



# THINK *gender* *nation* *trans* *race* *sex* *CRITIQUE* *differ* *ACT*

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY • Fall 2008–Summer 2009 Newsletter • Volume 26 No. 1

## Introducing Victoria Pitts-Taylor Recently Elected CSWS Director and WSCP Coordinator 2009-2012

The Center for the Study of Women and Society and the Women's Studies Certificate Program will be under new leadership starting in July 2009. In keeping with the governance structure, the WSCP and the CSWS should alternate their leadership between the social sciences and the humanities. Professor Anne Humpherys of the English Department has served this dual role as CSWS Director and WSCP Coordinator since 2006 and will be turning over her position to Professor Victoria Pitts-Taylor in July. The Advisory Board elected Victoria Pitts-Taylor as Humpherys' replacement in Fall 2008. Pitts-Taylor is a Professor of Sociology, at Queens College and The Graduate Center, and also serves as co-editor of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. We would like to welcome her as the new CSWS director and WSCP coordinator and take this opportunity to formally introduce her to the CSWS community.

Victoria Pitts-Taylor received her PhD from Brandeis University (1999) where she focused on the sociology of the body. Since 2000, she has been teaching social theory, the sociology of the body and the sociology of medicine at Queens College, CUNY; and in recent years she has been splitting her time between Queens College and The Graduate Center. Here at the Graduate Center, Pitts-Taylor has been teaching in the Sociology program and has taken on the position as co-editor with Talia Schaffer from English, of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. She initially became involved with the Women's Studies Certificate Program through teaching the Feminist Theory course. She co-taught this course with Lisa Jean Moore (who is now at Purchase College) and says that she learned a lot from this initial experience of team-teaching. Pitts-Taylor also discovered that instructing a WSCP course

is very rewarding because it enables her to meet students outside of her discipline, and sustain these relationships outside of the classroom over the years.

Pitts-Taylor situates her work within the area of research on the body. For the past ten to fifteen years, there has been keen interest among gender studies scholars about the body and much of that work has focused on how social constructions of gender affect embodiment, especially the outer, visible body. In previous years Pitts-Taylor's research has focused pretty intensely on discursive matters of the body as well as material transformations and practices. More recently she has studied discursive matters of the body in relationship to medicine and medical practice. In her numerous publications Pitts-Taylor has worked on the problem of the normative construction of the body and how we make sense of bodies that lie outside those norms. In addition to her book publications, she has also recently edited the *Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body*, which aims to demonstrate the varied ways in which bodies have been lived and performed in a range of cultural and historical contexts. Pitts-Taylor commented that her written introduction to the encyclopedia probably represents her most accessible and practical writing in body studies.

In her first book, *In the Flesh: The Cultural Politics of Body Modification* (2003), Pitts Taylor looks at body art practices – tattooing as well as more dramatic forms of body modification – as forms of identity politics, because she sees the body art movement as responding in various ways to certain developments in feminism, queer rebellion and post-colonialism. She applies a mostly Foucaultian framework to think about these practices in relation to what Foucault



Victoria Pitts-Taylor

termed power/knowledge. In her second book *Surgery Junkies: Wellness and Pathology in Cosmetic Culture* (2007), Pitts-Taylor looks at a more heteronormative practice, cosmetic surgery. She outlines the social policing of cosmetic surgery patients in the context of the vast expansion of cosmetic surgery in the past decade. Here she argues that in various ways we are learning to become consumers of cosmetic surgery; part of how that happens is that the marginal figures of cosmetic surgery – those whom we see as “junkies” – are held up as cautionary tales to help us delineate and embrace a normal, acceptable cosmetic surgery. The book is critical of the cosmetic surgery industry, but the arguments Pitts-Taylor puts forth are not the usual ones. She also offers a critique of how feminists have traditionally thought about the topic of cosmetic surgery.

Pitts-Taylor explains that her most recent thinking moves away from studying how the body is represented on the surface to studying more material and interior matters. In a new project she considers all the new hype about the brain and the “new biologism” of the self, which connects selfhood and personality directly to the brain, rather than to the more abstract and less embodied concept of the “mind.” She poses the question: How does feminism respond to and make

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## THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Women's Studies Certificate Program  
The Graduate Center of the  
City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 5116  
New York, NY 10016  
212.817.8905  
[web.gc.cuny.edu/womencenter](http://web.gc.cuny.edu/womencenter)

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*Director*

Elizabeth Small  
*Assistant Program Officer*

Jennifer Sugg  
*Newsletter Coordinator*

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*Director of the Christina Institute for Women's Studies*  
*University of Helsinki, Finland*

### NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE FACULTY OF THE WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FALL 2008

Jane Cicely Sugarman  
*Music Department, The Graduate Center*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Advancing Feminist, Poetics and Activism Conference

September 24, 25, 2009 • 7:30–9:30 PM • Proshansky Auditorium

A conference to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Belladonna Series and Press. Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society and the Women's Studies Certificate Program, The Center for Humanities, and the English Program.

### Celebration of Marilyn French

October 15, 2009 • 1:00–8:00 PM • Skylight Room.

Co-sponsored with The Feminist Press and The Center for Humanities.

### Girls Write Now Annual Reading

October 23, 2009 • 4:00–9:00 PM • Proshansky Auditorium

Girls Write Now is New York's premier creative writing and mentoring organization for high school girls. Every year The Girls Write Now holds a reading in which mentees take the stage solo to share the work that best exemplifies their growth as writers during the course of the year. The reading also marks the debut of each year's annual anthology of writing by Girls Write Now mentees. The event is co-sponsored by CSWS and the English Program.

### Feminist Pedagogy Conference "The Praxis of Feminist Pedagogy"

November 6, 2009 • 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

The Feminist Pedagogy Conference is a venue for conversation between scholars and activists across disciplines around the present state of feminist pedagogy and work on gender, both within and beyond the academy. Building on previous work, this is a forum to share pedagogical methods and ideas for teaching in women and gender studies and/or feminist approaches to learning and classroom strategies in various disciplines. The aim is to address issues of gender and sexuality, in conjunction with race and class, both inside and outside of the academy. To conclude the conference, Distinguished Professor Michelle Fine will offer the keynote lecture from 4:00–6:00 PM in the Segal Theatre.

### Celebration of CUNY Students in Women's/Gender Studies

The Women's Studies Discipline Council of the City University of New York held the first annual **CUNY Women's and Gender Studies Student Recognition Day** in celebration of undergraduate student accomplishments in academic and activist endeavors related to Women's/Gender Studies. The event was held on May 1, from 2–4 p.m. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society at the Graduate Center. This ceremony showcased undergraduate research and activism in the field. The Women's/Gender Studies programs from 15 different CUNY campuses each nominated up to two students to receive awards. In total, 27 students were recognized on May 1st. In addition to celebrating students' accomplishments, this event also served as an opportunity for students to share information with, and learn from each other. There was a poster session in which students had outlined their project in a poster display and had the chance to discuss their work with peers and audience members. Advisors, Professors, family members and friends were invited to attend. John Jay College Provost Jane Bowers provided the Welcoming remarks. John Jay President, Jeremy Travis was also on hand with Zina Richardson, Director of Student Affairs/Central Office CUNY to present the awards. Professor Allison Pease, English, John Jay College and Professor Anne Humpherys, English, The Graduate Center/Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, organized the event on behalf of the Discipline Council. It is our hope that this will become an annual event.

# From Our Outgoing Director

The three years I have been Coordinator of the Women's Studies Certificate Program and the Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society have been full ones. We have successfully undergone two External Reviews—one of the Certificate Program in 2007 and one of the Center in 2008. We have moved our office, revised our curriculum, seen several dozen students complete the Certificate, developed around a dozen conferences and special programs as well as co-sponsoring many more. The many events and achievements of the WSCP, the CSWS, and our students and faculty in this current year are detailed throughout this *Newsletter*.

I am delighted that in July 2009 Professor Victoria Pitts-Taylor of Sociology at Queens and the Graduate Center will take over the joint position of Coordinator/Director. I know Victoria, who is also co-editor of *Women's Studies Quarterly*, published by the Feminist Press and sponsored by the CSWS, has a number of exciting new plans for Women's Studies, and I look forward to participating in them as part of the audience!

This past academic year has been very fruitful. Having gone through our two External Reviews the first two years, we were able to spend this academic year building on the results of those Reviews in terms of revising the curriculum for the Certificate and beginning the process of revising the Governance Document (unchanged since 1992), bringing it into concert with the way our procedures and operations have evolved over the almost two decades the Program and the Center have been in existence.

This past academic year, the Certificate Program enrolled 13 new students and awarded ten Certificates of Completion to those students who have completed the requirements and nine Certificates

to students graduating. In December we celebrated our students' achievements with the awarding of prizes and certificates at a lunch and in May we will honor women scholars at CUNY who have published books concerning women and gender issues. To date we have 19 such honorees. In the Fall 2008 semester we sponsored or co-sponsored 13 public events and in spring 2009 another 17. I am particularly pleased with the new event on May 1, the Women's/Gender Studies Student Recognition Day, which we hope will become annual, that developed out of the CUNY Women's Studies Discipline Council. (This group, which meets each semester, brings together heads of Women's Studies in all the CUNY colleges and is hosted by our Women's Studies program.) This event, held at John Jay College of Criminal Justice this year thanks to Professor Allison Pease, will recognize two students from each CUNY college who have been nominated as having contributed significantly to women's and gender work in the past year.

The Women's Studies Certificate Program began to introduce its new curriculum this spring with Professor Patricia Clough of Sociology teaching the new revolving Topics in Women's Studies course, "Bodies and Psyches in (Im)Migration" to 20 students. Next fall we will introduce for the first time the new "Introduction to Women's Studies" which is now the prerequisite for the Certificate Program, and in spring 2010 we hope to launch our Women's and Gender Studies Dissertation Workshop. The revolving Topics in Women's Studies course in spring 2010 will be developed and taught by faculty from the Humanities.

The Center for the Study of Women and Society continues to support the College and Community Fellowship (CCF), the Women Writing Women's Lives seminar, the *Women's Studies Quarterly*, the Feminist Study Group, the Society for the Study of Women in the Renaissance, and the New York Society for Women in Philosophy. We have also co-sponsored events with the English, Social Personality/Psychology, Political Science, Sociology Ph.D. Programs, and the Liberal Studies M.A. as well as with the Center for the Humanities, The Leon Levy Center for Biography, the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, and the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The various stories elsewhere in this *Newsletter* give the details on some of the many activities of the past year and demonstrate the vibrancy of our Women's Studies community both here at the Graduate Center and throughout CUNY.

As this is my last report, I want to thank Elizabeth Small, the Assistant Program Officer, for her sustained support of the WSCP and the CSWS, and especially her invaluable help to me during the last three years. Elizabeth is not only our APO but she is our historian as well, having been with us since 1991. I also want to recognize our College Assistants in the past three years, Amanda Springs (English), Kery Chez (English), and this year Jennifer Sugg (Anthropology). They have been consistently professional and generous with their time. Elizabeth and I could not have done what we have done without them.

— Anne Humpherys



## CELEBRATING MARTA ABBA

On the evening of May 13, 2009, the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Pirandello Society of America (PSA) and its Founder, Marta Abba, will be held in Elebash Recital Hall of The Graduate Center. This event is jointly organized by Jane House, Ph.D., Artistic Director, Jane House Productions, and Janice Capuana, Graduate Center doctoral

candidate in theatre and dramaturg. Co-sponsors include Center for the Study of Women and Society, Jane House Productions, Pirandello Society of America (PSA), the Italian Specialization of the Graduate Center's Ph.D. Program in Comparative Literature, and the Italian Cultural Institute of New York. The celebratory event features a talk about Marta Abba by Benito Ortolani, Professor Emeritus of Theatre, Brooklyn College, and a reading by professional actors of Pirandello's 1923 one-act play *The Other Son*, a Sicilian tale of horror, but one not lacking in humor. A panel discussion with the co-organizers and Benito Ortolani will conclude the evening. The organizers hope to achieve three aims with this unique event: to emphasize the influence of the Italian actress Marta Abba on Pirandello's later work; to let the audience experience, through a professional reading of the one-act play, the plight of Sicilian women left behind during the period of great immigration at the end of the nineteenth century; and to address Pirandello's unique dramaturgical methods.

— Jane House

## Women's Studies Fall 2009 Courses

Two of the three required courses for the certificate in Women's Studies will be offered in the Fall 2009: **Global Feminisms and Introduction to Women's Studies: Texts and Theories**. Rupal Oza (Geography, Hunter College and Earth and Environmental Sciences at The Graduate Center; Chair of the Women's Studies Program at Hunter College) will be teaching **Global Feminisms**, the required proseminar, on **Mondays from 4:15–6:15 PM**. This course will explore the gender dynamics of racial, ethnic, and economic relations of power in domestic, international, and transnational settings. This course will also examine how women and self-identified feminists practice solidarity across and within national boundaries, paying attention to the possibilities and constraints that shape transnational feminist activism.

Sandi Cooper (History, College of Staten Island and The Graduate Center) and Susan O'Malley (English, Kingsborough Community College and Masters in Liberal Arts Studies, The Graduate Center) will co-teach **Introduction to Women's Studies: Texts and Theories** on **Wednesdays from 6:30–8:30 PM**. The two faculty members, representing different disciplines, will collaborate in the classroom to explore new angles of analysis of traditional and/or canonical knowledge, and to forge new visions. This course will use historical, literary, and critical modes of analysis to explore western traditions of feminist thinking. It will offer a close reading of classic feminist texts in their historical environment, in addition to looking at feminist theories and methodological perspectives.

*The Certificate in Women's Studies is available to students matriculated in a PhD program at the Graduate Center; all students are welcome to register for Women's Studies courses. For more information about the Women's Studies Certificate Program, contact Elizabeth Small, Assistant Program Officer at [ESmall@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ESmall@gc.cuny.edu) or (212) 817-8905.*

## THE FEMINIST STUDIES GROUP

The Feminist Studies Group is an interdisciplinary group of doctoral and master's students that independently organizes events and lectures at The Graduate Center. Currently the FSG is co-chaired by Pamela Burger of the English Program and Jennifer Sugg of the Anthropology Program. During the 2008-2009 school year, FSG led an ongoing speaker series, *Gender Power and the State*. On October 31st, 2008 Paisley Currah (Brooklyn College) kicked off the series with a lecture entitled *Sex's Place, Gender's Time: Fixing Transgender Bodies*. In December Kate Crehan (CSI) provided a lecture in which she offered feminist reflections on her years of fieldwork in Zambia. On March 27th, 2009 Anru Lee (John Jay College) lectured on *Religion and the Making of Women's Alternative Space in Taiwan's Economic Restructuring*. To close out the series, on May 1, 2009 Saadia Toor (CSI) gave a lecture entitled *How Not to Think about Islam and Sexuality: Notes from the Front*. The Feminist Studies Group also hosted a Film Series this year entitled *Celebrating Women Directors*, during which they screened *2 Days in Paris* (Julie Delpy), *Titus* (Julie Taymor) and *Paris is Burning* (Jennie Livingston).

The Feminist Studies Group is in the midst of planning its Third Feminist Pedagogy Conference, scheduled for the Fall 2009. This day-long conference is entitled **The Praxis of Feminist Pedagogy** and will take place on Friday, November 6, 2009, at The Graduate Center, CUNY. This year, Distinguished Professor Michelle Fine, Social Personality Psychology and Urban Education, will offer the keynote address. Pamela Burger and Jennifer Sugg, as FSG- Co-Chairs, are the primary organizers of the conference.

The Feminist Pedagogy Conference is designed to serve as a venue for conversation between scholars and activists across disciplines around the present state of feminist pedagogy and work on gender, both within and beyond the academy. Building on previous work, this is a forum to share pedagogical methods and ideas for teaching in women and gender studies and/or feminist approaches to learning and classroom strategies in various disciplines. The aim is to address issues of gender and sexuality, in conjunction with race and class, both inside and outside of the academy.

In addition to organizing the Feminist Pedagogy Conference in the 2009, the Feminist Studies Group plans to initiate an ongoing Dissertation Workshop for graduate students focusing on gender studies related research.

– Jennifer Sugg

## WSCP Curriculum Revisions

The Women's Studies Certificate Program has recently revised its curriculum and course requirements. These modifications essentially lower the number of courses required in order to obtain the certificate. Students will now take five courses to earn the certificate, two of which may be in their field of specialization. The one prerequisite is *Introduction to Women's Studies: Texts and Theories* or its equivalent, determined in consultation with the WSCP Coordinator. The other two required classes are: *Global Feminisms* and *Topics in Women's and Gender Studies*. *Introduction to Women's Studies: Text and Theory* and *Global Feminisms* will be offered every Fall Semester, starting Fall 2009. *Topics in Women's and Gender Studies* will be offered every Spring. In addition to these three WSCP courses, students must take at least two WSCP cross-listed electives in any field. The WSCP Program will also be offering each Spring term an optional non-credit Dissertation Workshop in Women's and Gender Studies. The Certificate is officially awarded when the graduate degree is conferred, but upon completion of the certificate requirements, students will receive a Certificate of Completion.



December 5, 2008 Event: *And the World Changed: Contemporary Stories by Pakistani Women*  
Left to right: Sorayya Khan, Sehba Sarwar, Maniza Naqvi, Humera Afridi, Fawzia Afzal Khan, Tahira Naqvi, and Dohra Ahmad

## And the World Changed Contemporary Stories by Pakistani Women

A group of Pakistani women writers participated in a free-flowing conversation about art, politics, and women's lives in a packed English Program Lounge on December 5, 2008. The event was a celebration of the release of the Feminist Press publication *And the World Changed: Contemporary Stories by Pakistani Women*, edited by Muneeza Shamsie, a Pakistan-based writer and editor. Co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society and the Ph.D. Program in English, the event featured five of the anthology's contributors: Humera Afridi, Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Sorayya Khan, Maniza Naqvi, Tahira Naqvi, and Sehba Sarwar. Dohra Ahmad, professor of literature at St. John's College and editor of *Rotten English*, an anthology of "non-standard" writing in English, moderated the spirited discussion of the relationships between gender, nation, and literature.

Anne Humpherys, CSWS Director, and Gloria Jacobs, the executive director of the Feminist Press, welcomed the audience. Jacobs commented on the importance that the Feminist Press places on publishing works from women writers from around the world who are less likely to be published in the US than men from outside the country.

In her thoughtful introduction, Ahmad warned against essentializing the experience of Pakistani women and reading *And the World Changed* as an "authentic" or "representative" piece of literary fiction. "The stories themselves, particularly in conjunction with one another, productively complicate any model that one could preconceive about what it means to be either Pakistani or female."

Afridi, a New York-based writer whose work has appeared in the *New York Times* and *Shattering the Stereotypes: Muslim Women Speak Out*, read from her piece "The Price of Hubris," which follows a young Muslim woman's search for a mosque in downtown Manhattan in the days following September 11, 2001. Afzal-Khan gave a dynamic reading of "Bloody Monday," an excerpt from her upcoming novel *Sahelian: Growing Up with Girlfriends Pakistani-Style*, capturing the sounds and sights of the bull runs in Pamplona, Spain.

All the stories featured in *And the World Changed* were written in English. Shamsie's introduction maintains that Pakistani women who write in English, "write from the extreme edges of both English and Pakistani

literatures." Sehba Sarwar pointed to the historic interplay between English and Urdu in the region beginning with colonialism, and Afzal-Khan added, "English is very much a Pakistani language."

During the discussion period the topic turned to the attacks on Mumbai that had occurred only a week before. Maniza Naqvi responded passionately to *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman's suggestion that all Pakistanis should apologize for that attack, saying that Pakistanis were as horrified by the violence and loss of life as the rest of the world, and that they were now living with the fear of retribution for something they had no hand in.

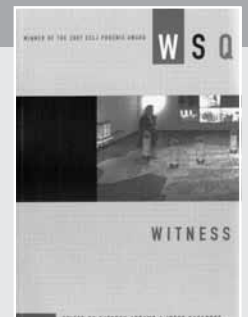
The evening ended with Sorayya Khan's comments linking the various phases of the discussion. "We write for ourselves," she said, "always with the hope that we will have an audience that will take away something from our universal search to try and figure out what is important and what is meaningful for us."

— Amita Manghnani, *The Feminist Press*

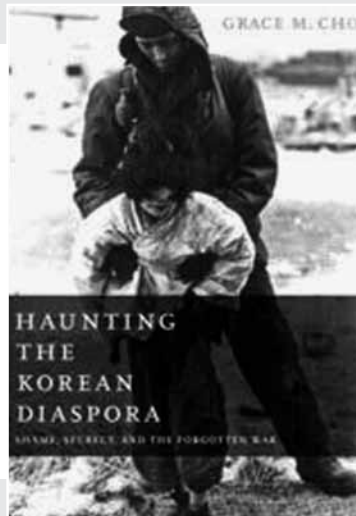
## Women's Studies Quarterly Update

WSQ's special issue "Technologies" will be out in June 2009. Karen Throsby and Sarah Hodges, both from the University of Warwick (U.K.), guest edited the issue, which features articles on traumatic brain injury and militarism, reproductive technologies, blogs and social networking, transnational uses of the HPV vaccine and other topics, along with technology-related poetry, prose, and artwork. The forthcoming issue "Mother", due out in December 2009, examines queer mothering, transnational adoption and cross-border mothering, surrogacy in India, voluntary childlessness, and many other topics, along with an expanded section of poetry and creative prose. This issue, which is guest edited by CUNY faculty Nicole Cooley (English) and Pamela Stone (Sociology), will be celebrated at a day-long symposium on motherhood at the Graduate Center in February 2010. Future issues are titled "Citizenship" and "Market".

— Victoria Pitts-Taylor, WSQ Co-Editor



# Remembering Grace Cho's Book Release Party



The Center for the Study of Women and Society's (CSWS) November 21st panel event, "To Forget, To Remember/ To Write, To Grieve," provided a unique intellectual space for past and future to speak to the present. The event was in honor of the publication of Professor Grace Cho's book, *Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy and the Forgotten War*. Cho is a Professor of Sociology at the College of Staten Island and a graduate of the Graduate Center's Department of Sociology and the Women's Studies Certificate Program. Her book examines the politics of remembering and forgetting a history of secrecy surrounding the Korean War and U.S.-Korea relations. Weaving autoethnographic writing together with critical historical analysis, Cho follows the ghosts of the Korean War through familial memories and state politics.

The speakers included Sociology Professors Patricia Clough from the Graduate Center, Jackie Orr from Syracuse University, Hosu Kim from Drake University, and English Professor David Kazanjian from the University of Pennsylvania. They offered performative and often poetic introductions, engaging with the political implications of traumatic erasure as it relates to the project of writing. Kazanjian talked about the figure of the Korean military prostitute/ "GI bride" in Cho's work as one that, in representing loss, is paradoxically full of presence. He discussed the way Cho addresses the "loss's edges, effects, ripples, or shadows, because the loss itself is never fully

present in any archive, be it a set of documents or a bundle of memories, nor can this loss ever be fully explained by any one historical or sociological narrative." Consistent with the book's methodology, the panel event functioned as a performance of witnessing trauma, pointing to the resonance between the personal and the political.

The subject of loss was especially present throughout the event because the birth of the book coincided with the death of Cho's mother, a central inspirational figure and affective fulcrum of the book. Foregoing the detached distance of normative academic discussion, Cho dove into the introduction of her book by revealing her mother's recent death, setting a tone that refused the imperative of silence around traumatic experience, and around the connections between an author's life and her work. Hosu Kim also remembered Cho's mother by reciting a poem in the form of a letter to Grace's mother, which moved the audience to tears and inspired a collective longing for a future free of the trauma of war. Most of the author's proceeds from the book will be generously given to the Women's Studies Program, specifically to the Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize. This exciting new annual award will be given to a women's studies doctoral student whose work addresses issues of social justice. CSWS would like to thank Professor Cho for this gift, made and named in honor of the memory of her mother.

— Rachel Schiff and Kim Cunningham

# IGNITING CHANGE

## **Activating Alliances for Social Justice**

National Council for Research  
on Women Conference

**June 10-12, 2009**

The Center for the Study of Women and Society will host the 2009 National Council for Research on Women's annual conference. The conference, entitled *Igniting Change: Activating Alliances for Social Justice*, will take place at the Graduate Center June 10-12, 2009. The Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Shirley Chisholm Center for Research on Women, and the White House Project are event co-sponsors.

The National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) is a network of more than 100 leading U.S. research, advocacy, and policy centers with a growing global reach. The Council harnesses the resources of its network to ensure fully informed debates, policies, and practices to build a more inclusive and equitable world for women and girls.

The agenda for the 2009 NCRW conference stems from the growing recognition that the 2008 U.S. Presidential election provides a new global landscape for social justice, peace and equity. Now is a critical moment to support and activate alliances that bridge the divide between academics, activists, and policymakers across sectors, races, ethnicities, geographies, and generations, and create partnerships – many unlikely – for a progressive social agenda. The 2009 NCRW conference is thus an opportunity for leaders from businesses, academia, philanthropy, advocacy, and policy communities to devise collective strategies for leadership and change. The plenary themes for the conference include: *Powering Change: Is there a New Landscape for Social Justice?* and *A New Agenda for Global Human Rights*. **For more information on the NCRW conference, please visit [www.ncrw.org](http://www.ncrw.org).**

# WOMEN\*WRITING\*LIVES

The conference on “Women\*Writing\*Lives” that took place Friday afternoon, March 20, in the Martin E. Segal Theatre was a stunning success. To a standing-room-only audience, the distinguished panelists kept their audience enthralled with the variety and depth of their presentations about the processes of research, writing, and analysis involved in writing about lives. It was a celebration of Women’s History Month co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society, the M.A. in Liberal Studies with a new track in Biography, the Women Writing Women’s Lives seminar, and the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Blanche Wiesen Cook introduced the program as a whole. It consisted of three panels dealing with writing about “Family,” “Relationships,” and “Creating Icons.” Cook commented on the way women writing about women’s lives in the last quarter century have asked new, more intimate questions, have interrogate their sources more subtly, and have achieved greater insights into the complexities of women’s lives.

Cook then introduced the first panel, “Writing Family,” moderated by Nancy K. Miller, whose most recent book is *But Enough About Me: Why Read Other People’s Lives*. The panelists included Carla Peterson, Alix Kates Shulman, and Laura Vapnyar, each of whom brought a quite different perspective to the question of writing about families.

Peterson is writing a book entitled “Black Gotham: African American Family and Community in 19th century New York City,” and has been researching the lives of her own grandfather and great-grandfather, following scraps of clues she has found in the Schomburg Library. Shulman spoke about her recent book, *To Love What Is: A Marriage Transformed*, which relates the family trauma and accomodation that accompanied her husband’s sudden fall and loss of memory. Vapnyar, author of *There are Jews in my House*, came to the United States from Russia, became a student of Nancy Miller’s at the Graduate Center, and has published her stories in such magazines as the *New Yorker*. She writes about her ex-

tended family members, their relationships, and their sex lives.

The second panel was moderated by Mary Ann Caws, author of *Dora Maar with and Without Picasso: A Biography*. She introduced panelists Rachel Cohen, Farah Griffin, and Gail Hornstein, who explored “Writing Relationships” in diverse ways. Cohen, the author of *A Chance Meeting: Intertwined Lives of American Writers and Artists*, has explored the serendipitous ways her subjects’ lives became related. Griffin, author of *If You Can’t Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday*, shared with the audience the nature of some of the relationships of the artists of the Harlem Renaissance. Hornstein, the third panelist, has just published her book, *Agnes’s Jacket: A Psychologist’s Search for the Meanings of Madness*, in which she tries to understand and reveal how mental patients feel about and write about their lives.

The third panel of the conference, on “Creating Icons,” was moderated by Blanche Cook, the author of *Eleanor Roosevelt: Volume One and Two*. Cook introduced the issues that surround iconic women. The panelists were Kathleen Chalfant, Paula Giddings, and Brenda Wineapple. Chalfant, an actress who has starred in such plays as “Wit” and “Angels in America: Millennium Approaches,” explored the ways a performer inhabits the life and world of woman she plays. Giddings has recently published *Ida: A Sword Among Lions: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*, revealing the network of relationships this woman journalist developed to pursue her fight against lynching in America. Wineapple, the author of *White Heat: The Friendship of Emily Dickinson and Thomas Wentworth Higginson*, talked about the specific problems Emily Dickinson’s iconic status presents the writer. Wineapple chose to write the biography of Higginson, a social and political New England Radical and magazine editor, with whom Dickinson carried on a long correspondence about her poems, but focused on the poems themselves as a way of writing about the poet. After sharing in the intricate thought processes of these presenters, the audience enjoyed a reception in the English offices on the fourth floor.

– Dorothy Helly

## Girls Write Now

Below are some magazine cover designs by participants.

The Center for the Study of Women and Society and the Ph.D. Program in English co-sponsored three Saturday workshops for “Girls Write Now,” an award winning project, in spring 2009. Girls Write Now is a close-knit community of professional women writers—educators, editors, poets, novelists, playwrights, journalists, literary agents, publishers, and more—who, since 1998, have provided guidance, support, and opportunities for New York City’s underserved or at-risk high school girls, enabling them to develop their creative, independent voices, explore careers in professional writing, and learn how to make healthy choices in school, career, and life. This spring more than 50 high school students and their mentors participated in three all day workshops at the Graduate Center.

On October 23, 2009, there will be a celebration of the project with the participants doing readings from their work in the Proshansky Theater of the Graduate Center from 4:00-9:00 p.m., also sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society.



**For information about  
Girls Write Now,  
see their website  
[www.girlswritenow.org](http://www.girlswritenow.org)**

# Three Women: A Poem for Three Voices

The play *Three Women: A Poem for Three Voices* by Sylvia Plath was performed December 12, 2008 in Martin E. Segal Theatre by the actresses Kate Benson, Aimee Phelan-Deconinck, and Jenny Seastone Stern. This production was conceived and directed by English doctoral students, Leah Souffrant and Karinne Keithley. Women's Studies Certificate Program and the Center for the Study of Women and Society sponsored this event in collaboration with the Poetics Group of the Graduate Center.

*Three Women* consists of three intertwining interior monologues, contextualized by a dramatic setting: "A Maternity Ward and round about." The three women of the title are patients, and each describes a different experience. The First Voice is a (presumably) married woman who gives birth and takes her baby home during the course of the poem. The Second, a secretary, has

a miscarriage, not her first, and the Third, a college student, gives birth after an unwanted pregnancy, and gives the baby up for adoption. Thus with *Three Women*, we find the poetry in which Plath expresses women's complicated experience of motherhood (and especially pregnancy) in a form that was for Plath an experiment: the radio play. Souffrant claims that, "Although Plath had begun to examine the 'riddle' of pregnancy, motherhood, and (in)fertility in earlier lyric poems, the topic insists on the more innovative (for Plath) form of the verse drama in three voices to realize the complexities of the maternal position." Benson, Phelan-Deconinck, and Stern read the three voices while Keithley and Souffrant manipulated sketches projected on a screen behind them. Employing a plain approach to the text and the performance, Souffrant and Keithley tried to render the polyvocality of *Three Women* and to emphasize a starkly human side of Plath's work.

The performance was staged with special attention to the fact that Plath composed the poetry as a radio play. *Three Women* was written for radio and broadcast in 1962 on BBC Radio. Keithley observed, "The great advantage of staging radio plays is the space left for completion in the imagination of the viewer. A play for voices, where those voices come from live, visible bodies in the room, nonetheless projects toward an ideal actual space of listening stripped of all visual information, while all the time benefiting from the living energy of present speakers." This staging of Plath's radio play concentrated on a simple visual mood, ensuring that the heightened drama of Plath's imagery would not obscure the more interesting simple, often ambiguous, language of the play. Motherhood, in all its complexity, was presented here with courage and grace.

– Leah Souffrant

*Introducing Victoria Pitts-Taylor continued from cover* sense of neurology and neuroscience in the "age of the brain?" Pitts-Taylor sees a whole range of questions emerging from this project that relate to science, technology and the body and contends that such considerations are relevant to women's studies students from the Humanities and Social Sciences alike.

When speaking about her work with *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Pitts-Taylor explains that the mission of WSQ is to be a major interdisciplinary publisher of scholarship that gathers together research, art, and creative writing of interest to gender studies. She is interested in seeing that the WSQ represents multiple and varied waves of feminist thinking, and that it works toward expanding the kinds of themes and topics we think of as important to "women's studies." Some of the issues in which Pitts-Taylor has been participating include the Trans- issue, which came out in 2008, the upcoming Technologies issue, and issues on Citizenship and the Market. She plans to continue developing the relationship between WSQ and Women's Studies at the Graduate Center. Pitts-Taylor explains that The Center for the Study of Women and Society can provide institutional support to the journal, and the

journal, in turn, can reach out and develop closer ties to its local readership and writership, WSCP students and faculty here at CUNY as well as developing and supporting research. In terms of developing that relationship, CSWS/WSQ is planning a joint symposium for February 2010 to coincide with a special issue of the journal on mothering, called *Mother*, guest edited by CUNY faculty Nicole Cooley and Pamela Stone. The symposium will bring a range of scholars and artists together to contemplate an array of issues, including voluntary childlessness, transnational mothering and adoption, queer parenting, reproductive technologies, and many others. Pitts-Taylor is hoping that the symposium is just the first of several events that bring together the authors and ideas represented in the journal to the CUNY Women's Studies community.

Looking ahead to her new position as CSWS Director and WSCP Coordinator, Pitts-Taylor expresses that she aims to continue the efforts made by previous Coordinators and Directors to make Women's Studies a key facilitator of events at the Graduate Center that celebrate and explore Gender Studies scholarship. She hopes to encourage an expansion of involvement in the program by faculty from the CUNY campuses. Pitts-

Taylor laments that there is still a group of faculty, some of them newer hires, who are not yet involved in the Women's Studies program. She plans to remedy this problem by introducing more faculty to CSWS/WSCP. Pitts-Taylor is also keen to see that more graduate students – the newest ones as well as those who have been around but have yet to participate in Women's Studies – start to take part in sustaining a Women's Studies community at The Graduate Center.

In terms of planning events for the 2009-2010 school year, Pitts-Taylor explains that CSWS/WSCP will continue to have the student awards ceremony in the Fall, the celebration of Women Scholars and Scholarship in the Spring, and the speakers' series ongoing throughout the school year. Among the new events on the calendar will be the *Mother* conference scheduled for February 2010, co-sponsored with the journal WSQ and the Feminist Press. Pitts-Taylor is organizing a new lunchtime speaker series for the Spring semester, called the *Future of Gender*, that will be co-sponsored with Sociology Department. She is also eager to have the WSCP dissertation workshop up and running by Spring 2010 for students who are undertaking research projects in Gender and Women's Studies. ●

# COSTUME AND THE MOVIES



The panel on “Costume and the Movies” held on February 20th at the Graduate Center touched upon Film and Fashion as two art forms and two industries that have a great deal in common. Both deal with ideal, sometimes impossible bodies, with performance, identity, and gender. Both aim at seducing spectators and blurring the boundaries between desire, fantasy and reality.



The common time frame of the papers delivered by Jane Gaines and Louise Wallenberg was the 1930s, a period when commercial cinema was characterized by populist ideals and when dress was used to promote national fashion and the knock-off versions of clothes that appeared on the screen. Professor Gaines, who co-edited with Charlotte Herzog in 1990 a pioneering study on dress and the female body, *Fabrications: Costume and the Female Body*, addressed this and other questions in her paper “Wanting to Wear Seeing: Gilbert Adrian at MGM.”



Photos: A. Poyo

Both speakers and the respondent, Amy Herzog from Queens College, debunked the truism that dress on the screen tells a straightforward story of a character, whether male, female or queer. Indeed, what both papers and the response argued was that the power dress, costume and

style have in the movies is that they sometimes tell the audience a different story, even a story that is independent of the character in question. This is especially true with a charismatic designer such as Gilbert Adrian who could be identified with the film itself and the particular style of dress (e.g. Joan Crawford’s voluminous mutton sleeves in the film *Letty Lynton* [1932]). In particular, Gaines’ paper, by way of reference to several films (*Madam Satan* [1930], *Sadie McGee* [1934], *The Bride wore Red* [1937], *The Women* [1941]), stressed contradictions between a costume on screen, its wearability and the mechanisms of seduction and an aesthetic of syneesthesia that are at work in fashion in film.

As with the case of the dress in *Letty Lynton*, what happens is that the excess of a detail is normalized when it takes the form of ready-to-wear and affordable department store reproductions. This still happens today when a style from couture or the catwalk is translated into the language of mass fashion. The essence of both fashion and cinema is that once an “aura” is created it is immediately re-fashioned and transformed in its mass reproduction. Costume exceeds the frame, as does gender representation in the case of Ekman, the 1930s Swedish star, as shown in Wallenberg’s paper, “Straight Heroes and Queer Ideals: Male Film Stars and Swedish 1930s Cinema,” whose effeminate and queer persona was able to seduce women who even thought of him as a “very special man.” Dress, make up and gesture are central to the construction of gender and its performance on screen. Wallenberg’s paper focused on this with reference to the explosion in filmmaking in Sweden in the 1930s. At the time when mainstream culture was promoting the ideal Volkhome and traditional roles in the family, Swedish popular films offered queer images in their representation of ideal men. Wallenberg refers to films such as *Swedenhielms* (1935), *For her sake* (1930), *Intermezzo* (1936), *Dear Relatives* (1933), and *Colorful Leaves* (1931).

Clothing in cinema, then, is part of a complex discourse on subjectivity and identity. This is why, as Gaines reminds us, the audience wants to wear the film. This process of emulating and enveloping seems difficult to interrupt, as was deftly underlined by Amy Herzog and by the clips chosen to illustrate her response. Ultimately, fashion and film nourish themselves on their play on contradictions, desire, often only momentarily and partly fulfilled, and on the blurring of boundaries of gender and expectations, a game we play along with.

– Eugenia Paulicelli, co-director of the  
Concentration in Fashion Studies



Student and CCF fellow, Dolina Duzant, speaking at a CCF Community meeting

## The College and Community Fellowship Program

The College and Community Fellowship (CCF), is a project connected with the Center for the Study and Women and Society. CCF has been located in the CSWS since 2001. It’s mission is to eliminate individual and social barriers to education and civic participation for formerly incarcerated women and their families. Through education-based strategies CCF nurtures the capacity of formerly incarcerated women for deep and sustained community reintegration which will lead to increased economic security, increased civic engagement, and many other contributions to their families and communities. Recently, CCF has grown. We served 97 active fellows during the 2008-2009 school year, an increase of 25 from the past year. The “fellows” category includes students who have fulfilled all requirements of CCF’s program and are eligible to receive tuition support.

We expect to have 38 students graduate in spring 2009. Of these 38 students to graduate: 8 will receive Associates degrees; 19 will receive Bachelors degrees; and 11 will receive Master degrees (this represents 13 more graduates than 2008).

In December 2009, CCF won the prestigious Union Square Award, and the Executive Director, Vivian Nixon, received a Petra Fellowship. A conference that CCF co-sponsored in collaboration with SUNY/Old Westbury, the Correctional Association and the Fortune Society, “Education from the Inside, Out: Why It’s Worth the Investment,” has grown into a national campaign to restore public funding for incarcerated students to attend college.

– Ricardo Martinez

# Celebrating Women Scholars and Scholarship on Gender

On May 8, 2009, the Women's Studies Certificate Program and the Center for the Study of Women and Society sponsored a luncheon to celebrate women scholars at CUNY who had published books that centered on women and/or gender issues in recent years.

**Alexander, Meena.** *Quickly Changing River: Poems.* Triquarterly, 2008.

**Caws, Mary Ann.** *Provençal Cooking: Savoring A Simple Life in France.* Pegasus Books, 2008.

**Caws, Mary Ann.** *To the Boathouse: A Memoir.* University of Alabama Press, 2008.

**Cho, Grace M.** *Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy and the Forgotten War.* University of Minnesota, 2008.

**Eisenstein, Hester.** *Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women's Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World.* Paradigm Publishers, 2009.

**Fine, Michelle.** Co-editor with J. Cammarota. *Revolutionizing Education: Youth Participatory Action Research in Motion.* Routledge/Taylor & Francis, 2008.

**Fine, Michelle.** Co-Author with Selcuk R. Sirin. *Muslim American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities through Multiple Methods.* New York University Press, 2008.

**Fish, Cheryl.** *The Toxic Body Politic: Ethnicity, Gender and Corrective Ecojustice in Ruth L. Ozeki's "My Year of Meats" and Judith Helfand and Daniel B. Gold's "Blue Vinyl".* Forthcoming summer, 2009, in special issue of MELUS.

**Fish, Cheryl.** *Place, Emotion and Environmental Justice in Harlem: June Jordan and Buckminster In Race, Environment, and Representations,* special issue of *Discourse.*

**Gelb, Joyce.** Co-author with Marian Palley. *Women and Politics Around the World, 2 volumes.* ABC-CLIO, 2009.

**Gornick, Janet C. and Marcia K. Meyers.** *Gender Equality: Transforming Family Divisions of Labor.* London: Verso Books, 2009.

**Herzog, Dagmar.** *Sex in Crisis: The New Sexual Revolution and the Future of American Politics.* Basic, 2008.

**Herzog, Dagmar.** Editor. *Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe's Twentieth Century.* Palgrave, 2009.

**Mazzola, Elizabeth.** *Women's Wealth and Women's Writing in Early Modern England. 'Little Legacies' and the Materials of Motherhood.* Ashgate, 2009.

**Mifflin, Margot.** *The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman.* Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2009.

**Munoz, Carolina Bank.** *Transnational Tortillas: Race, Gender and Shop Floor Politics in Mexico and the United States.* Cornell University Press, 2008.

**Paulicelli, Eugenia.** Co-editor with Hazel Clark. *The Fabric of Cultures. Fashion, Identity, Globalization.* London & New York: Routledge, 2009.

**Petchesky, Rosalind.** Co-author with Sonia Corrêa and Richard Parker. *Sexuality, Health and Human Rights.* Routledge, 2008.

**Petchesky, Rosalind.** Co-editor with Richard Parker and Robert Sember. *Sexpolitics: Reports from the Front Lines,* (Sexuality Policy Watch e-book and available in cd-rom, www.sxpolitics.org) 2007.

**Pitts-Taylor, Victoria.** *Surgery Junkies: Wellness and Pathology in Cosmetic Culture.* Rutgers University Press, 2007.

**Pitts-Taylor, Victoria.** Editor. *The Cultural Encyclopedia of the Body.* Greenwood Press, 2008.

**Pujol, Mercè.** *El més bell rebrot de l'Esbart de Vic: Obra poètica completa de Mercè Font i Codina (1867-1900).* Vic, Barcelona, Spain: Patronat d'Estudis Osonecs. Sèrie Monografies #26. 2009.

**Renek, Nava.** Editor. *Wreckage of Reason: An Anthology of Contemporary Xperimental Prose by Women Writers.* Spuyten Duyvil, 2008.

**Schwarzenbach, Sibyl.** *On Civic Friendship: Including Women in the State.* Columbia University Press, Forthcoming, August 2009.

**SenGupta, Gunja.** *From Slavery to Poverty: The Racial Origins of Welfare in New York, 1840-1918.* New York: New York University Press, 2009.

**Susser, Ida.** *AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa.* Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

**Winslow, Barbara.** Co-Editor with Carol Berkin (Baruch) and Margaret Crocco. *Clio in the Classroom: A Guide to teaching US Women's History.* Oxford, 2009.

**YES! I want to support the CSWS and Women's Studies.** Since 1977, The Center for the Study of Women and Society has promoted interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. The focus of the Center's research agenda is the study of genders, sexualities, races, ethnicities, classes, and cultures in relationship to the experiences of women in societies around the world. The Center co-sponsors, with the Women's Studies Certificate Program, intellectual exchange through symposia and lectures- among scholars within CUNY as well as with visiting scholars. The Center also supports projects such as the Community and College Fellowship that addresses issues faced by women leaving prison and making the transition back into our communities; a student-run and organized Feminist Studies Group and their annual Feminist Pedagogy Conference; the Women Writing Lives collaborative group for biographers of women; and the Activist Women's Voices: Oral History Project, which was established in 1995 with the aim of creating linkages between activist women in the community and student and faculty researchers in the university. For over 20 years we at the CSWS have created and nurtured an active, dynamic, vibrant and stimulating community. **Please become a supporting friend of the Center and of the WSCP by contributing to our efforts to reach out across races, classes, ethnicities, cultures and sexualities and to help us to continue presenting exciting events that are at the forefront of women's intellectual, social, and personal concerns. Please, give generously!**

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# CURRENT WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH

## Student Research

**Karen Weingarten** is graduating this May from the English Program with a certificate in Women's Studies. An excerpt from her dissertation, entitled "Genealogies of Abortion: On the Limits of Life and Choice in Modern America," will be published in the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*. Karen is a 2008 recipient of the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies.

**Valerie Francisco** is in her third year in the sociology program at CUNY, The Graduate Center. Her interests include transnationalism and diaspora with a special interest on the Philippines and migrant issues, gender and labor, and globalization. In the past years, she has directed a participatory action research project with Filipino immigrant and Filipino American youth about sexuality and sexual health funded by the Ford Foundation. The research project assisted in creating sexuality education youth programs for and guided by Filipino youth in Queens. Currently, she is working on a project with Filipino immigrant women working as domestic workers in New York City. She has won the Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel award from the Women's Studies Certificate Program to examine the transnationality of Filipino immigrant women's lives by going to the Philippines in the Fall of 2009.

**Jennifer Sugg** is a doctoral student in the Anthropology program at CUNY, The Graduate Center, where she has also completed the Women's Studies Certificate Program. Jennifer is currently co-chairing the Feminist Studies Group (2008-2010) and is in the midst of organizing the 3rd FSG Feminist Pedagogy Conference, *The Praxis of Feminist Pedagogy*, scheduled for November 6, 2009. This summer she is participating in the 2009 North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit with a co-authored paper, *Contexts of HIV Risk Among Women in Homeless Shelters*, which stems from her work on a NIMH funded study at the Center for the Prevention of Homelessness Studies at Columbia University. She is also co-presenting a paper, *Wasting Responsibly: Exploring the Ideology Behind CSA Production*, at the AFHVS/ASFS 2009 conference on "Informing the Possibilities for the Future of Food and Agriculture."

## Alumni Research

**Melissa Ditmore** (2002, Sociology) is the author of *Kicking Down the Door*, a report from the Urban Justice Center Sex Workers Project about anti-trafficking efforts in the US. <http://www.sexworkersproject.org/publications/KickingDownTheDoor.html>. Ditmore also has two books under contract. *Sex Work Matters* (Zed Books, Forthcoming 2009), edited with two students; it includes papers presented at the Sex Work Matters conference co-sponsored by CSWS in 2006. The second is a textbook about prostitution for Greenwood Press's series on Controversial Issues in America, for release in 2010.

**Venezia Michalsen** (2008, Criminal Justice Program) is finishing up her first year as an Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She is excited to be working in a Department with very strong links to the Women and Gender Studies Program at the University. Her most recent publication was "Women, Reentry and Everyday Life: Time to Work?" based on research completed while working with the Women's Prison Association in Brooklyn.

**Julie Zilberberg** (2006, Philosophy Program) was elected to *Who's Who in America* in 2009

**Grace M. Cho** (2005, Sociology), is now an Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the College of Staten Island - CUNY. Her book, *Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy and the Forgotten War* was published in November 2008 and has been nominated for an American Sociological Association award.

**Helen H. Davis** (2008, English) completed her dissertation, "'I am my own mistress': Narrating Professional Autonomy and Love in Charlotte Brontë's Novels," and graduated May 2008. She accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She is currently working on several articles, and in June, 2009, she will present as part of a roundtable titled "New Feminist Narratologies" at the International Narrative Conference in Birmingham, England.

**Kimberly Engber** (2003, English) is an assistant professor in the Department of English at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas where she teaches undergraduate and graduate American literature courses. She spent the academic year 2006-2007 teaching at the University of Zagreb, Croatia with the support of a Fulbright Award. Currently, she is working on a manuscript about women's transnational fictions in late nineteenth- to early-twentieth century America. An article based on this research, "At Home, In Japan: Isabella Bird's European Other and Winnifred Eaton's American Self," has been accepted for publication in a collection by Rodopi Press (expected 2010).

**Karen Winkler** (2003, Clinical Psychology) is a psychotherapist in private practice, and Director of the Well-Woman Health Promotion Program at Barnard College. She develops wellness campaigns, trains students as peer educators and health advocates, and conducts research on gender, sexuality, and health. Karen is a member of the advisory board of the Barnard Center for Research on Women, and on the editorial board of *WSQ (Women's Studies Quarterly)*.

**Deirdre Conlon** (2007, Environmental Psychology) Urban and Global studies scholar-in-residence at Emerson College, Boston, published two peer reviewed journal articles and a book chapter this year. One article *Representing Women, Ruminating on Foucault and the 'Art of Government'* appears in the journal *Discourse of Sociological Practice*. Deirdre also presented this paper at the Sixth Annual Social Theory Forum at UMass. Boston in April 2008. A second journal article, titled *Germs in the Heart of the Other: Emigrant Scripts, the Celtic Tiger, and Lived Realities of Return* is published in *Irish Geography* (2009) 42(1): 101-117. Deirdre has also contributed a book chapter on *Henri Lefebvre's Rhythmanalysis* to a forthcoming volume on *Geographies of Rhythm*, edited by Tim Edensor. Deirdre completed a Ph.D. at the Graduate Center in 2007, where she worked with Professor Cindi Katz in Environmental Psychology. She won the Women's Studies Nina Fortin Dissertation Award.

## Announcing 2009 Awards offered from the Women's Studies Certificate Program

In 2009 students at the Graduate Center have the opportunity to apply for several prestigious awards offered by the Women's Studies Certificate Program. The awards include: The Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize, Nina E. Fortin Memorial Fund Dissertation Proposal Award, The Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize and The Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel Award.

### The Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize 2008-2009

The Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize will be awarded to an outstanding dissertation completed at the CUNY Graduate Center in a given academic year to recognize feminist scholarship consonant with the broad intellectual aims of Carolyn Heilbrun's work. The 2009 competition is open to dissertations completed between April 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009. To apply please submit: (1) a hard copy of the completed dissertation, (2) a dissertation abstract (MSWord File), and (3) a letter from the dissertation sponsor or the Executive Officer of the relevant program, in the spring semester preceding graduation by June 1, 2009. The amount of the award will be determined each year, in relation to the monies available usually between \$200 and \$300.

### Nina E. Fortin Memorial Fund Dissertation Proposal Award

The annual Nina E. Fortin Dissertation Proposal Award of \$300 plus tuition will be awarded to any Ph.D. student at The Graduate School who submits an outstanding dissertation proposal that addresses an issue of concern in the lives of women from a feminist perspective; special consideration will be given to those proposals that examine a health-related issue. To apply: please submit (1) 5-page summary of the proposal, including a brief bibliography, underscoring feminist perspective, research design, and policy implications for the lives of women (hard copy and MSWord file), (2) a two-page statement on the progress of the dissertation to date, with a tentative timetable for completion, (3) two references, and (4) a completed cover page available at the WSCP by June 1, 2009.

### Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize

The Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize, in the amount of \$1000, is awarded to a student in any Ph.D. Program at the Graduate Center working on a dissertation concerned with issues of social justice. Special consideration is given to work on militarism and trauma. To apply, please submit: (1) a 10-page dissertation prospectus (MSWord File), (2) a letter of recommendation from dissertation advisor, and (3) a CV by November 1, 2009.

### Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel Award

The Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel Award funds research or conference travel costs of up to \$500 for a WSCP student. To apply, please submit: (1) a copy of your transcript, (2) a description of your project and the travel that is necessary for its completion (five pages maximum), and (3) a recommendation from your advisor by November 5, 2009.

**If applying to any of these awards please submit materials to:** Ms. Elizabeth Small, Women's Studies Certificate Program, Rm. 5116, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, 212-817-8905, Esmall@gc.cuny.edu

## RECIPIENTS OF WSCP AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

### CAROLYN G. HEILBRUN DISSERTATION PRIZE 2008

#### Winners:

**Stephanie Jensen Moulton** (Music), "Sparring with Fate: Miriam Gideon's 1958 Opera 'Fortunato.'"

**Rebecca Wisor** (English), "'My country is the whole world': Three Guineas and the Culture of Pacifist Dissent."

#### Honorable Mention:

**Diedre Conlon** (Environmental Psychology) "The Nation as Embodied Practice: Women, Migration and the Social Reproduction of Nationhood in Ireland."

**Hosu Kim** (Sociology), "Virtual Mothering: A Cultural Critique of the Emergent Figure of Korean Birthmothers in Popular Media."

**Jean Mills** (English), "Goddesses and Ghosts: Virginia Woolf and Jane Ellen Harrison."

### RECIPIENTS OF THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

In December 2008, the following students received the Certificate of Completion in recognition of their successful completion of the Certificate requirements prior to receiving their doctoral degrees:

**Heidi Bjorgan**, Psychology  
**Marta Bladek**, English  
**Jessica Wells Cantiello**, English  
**Juline Koken**, Psychology  
**Yin-Wei Liao**, English  
**Lauren Jade Martin**, Sociology  
**Stacie McCormick**, English  
**Soniya Munshi**, Sociology  
**Jennifer H. Sugg**, Anthropology

### NINA E. FORTIN MEMORIAL FUND DISSERTATION PROPOSAL AWARD 2008

**Zeynep Goker** (Political Science), "Silence in Presence: Feminist and Democratic Implications of Ordinary Political Practices."

### RECIPIENTS OF THE WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE

These students received the Women's Studies Certificate on reception of the doctoral degree in 2008-09:

**Deidre Conlon**, Psychology  
**Helen Davis**, English  
**Andrea Fabrizio**, English  
**Brenda Henry-Offor**, English  
**Stephanie Jensen-Moulton**, Music  
**Hosu Kim**, Sociology  
**Effie MacLachlan**, Political Science  
**Venezia Michaelson**, Criminal Justice  
**Jean Mills**, English  
**Jody Rosen**, English

### KOONJA MITCHELL AWARD 2008

**Shana Siegal** (Sociology), "Transgenerational Trauma related to the History of Militarized Repression of Indigenous Populations in Canada."

### SUE ROSENBERG ZALK TRAVEL AWARD 2008

**Valerie Francisco** (Sociology), "Going Abroad: Filipino Women, Labor and Transnational Governance."

