



Prof. Brittney Cooper published (with Aisha Durham and Susana Morris) the article "The Stage Hip Hop Feminism Built: A New Directions Essay," in *Signs* 38:3 (Spring 2013), and the chapter "They Are Nevertheless Our Brethren: The Order of Eastern Star and the Battle for Women's Leadership," in *"All Men Are Free and Are Brethren: Prince Hall Fraternalism and the Rise of a People"*, edited by Peter Hinks and Steven Kantrowitz (Cornell University Press, 2013). The Crunk Feminist Collective she co-founded was nominated for the 2013 Ms. Foundation People's Choice Award.



Prof. Carlos Decena serves as Director of the Rutgers Initiative on Migration, Health and Well-being. He published (with Mayes, A., Martin, Y., Jayaram, K., and Alexis, Y.) "Transnational Hispaniola: Toward New Paradigms in Haitian and Dominican Studies" in *Radical History Review* 115 (Winter 2013) and (with Shedlin, M.G., Noboa, H., and Betancourt, O.) "Sending-Country Violence and Receiving-Country Discrimination: Effects on the Health of Colombian Refugees in Ecuador," in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* (February 2013). He published "Violence and the quotidian scenes of becoming a man," in *Memorias: Revista digital de Historia y Arqueología desde el Caribe colombiano* 21 (2013) and (with Agocha, B. and Asencio, M.) "Sexuality and Culture," in the *APA Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology, Volume 2: Contextual Approaches*, edited by D.L. Tolman and L. M. Diamond (American Psychological Association, 2013). He received a Fulbright Specialist Grant, U.S. Studies-Women's Studies, Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana, in Uruguay (May 2014).



Prof. Fakhri Haghani offered two talks in the University of Manchester (UK): “‘Seeing and Being Seen:’ Egyptian Women, Revolutions, and the Staging of a Shifting Public Sphere” (February 25) and “Between Realism and Representation: Cinema and Society in the Middle East” (February 26).



Prof. Jasbir Puar received the Modern Languages Association GL/Q Caucus Michael Lynch Service Award and the Robert Sutherland Visitorship Award in Queens University. She also became a Fellow 2013-2014 of the Society of the Humanities at Cornell University.



Prof. Julie Rajan has secured with Routledge a contract for her book, *Al Qaeda's Global Crisis: Takfir and the Mass Killing of Muslims* (forthcoming 2014). She was the guest editor of two special issues in the *Journal of Postcolonial Cultures and Societies*, one on “Women and Terrorism: Violence, Conflict, and the Nation-State” (November 2013) and the other on “Women Suicide Bombers: Negotiations of Violence” (May 2013). With Sanja Bahun-Radunovic, she is working on the second edition of her book, *Violence and Gender in the Globalized World: The Intimate and the Extimate* (Ashgate, forthcoming 2014). She completed two articles: “Indian Writing in the West: Imperialism, Exoticism, and Visibility,” in Om Dwivedi and Lisa Lau (eds.), *Marketing Compulsions of Indian Writing in English* (Ashgate, forthcoming), and “Women Terrorists in Postcolonial Conflicts Globally,” in Carola Dietze and Claudia Verhoeven (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Terrorism* (Oxford UP, forthcoming).



Prof. Joanna Regulska is the appointed member of the 2014 Association of International Education Administrators Conference Planning. She received the 2013 Fulbright International Education Administrators Program in Korea, Fulbright Korean-American Educational Commission.



Prof. Yana Rodgers published (with Nidhiya Menon) the article “Labor Regulation and Job Quality: Evidence from India,” in the *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 66:4 (July 2013), and the chapter “Credit and Self-Employment,” in *Handbook of Research on Gender and Economic Life*, edited by Deborah M. Figart and Tonia Warnecke (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013).



Prof. Louisa Schein presented “Changing Idioms/Changing Practices: Ethnicity, Minority, and Culture in China” at the International Conference of Asian Scholars in Macau (June 2013). She also presented “Ethnographic Representation Across Genres: The Culture Trope in Contemporary Mainland Media” at the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Conference in Singapore (July 2013). Schein also gave two lectures at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore (July 2013).



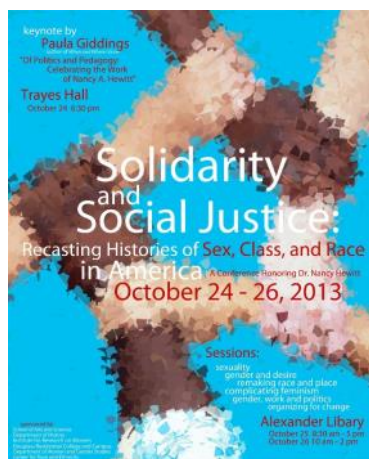
Prof. Kyla Schuller held the Erasmus Mundus Visiting Professor Scholarship at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands (May-June 2013). She is currently at work on a book project, *The Sentimental Politics of Life*, which rethinks the emergence of eugenics in the United States.



Prof. Mary Trigg (Aresty Research Assistant Kim LeMoon, SAS'15) won 2013 “Best Poster” for the humanities field in the Aresty Research Center’s Undergraduate Research Symposium, “Multicultural Motherhood: Seabrook Farms in the 1940s & 1950s.” The poster is related to Trigg’s new book project, *Maternalism, Temporality, and Representations of Mothers in the United States, 1920-1960*. She has a contract with Rutgers University Press for her book *Feminism as Life's Work: Four Modern American Women, 1910-1940*, that will be published in the spring 2014.

Events Honor Nancy Hewitt and Cheryl Clarke

On the occasion of their retirement, a series of events celebrated last fall the work of two affiliated faculty of the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies: Nancy Hewitt and Cheryl Clarke. On October 4, a gathering entitled “Cheryl Clarke: A Retrofuturespective” invited activists, artists, scholars, performers, and others to a get-together that featured talks and poetry readings by Cheryl Wall, Rickey Laurentiis, Evie Shockley, Aishah Shahida Simmons, Abena Busia, Aimee Meredith Cox, E. Frances White, and Edgar Rivera Colon,



Poster of the conference.

among others. Clarke is the author of several books of poetry —*Narratives: Poems In The Tradition Of Black Women; Living As A Lesbian; Humid Pitch; and Experimental Love*. She was also, since 2009, the Dean of Students for the Livingston Campus.

On October 25 and 26, the conference “Solidarity and Social Justice: Recasting Histories of Sex, Class, and Race in America” honored Nancy Hewitt with a keynote by Paula Giddings, author of *When and Where I Enter*, entitled “Of Politics and Pedagogy: Cele-

brating the Work of Nancy A. Hewitt,” and a program that included sessions on sexuality, gender and desire, remaking race and place, complicating feminism, gender, work and politics, and organizing for change. Hewitt was a professor of History and Women’s and Gender Studies at Rutgers, and published, among others, the edited collections *A Companion to American Women’s History* and *Women, Families and Communities: Readings in American History*, as well as *Who Built America?* She also edited *No Permanent Waves*. ☺



Making (Inter)Disciplinary Trouble

By Dr. Nikol Alexander-Floyd

Professor in Women's and Gender Studies

One of the things that I am most passionate about is making (inter) disciplinary trouble, that is, "troubling" or disrupting conventional disciplinary boundaries that affirm mainstream approaches to knowledge production and constrain progressive agendas for feminist and anti-racist politics. In recent years, I have been fortunate to further this agenda in a variety of ways, both through my professional service and scholarship.

I was humbly grateful to serve as program co-chair for the National Women's Studies Association for the 2011 and 2012 annual meetings. Although I had just finished co-chairing the 2010 annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists,

advocate for gender equity. As Chair of the American Political Science Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession (CSWP), I organized a plenary session for the CSWP entitled, "Leaning In and Having It All?: Redefining Equality and Transforming Political Science in the New Millennium," which featured Anne-Marie Slaughter, Carol Mershon, Shayla Nunnally, and Karen Beckwith. The scholars had a far-reaching, robust, and generative discussion, and the plenary was covered by reporters and was discussed in stories in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *Issues In Higher Education* aimed at spotlighting the issue of gender inequities in political science.

There is a correlation, of course,

ence PhD and one of our department's women's and gender studies certificate students. As a result of this committee's efforts, the March 2014 annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists will mark the beginning of a formal affiliation of the AS-BWP with NCOBPS. This affiliation will facilitate programming on women's and gender studies issues for the NCOBPS annual meeting, and provide a context for Black women in political science to receive mentoring and career support.

Finally, I have been fortunate to co-edit a special issue of the *National Political Science Review* on Black women in politics with an amazing feminist scholar, Julia Jordan-Zachery, Chair of Black Studies at Providence College. The



In the picture, among others, Nikol Alexander-Floyd, Abena Busia, Zakia Salime, and other leaders in the NWSA, such as Bonnie Thornton Dill, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Chandra Mohanty, Allison Kimmich, and Angela Davis.

when former National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) President Bonnie Thornton Dill asked me to work alongside her as NWSA program co-chair, I could not pass up an opportunity to co-labor with an amazing scholar-activist whom I had long admired. I was also excited about contributing to the new direction that the NWSA has taken in recent years to forge a more inclusive, diverse organization that would provide renewed energy and direction to the field of Women's and Gender Studies. Our themes of "Feminist Transformations" and "Feminism Unbound" directly addressed the impact of feminist thought in reconfiguring disciplinary terrains and directed attention to the new horizons of feminist theory and practice in the current millennium. Each year conference attendance continued to break new records, and the level of engagement by participants has been outstanding.

In a similar vein, within the context of political science, feminists have been working to push the boundaries of what constitutes valid knowledge and to

between the amount and type of scholarship produced about gender and race inequities and the presence of white women and racial minorities in the professions, and this especially critical in the case of Black women in academia, particularly in political science, one of the disciplines that has been historically resistant to addressing equity concerns. For this reason, organizations, such as the Association for the Study of Black Women in Politics (ASBWP), have been formed to advance Black women in political science and support scholarship on Black women. Recently, under the direction of Wendy Smooth, associate professor of Women's and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State and the current president of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS), an NCOBPS Women's Initiative was instituted to address the advancement of Black women within the organization and the profession. I had the pleasure of co-chairing this committee, along with Nadia Brown, assistant professor of political science at Purdue, who is a Rutgers political sci-

special issue, due out fall 2014, features cutting-edge, interdisciplinary work from a range of sub-fields and utilizes a wide array of methods. One of the pieces, which examines the raced-gendered authoritarian discourse of Marion Barry in terms of his involvement of D.C. housing policy, was penned by one of our PhD students, Rosemary Ndubizu. The special issue will be the first published by a political science journal that centers on Black women's experiences, and will contribute to Black women's and gender studies scholarship both within and beyond political science.

One of the benefits of being a graduate and now faculty member of Rutgers is having exposure to an impressive community of feminist scholars across disciplines, with an abiding commitment to women's and gender studies and ample support for doing progressive feminist work. As a scholar, I am fortunate to be able to pursue my personal and political passions within such a vibrant feminist community as we have at Rutgers. ☺

Presentations at the NWSA, CESA and Other

A contingent of WGS faculty participated in the 34th Annual Conference of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) in Cincinnati (November 7-10). Under the theme "Practices of Effecting Change," **Prof. Brittney Cooper** took part in the Crunk Feminist Collective Roundtable (in the picture), **Prof. Alison Bernstein** presented on "Women and Media Leadership" and "How to Fund the Revolution? Sustaining the Future of Women's Studies and Feminist Organizations," **Prof. Mary Hawkesworth** talked about "Academic Publishing in Women's Studies: Journals," and **Prof. Karen Alexander** moderated the session "Queer Mobilizations." Under the theme "Borders and Margins," **Prof. Mary Trigg** presented "U.S. Immigrant Mothers' Narratives of the Past: Temporality, Motherhood, and Memory, 1920-1940."

WGS faculty also participated in the Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA)'s 2013 Conference in Chicago (September 19-21). **Prof. Sylvia Chan-Malik** presented "The Radical Politics of Prayer," participated in a roundtable on "Demons of Comparison: Ethnic Studies and the Imperatives of Imperialism," and was a discussant on the Social Justice Initiative "Imperial Legacies and the Perils and Possibilities of Comparative Work." **Prof. Jasbir Puar** participated in the plenary "What is to be



The Crunk Feminist Collective.

Done? The Future of Critical Ethnic Studies."

In other academic gatherings and conferences, **Prof. Nikol Alexander-Floyd** presented "Race, Gender, and the Social Construction of the African Diaspora: A Case-Study of the Black Male Crisis in Popular Culture, Public Policy, and Formal Politics" at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (February 2013) and "We Shall Have Our Manhood: Black Male Crisis Ideology in Popular Culture, Public Policy, and Formal Politics," at the University of Illinois-Chicago (March 2013). **Prof. Carlos Decena** presented "Working Trans in Jaime Cortez's *Sexilio*" at the American University, Washington DC (February 2013) and the University of Connecticut (April 2013). He also presented "Body Portals" Writing Through Sleep Dealer" at CUNY (March 2013), "Towards a Queer Intersectional Analysis in Immigration Marriage vs. Asylum

Claims" at the University of California, Berkeley (April 2013), and "The Scandal of Woman Loca in the Dominican-Haitian Borderlands" at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Convention in Washington DC (May 2013). He was an invited panelist at the National Stigma Summit on Black and Latino Gay Men's Health in Dallas (November 2013), and "Thinking with my Gut: Preliminary Notes on How to do Theory with Spirit," at the Union Theological Seminary in New York (October 2013). **Dr. Annie Fukushima** presented "Cultures of Crossing & Servitude: Tracing an Archive of Raced and Gendered Subjects" at the American Studies Association (ASA) Conference, Washington D.C. (November 2013). **Prof. Radhika Balakrishnan** presented "The Politics of Solidarity: Gender, Sexuality, and Transnational Organizing," at the Barnard Hall in New York (April 2013) and "Democracy v. A Global Economy: New Challenges and Threats" at Columbia University (September 2013). She also served as an expert panelist for OHCHR's Expert Group Meeting on promoting human rights in post-crisis financial regulation and macroeconomic policies in NY (April 2013) and spoke at the US Human Rights Network's bi-annual national conference in Atlanta on "Advancing Human Rights 2013: Dignity, Justice, Action" (December 2013). ☺

CWGL: Vienna +20 Symposium

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) organized on October 3 the Vienna +20 symposium "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: 20 Years After Vienna." The one-day event was opened with a keynote by **Prof. Radhika Balakrishnan**, Executive Director of the CWGL, and Anthony Romero, of the American Civil Liberties Union, moderated by LaShawn Jefferson, from the Ford Foundation.

The morning started with a panel on Women's Rights, moderated by **Prof. Zakia**



Closure of the symposium.

Salime (WGS, RutgersU), and with the participation of **Prof. Charlotte Bunch** (WGS, RutgersU), Patricia Guerrero (Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas), Bernedette Muthien (Coalition of African Lesbians), and Anita Nayar (United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service).

In the afternoon, there was a panel on poverty and inequality, with presentations by Ejim Dike (US Human Rights Network), Bhumika Muchhala (Third World Network), and Ignacio Saiz (Center for Economic and Social Rights), fol-

lowed by a panel on human rights, democracy, and right to development, with the participation of Noura Erakat (Temple University Beasley School of Law), Norma Maldonado (Asociacion Raxch' och' Oxlaju Aj), and Atieno Ndomo (United Nations Millennium Campaign). The Chair of the Department of WGS, **Prof. Abena Busia**, was in charge of the closing of the symposium. ☺

☺ Watch online: <http://www.you.tube.com/CWGLRutgers>.



Teaching Feminist Theories in Bangladesh

By Nafisa Tanjeem

PhD student in Women's and Gender Studies

The day I first heard that I was selected for the Graduate School of New Brunswick pre-dissertation travel award, I was overwhelmed with joy. The award meant a lot for me. It meant I could afford to go to Bangladesh and spend three months visiting potential research sites. It meant I would be able to collect locally published resources, establish networks with Bangladeshi researchers and activists, and identify key informants. Nevertheless, I did not know on that day it also meant I would get the opportunity to know an amazing cohort of Bangladeshi undergraduate students majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and the very rewarding experience of teaching part of a course titled "Introduction to Feminist Theories" at University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. My teaching philosophy is influenced by "Introduction to College Teaching" classes and TA training sessions at Rutgers University and University of Toronto and my four-year-long experience of teaching in the USA and Canada. I was always interested in gaining teaching experience in the Global South where I would face unanticipated challenges and be able to question pedagogical assumptions of my North American instructional training and experience. So, when I first heard that the Department of Women and Gender Studies at University of Dhaka was looking for a substitute teacher to cover for a faculty member on maternity leave, I volunteered.

Teaching at University of Dhaka brought me face-to-face with the extraordinary privilege of universities in the Global North. Texts that I wanted to teach were not available at libraries of the university. Institutional subscriptions to most of the academic journals published from North America and Europe are too expensive for a public institution of higher learning in the Global South such as University of Dhaka. Many faculty members purchase books at their own expense when they travel abroad to pursue higher studies or attend conferences. Upon returning to Bangladesh, they donate the books to libraries in order to familiarize students with the most updated feminist scholarships. Countries in the Global South like Bangladesh desperately need less stringent copyright laws and more open source digital publications. That

said, universities in the Global North also need to promote the practice of considering open source digital publications for faculty hiring and tenuring.

Introduction to College Teaching classes at Rutgers cautioned me against giving away my personal cell phone number and accepting friend requests from students on Facebook. US practices endorse email as the primary means of student-faculty communication. These practices make little sense in the context of Bangladesh, where only 20% people have access to internet (*The Independent*, May 31, 2013). Considering the low percentage of internet users, I was not surprised when students

and articles that my professors assigned were written by North American or European feminists in English. I looked at the syllabus I was teaching. I assigned some amazing feminist texts from scholars such as Judith Butler, Audre Lorde, and Chandra Mohanty and all of the works were published in English from either the USA or the UK. My own academic training in Bangladesh and the way I was training Bangladeshi students were heavily influenced by feminist knowledge produced in the hegemonic Global North. My colleagues at University of Dhaka try their best to update students with most recent interventions in North American and European



My wonderful students from the "Introduction to Feminist Theories" class.

asked for my personal cell phone number. It is also very usual to get a Facebook friend request from a student in Bangladesh. Most of the universities in this country neither have access to course management systems like Sakai or eCollege nor maintain list servers. The Facebook group of the Department is the place where students get most updated news.

Students at University of Dhaka often asked me what the Bangla words would be for terms such as "heteronormativity," "intersectionality," or "transnational feminism." I could not give them satisfying answers, which led me to wonder why I don't know the Bangla words. I looked back at my undergraduate training from the same university. Almost two-thirds of books

feminist thought with a view to making students competent for graduate admission in the North. Do I take that much effort to teach works of Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain or Najma Chowdhury at Rutgers? How often do feminist scholars in the Global North cite works that are written in languages other than English and produced in the Global South?

My four week teaching experience gave me the wonderful opportunity to question and rethink my teaching philosophy and practice, which have been profoundly shaped by North American instructional training and experience. I loved University of Dhaka, where resources are limited and challenges are unpredictable but alternatives are creative and aspirations are high. ☺

Filipino Labor Migration and Coloniality of Power

Last August I went to the University of The Philippines (UP) as a visiting fellow sponsored by Saba Raymundo, a professor at the UP Center for International Studies.

In my work I explore the relation between labor migration and coloniality of power in the United States, and the Philippines is an especially important site for understanding this relation, not only because it shares with Latin America the legacies of Spanish and US colonialism but also because it is the top labor-exporting country in the world.

I had a wonderful time exploring the UP's archive on the US colonial era, and learning about coloniality and migration from the many faculty members at the UP who have great expertise on the subject. Professor



Carolina in the Philippines.

Raymundo put me in contact with her extensive network of Filipino migrant organizations in Manila and I was invited to take part in the activities organized for her summer class, including field trips to state agencies and advocacy organizations, and lectures by Philippine migration scholars, government officials and community advocates.

I also had the opportunity to attend the meetings of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) – a big Filipino organization for the encouragement of academic activism – and I participated in the organizing of the International Assembly of Migrants & Refugees, which took place in New York City in October 2013. All in all, I had the best time, and I can't wait to go again. ☺

**By Carolina
Alonso
Bejarano**

PhD student
in Women's
and Gender
Studies

Coming Full Circle: 'A Question of Color' in NY

As both a returning nontraditional graduate student in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers and a Guggenheim award-winning filmmaker, my worlds came full circle this past summer. Drs. Dominique Grisard and Margrit Vogt invited me to screen my 1993 PBS film *A Question of Color* at the Skin/Matters conference on August 29 at the CUNY Graduate Center and to be a presenter at the Columbia University symposium the following day. *A Question of Color*, then twenty years old, is the first one-hour documentary to explore attitudes about skin color, hair texture and facial features in African American communities.

The film was paired with a recent short documentary — *Shadeism* by Nayani Vathsaladevi-Thiyagarajah — which explores a similar topic amongst women of color in Toronto. In the discussion that followed, Vathsaladevi-Thiyagarajah shared that she had seen my film some years earlier and had been very influenced by it. Personally, I was moved by her interviews. A robust dialogue ensued between us and the audience.

The following day I presented on the topic of Colorism and Cinema. I

discussed how African American directors, including myself, endeavored for decades to accurately and artfully reflect Black skin tones, despite film processing technologies that were skewed for White complexions. I also described some recent visceral student responses to *A Question of Color* at Rutgers where I use it to explore racialized notions of beauty and internalized racism. While my film privileges African American experiences, a number of Latinas and South Asian women in particular shared painful familial and community experiences in their autobiographical papers. I attended the conference in part to identify accessible cross cultural scholarship and media for teaching about the topic. Happily, I met several scholars and artists who are producing such work. Following the conference, some of us posed for this photograph on the right.

In closing, this experience marked me for a remarkable convergence of my academic pursuits and my filmmaking which continues today. Currently I am at work on my dissertation "How Black Feminism Takes Place: Intergenerational Activism and Cultural Production in the New Mil-

lennium." This spring and fall I am teaching "Media, Culture and Representation: Black Feminism and Cinema." Finally I will participate in the 2014-15 IRW Seminar Feminist Optics: Gender and Visual Studies. And in the not too distant future I will complete my documentary film in progress on modern Black feminist movements. ☺

**By Kathe
Sandler**

PhD student
in Women's
and Gender
Studies



Kathe (kneeling right) with (left to right) Abby Dobson, Corey Dzenko, Kendra Ross, Katyayani Dalmia, Cecilia Cardena-Navia, and Lahoma Thomas.

PhD Students Present at Major Conferences

Several WGS graduate students participated in the NWSA conference in Connecticut last November. Under the theme "Borders and Margins," **Sara Perryman** presented "Eco-sensoriums and Geographies of Risk: Detroit, Michigan's Affective Circuitry" and **Lindsey Whitmore** presented "Imperial Sensations: Border Anxiety & Bodily Transgression in 'A Thrilling and Exciting Account of the Sufferings and Horrible Tortures Inflicted on Mortimer Bowers and Miss Sophia Delaplain.'" Under the theme "Body Politics," **Jenna Brager** presented "Visceral Possessions and Queer Haunting in 'The Dybbuk.'" The panel "Rethinking Sexual Difference: Body Politics in the Work of Luce Irigaray," with **Max Hantel** ("The Womb and the Folding Sea: Glissant, Irigaray and the Feminine Poetics of Relation"), **Snezana Otasevic** ("Of Difference and Orientation: What Irigaray has to offer to Sara Ahmed") and **Stephen Seely** ("Does Life Have (a) Sex? Rethinking Sexual Difference with Irigaray and Simondon"), which was cancelled due to limited attendance, was finally offered as part of the WGS Brown Bag Research Briefings last January 27. Under the theme "Futures of the Feminist Past," **Ashley Glassburn Falzetti** presented "Preserving Forgotten Memories" and "Origins of Belonging: Contemporary Stories of the Miami Nation and Native Intelligibility." In this same rubric, **Stina Soderling** presented "From Marching on Washington to Gar-



Stina Soderling and Snezana Otasevic with WGS Chair, Abena Busia, at the NWSA.

dening in the South: The Circulation of a Community's Origin Story."

In October, WGS PhD students attended the Critical Ethnic Studies Association (CESA) conference in Chicago: **Louise Tam** presented "Racism as Illness? The Problem of Anti-Racism in Cross-Cultural Mental Health Agencies," and **Ashley Glassburn Falzetti**, who talked about "Place and Belonging in Historical Narratives of Indigeneity."

In July 2013, **Nafisa Tanjeem** presented "Mapping Transnational Organizing Using a Feminist Commodity Chain Analysis" at the International Associa-

tion for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Annual Conference in Stanford University. In November, **Susana Galan** presented "Jointly Redefining Honor and Shame: Personal and Political Bloggers Discuss Sexual Harassment in the Post-Mubarak Egyptian Virtual Sphere" at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In March 2014, **Lindsey Whitmore** presented "Truth-ing the Addicted Body: Initial Steps Towards an Emergent Ethics of Care" at the 6th Annual LGBT Studies Symposium "Foucault 2014: Beyond Sexuality" in Hofstra University. ☼

WGS PhD Students Receive Teaching Awards

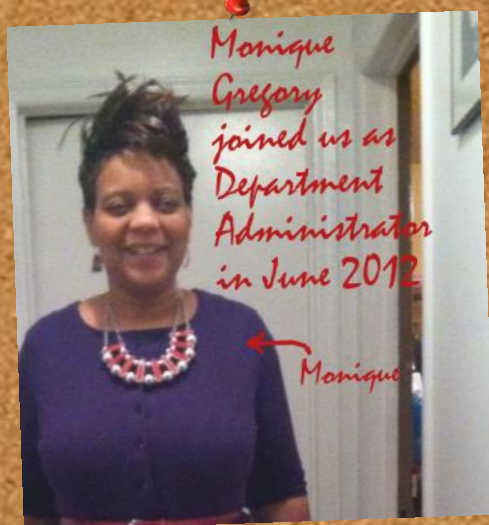


Sara Perryman receives the award from Dean Jerome Kukor.

Two WGS graduate students have received teaching awards for showing excellence in undergraduate teaching: **Sara Perryman** received the Rutgers Graduate School-New Brunswick Teaching Award (in the picture), and **Stina Soderling** received the Linda Rothman Award. Their teaching experience includes feminist and queer theory, critical sexuality studies, interdisciplinary theory and methodologies, feminist pedagogies, anarchist theory and rural geography. ☼

Women's Activism in Romania

WGS PhD student **Laura Lovin** has recently published the chapter "Grounds for Hope? Voices of Feminism and Women's Activism in Romania," in *Postcommunism from Within: Social Justice, Mobilization, and Hegemony*, edited by Jan Kubik and Amy Linch. The edited volume is a publication of the Social Science Research Council and New York University Press in 2013. ☼



Accredited Safe Homes (ASH)

Feminists have contested the traditionally acknowledged claim of the 'home' as a safe haven or a location of stability, safety and security. The reason why some feminists reject the value of home is because they view home as embodying patriarchal values. To them home is a place of confinement for the sake of aiding male projects. To many women home is a space of repression where the Other is rendered invisible. The illusory safety of the home is debunked by the increasing reported cases of

ed Safe Homes or ASH. Kudumbashree aims at eradicating poverty holistically through convergence of services of various government departments and agencies, and through women-centric empowerment measures. With nearly 4 million women in its membership roll, Kudumbashree is the strongest network of poor women in India.

Kudumbashree has been acclaimed nationally for the seminal work it has done by way of providing a model for developing countries in

ities. Further, the short-stay homes do not have sufficient number of vacancies to accommodate all women in distress situations. Providing long term rehabilitative homes will be time consuming and expensive. While searching for a solution to this problem, we came up with this idea of ASH.

By Valsala Kumari

Executive Director
Kudumbashree
(PhD Alumnae 2011)

Women-Friendly Localities

ASH entails initially identifying safe localities because a woman will be psychologically safe only if the surroundings are also safe for her. So women friendly localities will be identified first, followed by selection of safe homes based on certain criteria like ownership and management of the homes by single women, widows, elderly couples, provision of security features in the building, ability of the other occupants of the home to empathize with the women in distress and be respectful of their privacy and being non-intrusive, etc.

Kudumbashree will provide a definite amount to the hostess for a period of 6 months by which time the woman will be imparted a skill with which she will be reintegrated into the labor market and into the Kudumbashree Neighborhood Group and she will move out of the Accredited Safe Home. The skilling of the woman will be accomplished through the Aajivika skill development program of the Ministry of Rural Development or under the National Urban Livelihood Mission. This will be implemented by the qualified service providers of the Gender Help Desks of Kudumbashree which also house short-stay homes. Reintegration into the neighborhood group is so very important since the group provides the collective space in which women find their strength, identity and collective voice. ☘



Training on performance improvement at Kudumbashree.

atrocities committed against women and children within the confines of their homes.

The Indian state of Kerala is no exception. The statistics published by the State Crime records Bureau shows an alarming rate of atrocities committed against women despite the state being a model for the rest of the country in several areas including accomplishment of social development in a cost effective manner. The often repeated high status of the women of Kerala is belied when juxtaposed with the high rate of crimes committed against women.

Acknowledging that there are practical gender needs for women subjected to atrocities Kudumbashree, the Kerala State Poverty Eradication Mission, has conceptualized a novel scheme called Accredited

eradicating poverty. Kudumbashree has been able to accomplish this basically by empowering women through the creation of collective spaces for women to reflect upon, to analyze their plight and to find out their own solutions to their problems. These collective spaces have provided a collective voice to the hitherto voiceless poor women rendering them audible to those who occupy the power structures, compelling the power holders to lend them their ears. Once women and children are rescued from their oppressive homes, very often they require long-term stay for proper rehabilitation. The short-stay homes in Kerala provide only temporary accommodation and do not have adequate facilities for reintegration with dignity of the women in distress into their commu-

☞ Learn more about Kudumbashree:
www.kudumbashree.org



Poverty Eradication in Kerala

After completing my MA at Rutgers in October 2012, I was accepted to participate in a six-month paid internship program at Kudumbashree, a poverty reduction program in Kerala, India, directed by Valsala Kumari, a Rutgers PhD Alumnae (see previous page). For the past three months, I have been a Gender Policy Advisor at Kudumbashree State Poverty Eradication Mission. Kudumbashree was formally started in 1998 as a pioneering agency for poverty alleviation. But, unlike other poverty alleviation programmers, Kudumbashree has a multi-pronged design that rests on economic empowerment and social development strategies. Its three-tier federated community structure adds to its authenticity, accountability, and commitment towards the poor and marginalized.

Among my accomplishments are the creation, construction and implementation of a Gendered Analysis for an Accredited Housing System. Within this, I created a Vetting and Barring 3 Tier System to locate a safe Panchayat and safe home for a victim of violence and her child. I also provided evidence and a litera-



Sulekha in Kerala.

ture review for The Gender Based Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative, which is to be applicable to 24 regions and all 14 districts of Kerala. Furthermore, I created, constructed and implemented a Gender Empowerment Measuring Scheme for the effective realization of Empowerment in 3 districts, and I created a case study analysis of several areas of Kerala to access the Gender Policy Results of Micro enterprises of 24 regions and 14 districts. Finally, I created a 4 Tier Gender

Budget Matrix for all Kerala State Police Department programming for the projected year 2014-2015, and created several distinctive Gender Budget Matrices for the entire State Police Department Programming of Kerala as well as the State Police Department Janamaithry Project (community policing project). There I created schemes to develop Gender Budgeting, Gender Responsive quantitative and qualitative analysis, and Gender programming that is sex-disaggregated centric.

Kudumbashree provided me an exceptional platform to learn how the application of development theory can be carefully and practically positioned to effectively understand the current gender possibilities and women's justice initiatives in Kerala. My experience afforded me the expertise and analytical tools necessary for active engagement with women as they deal with development modeled practices. I am currently completing a fund proposal for the project "Prevention of violence against women and children and rehabilitation initiative: Accredited Safe Housing (ASH) Scheme." ☺

By Sulekha Prasad
Gender Policy Advisor at Kudumbashree (MA Alumnae 2012)

Intersectional Sexuality Education

I graduated with my master's in Women's and Gender Studies in January 2014. The research for my thesis—entitled "The Construction of an Anti-Feminist Pedagogy in an Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Curriculum"—and my entire time in the program has greatly impacted the work I do in my professional career. Before, during and now after completing my master's, I have worked at Answer, a non-profit organization based at Rutgers University that provides and

promotes comprehensive sexuality education to young people and the adults who teach them. Course work in the Women's and Gender Studies program gave me the tools necessary to be able to approach my work from an intersectional standpoint. The research for my thesis has given me greater insight into the abstinence-only-until-marriage field, and has helped our organization as we battle the encroachment of these programs into schools across the nation. I plan

to continue to work in the field of sexuality education and hope to pursue further advanced educational opportunities at Rutgers in the future. ☺

📖 Learn more about Answer:
In the web: answer.rutgers.edu
In Facebook: www.facebook.com/AnswerEd
In Twitter: [@sexedhonestly](https://twitter.com/sexedhonestly)

answer
sex ed, honestly

By Kaitlyn Wojtowicz
Coordinator of Education and Communications at Answer (MA Alumnae 2014)



Trans* Activism in Campus

Natasha Payano

Double major in Women's and Gender Studies and English

Thinking in retrospective, I can still remember the first day I walked into my first Women's and Gender Studies course, it was Women, Culture and Society. I was a freshman, lost inside of a newly entered grandiose world, Rutgers University. I barely knew who I was and needless to say the path that lay before me remained unbeknownst to me at this point. All I knew in that moment was that I had finally found the place which I had longed for.

Looking through the syllabus for the first time and hearing the professor discuss the objectives of the course, I discovered that there were actually people in the world who studied the issues that tormented my mind every day. I felt a sense of belonging and validation in my sentiments and I have never looked back since. As of today, I am a junior at Rutgers University and I am double majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and English.

I have always had a very strong passion for social advocacy and the knowledge I have acquired within WGS has equipped me even further with the skills required to act upon my passion. As of the beginning of the fall 2013 semester I have served as Co-Founder and Treasurer, as well as Program Organizer, of Trans*missions, the first ever transgender organization on campus.

Trans*missions allows trans* folk and their closest allies to join together in both an informative and discussion based group in order to create a sense of community and a field of resources. Trans*missions aims to completely shatter the notion of 'Otherness' within the trans* individual and create a sense of belonging within a community that not only welcomes trans*, but also comprehends the multi-faceted daily predicaments that tag along with that identity. Before demanding rights a community must first make their presence known, they must, in effect, become visible and Trans*missions aims to make the "T" in LGBTQ rise to the surface of social concern and no longer remain in the shadows. Trans*missions has

recently collaborated with the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) to pass a Preferred Name Policy for all the university's databases. This bill aims to pressure the administration to address the needs of their trans* students and not force them to adhere to a name they do not identify by.

Furthermore, I have worked for the Women's and Gender Studies department as a student assistant for about two years now, since the

tive indicators of the goals I aspire to have for my future. As of now I am torn between either pursuing a career in law and focusing on the issues of communities that have long remained ostracized, such as the trans* community, and assuring that someone is advocating for their rights in the legal front, or becoming a WGS professor.

Regardless of which path I choose I most definitely feel indebted to my experiences as a Rut-



Natasha Payano in the WGS office.

beginning of my sophomore year. My duties as a student assistant include assisting with any matters that may arise within the WGS such as scheduling, budgeting, events, etc. I have also worked as an English Tutor for the Douglass Writing Center for about two years. My duties as tutor consist of aiding undergraduate students with reading comprehension, essay structure, and theoretical concepts that are needed in order to formulate an organized comprehensive essay. Lastly, I currently intern for Judge Alberto Rivas, in the Middlesex County Courthouse within the criminal division. My duties as intern consist of assisting the judge's law clerk with incoming expungements, as well as making phone calls to attorneys, plaintiffs, and prosecutors in regards to ongoing cases.

The large array of positions that I have cultivated throughout my education at Rutgers has served as posi-

gers student and I cannot help but feel that, regardless of where life takes me I will always reflect back on that first day of Women, Culture, and Society and wonder how depressingly superficial my life would have been without that initial stepping stone. ☺

🔗 Learn more about Trans*missions:

In Facebook: www.facebook.com/Rutgerstransmissions

In Tumblr: rutgerstransmissions.tumblr.com

In Twitter: [@rutransmissions](https://twitter.com/rutransmissions)



Grants for the Women's Worlds Congress

Next August, nine Rutgers undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate in the 2014 International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, that will take place in Hyderabad, India. The conference will attract thousands of feminist activists from around the world under the theme "Gender in a Changing World."

The selected students have worked with faculty advisors to develop papers and propose two panels. The first, entitled "Empowering Women and Girls: Tactics of the Millennial Generation" will be chaired by Lisa Hetfield, Associate Director of the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) at Rutgers, and will include presentations by Shamama Siddiqui on "Women's Economic Empowerment: Evaluating the Impact of Microcredit Programs on Women in Pakistan," Cierra Kaler-Jones on "Visual and Performing Arts as a Strategy to Empower Economically-Disadvantaged Girls in New Jersey," Ashley Garner on "Collective Compositions: From Spaces of Silence to

Empowerment," Sarah Stern on "Sexual Empowerment of University Women: Mobilizing against Rape Culture," and Meryem Uzumcu on "Suzanne's Project: Empowering Rural Women through Agriculture in Antalya, Turkey." The second panel proposal, entitled "Globalization, Migration and the Challenge of Minority Women in Dias-



pora" will be chaired by Prof. Mary Trigg, Director of Research of the IWL, with presentations by Juhi Farooqui on "Social Media for Social change: Muslim Women Challenging the Mainstream Media Narrative in the Post-9/11 United States," Justice

Hehir on "Anti-Poverty Interventions among Latina Migrant and Immigrant Workers in New Brunswick," Eden Mesfun on "Envisioning the Consequences of Armed Conflict: Images of Congolese Women in Social and Print Media," and Srutika Sabu on "From Local Culture to Imperial Morality: Sexual and Reproductive Health Challenges of South Asian Women Immigrants in the USA."

Before the conference, the students will present their papers in an **interdisciplinary forum at the Department of WGS on May 1**, from 4:00-6:30 pm. The grants have been funded with the generous support of the SAS Honors Program, the IWL, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, SAS Deans: Area Studies, SAS Dean: Humanities, the Department of WGS, Signs, and Douglass College. The Women's Worlds Congress was created in 1981 as the first world-wide interdisciplinary gathering to focus on research pertaining to women's issues. ☺

Meet the WGS 2014 Workstudy!



Johanna Serrano, Alexis Levine, Sonia Begum, Natasha Payano, and Mark-Ray Lockwood.

Undergraduate Awards 2013

Eleanor Brilliant Award for Outstanding Senior in Women's and Gender Studies:

Melissa A. Gabilanes

Gilda Morales Award for Outstanding Student

Activist: Em Kay

Dorothy Hamilton Baillet Award for Outstanding Research: Annu Dahiya

Dee Garrison Award for Justice and Peacemaking:

Amarilis Rodriguez

Elizabeth Hallowell Award for the Advancement of Women's Rights: Laura M. Callejas

Douglass College Women's and Gender Studies Alumnae Prize: Caitlin McAleer

Brown Bag Research Briefings



The 2013-2014 WGS "Brown Bag Research Briefings" are held the third Monday of each month from 11:00 am-12:30 pm during the academic year. This informal gathering gives our new faculty, post docs and graduate students an opportunity to share and present their research.

March 24

11:00 **"Immigrant Crossings & the Invisible/Visible Paradigm of Human Trafficking"**

Annie Fukushima

Andrew Mellon Post-Doctoral Associate in Women's and Gender Studies

May 12

11:00 **Topic: Forthcoming Yanoula Athanassakis**

American Council of Learned Societies Post-Doctoral Associate in Women's and Gender Studies

Women and the 'Arab Spring'

The Department of WGS and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers present a panel on "Women, Religion and the Uprisings in the Middle East" on **April 2** at 2:00 pm, with Beata Kowalska, professor of Sociology at the Jagiellonian University (Poland) and Beth Baron, professor at the City College and co-director of the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at CUNY. ☺

Workshop on the Anthropocene

Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations now hover around 400 parts per million, a threshold that many scientists and environmentalists consider a path towards the catastrophic. At the same time, scholars in the social and natural sciences as well as the humanities are increasingly engaging with the notion of the Anthropocene, a new geological period in which the Earth is fundamentally influenced by human activity on an unprecedented scale. This and other concerns underscore the importance of critical engagement with emerging narratives of the Anthropocene, particularly at the present moment as

this still unstable discursive formation becomes an influential frame through which to understand and respond to a suite of interconnected social, ecological, and economic crises unfolding across the planet.

In relation to this, the departments of Women's and Gender Studies and Geography, and the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University are organizing the workshop "After 400 ppm: Science Politics, and Social Natures in the Anthropocene" on **March 27 and 28**. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Whatmore, head of the School of Geography and the Environment and professor of Envi-

ronment and Public Policy at Oxford University, and the program will consist of non-concurrent roundtable discussions in which early career academics and advanced graduate students interested in cross-disciplinary exploration into the changing nature of entanglements between science, nature/society, and politics will offer a brief presentation of their work, followed by a discussion facilitated by a senior faculty moderator. ☺

☺ More information in: www.geocritique.org/cfp-400-ppm-science-politics-social-natures-anthropocene.

Kimberly Springer on Apologies

The Department of WGS and the School of Communication & Information (SC&I) present a guest lecture by Kimberly Springer, professor at the School of Information of the University of Michigan, on "The Politicization of Apology Through Old and New Media" on **April 24** at 11:00 am, at the Alexander Library. In her talk, Springer will focus on the apology as transactional in order to explore the sociotechnical features of old and new media to help us discern the difference between the politics of apology and the politicization of apology in the 21st century. ☺

IRW Distinguished Lectures



April 10

4:30 **"Can a Woman Be A Chief?"**

Drucilla Cornell

Political Science, Rutgers University

The 2013-2014

annual theme is Decolonizing Gender / Gendering Decolonialization.

The talk will be held at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, preceded by a reception at 4:00 pm.

WGS Graduation

The WGS Graduation Celebration will take place next **May 7** at the Conference Room of the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. In this informal gathering, WGS majors and minors will be honored in the presence of their families and friends. ☺

Intersectionality and Prisons

Two recent issues of *Signs* present thematically unified articles on subjects of pressing relevance to contemporary feminist scholarship: "Intersectionality: Theorizing Power, Empowering Theory," the Summer 2013 issue, was guest edited by Sumi Cho, Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, and Leslie McCall. The issue brings together numerous strands of intersectional scholarship, taking stock of the diverse field of intersectionality studies and forging new directions for future insurgent knowledges.

The wide-ranging articles in the Autumn 2013 issue—a special issue titled "Women, Gender, and Prison: National and Global



Summer 2013.

Autumn 2013.

Perspectives"—document and analyze the unique forms of discipline, control, and abuse to which women and gender-variant people are subject within carceral regimes. The Winter 2014 issue of *Signs* contains articles on a number of diverse topics: the literature of Japanese American internment, the effects of the HIV epidemic in Kenya and Zambia, theorizing trans embodiment and oppression, abortion debates in South Africa, decolonial hemispheric feminism, and more. ☺

SIGNS

By **Andrew Mazzaschi**
Deputy Editor
Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and

Forthcoming Issues

The Spring 2014 issue of *Signs* will feature a comparative perspectives symposium on "Translation, Feminist Scholarship, and the Hegemony of English," in which scholars explore feminist discourse's intraregional and transnational travels and the asymmetries in the circulation of feminist theory and research. The issue also contains several thematically linked articles, including Rosi Braidotti on Françoise Collin and French feminism and Maria do Mar Pereira on the epistemic status of the "foreign" in Portuguese women's, gender, and feminist studies. The following issue will contain the symposium "Gender, Media, and

Social Change," guest edited by Christina Dunbar-Hester, which takes on the relationships between particular forms of media and processes of gendering and racialization, national development, and the formation of social movements. And in Autumn 2014, *Signs* will publish a symposium titled "Gendered Bodies in the Protest Sphere," edited by Miranda Outman-Kramer and Susana Galán, which collects an impressive range of essays analyzing and documenting the circulation of gendered bodies through myriad instances of protest, dissent, and collective action that have erupted around the globe. ☺

40th Anniversary

Autumn 2014 marks *Signs'* fortieth year of publication. To commemorate this milestone, *Signs* is planning to present an array of online features that will enable readers to visualize and creatively explore the *Signs* archive. A thematically organized virtual issue composed of articles selected from the journal's historical archive will highlight the contributions *Signs* has made to the multifaceted field of feminist scholarship. *Signs'* deputy editor Andy Mazzaschi and graduate research assistants Susana Galán and Lindsey Whitmore have also been exploring the possibilities for archival analysis offered by techniques in the digital

humanities—specifically topic modeling, which uses an algorithm to identify a set of topics within a large corpus of texts. While no more objective than any other research method, topic modeling will nevertheless provide a way of interacting with the full *Signs* archive, tracing the emergence of particular areas of study or analytical paradigms within feminist thought, and visualizing the changes in academic feminism over time.

On January 29, the *Signs* research team presented "Topic-Modeling a Feminist Archive" at the Rutgers Digital Humanities Showcase, where they discussed the advantages and challenges of this methodology. ☺

Third Woman Press: Call for Submissions

An anthology, co-edited by five feminist scholars of color — Annie Isabel Fukushima, Rosalee Gonzalez, Layli Maparyan, Anita Revilla, and Matt Richardson—propels the mission of Third Woman Press (TWP) by bringing together a variety of expertise and interests to this project and striving for an

inclusive approach to sharing the experiences of people of color and Indigenous Peoples engaged in local and transnational social change. TWP encourages contributions that are in conversation (directly or indirectly) with the body of feminist/womanist works that have come before and that

continue to shape queer and feminist of color epistemology and practice. They seek scholarly and creative essays, testimonials, poetry, and art that will contribute to the understanding and practices of social change, healing and transformation. Full essays (max. 5,000 words, 20 pages) as Word

documents and/or high-resolution images of original artwork as JPEG files should be submitted for consideration by May 15, 2014. ☺

☺ See the complete call for submissions at <http://tinyurl.com/lwaqhmc>.





School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Women's and Gender Studies

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

162 Ryders Lane

New Brunswick NJ 08901

Phone: 848-932-9331

Fax: 732-932-1335

Website: <http://womens-studies.rutgers.edu/>

Chair: Abena P. A. Busia

Graduate Director: Yana Rodgers

Master's Program Director: Julie Rajan

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