

From the Center

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

The Borders of Human Security: Bringing Geopolitics Home

How are economic security, human and civil rights, and national security related in our lives? In what ways are globalization and militarization racialized and gendered processes producing security for some and vulnerabilities for others? How might international, national, and local security policies be different if their core goals included reducing poverty, violence, and racial, ethnic, and gender inequalities? These are some of the questions to be addressed by an eminent group of social scientists, lawyers, labor leaders, and community advocates at a conference sponsored by CSWS May 20–21, 2004.

The borders we will examine are both material and metaphorical. They are policed national and community borders. They are limits and restrictions that differentially affect citizens and noncitizens and people from different racial, ethnic, and class communities. They are boundaries often invisible to those with economic and social privilege, but palpable to those who experience racism, gender subordination, or class inequality.

Noleen Heyzer, executive director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), will open the conference by exploring the concept of human security—an alternative security paradigm that has captured the attention of many in

the international policy community. Heyzer, who received her education at the University of Singapore and Cambridge University, has been at the helm of UNIFEM since 1994 advocating models of development that promote economic security and the empowerment of women and their families. In addition to work with women migrant workers at

the community level, workers in the informal sector and free trade zones, and women who have experienced domestic and other forms of violence, Heyzer has also been a policy adviser to Asian governments and a founding member of such groups as Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

A series of panels on Friday features distinguished scholars and advocates who will discuss the effects of violence that result from war, political conflict, terrorism and the war on terrorism; human rights, immigration, and work; the production of economic insecurities in the context of globalization; and the efforts of local, national, and international groups to promote human security. Among the panelists are Dorothy Roberts, Northwestern School of Law and author of *Killing the Black Body: Race Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*; Cynthia Cockburn, City University in London and author of *The Space Between Us*;

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Photo: NCRW honorees front row left to right: Susan Bailey, executive director, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College; Geeta Rao Gupta, president, International Center for Research on Women; Dina Dublon, executive vice president and chief financial officer, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.; Mamphela Ramphele, managing director, the World Bank; Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president, corporate external affairs, the Coca-Cola Company, chair, the Coca-Cola Foundation; Sandra Morgan, director, CSWS.

CSWS Receives National Award

The National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) chose the Center for the Study of Women in Society as an organizational honoree at its annual Women Who Make a Difference celebration. CSWS Director Sandra Morgen accepted the award at a gala dinner in New York City on March 11, 2004. The award recognizes both outstanding women leaders and organizations working in a variety of disciplines for their unique ability to project their visions for a better world onto local, national, and global landscapes. The award letter recognizes CSWS for its “outstanding work linking research, theory, and policy and the profound impact it has had on the community, and in particular the Northwest region.”

Maria Hinojosa, CNN urban affairs correspondent, hosted the gala event at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York City.

The award particularly singles out the activities of the Women in the Northwest initiative, whose members conducted and broadly disseminated the findings of a major two-year study of the impact of welfare reform policy in Oregon. Related to the study, initiative members produced policy briefs



and rendered expert testimony to legislative and agency committees concerning the limits of welfare reform in reducing poverty or economic hardship for low-income families. In addition, their work with advocates for low-income women helped successfully change state policy so that some welfare recipients can fulfill mandated work requirements through higher education. Finally, *Policy Matters*, the series that brings CSWS research and expertise to bear on public policy concerns, grew out of the initiative's work. To date the series has focused on family policy, welfare, and medical abortion.

Human Security *Continued from page 1*

Negotiating Gender and National Identities in Conflict; and Cindi Katz, City University of New York, whose research focuses on what she calls the “global retreat from social reproduction.” Dalia Hashad, who has a law degree from New York University, will be talking about the ACLU Campaign against Racial Profiling, specifically her work on issues confronting Arab, Muslim, and South-Asian Americans following September 11. Other speakers will focus on immigrant issues, political violence, and civil liberties. These include Rhonda Ramiro of the Bay Area Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, Ramon Ramirez of PCUN (*Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste*), and Patricia Cortez, who works with *AMIGOS de los Sobrevivientes* in Eugene. The final panel brings together five Eugene community advocates whose work spans issues ranging from peace, civil liberties, and immigrant rights to the effects of economic restructuring on working people and issues affecting indigenous communities in Oregon. Guadalupe Quinn, Carol Van Houten, Hope Marston, Deanna Dart, and Harriet Merrick will participate in a dialog among themselves and with conference participants about work they are doing to promote human security in our community.

The conference is funded by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics; the College of Arts and Sciences; the Departments of Anthropology, Geography, History, Sociology, and Political Science; and the Ethnic Studies, International Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies Programs. This broad base of institutional support speaks both to the breadth of issues to be addressed at the conference and the theoretical and political importance of interrogating issues about security.

CSWS Faculty and Staff

Sandra Morgen, director
Judith Musick, associate director
Jan Emerson, research associate
Shirley Marc, office coordinator
Peggy McConnell, accountant
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Women in the Northwest

Sandra Morgen

From the Center is published two times a year by the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon. It is edited by Jan Emerson with assistance from Shirley Marc, CSWS, and designed and copy-edited by Lori Howard, Office of University Publications.

For more information:
(541) 346-5015

<http://csws.uoregon.edu>

CSWS Spring Calendar

For more information or to check exact times and locations of calendar events, call CSWS at (541) 346-5015 or see the CSWS website at <http://csws.uoregon.edu>

Wednesdays at Noon

Noon–1:00 p.m., Jane Grant Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon

April 21: “Nepal’s Everyday Ecologists: Women Stewards of the Himalayas,” Elizabeth Larson, graduate student, international studies.

May 5: “Conavigua: Women Organizing Against Political Violence in Guatemala,” Sandra Ezqueurra, graduate student, sociology.

Road Scholars

Road Scholars Barbara Altmann, Lizzie Reis, Judith Musick, Jan Emerson, Stephanie Wood, Sandra Morgen, and Joan Acker recently presented in Bend (Deschutes Public Library), Albany (Linn-Benton Community College), Eugene (Learning in Retirement, OASIS), and Portland (Portland Home and Garden Show). Upcoming Road Scholar events include:

May 3, 2:30 p.m.: *Into Our Own Hands: The Women’s Health Movement in the United States*, Willamette Oaks Retirement Living, Sandra Morgen, director, CSWS, and professor, anthropology

May 7, 7:30 p.m.: *Frida Kahlo: Mexican Painter—World Icon*, Eugene Public Library, Stephanie Wood, senior research associate, CSWS

Five new presentations have been added to the Road Scholars catalog: *Fighting and Sailing Women in Folksongs and History* by Dianne Dugaw, English; *The Taxing State of Economic Insecurity* by Sandra Morgen, anthropology and CSWS; *The Gendered Garden: Women in the History of Gardens* by Judith Musick, CSWS, Wired Humanities Project; and *Praise and Blame of Women: The Middle Ages and Now* by Gina Psaki, Romance languages.

If you know of an organization that would like to receive a Road Scholars catalog, e-mail or call Jan Emerson, jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-2263.

Borders of Human Security Conference Schedule

MAY 20–21, 2004 · 175 KNIGHT LAW CENTER · UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Thursday, May 20

7:30 p.m.: Opening Address

Noeleen Heyzer, executive director, UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)

Friday, May 21

8:30 a.m.: Opening Session—Conference Overview and Welcome

9:00–10:45 a.m.: Terror at Home: Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Violence

Chair: Keith Aoki, School of Law, University of Oregon; Dahlia Hashad, ACLU Project on Racial Profiling; Patricia Cortez, Amigos de los Sobrevivientes (Friends of the Survivors) Cynthia Cockburn, City University, London and Margaret Knox, Department of Geography, University of Oregon

11:00 a.m.–12:45 p.m.: Globalization, Immigration, and Work

Chair: Susan Hardwick, Department of Geography, University of Oregon; Rhonda Ramiro, Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines in the Bay Area; Ramon Ramirez, PCUN (*Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noro-*

este—Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United); Lise Nelson, Department of Geography, University of Oregon and Lynn Stephen, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon

2:00–4:00 p.m.: Economic Security and Insecurities

Chair: Ellen Scott, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon; Dorothy Roberts, Northwestern School of Law; Cindi Katz, City University of New York, Graduate Center; Joan Acker, Department of Sociology, University of Oregon; and Sandra Morgen, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon

4:15–6:00 p.m.: Promoting Human Security at Home

Chair: Sandra Morgen, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon; Guadalupe Quinn, CAUSA; Carol Van Houten, Community Alliance of Lane County; Hope Marston, Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network; Deana Dartt, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon; and Harriet Merrick, Basic Rights Oregon

6:00–7:00 p.m.: Reception



Teaching and Tea

Jane Grant Conference Room, 330 Hendricks Hall, University of Oregon

Thursday, April 15

4:00–5:30 p.m.

Striking Against the Empire: An Analysis of the “True” Indigenous Roots of Chicana and Chicanos
Zelda Haro, graduate student, International Studies Program

Thursday, May 13

4:00–5:30 p.m.

The Death of a Female Moneylender: A Medieval Murder Mystery
Judith Baskin, professor, Judaic Studies

Sponsored by the Feminist Humanities Project of CSWS and the Wired Humanities Project. For information contact Jan Emerson at (541) 346-2263 or jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Perfect Unions

April 22

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Location to be announced
Perfect Unions? The Politics and Law of Same-Sex Marriage featuring Scott Barclay, political science, SUNY, Albany; Priscilla Yamin, political science, New School for Social Research; Dom Vetri, law, UO; and Julie Novkov, political science, UO.



2003–4 RIG Coordinators

Feminist Philosophy

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Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring

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The Healing Arts

By Susan Anderson and Dorothee Ostmeier

Dorothee Ostmeier arranged a meeting with Louise Bishop and Susan Anderson in 2002 to start a new research interest group (RIG), the Healing Arts, which has since been awarded a two-year Oregon Humanities Center RIG grant and been accepted as a CSWS RIG. The focus is “healing as total art” and includes ideas about gender and healing, literary and artistic approaches to healing, philosophies of the body, modern alternative medicines as cross-cultural fertilization, and Eugene’s alternative-healing community. The twelve members include faculty from the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, the Medieval Studies Program, the Comparative Literature Program, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, the Department of Philosophy, and the Clark Honors College.

The wide-ranging methods of alternative medicines are based on different philosophies about the relations between nature, the human body, and the spirit. By infiltrating our society these methods transgress national, geographic, and historical boundaries and have become a crucial part of our postmodern culture. People searching for alternatives to traditional Western medicine have accepted these different systems of thought and have put pressure on policymakers to integrate alternative methods into public healthcare and the training of physicians. Chinese medicine recently entered academic discourse when the first professorship for traditional Chinese medicine was established in Germany at the famed Charité in Berlin. American insurance companies are considering covering homeopathic therapies. These developments indicate how public policy is shaped by the desires of the public to break with the mathematically and rationally organized Western medicine and to integrate different diagnostic and therapeutic approaches into their lives.

Linda Barnes, professor of pediatrics at Boston and Harvard Universities and director of the Spirituality and Child Health Initiative, held the first guest lecture in May 2003. She explained that effective medical practitioners must understand how different cultures transmit, alter, and question concepts of health and illness and how these

concepts are gendered. Professor Barnes’s talk has inspired plans for a course that would involve students in mapping Eugene’s diverse alternative healing landscapes. In January 2004, Cordy Anderson spoke on “Therapeutic Touch” and gave a demonstration. Two other lectures are in the works for this year. See http://www.uoregon.edu/~gerscan/healing_arts/index.html.

Member Comments

Louise Bishop: This RIG’s focus on ideas about healing, cross-culturally and cross-historically, with an emphasis on modern practice, complements my research into fourteenth- and fifteenth-century medical texts and their connection to Middle English poetry. The RIG has given me good modern resources through which to think about medieval healing. For instance, modern alternative medicine’s similarities to and differences from medieval practice appear in the herbal tradition. I want to think critically about healing practices, especially the way literature focuses on healing and the way reading can be conceived, itself, as a way to heal. The RIG members’ feedback helps me hone my thinking.

Madronna Holden: I decided to join the RIG after experiencing its exceptional commitment to the local community in terms of both teaching and learning. I have certainly benefited from the interdisciplinary sharing that allows us to work from one another’s questions and insights. I have found considerable support here for my interests in the intersection between social and individual healing, treatment methods that honor the personal integrity of the client, and environmental health concerns.

Hildegard Regele: The Healing Arts RIG provides a forum to discuss great passions of mine: literature, philosophy, and medicine. I earned my degree of health practitioner in Germany and a B.S. in biology at Montana State University, Billings, before entering the graduate program in German literature at the UO. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate working on my dissertation, “Artificial Illnesses and Healing Arts: Samuel Hahnemann’s Homoeopathy, Sigmund Freud’s *Talking Cures*, and Bertolt Brecht’s Theater as Expressions of Homoeopathic Catharsis.” I am excited to be part of an academically based interest group that reaches out to the community and fosters dialog on ever-more important issues.

Kudos!

Joan Acker, sociology emerita, was a keynote speaker at the Embodied Workers and Globalization Conference at Syracuse University in February 2004.

With professor emeritus Carleton Carroll of Oregon State University, **Barbara Altmann**, Romance languages, edited *The Court Reconvenes: Selected Papers from the Ninth Triennial Congress of the International Courtly Literature Society*. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2003.

Judith Baskin, Knight Professor of Humanities and director, Judaic studies, was elected president of the 15,000-member Association for Jewish Studies. She is the third woman to head the organization and only the second president from an institution outside the Northeastern states.

Richard Bear, UO Libraries, won a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to digitize the Oregonian Index: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/govdocs/indexing/news.html> and published Sir Philip Sidney's *The Countesse of Pembroke's Arcadia (1590)* at Renaissance Editions, <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rbear/>

Lowell Bowditch, Classics, published "Propertius 2.10 and the Eros of Empire." *Being There Together: Essays in Honor of Michael C. J. Putnam on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*. Ed. H. Haskell and P. Thibodeau, Afton Historical Society, 2003, and presented a paper at the American Philological Association meeting in San Francisco.

Gaylene Carpenter, arts and administration, published "The Stability of Leisure Perceptions Among Mid-Life Adults Over Time," in *Annals of Leisure Research* and "Bend Winterfest in Central Oregon: Growing as Event Tourism Grows," in *Winter Cities* 22:4.

In a recent presentation in Seattle, **Jennifer Freyd**, psychology, discussed how media-fueled bias distorts the validity of recovered memories. See her website at <http://dynamic.uoregon.edu/~jjf/aaas04/freydpr/index.html>.

Bryna Goodman, history, published "Unvirtuous Exchanges: Women and the Corruptions of the Stock Market in Early Republican China." *Women and Gender in Republican China*, Ed. Mechtilde Leutner and Nicola Spakawski. LIT: Free U of Berlin, 2004. She edited *Networks of News: Power, Language, and Transnational Dimensions of the Chinese Press, 1850-1949* (2004), for which she wrote an article as well as the preface.

Evlyn Gould published "Models of Good Practice: Romance Languages at the University of Oregon." *ADFL Bulletin* (Winter 2004). She also participated on a panel, "The Work of Women Chairs," at the MLA convention in San Diego and was invited to present "Bohemia International!" at Colorado College in March.

Leslie D. Hall, sociology and Office of Academic Advising, presented "Mutual Respect in Family Work: A Theological Approach" in Vancouver, B.C. The poster was presented at the annual National Council on Family Relations conference, November 2003.

Susan Hardwick, geography, received a grant from the Canadian Embassy to extend her National Science Foundation-funded project on Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese refugees and asylum-seekers in Oregon and Washington

to British Columbia to analyze potential transnational connections that may extend across the U.S.-Canada border. She published articles in the *Journal of Historical Geography* and the *Journal of Cultural Geography* and is president of the National Council for Geographic Education.

Leslie Harris, law, in 2003 Project Link-Up (Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics) published *A Resource Guide for Parents Incarcerated in Oregon*, for which she also wrote three chapters on child custody and support and the courts. She co-convened (with Merle Weiner) the North American Regional Conference of the International Society of Family Law and presented "Parental Responsibility Laws: Who Enacts Them? Who Enforces Them? Do They Make Any Difference?"

Karen Heinicke-Motsch and **Susan Sygall** of Mobility International USA, edited *Building an Inclusive Development Community: A Manual on Including People with Disabilities in International Development Programs*. MIUSA: 2003.

Cheris Kramer, sociology emerita, published "Redesigning Distance Education to Deal with Equity Problems," in Michael Moore, with Von Pittman, Terry Anderson, and Cheris Kramer. *From Chautauqua to the Virtual University: A Century of Distance Education*. Information Series 393. Columbus: Center on Education and Training for Employment, Ohio State University, 2003.

David Leiwei Li, English, published *Globalization and the Humanities* (Hong Kong UP, 2003), which includes his introduction and an essay; "The State and Subject of Asian American Criticism: Psychoanalysis, Transnational Discourse, and Democratic Ideals." *American Literary History* 15.3 (Fall 2003); and "Yi Yi: Reflections on Reflexive Modernity in Taiwan." *Chinese Films in Focus: 25 New Takes*, ed. Chris Berry. British Film Institute, 2003.

Karen McPherson, Romance languages, is the newly elected vice president of the Conseil International d'Études Francophones.

Dorothee Ostmeier, Germanic languages and literatures, presented "Else Lasker-Schüler über Peter Hille," for the Peter Hille Society, Nieheim, Erwitzen, Paderborn, Germany, and "Kinder lernen Deutsch: Outreach Program an der UO." OATG, 2003; and published "Hiltrud Häntzschel. Brechts Frauen." *Brecht Yearbook* 28 (2003).

Janice Rutherford, allied arts and administration, presented "The Perils of Preservation: Processing History in the South University District" in the Architecture and Allied Arts faculty lecture series. She is examining the process by which proponents nominated the district to the National Register of Historic Places.

Carol Silverman, anthropology, published "The Gender of the Profession: Music, Dance, and Reputation among Balkan Muslim Rom (Gypsy) Women." *Gender and Music: Perspectives from the Mediterranean*, ed. Tullia Magrini. University of Chicago: 2003.

Beata Stawarska, philosophy, published "From the Body Proper to Flesh: Merleau-Ponty on Intersubjectivity." *Feminist Interpretations of Merleau-Ponty*. Penn State University. Ed. Dorothea Olkowski and Gail Weiss. 2004. Fall 2003 she taught "London Avant-Garde from 1914-39" in London for NCSA and delivered plenary addresses at the Asociación Española de Estudios Anglo-Norteamericanos and at a conference on literature and environment in Germany.



Do You Have Good News to Share?

Send notices about books and articles published, awards won, presentations made, and honors bestowed to Jan Emerson. Call (541) 346-2263 or e-mail jemerson@uoregon.edu. Put kudos! in the subject line.

JOY BELSKY LECTURE UNITES VISION



Joy Belsky's husband Robert Amundson, Dorothy Amundson, Mary O'Brien, Martha Dina Arguello, Sandra Morgen, and Carolyn Raffensperger.

On February 10, an enthusiastic audience filled the Alumni Lounge in Gerlinger Hall for the inaugural Joy Belsky Lecture—an annual event founded to honor the legacy of Portland ecologist Joy Belsky, who died of breast cancer in December 2001. Featured at the podium were the executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network (SEHN) and environmental theorist and lawyer Carolyn Raffensperger, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), Los Angeles, community activist Martha Dina Arguello, and Eugene social advocate and writer Mary O'Brien. The common topic was “The Public Trust and the Precautionary Principle.”

Citing increases in cancer, autism, and other neurodevelopmental disorders and the rise in infectious diseases associated with environmental changes—not to mention the state of marine fisheries, forests, arctic mammals, climate, or fresh water rivers—Raffensperger called our governments to task for failing to protect the commonwealth for this and future generations.

The 1998 Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle states: “When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.” All statements of the precautionary principle contain a version of this formula: When the health of humans and the environment is at stake, it is not necessary to wait for scientific certainty to take protective action. Precaution is not a last resort. Compare the slowly publicized link between tobacco and cancer or the recent mad cow

debacle. Our human institutions—health care, agriculture, and energy—are in chaos and near collapse, and all of them interact with the environment in substantial and destructive ways.

Raffensperger cited writer and activist Barry Lopez to argue that the U.S. has a fourth, unacknowledged and unregulated, branch of government—corporations. Based in competition, our current system measures success on the basis of economic efficiency and encourages the privatization of goods and services. Are the government's primary duties to enforce national interests, ensure national security, and protect property rights or is government's primary duty to serve as the trustee of the commonwealth, to protect the commons for this *and future* generations, she asked.

Many Americans still have faith in politics. Rather than wait for politicians who too often hand us smallish policies, says Raffensperger, we can hand the politicians *our* grand vision, crafting our own political agenda based on the public trust doctrine, which asserts the value of the *common* wealth rather than the protection of private property. Forty-eight states have some version of the public trust doctrine either in common law or state Constitutions.

The precautionary principle sets us free to speak about values, to use our hearts as well as our heads, to recognize with author James Hillman that even our eyes, ears, and nose—our aesthetic responses—are political instruments that can warn us about changes in our environment and propel us to act. Can we find new ways to insist that our governments fully take on their role as trustee of the commonwealth, asks Raffensperger? Where do we start?



Martha Dina Arguello and Carolyn Raffensperger



ON JOY BELSKY

“Joy Belsky was an honest, dogged, courageous public-interest scientist who devoted her years in Oregon to the public lands, grasslands, streams, wildlife, and women we have been blessed with in this state.”

—Mary O'Brien

NARY THEORISTS AND ACTIVISTS



Martha Dina Arguello

According to Martha Dina Arguello, some local California communities are answering the challenge. Inspired by the precautionary principle, they are working to change local politics. As a health educator, Martha Dina Arguello had an epiphany when she realized that although early detection can prevent women from dying of breast cancer, it doesn't prevent breast cancer, which science is increasingly linking with environmental toxins. So she joined Physicians for Social Responsibility to help organize within the environmental community. To her, the beauty of the precautionary principle lies not only in its theoretical aspect, but also in how it works when applied to public policy.

The fact that public health workers are torn between their duties to the organizations they work for and the communities they serve often results in failing the public trust, says Arguello. For example, despite an alarming, repeated, and concentrated occurrence of childhood lymphoma in one California neighborhood, the Health Department refused to investigate. As it turned out, the children were living in houses built on a former military toxic site. Since either the insurance company or the state is ultimately responsible for health care, cleanup, and relocation costs, it would have been in their own best interest to act earlier.

But there are also victories. When the California South Coast Air Quality Management District passed an environmental work plan to develop more precautionary policies, one result was a series of workshops to develop tools to monitor air quality. The district gave a scientist from the Pesticide Action Network the materials needed to design drift kits capable of analyzing

125 chemicals in the air. The kits are now in the hands of communities. Arguello will soon demonstrate the drift catcher to the Senate Select Committee on Environmental Justice, offering hope for progress with pesticide regulation.

There has also been progress in preventing asthma attacks in children. Fourteen coalitions united to ask PSR for help to develop public policies to reduce asthma triggers, beginning with the port of Los Angeles. Arguello is impressed that so many different sectors—parents, children, doctors, nurses, clean air activists, public health workers, and asthma activists—united to prevent further harm. The result has been a change in truck idling rules, limiting diesel emissions.

Many California environmental justice advocates are optimistic. The California EPA is interested in how implementing the precautionary principle can help ensure public health. Allies among public agencies like the precautionary principle because it gives them a way around risk assessment and around regulatory limits in their day-to-day jobs, making it a tool that allows them to make a difference. In the meantime, environmentalists are seeking sympathetic legislators and working to increase screening for lead levels in children, to ban the use of the most toxic pesticides in schools, and to regulate highly toxic dry-cleaning chemicals without hurting small business owners.

Similar activities are happening in Oregon, said local activist Mary O'Brien. The Oregon Toxics Alliance has launched Vinyl Out of Oregon (VOO) to eliminate the use of highly toxic vinyl (PVC) in new institutional construction throughout Oregon. The Safe Food Campaign, cosponsored by Oregon PSR, is working to end production and cultivation of genetically engineered dairy products and crops.

Madd Elk unites hunters, animal rights activists, and conservationists against the domestication of native Oregon elk and deer species to prevent chronic wasting disease from entering Oregon's wild deer and elk populations and Oregon's food supply. Similar to Mad Cow Disease in cattle, chronic wasting disease spreads far more rapidly than Mad Cow Disease and can cause the always-fatal Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease in humans.

And, on an optimistic note, Oregon environmentalists are meeting with Eugene city officials to discuss how the precautionary principle might be implemented in local ordinances.



Carolyn Raffensperger, Lynne Fessenden, and an audience member.

ON THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

"For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."

—Hawaii Constitution. Article XI.1



CSWS 2003-4 Executive Committee

Sandra Morgen, CSWS

Judith Musick, CSWS

Judith Raiskin, women's and
gender studies

Barbara Altmann, Romance
languages

Linda Fuller, sociology

Shelley Winship, development,
architecture and allied arts

Ellen Scott, sociology

Sandra Ezquerro, sociology

Kathleen Karlyn, English

Laura Fair, history

Updates

FEMINIST HUMANITIES PROJECT

For its Digital Teaching Units for Gender in History, FHP was recently named a finalist in the international Women's Networking Support Program Awards of the Association for Progressive Communications: <http://www.genderawards.net/finalists/nlfinalists.shtml>. The awards "aim to honor and bring international recognition to innovative and effective projects by women to use information and communication technologies for the promotion of gender equality and/or women's empowerment." FHP has applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to build a distance research environment for our Mapas project (digitizing and building interactive research environments on line for pictorial Mexican manuscripts housed in the UO Museum of Natural History and a few other, similar manuscripts). We are designing a grant project around a medieval manuscript in the UO Burgess Collection, and a major grant to hold a 2005 NEH Summer Institute for High School Teachers to help social studies and Spanish-language teachers integrate current, digital Mesoamerican heritage materials and interpretations into digital classroom presentations.

WOMEN IN THE NORTHWEST

During winter term, in addition to continuing to analyze data from the Welfare Research Project, we sponsored a lively speaker series: Producing Security and Insecurity: Global and Local Issues. The four events focused on processes that promote or undermine human security in an age of growing economic inequality, poverty, and militarization. The series began with a lecture by Catherine Kingfisher, professor of anthropology at University of Lethbridge, who spoke about welfare restructuring and globalization. The following week Michael Leachman, a policy analyst at the Oregon Center for Public Policy, and Jessica Chaney, from FOOD for Lane County, brought these issues home by exploring food insecurity, poverty, and tax policy in Oregon. Sociologist Norma



Norma Chincilla (left) speaks with graduate students.

Chincilla considered the multiple relationships between globalization and immigration, arguing that the actions and experiences of immigrants do not simply result from but help to shape globalizing processes. The series ended with Margo Okazawa-Rey of the Center for Women's Leadership at Mills College and Dianne Lobes of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) and Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation Board raising provocative questions about militarization and resistance to militarization today.

RESEARCH PROGRAM ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Activities in the Research Program on Women's Health over the past few months have largely revolved around data analysis and dissemination of our ongoing research studies. Analysis and manuscript preparation will be our focus in the coming months.

Marie Harvey and Meredith Branch have also been involved in an NIH-funded study evaluating the effectiveness of reducing unintended pregnancies by administering contraceptives in the home. Although the project is being implemented in Portland, Oregon, Marie (a coprincipal investigator) and Meredith assisted with the development of the questionnaire and data collection protocols, and consult regularly with the Portland team.

Marie has several conferences on her spring itinerary. The Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health Program at the University of California, San Francisco, invited Marie to participate in the "Scientific Standards in Abortion and Mental Health Research" workgroup. Marie will also present findings from the diaphragm study at the Microbicides 2004 Conference in London.

WIRED HUMANITIES PROJECT WIDENS OUTREACH

The WHP is enjoying considerable support this year from the Office of the Vice President for Research, which has made our initiative one of the top three fund-raising priorities on campus. We also have three graduate teaching fellows, with Kevin Van Driesche continuing and Vicki Silvers and William Henderson joining the team in September. We are expanding our humanities computing presence on campus, helping faculty members with technological applications for both their research projects and pedagogical needs.

Continued on next page

First Adoption History Site Launched

CSWS Road Scholar and affiliate Ellen Herman, history, has created the first website on the history of child adoption in the United States. Supported by the National Science Founda-



Orphan train, courtesy of the Children's Aid Society.

tion and the Center for History and New Media and designed by the Wired Humanities Project, the Adoption History Project is a digital public history resource profiling people, organizations, topics, and studies that shaped modern American adoption in theory and practice.

Hundreds of images and primary documents illustrate such topics as the orphan trains, infertility, sealed records, eugenics, baby farming, telling, and transracial, international, and special-needs adoptions. Critics have praised the site as "a brilliant technical and scholarly accomplishment" (E. Wayne Carp, author of *Family Matters: Secrecy and Disclosure in the History of Adoption*) that is "beautifully designed and thoughtfully conceived, [offering] rich possibilities for classroom use." (Barbara Melosh, author of *Strangers and Kin: The American Way of Adoption*.) Visit the site at <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~adoption>.

You're Invited to Celebrate with CSWS June 2!

On Wednesday, June 2, 2004, CSWS will hold a thirtieth-anniversary event to celebrate our collective research endeavors over the past three decades. A great deal of fascinating work on women, gender, race, ethnicity, class, and culture has been published and broadly disseminated with the support and encouragement of the center. At this event, we will be displaying much of the work—books, articles, chapters, and films—that the center has influenced or made possible. Later, we will be archiving the works for future reference. This will be a great end-of-the-academic-year party complete with entertainment. So please hold the date and watch for further details—we really want you to join us!

Wired *Continued from previous page*

WHP expanded the Digital Teaching Unit collection, unveiling four new web sites at the FHP- and WHP-sponsored Teaching and Tea series. Besides partnering with research faculty members in the Feminist Humanities Project, we are reaching out to the humanities faculty, to campus museum staff, Special Collections staff, and to the Lane Country Historical Museum staff. Also, Judith Musick and Stephanie Wood will give a paper at the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, in June.

Farewell to a Friend



On Monday, October 20, 2003, CSWS lost a longtime friend and devoted staff member when Agnes Curland died after a long illness.

Agnes was born in Szigetvar, Hungary, in 1927. When she emigrated to the United States with her family in 1938, she brought with her an abiding appreciation of other cultures and memories of relatives left behind. These shaped her life. Agnes did what she could for peace and securing human rights. She regularly participated in demonstrations against war, including the war in Iraq. Her life was always characterized by a strong passion for women's rights, which led her to devote her energies to CSWS and the Women's Studies Program for many years, faithfully doing our books and being a constant source of good cheer and support for our mission. Agnes traveled extensively with her husband, David, and they lived in Madrid, Barcelona, and Seville, Spain, and in Mexico. Agnes loved reading and art and had a great appreciation for natural beauty. Several years ago, Agnes and David moved from Eugene to Santa Barbara to be with their children and grandchildren. We will miss Agnes very much.



CSWS Publications

Work, Welfare and Politics, edited by Frances Fox Piven, Joan Acker, Margaret Hallock, and Sandra Morgen, is available from the University of Oregon Press. You can order it by calling (866) 672-8574 or online at www.uopress.com.

Written by UO professor emerita Joan Acker, CSWS Director Sandra Morgen, and Lisa Gonzales, CSWS, with Jill Weigt, Kate Berry, and Terri Heath, *Welfare Restructuring, Work & Poverty: Policy Implications from Oregon*, is available from CSWS for \$5. Call (541) 346-5015. It is also online at <http://www.uoregon.edu>

Understanding Medical Abortion: Policy, Politics, and Women's Health by S. Marie Harvey, Christy A. Sherman, Sheryl Thorburn Bird, and Jocelyn Warren is available from the Center for the Study of Women in Society. To order or download in pdf format see the website: <http://csws.uoregon.edu/>

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship Winner Barbara Sutton Pursuing Research in Argentina

Barbara Sutton, sociology, cofounder of the Social Sciences Feminist Network RIG, and coordinator of "Feminism Unbound: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Symposium"—an event conceived and organized by the RIG and sponsored by CSWS—shares news about her grant project:

My project, "Body Politics and Women's Consciousness in Argentina," overviews and raises questions about taken-for-granted gender norms, ideologies, and relations in Argentina through the lens of women's bodily experiences, paying attention to the social, political, and economic dimensions of how women live, perceive, and feel about their bodies. I look at the social control, manipulation, and regulation of women's bodies as well as women's collective and individual resistance to these gendered patterns. Through a combination of in-depth interviews, ethnographic observations, focus groups, and media analysis my project explores the following questions: What are the continuities and contradictions between women's bodily experiences and hegemonic constructions of the female body? How do women incorporate the influence of dominant social institutions and cultural norms in Argentina into the way they perceive and treat their bodies? How do women negotiate, respond to, and resist social regulations of and ideologies about their bodies? How do they create alternative visions, practices, and models of female embodiment? What can we learn about the interplay of local and global forces in Argentina when we start from women's experiences of their bodies? In order to answer these questions, I investigated, in particular, how social practices and ideologies related to women's work, reproduction, sexuality, and femininity intersect in the way Argentine women experience their bodies. The narratives of the women who participated in the study yield insights about political issues like abortion, violence against women, norms of femininity, the bodily scars of neo-liberal economics, and the bodily dimensions of political resistance.

I hope this project will generate knowledge with liberatory potential for women by raising awareness and providing information that can be used to further women's rights, especially in relation to political struggles that are particularly 'hot' now, such as women's sexual and reproductive rights and economic policies that affect women's lives in the context of globalization.

The most immediate repercussions of my research activities are related to the women who participated in the project. Some of these women now think about specific issues concerning their rights as women for the first time, while for others the research encounter was an opportunity to expand or revise their ideas on these issues. During the course of my project, I also organized activities with members of the women's movement in Argentina and shared insights derived from my research with individual activists and with other women during reflection groups. I plan to translate and make available relevant parts of my dissertation to women in Argentina through oral presentations, informal conversations, workshops, websites, academic articles, and contributions to literature produced by social movement organizations.

In the future, I would like to become a university professor and researcher and lead projects that will broaden the understanding of women's lives from an international standpoint. I'd like to be involved in collaborative projects with scholars and activists from different areas of the world, particularly from across the Americas.

Receiving the Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship was key to my project: The grant covered necessary research and living expenses, allowing me to concentrate on my dissertation analysis and writing. I want to continue to participate in the center's activities as much as possible.

I would definitely recommend that students should get involved in CSWS—to attend conferences, brown bags, and lectures, join or start a RIG, and apply for CSWS grants. Being originally from Argentina, where students and academics face incredible obstacles to accomplish their work, I am particularly aware that it is a huge privilege to have access to the many kinds of resources that CSWS has to offer. The vibrant, knowledgeable, politically active, and committed scholarly community that CSWS has nurtured promises to enrich in multiple ways the understanding and networks of students doing gender research.

Photo: Barbara Sutton (far left) with women of the Network of Women in Solidarity (Red de Mujeres solidarias) at their meeting quarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Graduate Student Awarded MacArthur Foundation Grant

Former CSWS Jane Grant award winner Charli Carpenter, political science graduate student, has been awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research and Writing Grant. The \$73,000 grant will enable her to research and write a book, *Children of the Enemy? Forced Pregnancy, Humanitarian Assistance, and Children's Rights in the Balkans*, on the humanitarian response to children born of genocidal rape in the Balkans. This project will be separate from and will come after completion of her dissertation.

CSWS Grant Deadlines

There will be a single grant application deadline for 2005. For details, check the CSWS website at <http://csws.uoregon.edu> fall term and the fall newsletter. The 2004 grant recipients will also be announced in the fall newsletter.

Members Support Programs

CSWS thanks all 116 of its members for their support! Charter members, renewals, and new members have given CSWS \$12,555 since we began our membership program in 2002. Their generosity and commitment has enabled us to expand our Road Scholars community lecture program and to add some graduate student research awards. Our membership includes community members (sixty-two), UO faculty and staff (forty-three), colleagues from other universities (six), and one UO College—the Robert D. Clark Honors College. CSWS members are:

Hanne Allou*	Margaret Hallock*	Joan Pierson*
Barbara Altmann*	Eric Hanneman	Barbara Corrado Pope
Florence Alvergue*	Ellie Hansen-Meservey*	Annie Popkin*
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Hannah Goldrich*	Lise K. Nelson*	Donna Woolley*
Bryna Goodman*	Margaret Paris	Jeon-Suk Yeon*
Leslie D. Hall	Anita Pierce	<i>*Charter member</i>



If you have member news, e-mail or call Jan: jemerson@oregon.uoregon.edu or (541) 346-2263.

Midrashic Women: Formations of the Feminine in Rabbinic Literature

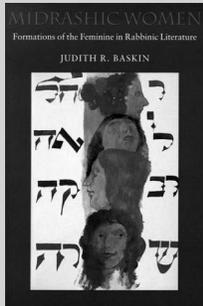
Baskin, Judith R. (2002). Brandeis University Press-University Press of New England.
Hardcover ISBN: I-58465-177-6; softcover ISBN: I-58465-178-4.

In *Midrashic Women*, Judith R. Baskin, Knight Professor of Humanities and director of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies at the University of Oregon, examines constructions of women and their social roles in the aggadic midrash, the nonlegal component of rabbinic literature. Baskin delineates the rabbinic conviction that women were a separate and essentially lesser creation than men and demonstrates the ways the male authors of this influential literary tradition recognized and justified women's lower social status and the various disadvantages of women's lives. Areas of discussion include the anatomy of female alterity, midrashic explanations of the biblical creation narratives, aggadic images of the ideal wife, the dilemma of infertility, and rabbinic concerns about independent

women. While Baskin shows that the rabbinic enterprise deeply valued the vital contributions of wives and mothers to Jewish survival, she also reveals deep-seated anxieties about women who did not conform to normative social expectations.

Recent feminist research has illuminated many aspects of the significance of gender in biblical and rabbinic texts, but there have been few previous scholarly studies of how aggadic literature portrays females and the feminine. Baskin argues that a far more nuanced and complex view of women's actual lives can be found in these narrative, anecdotal, and homiletical representations than in the rigorous proscriptions of legal discourse.

Baskin also edited Jewish Women in Historical Perspective (second edition, 1998) and Women of the Word: Jewish Women and Jewish Writing (1994), both published by Wayne State University Press.



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