



gendermatters

CENTER for WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Shaping our Own Destinies

by Rita Stephan

I am a typical American. My story is the story of a hard-working “middle-class” immigrant woman. I am a naturalized American citizen, an immigrant and the daughter and granddaughter of an immigrant family, a wife, and the mother of two children, the first female in my family to graduate from college. I am who I am because of those who walked the journey with me; some by holding my hand and showing me my way, others by letting me hold their hand and guide them in their way.

I was born and raised in Damascus, Syria to a Christian middle-class family. At seventeen, I immigrated to the United States from Syria without any prior knowledge of English. My family and I struggled to support ourselves working odd jobs. I had my first job washing pots and pans at a bakery in West Hartford, Connecticut. Throughout all our economic hardship as new immigrants, my parents kept telling me: “There is no shame in work.” I learned that no matter what life throws at me, I can always start over knowing that through my hard work, I will achieve my goals.



Rita Stephan

ANNUAL THEME: PERFORMING GENDER

HOW DO ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITIES SHAPE AND REINFORCE MODELS OF GENDER IDENTITY? HOW DO INDIVIDUALS NEGOTIATE THEIR OWN IDENTITIES WITHIN THESE SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED MODELS? HOW MIGHT WE SUBVERT GENDER STEREOTYPES AND OPEN UP THE POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF GENDER?

THESE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS WE WILL EXPLORE DURING THE YEAR WITH A SERIES OF LECTURES, FILMS, DANCE PERFORMANCES, AND ART EXHIBITS. DRAWING ON THE RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COMMUNITY, WE OFFER AN EXTENDED REFLECTION ON HOW, INDIVIDUALLY AND SOCIALLY, WE EXPRESS GENDER IN ALL ITS MULTIPLE AND FREQUENTLY CONTRADICTIONARY WAYS.

As a young woman, I did not have role models growing up but I remember in seventh grade thinking that I do not want to leave this world as I entered it, passively. I decided that I wanted to change the world, but I did not know how or where to start. My family and friends used to tell me that I would never “make it” because I am a Christian Arab woman. Being a Christian in the Arab world, I am a minority. Being an Arab in the West, I am also a minority; and being a woman, I am a minority everywhere. I was smart enough not to believe them but I was not quite sure how to believe in myself. I toiled to earn a bachelor's at The University of Texas at Austin.

In the summer of 2006, I traveled with my two little children to Lebanon to conduct field research on the activism of Lebanese feminists. My research was abruptly interrupted by the war that broke out between Hezbollah and Israel. After enduring two days of heavy bombing, I escaped in a taxi with my two children and 300 pounds of books, toys, and stuff.

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Director's Column

As I begin my first year as director of the center, I am reminded of some famous lines from Charles Dickens: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." At one moment we feel hope for a more equitable world, and at another watch as those we know and those who are unknown to us suffer from poverty, homelessness, and the loss of financial security. As always, in the best of times and the worst, it is women and children who struggle the hardest and the longest. The Center for Women's and Gender Studies recently celebrated the life and achievements of one who fought throughout her life to bring attention to those women and children. In a two-day conference on campus, colleagues and friends from all over the country joined UT faculty to recognize the achievements of B.J. Fernea, one of the co-founders of women's studies at UT. Four former directors of the center—Pat Kruppa, Terry Sullivan, Laura Lein, and Gretchen Ritter—reflected on the vision and commitment that carried BJ through the many struggles to establish a women's studies program at UT, a struggle compounded by the fact that BJ was for many years herself one of the most vulnerable, an untenured lecturer.

What these inspiring (and witty) women made clear, however, is that our work has made a difference—more and more women are in leadership positions in universities here and around the country. Laura Lein is Dean of Social Work at Michigan, where Terry Sullivan is Provost, and Gretchen has just recently been promoted to Vice-Provost at UT. This pattern is replicated in business and industry around the world—more women reach senior management positions and their presence is felt as workplaces are compelled to adjust to different priorities and values. Gradually, those committed to women's equality—both men and women—have been making visible what has previously been invisible: the inestimable value of women's intellectual and physical labor to the well being of the community.

Of course, the work goes on—in this worst of times economically, we have to be alert to the ways that economic uncertainty and depression hurt the vulnerable the hardest. At UT, for example, even though gender equity remains a priority of the president and provost, budget cuts across the university will undoubtedly impact women more than men given the preponderance of women on the staff and among the untenured lecturer ranks. But, we do not have to look far to see those committed to rectifying these inequities: there's the Feminist Action Project, started by several WGS majors, the students in Lisa Moore's Feminism Now signature course who are fundraising for our Texas Undergraduate Leadership Program (TULIP), and the feminist men of Sigma Lambda Beta who raised money for breast cancer research.

And, finally, we should not forget that this year more Nobel Prizes were awarded to women than ever before, including the first one to a woman in economics. Professor Elinor Ostrom from Indiana University was awarded the prize for her work assessing community decision making as often more economically viable than private decisions or government policy. Professor Ostrom thus confirms what we in Women's and Gender Studies have long known and practiced: that consensus building is better than top-down policy making and that complex social problems cannot be solved through the lens of one discipline alone. As Professor Ostrom remarked, "I've crossed disciplines, there's no question about it." And there's no question that when we contribute to the university's mission in our interdisciplinary teaching and research, we change society.



Past CWGS directors (L-R) Laura Lein, Teresa Sullivan, Patricia Kruppa and Gretchen Ritter with current director, Susan Heinzelman and Associate Director Alissa Sherry at the Conference in Honor of BJ Fernea.

Susan Sage Heinzelman
October 2009



Director

Susan Sage Heinzelman

Associate Director

Alissa Sherry

Senior Administrator

Pat Heisler

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We are located on the 4th
floor of Walter Webb Hall

Events

SEPTEMBER 2009

New Faculty Colloquium series began with Jill Robbins (Spanish and Portuguese) • *What I want my words To Do To You* was screened, the first in a series of events pertaining to this year's theme, Performing Gender • Meta DuEwa Jones, Terry Galloway, Miss Majors, and Sharon Meers were featured speakers • CWGS co-sponsored three films with the Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival • CWGS hosted an Organizational Planning Meeting.



CWGS Organizational Planning Retreat,
Sept. 19, 2009

OCTOBER 2009

Performing Gender Film Series continued with *14 Women* • CWGS participated in the conference to honor BJ Fernea with a panel discussion with CWGS past directors • New Faculty Colloquium continued with Tetyana Pudrovska (Sociology), Karen Pagani (French and Italian), and Sofian Merabet (Anthropology) • Invited speakers included Michael Addis from Clark University Pro-

fessor Paola Zaccaria (University of Bari, Italy), Janet Jakobsen, Director of Barnard College's Center for Research on Women • CWGS attended UT PAC's Broadway play, *Spring Awakening* • CWGS co-sponsored "Rejecting Violence, Imagining Alternatives - a series of community conversations"



CAB member Lulu Flores and the TULIPs
at the film screening of *14 Women*

NOVEMBER 2009

The film series continues with *Amuse Bouche: A Chef's Tale* which included a book presentation by Elizabeth Englehardt • New Faculty Colloquium include Talia McCray (Architecture) and Ying Xu (Civil Engineering) • "The Lives of Indigenous Women in a 'Post-Racial' and 'Post-Feminist' World" a talk by Professor Andrea Smith, University of California-Riverside • CWGS participates in the NWSA conference in Atlanta

DECEMBER 2009

As part of World AIDS Day, CWGS will screen the film *Where the Water*

Meets the Sky • Commencement Exercises are on December 5 & 6

FEBRUARY 2010

The 17th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Student Conference • Film series continues with *Radical Harmonies* • New Faculty Colloquium will feature Ruramisai Charumbira (History) and Heather Hindman (Asian Studies)

MARCH 2010

Explore UT is March 6 • Film series continues with *Hell on Wheels* • New Faculty Colloquium will continue with Paul Bonin-Rodriguez (Theater and Dance)

APRIL 2010

New Faculty Colloquium concludes with David Quinto-Pozos (Linguistics) and Germine Awad (Educational Psychology) • Film screening of *Venus Boyz* • The film, *In My Country* and the performance of the Soweto Gospel Choir at the Bass Concert Hall will be presented as part of CWGS's partnership with UT's PAC • Solo Performance and one-day symposium with world-famous dancer and choreographer, Deborah Hay (see page 4 for more information)



Soweto Gospel Choir



As a component of our yearlong activities surrounding our annual theme, *Performing Gender*, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies will sponsor a solo performance and a one-day symposium with Deborah Hay, one of the most radical and innovative choreographers of contemporary dance.

Deborah Hay's choreography, from exquisitely meditative solos to dances for large groups of untrained and trained dancers, explores the nature of experience, perception, and attention in dance, and has received numerous awards. Hay's work has now reached a new stage, where she redefines the choreographic method of her

solo pieces in collaboration with highly trained dancers. In 2004 she received a NYC Bessie award for her choreography of the quartet *The Match*, which toured in Austin, Houston, London, Nottingham, Montpellier, and Paris in 2005. In October 2009, Deborah Hay received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Dance at the Theater Academy in Helsinki, Finland.

April 7, 2010

Solo Performance, *No Time to Fly*
The Rollins Theater at the Long Center

April 8, 2010

Symposium (Panel discussions)
UT PAC Bass Concert Hall, 4th Floor

The **CENTER** for **WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES** Program
at THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN invites proposals for

The EMERGING SCHOLARSHIP in WOMEN'S and GENDER STUDIES

Seventeenth Annual Graduate Student Conference • Friday February 19th, 2010, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

This conference provides an opportunity to share research with undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty affiliates of Women's and Gender Studies from all departments. This is the student run conference of CWGS, not to be confused with any other conference.

Please note that presenting and participating in the student conference is one of the requirements of the Women's and Gender Studies Portfolio Program. A faculty/student jury will evaluate proposals. Each panel will be chaired by a faculty affiliate of CWGS. All participants must be registered students at a recognized university and must be available to present their papers at any time during the day on Friday, February 19, 2010.

You may submit an **abstract** for either category:

- Individual paper (15 minute presentation)
- Panel (no more than four papers)

Your abstract should be no more than 250 words. If you are proposing a complete panel,

please submit one abstract for the panel with a separate abstract for each paper. For more information on applying, please visit:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/>

Call for Papers: Deadline Postmarked by 12/14/09



A TRADITION OF PROMOTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



In her 31-year career as head coach of the UT Austin women's basketball team, Conradt served as a change agent both on the court and off. Not only did Coach Conradt direct championship-winning teams, in her long career she helped hundreds of young women excel as players, students, and future leaders. She showed that academic success and athletic success go hand in hand. As President Powers has said, "Jody Conradt has been a pioneer in women's college basketball, and thereby in progress toward equality for young women." Conradt expanded the horizons of her players and expanded understanding within the community about the ability of all people to succeed and lead in all areas of life.

In honoring Coach Conradt's legacy, we are pleased to an-

nounce the *Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership*. Funds from this endowment will be used to inspire and instruct students on the importance of leadership and equity.

This may be the first time that an academic endowment has been created to honor a university women's athletics coach. What better way to recognize the pivotal role that Coach Conradt has played in creating opportunity for and demanding excellence from women, both on and off the court?

The fund will be held by the College of Liberal Arts on behalf of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CWGS), which is dedicated to closing the leadership gap through a variety of initiatives like the Faculty Development Program, TULIP (Texas Undergraduate Leadership Program), and our partnership with the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders. Jody Conradt changed the face of women's basketball at UT Austin. She changed women's athletics. Most important, she changed young women.

For more information, or to donate to the *Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership*, please call 512-471-5765

INTRODUCING THE 2009-2010 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD COHORT

TULIP

(Texas Undergraduate
Leadership Program)

Creating the Next Generation of Leaders



From L-R, Christine Adame (Architecture), Danielle Rodriguez (Biology), Asmani Patel (Business), MinAe Noh (Economics), Taylor Boeker (Engineering)

For more information on
TULIP, please visit

[http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/
cwgs/outreach/TULIP.php](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/outreach/TULIP.php)

MASTER'S STUDENT NEWS

RAWAN ARAR is studying this semester at the University of Jordan as a Peace and Conflict Resolution Scholar with Rotary International. She is sponsored by the Alamo Heights Rotary Club, District 5840. Rawan recently attended the 3rd Annual New Arab Woman Forum in Beirut, Lebanon.

KATIE FORREST completed her first Ironman Wisconsin on Sept 13th and won her age division. She qualified for the world championships in Kona, Hawaii next year!

JENNIFER MORRIS will be traveling back to Ghana over winter break to complete research for her thesis on domestic violence in Ghana. She also rescued a lil doggy from Austin Pets Alive, Esther Clementine Beauregard!



PATTI NELSON interned as a research assistant with the Margaret Sanger Papers Project at NYU this past summer.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

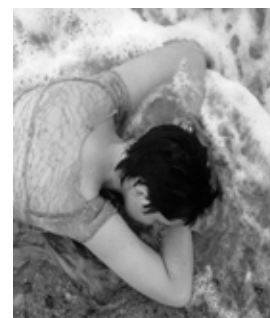
JESSAMINE "JESSIE" BEAL will be graduating in December with a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and Government. Jessie is graduating with high honors and plans to attend law school.

PORTFOLIO STUDENT NEWS

ANN MARIE NAYBACK-BEEBE (School of Nursing) gave a presentation, "Female Veterans and PTSD: A Gender-Based Policy Analysis" at the 8th Annual Women in Military Service Conference, sponsored by the Women in Military Service Foundation, Arlington, VA.

Alumni News

SARAH CROSS (2003) received a fellowship to complete a second MA in Creative Writing at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England which she completed last year. This photograph (Sarah in what remains of her grandmother's dress) was part of a project she documented for her thesis - performing her own writing, as well as writing performance. For the last year Sarah has been facilitating participatory, reflective workshops for MA students at the Institute of International Development (also at Sussex), bringing writing, theatre, movement and the emotional, imaginative, creative, and spiritual into higher education learning - trying to make good on her conviction that radical justice demands radical pedagogy. Sarah sends greetings from the southern coast of England to her cohort and former professors.



AZURE OSBORNE-LEE'S (2005) new one-act play entitled "Crooked Parts" will be read in Freedom Train Productions' program *We Were all Artists Once* at the Audre Lorde Project in Fort Greene, Brooklyn on October 23rd. *We Were All Artists Once* is the culmination of Freedom Train's Open Workshop Community Writers Program, and will also feature the work of Una Osato, LaTonia Phipps, and Terrell Richardson. She lives in Manhattan and works as a freelance writer and just started an internship with the Sundance Institute Theatre Program.



PRUDENCE KOMUJINYA (2008) is working for Care International in Uganda as the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for their Women's Empowerment for Peace in Northern Uganda. She works with women in post conflict and recovery situations and thoroughly enjoys her work. Her Care Global Human interest story, "Braving through the Storm: Angela's Long Determined Walk to Prosperity" won the Grand Award.

Rita Stephan

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The trip out of Lebanon was dangerous even by Lebanese standards, as we were intermittently under heavy attacks. However, my trip was an enriching personal and intellectual experience: I learned hope from women whose lives have been shattered by many wars, and I discovered new dimensions to family and women's rights.

My dissertation, *The Family and the Making of Women's Rights Activism in Lebanon*, examines the dynamics and interactions between women's rights activists and their kin groups in Lebanon. Degrees of embeddedness in kinship structures remain an under-conceptualized facet of political activity in general, and especially in the Middle East. Politicians and political scientists have traditionally projected a model of individual autonomy on these societies that is at variance with their real social systems. On the basis of my research findings, I argue that kin groups and the kinship system are important to women's political participation and civic engagement.

In investigating the impact of being embedded in—or autonomous from—kinship structure on activism, I argue that Lebanese women's rights activists leverage support from their kin groups and adhere to the behavioral norms set by the kinship system in order to gain access to decision-makers, build organizational capacity and advance their movement's strategic goals. My research suggests that Lebanese women's rights activists interact with their kin groups at three levels. First, women activists are influenced by their nuclear and extended family's encouragement in establishing their activist identities as well as by following conventional trajectories, such as membership in civil society organizations, political parties and professional unions. Second, with respect to their personal activist strategies, Lebanese women utilize their kinship networks to advantageously position themselves in the public sphere. Finally, on the organizational level, women's rights organizations pursue the empowerment of women (in their roles as mothers and wives) within, rather than outside, the family by adopting strategies that are embedded in familial relationships.

The recent upsurge of interest in Islam and the Middle East has shown the need to challenge stereotypical assumptions about kinship, marginalized women's agency, and Arab and Muslim women's activism. In addition to filling a gap on Arab women's activism, my research reveals that the women's movements, in these cultures at least, thrive by

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT

CARMEN TAWILL P.E., left home at eighteen and worked her way through the Engineering School at The University of Texas at Austin by working as a waitress, a job she thoroughly enjoyed. Upon graduation she moved to Houston where she was the only female sales engineer selling electrical switchgear to the construction industry. She returned to Austin where she became a Partner in



Diversified Communication Engineering, Inc. (DCE), a consulting engineering firm, and proceeded to work on various large scale communication projects throughout the United States and Mexico. In 1986, while still practicing engineering with DCE, she co-founded Global Information Technologies, Inc. (Global), the Managing Partner for Corridor Television, L.L.P. During the past 20 plus years, Global has owned and operated numerous communication companies that were developed and

sold to companies such as Sprint, NexTel and Argyle Television. As a female engineering student, engineer and businesswoman, Carmen has experienced firsthand gender inequity. During engineering school she soon learned that using her initials rather than her name on homework and tests consistently raised her grade. While on the witness stand at a comparative hearing at the FCC, Carmen was asked by the male opposing counsel if she had always been a woman. These are just some examples of Carmen's life experiences that have helped shape her strong beliefs in helping other women navigate gender hurdles and achieve success.



BECOME A FAN ON FACEBOOK &
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

CWGS has two Facebook sites and a Twitter site devoted to current students and alumni.

Find a link on our homepage:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/>

facebook



SPOTLIGHT

ON FACULTY AFFILIATES

REBECCA BIGLER (Psychology) was cited in the September 14 issue of *Newsweek Magazine's* article, "See Baby Discriminate: Kids as young as 6 months judge others based on skin color. What's a parent to do?"

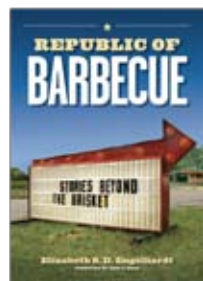
PASCALE BOS (Germanic Studies) published the following articles "Meine Not ist nicht einzig: Sexuelle Gewalt im kriegerischen Konflikt: ein Werkstattgespräch" *Mittelweg* 36. Hamburg (1:2009) 3-25, "Feministische Deutungen sexueller Gewalt im Krieg". Berlin 1945, Jugoslawien 1992/93" *Krieg und Geschlecht: Sexuelle Gewalt im Krieg und Sex-Zwangsarbeit in NS-Konzentrationslagern*. Eds. Insa Eschebach and Regina Mühlhäuser. Berlin: Metropol, 2008. 104-123 and "Gender Politics and Academia?" *Intersections: Women's and Gender Studies in Review Across Disciplines*. University of Texas at Austin (6:2008) 133-135.

MOUNIRA MAYA CHARRAD (Sociology) spoke on the theme of Modernity and Rights in the Middle East as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on the Politics of the Global Economy at the Harvard Law School in April 2009. She made a presentation on "Inventing the Nation, Reshaping Gender: Integrating the Middle East in Social Theory" at Yale University in March 2009 and another on "From State Feminism to Women's Activ-

ism: Waves of Gender Legislation in Tunisia" at a conference also at Yale University in February 2009. Her article on "Kinship, Islam or Oil: Culprits of Gender Inequality" appears in *Politics and Gender*, Vol 5 (4), Dec. 2009. She received a grant from the American Institute of Maghrebi Studies to conduct three months of field research on "Women Leaders" in Tunisia.

CAROLYN EASTMAN'S (History) book, *A Nation of Speechifiers: Making an American Public after the Revolution*, is to appear in November 2009 from the University of Chicago Press. In addition, her essay "Fight Like a Man: Gender and Rhetoric in the Early Nineteenth-Century American Peace Movement" appeared in the Sept. 2009 issue of *American Nineteenth-Century History*; a second article, "Shivering Timbers: Sexing Up the Pirates in Early Modern Print Culture," appeared in the Oct. 2009 issue of *Common-Place* (www.common-place.org).

ELIZABETH ENGELHARDT (American Studies) published her book *Republic of Barbecue: Stories Beyond the Brisket*, which was written with a team of eleven graduate students from The Univer-



sity of Texas at Austin as they set out to discover and describe what barbecue has meant to Texans ever since they first smoked a beef brisket.

BENJAMIN GREGG'S (Government) most recent publications are: "Deploying Cognitive Sociology to Advance Human Rights" *Comparative Sociology* 9: 1-19 (2010) and "Familiendämmerung in Amerika?" in S. Caspar und C. Gehrke, eds. *Familien-Bande*. Tübingen (Germany): Konkursbuch Verlag (2009)

MICHELE GUZMAN (Hogg Foundation) will be receiving a DiversityFIRST Award from the Texas Diversity Council. Also, she published an essay on ethnic minority leadership in the *American Psychological Association Journal*, Communiqué, August 2009. It is very pertinent to leadership issues for women in higher education.

SUSAN HEINZELMAN (English) gave the Thomas F. Ryan Endowed Lecture at the Georgetown Law School on October 28th. Her talk was titled "When Law and Love are not Enough: King Lear and the Spectacle of Terror."

BARBARA JONES (Social Work) published the following articles: Jones, B., Volker, D., Vinajeras, Y., Butros, L., Fitchpatrick, C., Rosetto, K. (2010). "The Meaning of Surviving Cancer

for Latino Adolescents and Emerging Young Adults". *Cancer Nursing: An International Journal for Cancer Care*. 33 (1). Jones, B., Pomeroy, B, Sampson, M. (2009). "University-Community Partnerships and Community Based Participatory Research: One Community's Approach to Enhance Capacity in End-of-life and Bereavement Practice, Research, and Education", *Journal of Social Work in Palliative and End of Life Care*. 5 (1) 94-104.

CAROL MACKAY (English) published a critical edition (with an extensive introduction, footnotes, and four appendices of reviews and other contextual materials) of Annie Besant's An Autobiographical Sketches (out of print since 1885) for Broadview Press.



JILL MARSHALL (Education) along with J. A., Herzenberg, C., Howes, R., Weaver, E.C. & Gans, D.M. (2010), will publish *The Physics Teacher*. Women and men on the Manhattan Project.



Dorothy Marcus (Gans) with Ray Hoxeng (L) and Wayne Binger (R) at the Metallurgical Laboratory at Site B, 61st and University in Chicago, in 1944-45

JULIA MICKENBERG (American Studies) had an essay accepted in *American Quarterly* entitled "The New Generation and the New Rus-

sia: Modern Childhood as Collective Fantasy." The essay will appear in the March 2010 issue. Mickenberg's book, Tales for Little Rebels: A Collection of Radical Children's Literature (co-edited with Philip Nel and published by NYU Press in 2008) was recently chosen as among the "best of the best" books for school and public libraries by the American Association of University Presses. Mickenberg is currently the Hall Visiting Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an Honorary Fellow in the Wisconsin Institute on Research in the Humanities.

JOANNA RICHARDS (Pharmacy) is a founding member of Education First SBOE-10, a nonpartisan, informal network of residents of Texas State Board of Education District 10 (which includes much of Travis County) who are working to promote educational excellence by reducing the influence of politics and ideology on the board.

MARGO SAWYER'S (Art and Art History) "Synchronicity of Color" at Discovery Green, Houston was honored by Americans for the Arts and the Public Art Network in this years Public Art in Review 09, honoring the 45 best public art projects in the US.

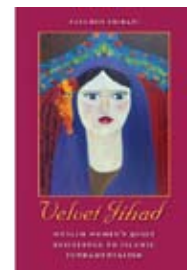


ELIZABETH SCALA (English) published an essay called "The Gender of Historicism" in a collection she co-edited: The Post-Historical Middle Ages with Sylvia Federico (Bates Coll) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009).

LINDSEY SCHELL (UT Libraries) has two articles coming out this fall: "Patron-driven, Librarian-approved: a pay-per-view model for e-books", Lindsey Schell and Susan Macicak. An article will be forthcoming in *Serials: The Journal for the International Serials Community*, Nov. 2009, Special issue: E-books and "The Academic eBook". A chapter is forthcoming in *No Shelf Required: eBooks in the 21st Century*, edited by Sue Polanka. Chicago: American Libraries Association, 2009.

ALISSA SHERRY (Educational Psychology) published "Competing Selves: Negotiating the Intersection of Spiritual and Sexual Identities" with Andrew Adelman, Margaret Whild, and Daniel Quick in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*.

FAEGHEH SHIRAZI'S (Middle Eastern Studies) new book was recently published. Velvet Jihad: Muslim Women's Quiet Resistance to Fundamentalism reveals the creative strategies Muslim women



have adopted to quietly fight against those who would limit their growing rights. Shirazi examines issues that are important to all women, from routine matters such as daily hygiene and clothing to controversial subjects like abortion, birth control, and virginity. University Press of Florida, 2009

If you are not a CWGS Faculty Affiliate but have similar research interest, please join us! Contact Pat Heisler at pheisler@mail.utexas.edu

CWGS RESEARCH CLUSTER HIGHLIGHT

THE QUEER ETHNOGRAPHY RESEARCH CLUSTER is an attempt by queer and feminist scholars and



Alixa Garcia & Naima Penniman
Photo courtesy of Poe Tree

artists from different but convergent disciplines to capture the particularities of emergent cultural forms and the sense made of them at their inception. As feminists, anthropologists, cultural studies practitioners, performance practitioners, poets, and public intellectuals, we are curious about the production and consumption of public culture and the ways in which ordinary life moves through it. We give primacy to affect and lived experience (Stewart 2007; de Certeau 1984; Deleuze and Guattari 1988; Thrift 2004; Berlant 1997, 2004; Cvetkovich 2003; Butler 2003; Williams 1997). While we sometimes reach for critical categories (such as “race,” “gender” and “sexuality”), in moments of distress and confusion—what Benjamin would call “states of emergency” (1969)—our primary analytic tack is one of tracking ordinary epistemologies as they emerge in a dense and contradictory cultural field. Our aim, then, is to consider, alongside identity-based ways of reading culture, alternative analytic categories such as rhythm, scale, tone, and kinesthetic response (Lefebvre 2004;

Massumi 2002; Feld 2005). Methodologically, we are invested in uncovering new ethnographic methods for conducting fieldwork and generating scholarship, including autoethnography and performative writing. Membership to the Queer Ethnography Research Cluster is open and all are welcome.

Looking for Funding?

Our annual awards are made possible by gifts from various donors. Undergraduate and Graduate students from all departments are eligible to apply for these awards. Graduate awards require enrollment in the WGS Portfolio Program.

The Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship is awarded each spring to a deserving WGS undergraduate who has earned distinction in WGS scholarship and service. **The Lora Romero Memorial Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender** will be awarded to an undergraduate student in memory of former UT colleague, Lora Romero. **The Ellen Clarke Temple Graduate Award** provides support for undergraduate students of Liberal Arts for travel, research, and other needs in the study of the women in American history,

particularly in Texas or the Southwest. **The WGS Graduate Student Dissertation Award** is given to deserving graduate students who are doing research on a feminist or gender-related topic. This award is designed to encourage WGS scholarship at the graduate level.

Next year’s applications will be available in January 2010
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/cwgs/awards>.

We encourage you to apply!



BIBLIOGRAPHER'S CORNER

Publishing is a way of life for nearly all academics, whether you're tenure-track or laboring on a thesis or dissertation. The underlying foundations of critical thinking and writing may seem second nature for most of us, but the ability to evolve those skills over time and accept a bit of constructive criticism along the way are what set excellent authors apart from the crowd. The UT Libraries has a wide array of recent works on writing for academics, which may help take your own work to the next level:

Getting Published: A Companion for the Humanities and Social Sciences
Gerald Jackson and Marie Lenstrup
Copenhagen, Denmark : NIAS Press, 2009. PCL Stacks PN 146 J33 2009

Passion and Politics: Academics Reflect on Writing for Publication
London: Institute of Education, University of London, 2008. PCL Stacks PN 146 P377 2008

Writing for Scholars: a Practical Guide to Making Sense and Being Heard
Lynn P Nygaard, Portland, OR: Distribution, International Specialized Book Services, c2008. PCL Stacks P 301.5 A27 N94 2008

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Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, c2008. PCL Stacks LC 191.9 L43 2008

In addition to these titles, the UT Libraries offers many discipline-specific works, including writing for history, education, law, political science, second languages, music, criminology and social science.

If you would like assistance locating these works or have other writing/research related questions, please contact me at schell@mail.utexas.edu.

Rita Stephan
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being embedded in cultural and kinship networks. Within the study of women's movements, my research explores alternative and unconventional contexts for women's empowerment. I contend that activists can obtain social capital from unlikely informal social networks such as kinship.

Currently, I am teaching feminist theories and global gender inequalities and will teach gender politics in the Islamic world and feminist research methods next semester. My approach to teaching addresses both the head and the heart. I teach students how to analytically conceptualize situations that will confront them in their lives, but I try to connect this to the development of cultural empathy, which ultimately takes place in the heart. I am committed to supporting students academically and personally by empowering them to pursue their personal dreams and overcome obstacles.

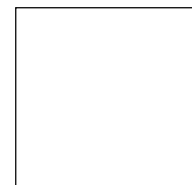
Whether in scholarly research, activism, or teaching, my overriding motivation throughout my career continues to focus on teaching peace and social justice and to increasing multicultural understanding in our global village.

Rita Stephan is a CWGS faculty affiliate and endowed lecturer in Sociology in Women's and Gender Studies.





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