

CSWS *Review*



Gender, Families, and Latino Immigration in Oregon

CAROL STABILE NEW DIRECTOR OF CSWS

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Carol Stabile New Director of CSWS

Carol Stabile will serve as the next director of the Center for the Study of Women in Society. Carol, her partner Mark, and their son Tony will be moving to Eugene this summer. Carol begins her directorship in September 2008; she will also have a joint appointment as a full professor in the Department of English and the School of Journalism and Communication.

Carol Stabile is currently professor of journalism and mass communication at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and has served as director of the women's studies program at



Carol Stabile

the University of Pittsburgh. Professor Stabile's work is highly interdisciplinary and focused at the intersections of gender, race, and class in media, in terms of both representational and industrial practices. She received her Ph.D. in English from Brown University in 1992 with graduate training in critical theory in English, but with research interests that are more broadly sociological and historical.

CSWS Director's Message

CSWS receives grant from the National Council for Research on Women for mentoring junior faculty women of color

I am delighted to announce that the CSWS has been awarded a grant from the National Council for Research on Women to support mentoring and leadership development for junior faculty women of color, particularly those from historically underrepresented groups. The center and the Office of the Vice President for Research have provided matching funds. The project is titled "Women of Color, Borders, and Power: Mentoring and Leadership Development."

Scholars who are women of color often face the challenge of conducting their research and writing without the broad networks of support afforded to other colleagues. Often laboring at the margins or intersections of traditional academic fields, they must forge new intellectual communities, often outside their own departments and institutions, to sustain their work. As a research center that already has the participation of many of the university's women faculty



Lynn Stephen

Plans for the project include minigrants or stipends to support individual research and participation in the group, a retreat to discuss leadership challenges and questions for women of color, a CSWS-sponsored symposium highlighting research by participating members, and a one-day group workshop on institutionalizing the leadership of women of color in the academy, led by one or two senior women scholars of color.

I look forward to working on this project as it develops over the next year. I will also be proposing a new initiative at the CSWS, tentatively titled "Race and Gender," which can be a home for this important project as well as others.

LYNN STEPHEN

**Associate Director for Program Development
Center for the Study of Women in Society**

members of color, the CSWS can play a significant role in mentorship and leadership development that will not only benefit itself, but the university at large.

Did you know...?

... that even though the CSWS has supported research at the UO since 1973 to the tune of more than \$2 million, we are feeling the current market crunch and are now, more than ever, dependent upon your donations to help us keep from reducing our grants to graduate students and faculty?

... that the generous funding that kept the Road Scholars Program afloat for several years has come to a close? Can we count on your donations to help us continue to send scholars around the state of Oregon to share their vital research with the broader community?

... that much research supported by the CSWS has a strong international dimension, with recent grants going to support work on Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, India, China, and Europe, as well as recognizing cultural diversity in the United States? If you have a special interest in international topics, won't you please help us keep this going with your contribution today?

Consider becoming a member by visiting our website at csws.uoregon.edu, writing us for more information, or increasing the contribution you have already given and sending your check (payable to CSWS-UO Foundation) directly to CSWS, 1201 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1201. Please also feel free to call (541) 346-5015. We thank you!

CSWS FACULTY AND STAFF

Lynn Stephen > associate director for program development

Judith Musick > associate director for grants and administration

Stephanie Wood > associate director for development and dissemination

Shirley Marc > office and events coordinator

Peggy McConnell > accountant

Barbara Corrado Pope launches new career as a novelist

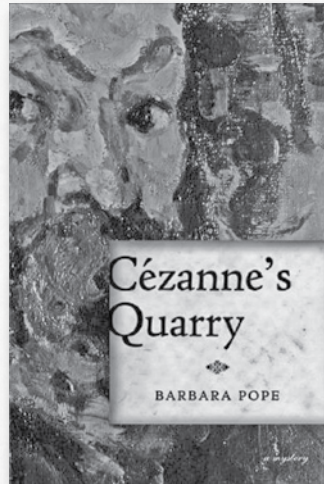
Barbara Corrado Pope, professor emerita in the Women's and Gender Studies Program, has a passion for making history come alive, especially through the study of vibrant, strong women in every historical period. Barbara's devotion to women's studies and history inspired her to play a prominent role as a leader in fostering the integration of race and gender into the UO curriculum.

Now that she has retired from the double duties of directing and teaching in women's and gender studies and the honors college, she is delving into topics that she rarely had the opportunity to address in the classroom—French history and the visual arts. Instead of preparing a lecture, however, Barbara is exploring new ways of sharing her knowledge through historical fiction. On the heels of the release of her first full-length novel, *Cézanne's Quarry*, Barbara affirms that retirement has opened the way to fulfilling her creative and literary urges.

"This is something I have always wanted to do," said Barbara. "Like everyone else, I wanted to write the great American novel—who hasn't? But for my first novel it was good to delve into history. It was something I knew, but it was also something that enabled me to develop my craft."

Cézanne's Quarry is a murder mystery set in 1885 in Aix-en-Provence. The book weaves together many of Barbara's research interests while at the UO: the interconnection of women, religion, and science in the nineteenth century as well as French intellectual and cultural history. The book will be published in three languages. Pegasus Books will handle the American edition, while German publisher Ullstein Buchverlage is coming out with an edition under the title *Im hellen Licht des Todes*. A Polish translation is expected in winter 2009.

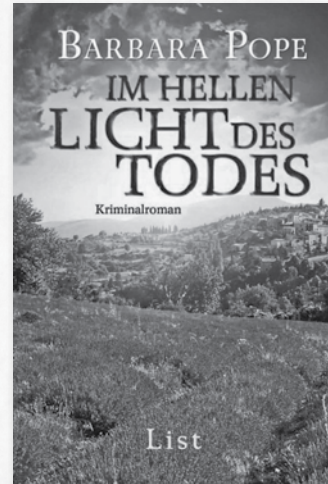
The clues to the mystery lie hid-



den in the famously unexplained violence of Paul Cézanne's early paintings as well as in his relationship to the novelist Emile Zola, then considered France's greatest writer. The catalyst of the plot is a secret, turbulent love affair that Cézanne had with a woman in 1885. Biographers have never discovered her identity. In Barbara's novel she is the enigmatic Solange Vernet, a self-made woman who strives for social advancement by hosting private salons to discuss the artistic and scientific issues of the day. Vernet is murdered in the Bibémus quarry, a remote spot that Cézanne painted several times.

"This is a novel that, because of the way it explores the role of women in nineteenth-century France, will appeal to many women of all ages," said Barbara.

Barbara's presence at the UO has been central to the development of the women's studies curriculum. She spearheaded the 1987 curriculum shift that required students to take a course focused on race and gender. Based on her tireless work to win innovative curriculum reform, Barbara was the first woman to win the Charles E. Johnson Memorial Award for "exceptional service to the university and the community" in 1991. She also received a Ford Foundation grant that helped her establish, with the aid



Barbara Corrado Pope's first novel is being published in both English and German, pictured here.

of eleven faculty members, a two-year seminar with many public speakers and events, including a convocation. When the Ford Foundation came out with its publication of syllabuses from twenty different universities, *Women of Color and the Multicultural Curriculum*, eleven of the thirty-eight selected publications were from UO faculty members who had worked with Barbara. Her contributions to the Robert D. Clark Honors College were recognized by a scholarship established in her name.

Barbara is enjoying pouring her passion for exploring issues of gender, race, and history into a literary venue. "To really establish my second career as novelist, I have to work on publicizing the first book while desperately wanting to finish the second!" she exclaims. "My second book will also be a murder mystery, tentatively called *The Blood of Lorraine*. I think this is where my commitments to the issue of race come into play. The theme of this book is the new anti-Semitism at the end of the nineteenth century in France."

Barbara is bringing together the very best of her scholarship, pedagogy, and personal interests into a new postretirement career. The center wishes her lots of success, and lots of readers. Her book is already available for preorders.

Conference on Gender, Families, and Latino Immigration in Oregon

May 22–23, 2008

At a time when debates about immigration and national identity are at a high point in Oregon and the nation, it is critical to address the gap between perceptions of Latino immigrants and the realities of Latino immigrant experiences and their contributions to local communities and the state. The CSWS conference, “Gender, Families, and Latino Immigration in Oregon,” will pay special attention to Latino immigrant communities in Oregon from a gendered and generational perspective. The conference will highlight the knowledge of Latino immigrants themselves and of allies who work closely with them.

Held at the UO’s William W. Knight Law Center on May 22–23, 2008, the conference features panels on youth and education; family dynamics; labor; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues in immigrant families and communities; indigenous women’s organizing and leadership; and access to services for immigrants. The conference also features an opening community forum titled “Myths and Facts about Immigration: Gender, Youth, and Family Perspectives.” The conference will close with a reception and a cultural event featuring local musicians and dancers. A photo exhibit prepared by the Community Alliance of Lane County will be on display.

Lynn Stephen, UO distinguished professor of anthropology and director of the CSWS’ Project on Gender, Families, and Immigration has been deeply engaged in conference planning for two years. “We are providing a unique forum on immigration by

focusing specifically on how immigration politics and policies affect Latino immigrant women, men, families, and youth,” Stephen said. “In addition, we are interested in exploring how these issues can provide opportunities for alliance-building for immigrant rights.”

The conference will offer a variety of perspectives to illuminate significant demographic, cultural, and social changes in Oregon. While immigrants from Latin America—predominantly from Mexico—have come to Oregon for over one hundred years, the growth in the Latino population has been steadily on the rise since the 1990s. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that in 2006, over 10 percent of the population in Oregon was of Hispanic or Latino origin, primarily as a result of immigration from Mexico. That same year, Latino children were over 15 percent of the population under age 18. At the current growth rate, the Oregon Department of Education projects that 28 percent of student enrollment in the state will be Latino by the year 2020.

“The schools are where you see the largest impact of immigration,” said Edward W. Olivos, a UO faculty member in the Department of Teacher Education and a member of the conference planning committee. “By the same token, children are not left out of the equation when it comes to attacking immigrants. There are past and current pieces of anti-immigrant legislation in a number of states that target not only the workers who come to the U.S., but also take aim at the whole family, including the children.”

This conference is noteworthy



for the long-term planning process used by the organizers as a means of reaching out to Latino communities throughout the state. Community leaders and advocates came together to form an advisory board and are playing active roles in the conference.

According to Marcela Mendoza, research associate at the center and

Continued on page six

Conference Contributors

Participants include representatives from the following organizations:

- Amigos Centro de Servicios Multiculturales/Amigos Multicultural Services Center, Eugene
- Basic Rights Oregon, Eugene
- CAUSA—Coalición Pro-inmigrante de Oregon/Oregon’s Immigrant Rights Coalition, Lane County
- Centro Latino Americano
- Cipriano Ferrel Education Center, Woodburn
- City of Eugene Human Rights Commission
- Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC)
- Emergence, Addiction, and Behavioral Therapies, Springfield
- Eugene School District 4J
- Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, Woodburn
- Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB)/Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations, Los Angeles, California, and Juxtlahuaca, Oaxaca, Mexico
- Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union (HERE), Eugene
- Juventud FACETA, Eugene
- Oregon Law Center, Woodburn
- Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)/Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United, Woodburn
- PeaceHealth, Eugene
- Rural Organizing Project (ROP), Scappoose
- Siempre Amigos, Eugene
- Springfield Public Schools, District 19
- UNETE—Center for Farmworker Advocacy, Medford
- VOZ—Workers’ Rights Education Project, Portland

Conference on Gender, Families, and Latino Immigration in Oregon

May 22–23, 2008 • 175 Knight Law Center

THURSDAY, MAY 22

7:00–8:45 p.m. Community Forum
*Myths and Facts about Immigration:
 Gender, Youth, and Family Perspectives*

Speakers

Santiago Ventura, Oregon Law Center

Patricia Cortez, Juventud FACETA

Odilia Romero, Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB), Los Angeles

Edward M. Olivos, Department of Teacher Education, University of Oregon

8:45–9:15 p.m. Presentation of the Labor Education Research Center's Report, "The Immigrant Experience in Oregon"

FRIDAY MAY 23

8:30–9:00 a.m. Distribution of Registration Materials

9:00 a.m. Welcome

9:15–10:45 a.m. Plenary Panel
175 Knight Law Center
Building Alliances for Immigrant Rights

Presentation of "Building Alliances: Collaboration between CAUSA and the Rural Organizing Project," a collaborative ethnography

Speakers

Ramón Ramírez, *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN) and CAUSA—Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition*, Woodburn

Jonathan Fox, *Department of Latin American and Latino Studies*, University of California at Santa Cruz

Marcy Westerling, *Rural Organizing Project, Scappoose*

Amparo Hoffman-Pinilla, *Research Center for Leadership in Action*, New York University

11:00–12:30 p.m. Three Simultaneous Panels

I. YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Panel Organizers and Chairs

Ken Neubeck, *City of Eugene Human Rights Commission*, Amigos Multicultural Services Center, Eugene, and **Martha Martínez**, *College of Education*, University of Oregon

Speakers

Charles Martínez, *College of Education and Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity*, University of Oregon

Carmen Urbina, *Eugene School District 4J*

Victor Becerra, *Juventud FACETA*, Eugene

Elizabeth Sampedro, *Juventud FACETA*, Eugene

II. CHALLENGES FOR IMMIGRANT MEN AND WOMEN

Panel Organizer and Chair

Guadalupe Quinn, *CAUSA—Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition*, Lane County

Speakers

Jorge Navarro, *Centro Latino Americano*, Eugene

Beatriz Martínez, *Welcome Center*, Springfield

Raul de la O, *Emergence*, Eugene

III. LABOR

Panel Organizers and Chairs

Lise Nelson, *Department of Geography*, and **Joan Acker**, *Department of Sociology*, University of Oregon

Speakers

Ignacio Páramo, *VOZ—Workers' Rights Education Project*, Portland

Marcelina Martínez and Julie Samples, *Oregon Law Center*, Woodburn

Nimfa López, *Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union (HERE)*, Eugene

Dagoberto Morales, *UNETE—Center for Farmworker Advocacy*, Medford

12:30–1:30 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30–3:00 p.m. Two Simultaneous Panels

IV. INDIGENOUS IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S ORGANIZING AND LEADERSHIP

Panel Organizer and Chair

Lynn Stephen, *Department of Anthropology, Ethnic Studies Program, Center for the Study of Women in Society, proposed Center for Latino and Latin American Studies*, University of Oregon

Speakers

Odilia Romero, *Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB)*, Los Angeles, California

Carmen González de Jesús, *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)*, Oregon Law Center, Woodburn

Reina Vásquez, *Amigos Multicultural Services Center*, Juventud FACETA, Eugene

Centolia Maldonado, *Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB)*, Los Angeles, California

V. NEGOTIATING FAMILY DYNAMICS

Panel Organizer and Chair

Marcela Mendoza, *Center for the Study of Women in Society, proposed Center for Latino and Latin American Studies*, Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon

Speakers

Erlinda González Berry, *Department of Ethnic Studies*, Oregon State University

Mario Magaña, *Department of 4-H Youth Development*, Oregon State University

Judy Salas Rocha, *Workforce Investment Act*, Springfield High School

Ruth Vargas-Forman, *Oregon Health and Science University*, Siempre Amigos, Eugene

3:00–3:15 p.m. Coffee Break

3:15–4:45 p.m. Two Simultaneous Panels

VI. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER ISSUES IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Panel Organizers and Chairs

Ernesto Martínez, *Ethnic Studies Program, Women's and Gender Studies Program, Department of English*, University of Oregon,

Patricia Cortez, *Juventud FACETA*, Amigos Multicultural Services Center, and **Heather McClure**, *Department of Anthropology*, University of Oregon, Oregon Social Learning Center

Speakers

Maceo Persson, *Basic Rights Oregon*, Eugene

Hector Miramontes, *graduate of Ethnic Studies Program*, University of Oregon

Horacio Roque Ramírez, *Department of Chicano Studies*, University of California at Santa Barbara

VII. SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Panel Organizers and Chairs

Lise Nelson, *Department of Geography*, and **Ellen Scott**, *Department of Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies Program*, University of Oregon

Speakers

Miriam Bautista, *Advocate for issues of Latino health*, Salem

Sister Barbara Haase, *PeaceHealth*, Eugene

Patricia Cortez, *Amigos Multicultural Services Center*, Juventud FACETA, Eugene

Laura E. Isiordia, *Cipriano Ferrel Education Center*, Woodburn

5:00–6:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation

Lessons on Gender and Family Issues among Immigrant Populations in Oregon and California

Speakers

Patricia Zavella, *Department of Latin American and Latino Studies*, University of California at Santa Cruz

Guadalupe Quinn, *CAUSA—Oregon's Immigrant Rights Coalition*, Lane County

6:30–8:00 p.m. Reception and Cultural Event

Organizers

Lynn Stephen, *Department of Anthropology, Ethnic Studies Program, Center for the Study of Women in Society, proposed Center for Latino and Latin American Studies*, and **Pedro García-Caro**, *Department of Romance Languages*, University of Oregon

Opening Remarks

Arturo Arias, *Department of Spanish and Portuguese*, University of Texas at Austin

Community Alliance of Lane County Photo Exhibit

Millerz In Da' Mix, *Springfield High School*

Ballet Folklórico Xochiquetzal

Sponsored by

the Center for the Study of Women in Society; cosponsored by the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, the School of Law, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Offices of the Senior Vice President, Provost and the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity, the Vice Provost of International Affairs and Outreach, and the College of Education.



Conference on Gender, Families, and Latino Immigration in Oregon

Continued from page four

one of the conference organizers, "The key issues that will be highlighted were identified through community consultations coordinated by the community advisory board. A wide range of participants brought their knowledge and experience together."

Patricia Cortez, an active member of the conference community advisory board, sees the conference as "important work, especially from my perspective as an immigrant. I see this conference giving the Latino community a sense of hope in the midst of a lot of negative publicity focused on immigrant legal status." Cortez is a longstanding Latino community leader who coordinates the youth group Juventud FACETA and is president of the board of directors of Amigos Multicultural Services Center.

A unique aspect of the conference is the public launching of two important publications in both English and Spanish. These include *Building Alliances: Collaboration between CAUSA and the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) in Oregon, a collaborative ethnography/Formación de Alianzas: Colaboración entre CAUSA y Rural Organizing Project (ROP) en Oregon* (published by the Leadership for a Changing World program of the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University) and *The Immigrant Experience in Oregon/La Experiencia del Inmigrante en Oregon* (published by the Labor Education Research Center, University of Oregon).

The conference is free and open to the public. A detailed program with schedule and speaker information can be found at **CSWS.UOREGON.EDU/IMMIGRATION**

KUDOS

Learn exciting news about the scholarly achievements of CSWS-affiliated faculty and students under the "Kudos" link on the CSWS website.

Please visit **CSWS.UOREGON.EDU**.

News from Women's and Gender Studies

By Ellen Scott

CURRENTS IN GENDER STUDIES:

Every year, WGS brings the author of a recent popular, interdisciplinary book to campus for a discussion with respondents and audience participants, many of whom we hope have read the book. This year, please join us in welcoming **Laura Perez**, author of *Chicana Art: The Politics of Spiritual and Aesthetic Altarities* (Duke University Press, 2007), to campus on April 18 in the lecture hall of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Laura Perez is an associate professor in ethnic studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Her work is on contemporary U.S. Latina and Latin American visual arts and writing, Chicano literature, and cultural theory. The book that is the topic of our event, *Chicana Art*, examines

the work of more than forty Chicana artists using a variety of media. Laura provides a rich interpretive framework for a discussion of a culturally hybrid spirituality invoked to challenge racism, patriarchy, and homophobia. This work makes a vital contribution to the creation of a more inclusive canon of American arts. It is the first book focused primarily on Chicana art. More broadly, the book makes critical contributions to ethnic and women's studies, Chicano and Latino Studies, cultural and media



Ellen Scott



Laura Perez

studies, sociology, political science, anthropology, and cultural geography.

WGS will make the book available to the first twenty people to sign up. We have invited two respondents from our community of scholars to comment on the work and begin a conversation with the author and the audience at 11:00 a.m. This year our respondents are Ernesto Martinez, Women's and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies programs, and Priscilla Ovalle, Department of English. We then adjourn for lunch, which is provided for those who have signed up in advance of the event. Books are also available at the Duck Store and at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

SALLY MILLER GEARHART FUND FOR LESBIAN STUDIES:

The Women's and Gender Studies Program (WGS) is honored to have been chosen by a longtime friend of **Sally Miller Gearhart** to house a new fund for lesbian studies in Sally's name. We had a wonderful, lively visit with Sally and her friend in November, and were extremely pleased when they decided the fund for lesbian studies belonged here at the UO.

Sally has been an author and tireless activist for equal rights and social justice for more than forty years, both within academia and in the public arena. As perhaps the first "out" lesbian professor to be granted tenure in the United States, she was one of the founders of the Women Studies Program at San Francisco State University. It was there that she taught some of the first courses in the nation with "homosexuality" in the title. Her lesbian-feminist utopian novels wrestle with the social and ethical questions of how we might achieve a world in which our planet's extraordi-

Continued on page seven, top

nary diversity can thrive. Our library's Special Collections deposits already include Sally's papers as well as those of Tee Corinne, Ruth Mountaingrove, Joanna Russ, Ursula Le Guin, Paula Gunn Allen, and a host of other feminist writers and activists. Having such a fine archive collection in lesbian studies is an enormous benefit to this campus and we look forward to being able to support lesbian studies by bringing speakers, supporting faculty research, or sponsoring conferences at the University of Oregon.

CELEBRATING NADIA TELSEY: We were disappointed this year when **Nadia Telsey** decided it was time to devote her energy teaching women's self defense to other venues and therefore stop teaching at the University of Oregon. But WGS has been honored to have Nadia as part of our teaching faculty for seventeen years, so we are planning an event to celebrate her extraordinary work and vision. Save the date: Friday May 2, late afternoon (time to be specified). See our website for details about the event: www.uoregon.edu/~wgs.

First UO Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology Institute on May 28–30

The UO Society for Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology (SIFP), a project of the Feminist Philosophy Research Interest Group, has developed a website



Bonnie Mann

that is ready for scholars to access and join. Two graduate student assistants, Emma Jones and Elena Cuffari, have been hired to help publicize the website and invite scholars to join the mailing list server and create scholar profiles. The website URL is whp.uoregon.edu/sifp.

The SIFP faculty organizers, Beata Stawarska and Bonnie Mann, of the UO Department of Philosophy, are part of a group of about thirty scholars from across Europe and the United States who have been meeting as the Feminist Phenomenology Circle every other year since 2000 to develop the field of feminist phenomenology. Some of the scholars involved in this circle will be coming to the University of Oregon May 28–30 for the first SIFP Institute. The institute, which will be held at Silver Falls Conference Center, will offer three days of intensive discussion of feminist

phenomenology. The conference has attracted a remarkable group of scholars from such diverse places as Hungary and Finland. Two prominent scholars are serving as advisers for the UO's nascent feminist phenomenology project. Sara Heinamaa, of the University of Helsinki, is SIFP's international adviser and Eva Maria Simms, of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, is contributing as its national adviser. Heinamaa and Simms will read graduate student submissions and select two graduate students to participate in the institute.

The SIFP Institute will be followed by a one-day public conference to be held at the EMU's Fir Room on Saturday, May 31. All the distinguished scholars who participate in the institute will be speaking at the conference. This is the chance for work in contemporary feminist phenomenology to become public following the more intensive closed-door discussions.

Both the SIFP Institute and the public conference are generously funded by the CSWS, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Philosophy. For more information on the institute or the public conference, contact Bonnie Mann, bmann@uoregon.edu, or Beata Stawarska, stawarsk@uoregon.edu.

Spring 2008 Events

Wednesdays at Noon

ALL TALKS ARE AT NOON IN
330 HENDRICKS HALL

APRIL 16: "Family and the State in the New Generation of Chilean Women Writers" by Yossa Vidal-Collados, graduate student, Department of Romance Languages (Spanish)

APRIL 30: "The Self between Languages and Places as Part of Diasporic Sephardic Identities: A Transnational Poetics of Jewish Languages" by Monique Balbuena, assistant professor, Robert D. Clark Honors College

MAY 7: "Our Roots Run Deep as Ironweed: Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice in the Appalachian Coalfields" by Shannon Bell, graduate teaching fellow, Department of Sociology

MAY 14: "Love and Blood: Petty Urbanites Write Emotion in 1920s Shanghai" by Bryna Goodman, professor, Department of History

JUNE 4: "Gender Identification, Sex Roles, and Gender Role Conflict Measurement: Development and Refinement of the Gender Traits and Behaviors Scale and the Gender Role Conflict and Traditionalism Scale" by Sean M. Laurent, graduate student, Department of Psychology

Other Events of Interest

APRIL 25, 2008, 6:30 P.M.

"Letters from the Other Side"—This documentary interweaves video letters carried across the U.S.-Mexico border by the filmmaker and the personal stories of the women left behind in post-NAFTA Mexico. Cesar Chavez Elementary School Cafeteria, 1410 W. 14th Ave., Eugene. Sponsored by the CSWS Project on Gender, Families, and Immigration.



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Kinship by Design: A History of Adoption in the Modern United States

by **Ellen Herman**

(University of Chicago Press,
forthcoming fall 2008)

Who belongs in families? Which children and adults belong together? How should families be made? The answers to these questions changed dramatically in the United States during the past century.

Adoption has a history that scholars are just starting to write. My forthcoming book, *Kinship by Design*, covers the history of adoption during the twentieth century, concentrating especially on the period from the 1910s through the mid-1970s, with an epilogue that covers the past thirty years.

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, adoption laws have reflected dominant cultural beliefs that family members should resemble one another racially, religiously, and nationally. Adoption practices also reflected the view that only healthy and intelligent children were suitable candidates for family belonging. After World War II, agencies began to test the feasibility of adoptions previously ruled out of bounds because they were considered difficult, risky, and likely to fail: African American children and



Prominent social workers Jessie Taft and Virginia Robinson with the children that Taft adopted and the two women raised together, at home in Flourtown, Pennsylvania, 1923. Used by permission of Roger Taft.

children of racially and ethnically mixed heritage, children with mental and physical disabilities, newborns, and sibling groups. These children were reclassified from unadoptable to adoptable, challenging older views that only normal, white children were qualified for family life.

The presumption that adoption was reserved for heterosexual, married couples was also challenged.

So were the stigmas associated with illegitimacy and infertility. At mid-century, an era of adoption revolution ushered in special needs, transracial, and international adoptions. Reformers changed how strangers were turned into kin and rules once considered “only natural” in adoption were overturned.

In *Kinship by Design*, I explore major efforts by the U.S. Children’s Bureau and the Child Welfare League of America to govern adoption and help its participants during the twentieth century. Government policymakers and professionals in social work, medicine, and law were determined to inject safety, naturalness, and authenticity into a family form culturally marked as hazardous, artificial, and less real than the “real thing.”

My research probes the paradox at the heart of adoption history. Adoption is at once a different way to make a family and a universal story about love, loss, identity, and belonging. *Kinship by Design* also suggests that adoption opens a window onto big questions in modern American history. Adoption may have as much to tell us about social welfare, statecraft, and science as it does about childhood, sexual nature, and family life.