Review

TOTIUS MUNDI Adornata justa Observationes Din Academiae Regalis Scientiarum oppullorum aborum Ecundum amotationes recentis

AT THE NEXUS OF EMERGING EMPIRES

UPCOMING—Empires in the Twenty-First Century Conference · May 18, 2007 · 8:30 a.m.−6:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

CSWS Director's Message

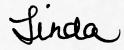
BY LINDA FULLER, Interim Director

I mentioned briefly in our winter 2007 newsletter that CSWS, the Center on Diversity and Community (CoDAC), and the Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality Studies (CRESS) hoped to engage in more joint projects in the future. Since that time a wonderful project has come to fruition. This spring CSWS and CoDAC are cosponsoring four graduate summer research awards. Three of these will support projects linking gender and cultural diversity. The fourth, which focuses on gender and indigenous culture, is dedicated to the memories of the late professors Rob Proudfoot and Steve Swenson, dear friends of CSWS and CoDAC.

At this writing, our search for a new permanent CSWS director is moving along, albeit more slowly than CSWS would like. Currently, CSWS is engaged in multiple discussions with various academic and administrative units on campus, with the goal of continuing the search under different parameters as soon as possible.

Finally, I'd like to ask something of our CSWS Review readers—your evaluations of our newsletter. Let us know the kinds of articles you like best in the CSWS Review and the kinds of pieces that interest you less. Also, if there is a topic you would like to see us cover, we welcome your suggestions. Please send your feedback to cswsnews@uoregon.edu or CSWS,1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. The CSWS newsletter staff intends to use your suggestions as a guide to producing newsletters our supporters enjoy and learn from.

Enjoy your spring!



New Society for Feminist Phenomenology in Formation

The Feminist Philosophy RIG, a group of faculty members and graduate students primarily connected to the Department of Philosophy, is seeking seed money from a number of sources, including CSWS, to establish a Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology. The society will be directed by UO philosophy faculty members Bonnie Mann and Beata Stawarska. They will work in collaboration with Eva-Maria Simms, the project's national adviser from Duquesne University, and Sara Heinamaa, the project's international adviser at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Phenomenology, with its focus on lived experience, embodiment, and social relations, offers valuable resources for feminist inquiry and empirical research. A Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology fits with the academic agenda of CSWS by helping generate, promote, and disseminate cutting-edge research sensitive to gender and representative of women's roles in society. An example comes from Mann's forthcoming book, Women's Liberation and the Sublime (Oxford 2006), which integrates phenomenology, feminist political theory, and a concern for the aesthetic dimensions of gender (see page 8). Stawarska will be responsible for oversight and coordination of the project. She combines phenomenology with recent developments in developmental psychology and is preparing a book manuscript under the working title *Dialogue and the Self*.

Mann and Stawarska, both assistant professors, intend to launch feminist phenomenology as an internationally recognized area of interdisciplinary feminist study associated with the UO Department of Philosophy and CSWS.

Curland Grants for Language and Gender Studies Awarded

CSWS and the Yamada Language Center are pleased to announce three recipients of the first Curland Grants for Language and Gender Studies. The awards encourage the internationalization of gender scholarship in languages that are not offered in the regular UO curriculum.

Monique Balbuena, assistant professor, Clark Honors College: Study of Arabic for her research and teaching on Jewish literatures from North Africa. (\$1,800)

Ann Laudati, graduate student, geography: Study of Swahili for her project on gendered and racialized experiences of conservation projects in Uganda. (\$1,200)

Ingrid Nelson, graduate student, geography: Study of Portuguese for her project on mainstreaming gender in Mozambique. (\$150)

Oaxaca Week

The Americas Research Interest Group is hosting three Oaxacan guests who are intimately knowledgeable about key power struggles and cultural narratives in Mexico.

- Concepción Núñez Rey, Oaxacan Education Workers Union, is a filmmaker and leader in the social change movement.
- Margarita Dalton, Ph.D., has written various books about the women of Oaxaca.
- Julia Barco, La Casa de la Mujer in Oaxaca, has been awarded scholarships in multimedia projects from the MacArthur and Rockefeller foundations.

Events include presentations on the 2006 Oaxaca rebellion and women in Oaxaca, as well as a film on Oaxacan women prisoners.

For event details, including location and time, go to csws.uoregon. edu or call (541) 346-5015.

Donations Benefit Studies of Gender in Early Mesoamerica

By Stephanie Wood, CSWS

The work of the Wired Humanities Project (WHP) on gender in early Mesoamerica has been the recent recipient of gifts from three generous women. One is an anonymous donation of \$44,000, to be used to advance digital work on campus and to disseminate research at international conferences. The other two are gifts of Mesoamerican cultural heritage materials, which will be digitized and fed into databases for advancing research and illustrating lectures in courses on campus.

One of these donors is Geraldine Andrews. Measuring, sketching, and photographing architectural remains, Gerrie and husband George Andrews visited more than 200 mainly Mayan archaeological sites since the 1950s.



George was a professor of architecture at the University of Oregon who passed away in 2001. One of their gifts is a copy of a drawing, such as the one reproduced here, of a stone monument at

the Maya site of Bonampak, Chiapas, Mexico. It depicts a ruler flanked by his wife and mother—a glimpse into the political importance of women and ways they were recorded in history. These materials will be archived into our searchable online

database, the Virtual Mesoamerican Archive, at whp.uoregon.edu/vma_ preview and will be accessible to scholars around the world.

Our most recent donor is Katarina Cernozubov-Digman, a former professor of women's studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who has retired to Lane County. Katarina visited Mesoamerican sites every year from the 1960s until 1983. She obtained special permits to photograph material that sheds light on women's roles and status in ancient cultures. Katarina has given us more than 800 slides and thirty-eight reels of Super 8 film. In addition, she has donated her collection of nearly forty garments handwoven by indigenous women.

It is through generous donations such as these that we build our resource base for use in teaching and research.

CSWS Spotlight: Hannah Goldrich



Hannah Goldrich, a well-known jewelry designer and activist, found herself drawn to CSWS since its very beginning, and she has maintained this connection through her CSWS membership and contributions ever since. Together with the link provided by her husband Dan Goldrich, a UO professor emeritus in political science, Hannah's CSWS connection has meant a strong and longstanding relationship to the University of Oregon.

"I am fascinated by how women give voice to their experience through

the arts—and CSWS provides a forum for acknowledging and learning more about that," said Hannah.

Hannah also has connections to the research of the Americas RIG and its focus on Oaxaca, to which she has traveled annually for thirteen years. During this year's trip she spent time with a young girl from the Trique Indians whose education she is sponsoring. "Without schooling, most girls from minority groups don't have a prayer," she said.

Hannah is also devoted to the folk art of Oaxaca as well the role of women and girls in Mexican society.

"I feel immersed in Oaxaca. There is constant creative stimulation there, which strongly influences my work as a jewelry designer. I am also intrigued by the strength of the women of Oaxaca to change the political direction in their region."

She plans to be an active participant in the events of the upcoming Oaxaca Week event (see page 2 of this issue).

Support CSWS

Did you know you can support CSWS programs through automatic deductions from your UO paycheck?

One faculty member has given CSWS \$35 per month for the last three years. Her accumulated contribution now exceeds \$1,000 and has made possible at least two new travel grants every year.

Even \$10 a month adds up.
To direct the University
of Oregon to start automatic
deductions from your paycheck
you need to submit a simple
payroll deduction form. To
get this form, go to the CSWS
website and click on "Support
CSWS" in the menu bar.
From there you can download
instructions and the form.

For more information call CSWS at (541) 346-5015. Thank you!

EMPIRES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: EMERGENCE, CONTESTATION, AND GENDER

The new term "Chindia" has begun to dominate political discourses today. By the year 2020, Chindiathe combined economic power of China and India—is expected to have one-third of the world's mobile phone subscribers and a \$100 billion mobile handset market. Its packaged food market will be \$480 billion, which is one and one-half times the present U.S. market. The aggregate of bank loans in Chindia will be \$9 trillion in 2020—twice the current GDP of Japan. But the numbers hide more than they explain about the role

of gender and race in the remaking of our world.

The CSWS conference entitled "Empires in the Twenty-First Century: Emergence, Contestation, and Gender," scheduled for May 18, supplements the purely economic account of this "new" imperial formation by addressing social and cultural issues. Organized by Lamia Karim, anthropology; Sangita Gopal, English; Sandra Morgen, former CSWS director; and Linda Fuller, interim CSWS director, the day-long conference brings together a group of eminent scholars who will examine the ways in which gender and race play out in the new articulations of Euro-American global domination and emerging empires of the Middle and Far East.

The speakers at this conference will explore how women's bodies and subjectivities are caught in the struggle between an older Euro-American empire and its new Asian articulations. A central question of the conference is investigating the extent to which emerging empires of the twenty-first century use race and gender to collude with and insert



Lamia Karim (left) and Sangita Gopal.

themselves in the existing imperial formation, while also resisting the processes of domination. How are the costs of empire building borne by women? How do women at the grassroots resist and organize against empire? What are the strategies of appropriating the new technologies of empire (the media, for example) for social movements?

Globalization and the formation of new empires can create unexpected modes of resistance and solidarity for women at the grassroots. For example, Karim's work on grassroots globalization shows that micro-credit loans for poor women in Bangladesh have created huge debt burdens as well as new modes of social and economic power. Poor men and women in Bangladesh can now own technology, for example cell phones, through the loan programs of the 2006 Nobel prize-winner Grameen Bank. Although paying off these loans can create enormous burdens for the poor women, women also gain access to market information that can help them to increase control of their social and economic environment.

Karim suggests that the study of empire has to occur at this juncture where forces of globalization interface with local conditions and experiences.

According to conference organizer Sangita Gopal, women must adopt coping strategies when political militarization challenges traditional patterns of gender relationships. Their strategies can reverberate throughout a globalized world.

"We are interested in how gender and race are mobilized in the traffic between existing and emerging empires. A

very productive and creative space of encounters occurs where you can imagine alternatives to whatever is the current paradigm," said Gopal.

Gopal is particularly interested in the interface of women's social movements and technology. "The speed of images and sharing of information changes the playing field. We have to look at how this is different than the old method of 'street marches' to express resistance to paradigms," she said.

For example, a number of recent murder and rape cases in India and Pakistan have garnered international media attention that, in turn, compelled a different legal outcome from what may have been tolerated under traditional customs. Women in these cases successfully used internationalized communications to mobilize outside support from human rights activists with nongovernmental organizations. It is also true that, while the media's spotlight can bring justice, it can also be crudely exploited to usurp women's issues in order to forward the dominant political agenda. Such was the case

when the president of Pakistan recently denied freedom of movement to the victim of a brutal gang rape with charges that rape had become a "moneymaking concern" and an excuse for women to get visas to Western countries.

Gopal is currently working on a book that explores how globalization affects the model of heterosexual marriage in South Asian literature and film. She emphasizes how the intimate and the everyday are transformed by the incursion of a global presence into economic and social structures. She considers the possibility that the increased violence against women, particularly in the name of tradition, can be viewed in conjunction with the privatization of the economy and the concomitant breakdown of family structures.

"Each case of violence, and how a society deals with justice around that violence, alerts us to the need to approach issues of gender with great subtlety and nuance," cautions Gopal. "This is especially true when we look at places like China and India that have different political, social, and cultural histories and formations than those in the West."

Karim, who won the John W. Gardner Award for the Best Dissertation in the Humanities and the Social Sciences at Rice University (2002), studies how gender is mobilized and deployed in empire building. She believes that military and diplomatic power struggles are now projected in terms of humanitarian discourses rather than as geopolitical interests.

"Women play a central role in this empire building," said Karim. "Women with their 'docile and nimble fingers' provide cheap labor in manufacturing while being portrayed subjectively in the new image of the neoliberal female who is striving to be a full citizen, a good consumer, and a hard worker. The geo-political players manipulate these images in order to build new empires."

The construction of Muslim women as "victims" needing to be rescued by colonial powers will also be discussed. Taking colonial imperialism into present-day events, scholars will discuss the ramifications of U.S. administration claims that it wants to bring democracy, economic development (in the form of neoliberal globalization), and women's rights to the region.

"According to a 'rescue narrative,'" explains Karim, "human rights for Muslim women serve as a rallying cry to depict the deprivation and inferiority of a third world country and justify going to war."

"Empires in the Twenty-First Century: Emergence, Contestation, and Gender" is organized in three parts with each session focused on a particular aspect of the study of empire. The first session, entitled "Theorizing Empires," maps the theoretical landscapes of emergent empires from Chinese, Middle Eastern, and Latin American perspectives. The second panel, "Cultural Mediations of Empires," examines how empire mobilizes around images of the gendered and raced body in media. The third and final panel, "Contesting Empires," studies resistance to empire from three regional and indigenous perspectives—Iranian, Indian, and Cuban grassroots activists.

Gopal and Karim organized this CSWS conference to challenge scholars and the greater CSWS community to reconsider how women negotiate personal sovereignty with their sense of nationality or cultural belonging through global interface and localized resistance.

EMPIRES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY:

Emergence, Contestation, and Gender Conference

MAY 18, 2007, 8:30 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M. Fir Room, Erb Memorial Union, University of Oregon The event is free and open to the public.

Guest Speakers

Roksana Bahramitash, Concordia University

Angana Chatterji, California Institute of Integral Studies

Purnima Mankekar, University of California–Los Angeles

Valentine Moghadam, Purdue University

Aihwa Ong, University of California–Berkeley

Special appreciation goes to the Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage Professorship in International Relations and Peace for its support of this conference.

See the CSWS website, csws.uoregon.edu/events/index.shtml, for biographies of the speakers and a complete conference schedule.

Related Event

Pedagogy and Imperialism: The Challenges and Opportunities of Teaching about Empire

Friday, May 25, time TBA Browsing Room, Knight Library, 1501 Kincaid Street

Speaker: Liz Philipose, Ph.D., assistant professor of women's studies at California State University—Long Beach. Philipose's research is in international law, colonial history, gender, race, and militarism.

Sponsored by the Social Science Feminist Network RIG.

Contact Stacey Coleman, scoleman@uoregon.edu, for more information.

Greetings from Women's and Gender Studies

By Ellen Scott, Program Director

It has been a busy year, thus far, for Women's and Gender Studies, and we are still looking forward

to one of our



Ellen Scott

most exciting and enjoyable annual events, the "Currents in Gender Studies Symposium." Our guest, Alice Domurat Dreger, a faculty member of the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University, will discuss her book *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of Normal.* (Symposium details are listed below.)

This year we have had the great pleasure of welcoming our new colleague, Ernesto Martínez. Along with Ernesto, we've been working to establish a minor in queer studies, a discipline combining sexual orientation and gender identity studies. We have also had a substantial increase in students participating in the Graduate Certificate Program in Women's and Gender Studies (interested graduate students should contact Ellen Scott for more information).

Ernesto received his Ph.D. in English from Cornell University in 2005. He teaches and conducts research in the fields of U.S. multiethnic literature, queer ethnic studies, U.S. Latino studies, and literary theory. Ernesto serves as a member of the national coordinating team for the Future of Minority Studies (FMS) Research Project, a national consortium of scholars and academic institutions with a primary interest in minority identity, education, and social transformation.

Ernesto is working on a book examining the contributions of queer writers of color to some of the most salient debates in contemporary theory regarding knowledge acquisition in contexts of intense ideological violence and interpersonal conflict.

The core and affiliated faculty members of Women's and Gender Studies welcome our new colleague.

Wednesdays at Noon

330 Hendricks Hall

APRIL 11: Women's Hip-Hop in Brazil, Lillian Lea Darwin Lopez, graduate student, comparative literature.

APRIL 25: Reconstructing Monastic Women's Musical and Liturgical Life in the Northern Middle Ages, Alison Altstatt, graduate teaching fellow,

MAY 9: Collaboration or Exploitation? Maragarete Steffin and Bertolt Brecht, Dorothee Ostmeier, associate professor, German and Scandinavian

MAY 23: Bringing Gender-Sensitive, Sustainable Redevelopment to Earthquake-Ridden Pakistan, Amarah Niazi, graduate student, international studies

MAY 30: Sex, Style, and War: Aesthetics and Politics in Post 9/11 America, Bonnie Mann, assistant professor, philosophy

For updated information check the calendar at csws.uoregon.edu or call (541) 346-5015.

Upcoming Symposiums

Sponsored by the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Fourth Annual Currents in Gender Studies Symposium

Friday April 13, 2007 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lecture Hall at the Jordon Schnitzer Museum of Art, 1430 Johnson Lane

Internationally recognized scholar Alice Domurat Dreger has been invited to discuss her book, *One of Us: Conjoined Twins and the Future of Normal*, (Harvard University Press; 2005). Copies will be available at the UO Bookstore.

Dreger is a medical humanist, writer, and faculty member of the Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University. Her work seeks to improve the medical and social treatment of people born with socially challenging body conditions including intersex, dwarfism, and conjoinment.

For information and reservations, contact: Sabena Stark, Women's and Gender Studies Program, sabena@ uoregon.edu or (541) 346-5529.

Intersex Symposium

Thursday April 12, 2007 2:00–5:00 p.m. 182 Lillis Hall, 925 East 13th Avenue

The Intersex Symposium will explore ethical issues (both social and medical) surrounding the treatment of people with intersex conditions, those whose bodies do not conform anatomically to conventional categories of male or female. Suzanne Kessler (SUNY–Purchase), author of Lessons from the Intersexed, and Alice Domurat Dreger (Northwestern) are the keynote speakers. Associate professor Elizabeth Reis, and students from her Sex and Medical Ethics class will respond to their presentations.

Free and open to the public, with a reception to follow.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Reis, (541) 346-5904 or lzreis@uoregon.edu.

CSWS FACULTY AND STAFF

Linda Fuller > interim director

Judith Musick > associate director

Shirley Marc > office coordinator

Peggy McConnell > accountant

Intimate Partner Violence, Gender, and Methamphetamine Conference

"There isn't a lot of research about how women may react differently to meth addiction than men. Some research indicates that women may react with greater intensity and experience a faster addiction. Also, women may use meth for reasons that are different than men—losing weight, seeking an energy boost, coping with family, jobs, and stresses. Women are left out of the discussion about meth addiction because most treatment modalities are based on a male model."

—Deborah Olson, conference co-organizer and member, CSWS Violence, Gender, and Society Research Interest Group.

Methamphetamine is one of the cheapest and most addictive illicit drugs, and its abuse is recognized as a serious social problem in Oregon. But the unique impact of the drug on women, families, and children has not received much candid attention. The Violence, Gender, and Society RIG is organizing a day-long conference to focus on the particular problems of meth and gender and the possible solutions to addiction and the resulting violence in relationships.

The Intimate Partner Violence, Gender, and Methamphetamine Conference will facilitate multidisciplinary efforts to coordinate services, shape policy, and reduce intimate partner violence. By joining the skills of academicians and epidemiologists with professionals in the realms of domestic violence, sexual assault, and counseling, The conference will also examine how the university can help bridge the methodologies of diverse disciplines.

Four members of the Violence, Gender, and Society RIG are working to organize the conference—Deborah Olson, Special Education; Cheris Kramarae, CSWS; Jeff Todahl, Couples and Family Therapy; and Debra Eisert, Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior.

"This conference is unique because it will deal with many emerging social problems around meth and domestic violence, child abuse, and health care," said Kramarae. "Dealing with the dangers of meth and interpersonal violence requires collaborative multidisciplinary responses."

The conference will provide much needed information on the efficacy of existing meth treatments and will suggest new research directions and policy needs.

"Oftentimes, the drug user has need for control and power in an intimate relationship," said Olson. "A key topic that gets left out of the discussion on meth is women as survivors of domestic violence as it relates to drug use."

"Given the heavy impact of interpersonal violence and meth on our communities, we invite all interested people to attend," Kramarae concludes.

Speaker and registration information is available at csws. uoregon.edu/rigs/rViolence.shtml. Call Deborah Olson, (541) 346-2483, for more information.

Intimate Partner Violence, Gender, and Methamphetamine Conference

April 27, 2007

Eugene Hilton 66 East Sixth Avenue 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. (Sign-in at 8:00 a.m.)

Preregistration: \$15.00 per individual includes conference and lunch. Must be received by Friday, April 20.

Day of event (pending available seats): \$15.00 per individual includes conference only.

KUDOS

Two University of Oregon Faculty Excellence Awards go to CSWS Affiliates

Bryna Goodman (history), whose scholarship on modern China is internationally renowned, and Gina Psaki (Romance languages), an eminent scholar of Italian and French literature of the Middle Ages, were recently chosen to receive prestigious faculty excellence awards. Both professors have been associated with CSWS for a number of years and were supported by CSWS grants at critical points in their academic careers.

"Since my arrival at the UO, CSWS has sponsored special programs that enriched my intellectual life, research, and teaching in a variety of ways, said Psaki, "including collaborative research through the Feminist Humanities Project." Regarding her affiliation with CSWS, Goodman said, "CSWS support has been integral to my ability to do my research and to my collaborative interactions with other UO faculty members. A CSWS faculty research interest group assisted early conversations among UO China scholars on the theme of gender in China. These conversations led to a CSWS-supported international conference and a subsequent 2005 volume, Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China."

Goodman received two grants for a total of \$12,000 for her research on gender in modern China. Psaki received four grants for a total of \$14,800 for research on topics such as sex and gender in Dante and Boccaccio and medieval misogyny in the thirteenth century *Roman De Silence*, a romance about a girl brought up as a boy.

Visit Kudos on the CSWS website and you'll discover the wide range of accomplishments of scholars affiliated with CSWS.

Women's Liberation and the Sublime: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Environment

Women's Liberation and the Sublime: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Environment, Oxford University Press (2006), is assistant professor Bonnie Mann's feminist account of the sublime that exposes the irrevocable relationships of dependency that bind us to the natural world and to one another. Mann writes:

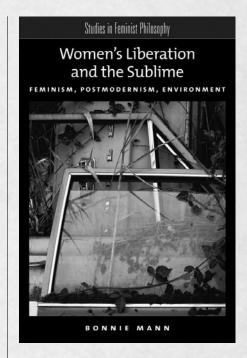
"In the mid to late 1980s, poststructuralism took academic feminism by storm in the United States. When the "linguistic turn" hit feminist theory, it really transformed feminism itself. The unitary subject, the authority of experience, the reliance on "woman" as a meaningful category for organizing resistance: all these were called into question.

"As these developments were taking place in the academy, I was moving back and forth between graduate school in philosophy and years of direct service work in the battered women's movement. As the category of experience collapsed in theory . . . I took crisis line calls from women who, it seemed, needed to be convinced that their

experience was real and could be expressed or obscured, but never simply constituted, in language. Yet the new theories were compelling in their capacity to unsettle categories of experience and thought that militated against a feminist response to domestic violence as well.

These developments in feminist epistemology sparked my interest in the aesthetic category of the sublime." (Introduction, pp. 3–7)

"... Sublime experience names precisely that melting away of the real (in both its social and natural forms) that so marks our displacement into the magical world of the text I felt compelled to write a book on the notion of the sublime, not because it has been systematically taken up as an explicit rallying point by feminist thinkers of what is somewhat problematically called the postmodern tradition, it hasn't. It is, however, the aesthetic experience of terror/exhilaration that emerges unnamed in important theoretical texts, to provide the silent justification for doing away with practically everything else. And it is, I



think, a way of naming and describing what it feels like to live dependent on a world we are in the process of destroying; the terror comes from the destruction, and the exhilaration from our power to destroy.

"... If feminists need the experience of the sublime now, it is because the conditions of postmodern life have made a profound disorientation in our relations to others and to the natural world the common experience of everyday life." (Preface, pp. ix-x)



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