From the WID Office

The Women and International Development (WID) Program, along with Michigan State University’s Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen), welcome you to this Spring 2008 issue of the WID Bulletin. Here you will find the latest articles, books, and online resources on gender in the developing world. We also highlight technical reports from international governmental and non-governmental organizations, themed journal issues, and films to keep you up-to-date with the most current successes and challenges facing women and men struggling for gender equality and development in the Global South.

Fellowships, grants, conferences, and calls for paper proposals are included to encourage worldwide participation in a conversation around gender and development, particularly for those living and working in nations where women are the targets of and suffer from violence, discrimination, and economic hardship.

Please share this Bulletin with others, and for those not on our mailing list, you may contact the managing editor, Christian Reed, at bulletin@msu.edu to begin receiving the Bulletin either through e-mail or the regular post. Recent back issues of the WID Bulletin can be downloaded online at http://www.wid.msu.edu/resources/publications.htm.

We welcome back to the office Dr. Anne Ferguson, co-director of GenCen, from her sabbatical last Fall. Thanks to Dr. Tracy Dobson for filling in during her absence! We also welcome a new part-time secretary, Lisa Reichstetter, mother of two, softball fan, and MSU women Spartans basketball supporter! Also new to the office, Heather Yocum joined GenCen during this Spring Semester helping identify grant resources for the MSU-University of Malawi linkage. Heather is a first-year graduate student in Anthropology who will be researching international development and gender in Malawi.

We bid farewell to our two interns. Monica Mukerjee is heading off to Oxford University to obtain an MSc in Forced Migration. Nichole McLaughlin will spend Fall Semester 2008 in Cairo, Egypt, studying Arabic at the American University.

We also say goodbye to Rebecca Meuninck, the outgoing GenCen Internship Coordinator, who has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award for her research on the gendered social, environmental, and economic impacts of Fair Trade coffee production at two Fair Trade Certified coffee cooperatives in Sul de Minas, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

We want to welcome Marisa Rinkus, a graduate student in Fisheries and Wildlife, who will be the new GenCen Internship Coordinator beginning in Fall 2008. Marisa has worked with the WID office in prior years as a graduate assistant for the Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Graduate Specialization.

The following papers have recently been published:

The next WID Bulletin will be published in early September, 2008. We welcome contributions or suggestions from our readers around the world!
Articles

Asian Journal of Women’s Studies, Volume 13, Number 1, 2007:
“Beyond the Imaginary Relationship between Western Feminists and Third World Women,” by Su-lin Yu, pp. 32-51. This study reveals a postcolonial desire not only to redraw the boundary between Western and Third World women, but also to investigate the imaginary relationship, or rather the psychological dynamics, involved in Western women’s relationship with Third World women. Rather than reduce the relationship between Western women and Third World women to a simple opposition, it attempts to understand the ambivalence in their relationship. This study is driven by a desire to understand how Western feminists seek to identify with Third World women and how this can contribute to an understanding of postcolonial power relations and move beyond the assumed polarities of identity politics. The article thinks beyond a simple binary analysis of culpability and innocence and moves toward an understanding of how differences among women can be seen to be enriching and valuable.

Development, Volume 50, Number 2, June 2007:
* “Gender, Poverty and Globalization in India,” by Rekha Pande, pp. 134-140. The author argues that globalization in India has produced a very uneven distribution of resources along caste, gender, and tribal lines. Poor women in rural areas and in the informal sector have been the worst hit by recent economic transformations. Yet there is very little realization that developmental policies in general and structural adjustment in particular is not gender neutral.
* “Gender and Poverty in Pakistan,” by Khawar Mumtaz, pp. 149-153. This article examines the gender–poverty nexus in Pakistan and how gender disparities relate to, and link with, poverty reduction, economic growth, and wellbeing.
* “Gender Inequality, Poverty and Human Development in South East Asia,” by Josefa S. Francisco, pp. 103-114. Based on a survey of different forms of inequalities in South East Asia, the author looks at how gender inequality not only erodes human security, but also deepens festering structural conflicts, vulnerabilities, and exclusions in society. She argues that there are systemic barriers to a more equitable distribution of opportunities in education, income, health, and wider life chances in society, which are reinforced by stark inequalities in access to and benefits from resources, capacities, and potentials.

Development and Change, Volume 38, Issue 1, January 2007:
“Gender Myths and Feminist Fables: The Struggle for Interpretive Power in Gender and Development,” by Andrea Cornwall, Elizabeth Harrison, and Ann Whitehead, pp. 1-20. Gender and development has grown enormously as a field over the last thirty years. In this introduction, we interrogate the ambivalence that underpins feminist engagement with development and examine what current dilemmas may suggest about the relationship between feminist knowledge and development practice. In recent years, there has been growing frustration with the simplistic slogans that have come to characterize much gender and development talk, and with the gap between professed intention and actual practice in policies and programs. Questions are now being asked about what has become of ‘gender’ in development. This collection brings together critical reflections on some ideas about gender that have become especially resonant in development narratives, particularly those that entail popularization and the deployment of iconic images of women.

Development in Practice, Volume 17, Issue 1, February 2007:
“Gender Justice: The World Bank’s New Approach to the Poor?” by Susanne Schech and Sanjugta Vas Dev, pp. 14-26. Gender inequality is now widely acknowledged as an important factor in the spread and entrenchment of poverty. This article examines the World Development Report 2000/01 as the World Bank’s blueprint for addressing poverty in the twenty-first century, together with several more
recent Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, with a view to analyzing the manner in which gender is incorporated into the policy-making process and considering whether it constitutes a new approach to gender and poverty. It is argued that the World Bank’s approach to poverty is unlikely to deliver gender justice, because there remain large discrepancies between the economic and social policies that it prescribes. More specifically, the authors contend that the Bank employs an integrationist approach which encapsulates gender issues within existing development paradigms without attempting to transform an overall development agenda whose ultimate objective is economic growth as opposed to equity. Case studies from Cambodia and Vietnam are used to illustrate these arguments.

Electronic Journal in Communication, Information, and Innovation in Health, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2007: “Gender, Democracy, and Philosophy of Science,” by Sandra Harding, pp. 161-167. Feminist epistemologies and philosophies of science have challenged conventional standards for objectivity, rationality, “good method,” and “real science.” This paper looks at the stronger standards for maximizing objectivity which feminists have demanded, and the challenges to conventional philosophies and histories of science arising from non-Western science and technology traditions. Sciences and philosophies of science that want to advance social progress and social justice cannot do so if they ignore these challenges from groups located at “the peripheries of the Enlightenment.”

Health Care for Women International, Volume 28, Issue 5, 2007: “When I Was in My Home I Suffered a Lot: Mexican Women’s Descriptions of Abuse in Family of Origin,” by Ruth Ann Belknap and Nancy Cruz, pp. 506-522. This descriptive study employs episodic narrative interviews and narrative analysis to explore experiences of abuse and violence within the families of origin of Mexican women entering adulthood. The article presents an analysis of the interviews in which violence or abuse was disclosed. Women who witnessed violence against their mothers did not see this as prescriptive of their own future relationships and articulated strategies for avoiding entering an abusive relationship. Women who experienced nonsexual physical violence described physical violence as punishment. Women who experienced sexual abuse did not provide explanations for the abuse and described being silent in response to the abuse.

Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Volume 13, Number 2, 2006: “Feminism and Peace Studies: Taking Stock of a Quarter Century of Efforts,” by Stephen John Moolakkattu, pp. 137-162. This article selectively surveys the feminist literature to identify ideas and practices that have had an impact on the relatively young discipline of peace studies, taking the last twenty-five years as the main reference period. Feminism has deconstructed some of the dominant discourses in peace studies, opened up new frontiers of enquiry, provided new meanings to concepts like peace, security, development, and power, and helped generate a number of useful hypotheses. Feminist contributions to peace studies can be discerned in seven areas. Each of these areas is discussed in the article with suitable illustrations from the South Asian context.

The Lancet, Volume 371, Issue 9608, 2008: “Maternal and Child Undernutrition: Global and Regional Exposures and Health Consequences,” by Robert E. Black, et al., pp. 243-260. Maternal and child undernutrition is highly prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, resulting in substantial increases in mortality and overall disease burden. This paper presents new analyses to estimate the effects of the risks related to measures of undernutrition, as well as suboptimum breast-feeding practices on mortality and disease. It estimates that stunting, severe wasting, and intrauterine growth restriction were together responsible for 2.2 million deaths and twenty-one percent of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) for children younger than five years. The high mortality and disease burden resulting from these nutrition-related factors make a compelling case for the urgent implementation of interventions to reduce their occurrence or ameliorate their consequences.

The New England Journal of Medicine, Volume 356, Number 14, April 2007:
“Making Motherhood Safe in Developing Countries,” by Allan Rosenfeld, Caroline J. Min, and Lynn P. Freedman, pp 1395-1397. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Safe Motherhood Conference in Nairobi, an event that launched a global initiative to reduce maternal mortality in developing countries. At that time, maternal and child health programs focused primarily on the health of infants and young children. Providing pregnant women with lifesaving medical care was thought to require high technology at large hospitals, and policymakers thought it more feasible to reduce child mortality with preventive measures such as immunization, oral rehydration, and breast-feeding. The conference spotlighted the number of pregnant women dying each year and issued a call to action.

Review of Development Economics, Volume 11, Number 4, November 2007:
“Gender Bias in Education: The Role of Inter-household Externality, Dowry and other Social Institutions,” by Sajal Lahiri and Sharmistha Self, pp. 591-606. This article analyzes gender bias in school enrollment by developing a two-period model where women become part of the extended families of their in-laws. Each family decides how many sons and daughters are sent to school and thus become skilled. Gender bias occurs due to failure of the families to internalize inter-household externalities. “Groom-specific” dowry worsens the situation. Under “bride-specific” dowry, bias exists if and only if the skill premium in the labor market is bigger than that in the marriage market. A specific discriminatory “food-for-education” policy is shown to reduce bias, but increase total enrollment.

Tourism and Hospitality Planning & Development, Volume 4, Issue 2, August 2007:
“Tourism, Gender and Development in the Third World: A Case Study from Northern Laos,” by Corinne Flacke-Neudorfer, pp. 135-147. Women play a peculiar role in tourism. In general, it is more difficult for women to access the profits coming from tourism. This is often due to social expectations regarding gender as well as social restrictions on women, which exist in the countries themselves. In the case of a sustainable tourism project working with the Akha, an ethnic minority in Northern Laos, the gender question was raised, but experts were rather unsure of how best to integrate women actively in the project. Those who had a stake in the discussion felt as if giving a more active role to women from an ethnic minority would disturb the traditional image of the culture and traditional gender roles, which tourists long for. Ethnic women in Laos are thought to represent the traditional lifestyle and to subsist in more passive roles rather than participating actively. The concerns surrounding cultural and social change were so strong that ethnic minority women, who were already benefiting from tourism through the selling of souvenirs, were excluded from sustainable tourism projects. The concepts of cultural conservation, rather present in the scientific and international debate about sustainable tourism, are in this case conflicting with the interests of ethnic minority women by limiting their involvement in such projects. The article argues that only if the question of gender equality is taken more seriously can these conflicts between global ideas and local interests, as well as possible ways to resolve them, become clear and understandable.

Audiovisuals

Produced by Dharlin Entertainment; http://www.whiterainbow.com/Dharlin%20Entertainment.htm: White Rainbow This is the story of four remarkable women and their struggle to overcome the stigma and brutal reality of widowhood in modern Indian society. In the story, the protagonist, Priya, is an educated, affluent young woman who is tragically widowed. Despondent, alone, and desperate, she seeks unlikely solace in Vrindavan, the “city of widows.” Priya meets the streetwise Roop, who has spent thirty years making her own way in this temple town with its dirty secrets. Priya encounters gentle Mala, tragically disfigured by her mother-in-law, and young Deepti, forced into servitude and an underground sex trade run by the Panda priest. Together this disparate group forms a deep bond and begins to see the power of their own conviction to take charge of their own fate. But, their journey is not without adversity and tragedy from a system
dominated by men who prosper from the exploitation of India’s most disenfranchised citizens. In the end, Priya comes to realize that “Her destiny was to change their fate!” 2007, 94 min.

Available from First Run/Icarus Films; http://www.frif.com:
* Border Cafe (Café Transit) Reyhan, an Iranian widow and mother of two young children, reopens the roadhouse formerly run by her husband. But since running such a business is taboo for women, she encounters much resistance, particularly from her conservative brother-in-law, Nasser, whose only aim is to marry Reyhan despite already having one wife. Reyhan refuses this marriage proposal since she will only marry for love, not tradition nor convenience, so Nasser seeks a way to close the roadhouse in an effort to make Reyhan dependent on him. An amorous Greek trucker named Zakariyo provides our heroine with a possible exit from this difficult situation, but ultimately the fate of Reyhan and her roadhouse, which has become quite successful under her management, is decided by a local court, and the verdict leaves Reyhan pondering her place in the world. 2005, 205 min.

* Crimes of Honour Across the Islamic world, hundreds of women are shot, stabbed, strangled, or burned to death each year by their male relatives because they are thought to have dishonored their families by engaging in unacceptable relationships. Filmed in Jordan and on the West Bank, this film documents the terrible reality of femicide – the killing of sisters or daughters suspected of losing their virginity, for having refused an arranged marriage, or for having left a husband. Even if a woman is raped, abused, or is the victim of gossip, she may pay the terrible price. Crimes of Honour tells the stories of women hiding from their families, fearing for their lives, as well as the men who commit femicide. One such man, interviewed in prison, discusses his reasons for murdering his sister. Femicide, although having no basis in Islamic teachings, is on the rise in some countries. Crimes of Honour delves into class and religious issues that infuse the debate, as well as the possible origins of femicide. But some women are fighting for change. This wrenching new film captures the horrific tragedy of this practice and personal reactions to it, and examines the wider societal response. From the courthouses to the jails to the hiding places of terrified young women, the film puts before the viewer the horrific facts and the accounts of three women fighting to end Crimes of Honour. 1999, 44 min.

* Goldwidows: Women in Lesotho “Goldwidows” are the women whose husbands work in South Africa’s mines – often without returning home for five years at a time. Goldwidows focuses on four Basotho women of Lesotho. Although most Basotho men – sometimes sixty percent at once – have worked in South Africa’s gold mines, apartheid laws forbid these women and their children from entering South Africa. They are forced to live as practical widows. Each tells of her life, coping alone, caught in the inhumane web of South Africa’s oppressive system. 1990, 52 min.

Available from the Women’s Learning Partnership; http://www.learningpartnership.org:
* Against All Odds: Women Partnering for Change in a Time of Crisis War, violence, extremism, fundamentalism, and restrictive legislation are just some of the most striking hurdles that women must overcome as they strive for the most rudimentary of rights. This film tells the story of women activists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East who have worked in partnerships to develop and implement appropriate strategies to overcome these various challenges. Women leaders in this film speak of the ways and means of strengthening women’s movements by building alliances, sharing inter-generational experience and expertise, and creating contextual, culture-specific, grassroots-based approaches to empowering women and girls. 2006, 28 min.

Available from Women Make Movies; http://www.wmm.com:
* Purity Israeli filmmaker Anat Zuria examines the Tharat Hamishpaha (family purity), ancient laws and rituals shaping women’s lives and sexuality within Jewish Orthodoxy. Giving new insight into a guarded religious community, Zuria presents her
own experiences adhering to Orthodox practices, as well as those of her friends Natalie, Katie, and Shira. At the heart of their stories is the “nidda” – a ten- to twelve-day period restricting women from touching or engaging in sexual intimacy with their husbands, which culminates with a trip to the “mikve” (cleansing baths). Each woman addresses this practice through very different perspectives – one sadly leaves her marriage in protest, one attempts to work within the tradition despite the emotional and physical stress it causes, while the third proudly teaches the laws to her daughter. Beautifully incorporating lyrical and meditative images with interviews, Purity presents the hidden struggle of religious women to maintain their cultural traditions and individual needs within the framework of strict, masculine religious law. 2002, 63 min.

* The Greatest Silence: Rape in Congo Filmed in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), this film destroys the silence surrounding the shocking plight of women and girls trapped in this country’s ongoing conflict. Since 1993, a brutal war has taken over the DRC, resulting in over four million people killed and tens of thousands of women and girls being systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated, and tortured by soldiers from foreign militias and the Congolese army. This documentary, produced in association with HBO Documentary Films and the Fledgling Fund, includes interviews with activists, peacekeepers, physicians, and even chillingly indifferent rapists who are all soldiers of the Congolese Army. But most moving are the stories featured from dozens of survivors, who deliver their testimonies with honesty and immediacy. 2007, 76 min.

* They Call Me Muslim In popular Western imagination, a Muslim woman in a veil – or hijab – is a symbol of Islamic oppression. But what does it mean for women’s freedom when a democratic country forbids the wearing of the veil? In this provocative documentary, filmmaker Diana Ferrero portrays the struggle of two women, one in France and one in Iran, to express themselves freely. Beautifully shot and finely crafted, They Call Me Muslim highlights how women still must struggle for the right to control their own bodies – not only under theocratic regimes, but also in secular, democratic countries where increasing discrimination against Muslims and sexism intersect. 2006, 27 min.

Available from Films for the Humanities & Sciences; http://www.films.com:

* The Right to Femininity: Fighting Female Circumcision in Africa Today Opposition is growing in Africa to the practice of female circumcision. This film attempts to portray multiple perspectives on the issue, interviewing women who have undergone circumcision, men who are against the custom, health care practitioners, and professional circumcisers. The effects of circumcision, both medically and emotionally, are analyzed throughout the film. There are campaigns that have been successful by influencing change by groups such as CARE Austria, the Girl’s Power Initiative, and UNICEF. The film also features a Nigerian drama troupe that travels and performs anti-circumcision productions. These groups campaign in areas where custom is most prevalent. Viewers should be aware that there is graphic footage of circumcisions and births. 2004, 46 min.

Available from Sun & Moon Video Productions; http://www.sunandmoonvision.com:

* Reversing the Ripples of War This film is an unflinching fusion of poetry, spoken word, soulful music, and personal testimony that exposes the cruelty of armed conflict and showcases the undeniable heroism of women peacemakers who are Reversing the Ripples of War. This documentary is the third installment in the “Leading the Way to Peace” documentary series and features four women peacemakers – from Uganda (Sister Pauline Acayo), Cambodia (Thavory Huot), Zimbabwe (Emmaculette Chiseya), and the Philippines (Mary Ann Arnado). Seldom able to record their experiences, activities, and insights due to a lack of time and formal education, the women share and record their unique peacemaking stories in a variety of formats. This short but powerful film tells of the undeniable heroism of women peacemakers during brutal conflicts. 2007, 21 min.
Monographs & Technical Reports

Available from the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS; http://www.icw.org: Women and Girls Living with HIV/AIDS: Overview and Annotated Bibliography, by E. Esplen, 2007, 58 pp. HIV/AIDS is not only driven by gender inequality, it also entrenches gender inequality, leaving women more vulnerable than men to its impact. Women’s unequal social, economic, and legal status is increased by a positive HIV status, and versa. Violations of women’s social, economic, and legal rights in turn prohibit their ability to seek care, treatment, and support, and to protect their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women and girls, including those who are themselves HIV-positive, also bear the physical and psychological burden of HIV and AIDS care. Women thus carry a ‘triple jeopardy’ of AIDS: as people infected with HIV, as mothers of children infected, and as caretakers of partners, parents, or orphans with AIDS. When women care for others their labor is lost, which has a major impact on their own wellbeing and that of the household. In many contexts, social and cultural values surrounding the importance of female purity mean that women and girls living with HIV and AIDS are subject to greater discrimination than men. For the epidemic to be tackled effectively, the valuable skills, insights, and accumulated experiences of women and girls living with HIV and AIDS must be taken seriously by policymakers. Their expertise can be a central force in tackling the epidemic, provided that others are prepared to listen and act on this knowledge. http://www.icw.org/node/257

Available from the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID); http://www.awid.org: The Second Fundher Report: Financial Sustainability for Women’s Movements Worldwide, by J. Kerr, 2007, 146 pp. This report analyzes the funding landscape for women’s rights work, building on an earlier report published by AWID in 2006. Based on a survey of almost 1,000 women’s organizations worldwide, the report analyzes funding trends, provides information on donors who fund women’s rights work, and offers practical fundraising guidelines. Findings show that more than half the survey respondents are receiving less funding than in 2000. Organizations in the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe are having particular difficulty raising money as funding has shifted to Africa. The report analyzes the challenges women’s organizations face in raising funds from different types of organizations and institutions: bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international non-governmental organizations, women’s funds, large private foundations, individual giving and small private foundations, and corporate philanthropy. http://www.awid.org/go.php?pg=fundher_2

Available from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); http://www.oecd.org: Gender Equality and Aid Delivery: What has Changed in Development Co-operation Agencies since 1999?, by K. Mason Oppenheim, 2007, 68 pp. This report examines practices and institutional approaches to gender equality and women’s empowerment in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members’ development co-operation agencies. It presents the key findings and conclusions of a study conducted in 2006 by the DAC Network on Gender Equality, which set out to map the gender equality mandate and institutional arrangements of agencies, to explore elements of emerging good practice and technical advice on integrating gender equality dimensions into the new aid delivery mechanisms, and to analyze how staffing and institutional arrangements in agencies can be adapted to the new aid environment. Overall, it concludes that progress toward fulfilling the promise of the Beijing Platform for Action has been slow and uneven among the DAC members’ development co-operation agencies. http://www.oecd.org/document/12/0,3343,en_2649_33933_38893068_1_1_1_1,00.html

71 pp. The different processes associated with globalization have led to rising rates of paid work by women, often in contexts where male employment is stagnant or declining. This paper explores how women and men are dealing with this feminization of labor markets in the face of the widespread prevalence of male breadwinner ideologies and the apparent threat to male authority represented by women’s earnings. Responses have varied across the world, but there appears to be a remarkable resistance to changes in the domestic division of unpaid work within the household and a continuing failure on the part of policymakers to provide support for women’s care responsibilities, despite the growing importance of their breadwinning roles. Many of the services previously provided on an unpaid basis are being transferred to the paid economy, but most working women continue to bear a disproportionate burden of domestic responsibility. There is evidence that women may be using their newly acquired earning power to challenge the injustice of the double work burden in ways that pose a challenge to long-term processes of social reproduction. http://www.ntd.co.uk/idsbookshop/details.asp?id=999

Available from Women Deliver; http://www.womendeliver.org: Executive Summary of Lancet Sexual and Reproductive Health Series, 2007, 8 pp. Sexual behavior, family planning, abortion, sexually transmitted infections, and sexual and reproductive rights are not commonly discussed topics. These subjects often generate strong opinions, make people uncomfortable, and are prone to misinterpretation. The Lancet Series on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) aims to stimulate awareness and action among decision makers, policymakers, medical researchers, and other professionals on emerging and significant SRH issues, while serving as a tool for evidence-based advocacy and advancing research on preventable illness and death. http://www.womendeliver.org/pdf/FINAL_SRH_Exec_Summary.pdf

Available from the French National Institute of Demographic Studies; http://www.ined.fr: Female Genital Mutilation: The Situation in Africa and in France, by Armelle Andro and Marie Lesclingand, 2007, Number 438, 4 pp. To combat female genital mutilation (FGM) in France, we need to know more about the populations of women concerned – mainly of African origin – and the practice of FGM in their home countries. The authors explain that the situation varies from one African country to another, independently of religion. For France, they attempt to quantify the number of women who have already undergone genital mutilation and present an upcoming survey to assess the health consequences of this practice so that these women’s needs can be better addressed. http://www.ined.fr/en/resources_documentation/publications/pop_soc/bdd/publication/1333/

Available from Human Rights Watch; http://hrw.org: Hidden in the Mealie Meal: Gender-Based Abuses and Women’s HIV Treatment in Zambia, 2007, 98 pp. Zambia is one of many countries setting ambitious targets for rapidly scaling up antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS and is making impressive progress. However, women’s unequal status in Zambian society gravely undermines their ability to access and adhere to antiretroviral treatment, and the government is paying little if any attention to the gender dimension of treatment, especially the impact of entrenched discrimination and gender-based violence and abuse. Women in Zambia report that gender-based human rights abuses are, in fact, very real barriers to accessing and adhering to treatment. HIV programs, activists, and policymakers are increasingly recognizing that discrimination and violence against women must be addressed if the world is to combat the AIDS pandemic. Although the Zambian government has taken some steps to address violence and discrimination against women generally, major gaps remain in legislation, HIV treatment programs, and support services to address poverty among women living with HIV/AIDS. http://hrw.org/reports/2007/zambia1207/
Periodicals

* Gender & Development, Issue on “Carrying Out Gender Sensitive Research,” Volume 15, Issue 2, 2007, includes the following articles:
  * Using Gender-Analysis Frameworks: Theoretical and Practical Reflections
  * Feminist Research Methodologies and Development: Overview and Practical Application
  * Participation, Values, and Implementation: Three Research Challenges in Developing Gender-Sensitive Indicators
  * The Peace and Conflict Gender Analysis: UNIFEM’s Research in the Solomon Islands
  * Appropriate Gender-Analysis Tools for Unpacking the Gender-Energy-Poverty Nexus
  * Deepening Our Understanding of Community-Based Participatory Research: Lessons from Work around Reproductive Rights in Zimbabwe
  * Achieving Respondent-Led Research in Madagascar
  * Reflections on the Use of the Life History Method in Researching Rural African Women: Field Experiences from Uganda and Zimbabwe
  * A Neutral Feminist Observer? Observation-Based Research and the Politics of Feminist Knowledge Making

* Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, Issue on “Engendering Epidemiology,” Volume 61, Supplement 2, December 2007, includes the following articles:
  * Engendering Epidemiology
  * Policies, Politics and Gender Research
  * The Contribution of a Gender Perspective to the Understanding of Migrants’ Health
  * The Importance of Study Design Strategies in Gender Bias Research: The Case of Respiratory Disease Management in Primary Care
  * A Tool to Analyse Gender Mainstreaming and Care-Giving Models in Support Plans for Informal Care: Case Studies in Andalusia and the United Kingdom
  * Occupational Epidemiology and Work Related Inequalities in Health: A Gender Perspective for Two Complementary Approaches to Work and Health Research
  * A Framework to Analyse Gender Bias in Epidemiological Research
  * The Incorporation of Gender Perspective into Spanish Health Surveys
  * Methodological Issues in the Study of Violence against Women

* Journal of Southern African Studies, Issue on “Masculinities in Southern Africa,” Volume 24, Number 4, December 1998, includes the following articles:
  * Of Boys and Men: Masculinity and Gender in Southern African Studies
  * The ‘Unsaying’ of Indigenous Homosexualities in Zimbabwe: Mapping a Blindspot in an African Masculinity
  * Youth Organisations and the Construction of Masculine Identities in the Ciskei and Transkei, 1945–1960
  * ‘A Man is a Clumsy Thing Who does not Know How to Handle a Sick Person’: Aspects of the History of Masculinity and Race in the Shaping of Male Nursing in South Africa, 1900–1950

* ‘Telling Our Own Stories’: African Women Blogging for Social Change
* ‘The Missing White Girl Syndrome’: Disappeared Women and Media Activism
Books

Available from the Eastern Book Corporation; http://www.easternbookcorporation.com:
* *Swines, Hazels and the Dirty Dozen: Masculinity, Territoriality and the Youth Gangs of Soweto, 1960–1976*
* *A Boer and his Gun and his Wife are Three Things Always Together*: Republican Masculinity and the 1914 Rebellion
* *Ducktails, Flick-Knives and Pugnacity*: Subcultural and Hegemonic Masculinities in South Africa, 1948–1960
* *Men, Science, Travel and Nature in the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Cape*

Available from Kumarian Press; http://www.kpbooks.com:
* *Everywhere/Nowhere: Gender Mainstreaming in Development Agencies*, by Rebecca Tiessen, 2007, 256 pp. This book is a path-breaking study of gender mainstreaming in development agencies. The author moves beyond interrogating gender mainstream theory, to ask the question, how can it be achieved? Her in-depth analysis of Malawian and Canadian NGOs highlights the profound challenges facing those who seek to promote gender equality, both for and within development organizations.

Tiessen reminds us that gender mainstreaming is not just a goal, it is also a process, requiring careful empirical research. Until this warning is taken seriously, gender mainstreaming will indeed remain an empty phrase. Reports on gender mainstreaming within development agencies tend to concentrate on technical solutions with little attention to the political changes necessary for transforming the mainstream. Technical solutions (such as quantitative information about the number of female staff members hired or the allocation of a certain amount of resources to gender-related activities) are more frequently reported and more easily measured. An emphasis on technical solutions has resulted in limited impact within organizations and minimal changes to gender-inequitable relations.

Development agencies and their staff members are, however, finding innovative – or subtle – strategies to transform the mainstream through networking, coalition-building, and leadership initiatives. This book examines these approaches and analyzes their contributions to gender mainstreaming.

Available from Women Ink; http://www.womenink.org:
* *Afghan Women*, by Elaheh Rostami-Povey, 2007, 259 pp. Through years of Taliban oppression, during the US-led invasion and the current insurgency, Afghani women have played a hugely symbolic role. This book explores the actions and strategies that women have taken to fight oppression and challenge stereotypes in Afghanistan and in diasporas in Iran, Pakistan, the UK, and the United States. Looking at issues ranging from violence under the Taliban,
the impact of 9/11 to the role of NGOs, the plight of refugees, and growth in the opium economy, it goes behind the media hype to present a vibrant and diverse picture of these women’s lives. Further, it issues a challenge to Western feminists who do not try to understand women in Muslim majority societies and cultures and passively buy into the idea of ‘saving Muslim and Afghan women.’ The future of women’s rights in Afghanistan, the book argues, depends not only on overcoming local male domination, but also on challenging imperial domination and blurring the growing divide between the West and the Muslim world.

* Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams, by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Integrated Regional Information Networks, 2005, 250 pp. It is estimated that one in every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Too often sanctified by custom and reinforced by institutions, this worldwide pandemic transcends the bounds of geography, race, culture, class, religion, and community. This evocative and devastating volume of photographs, individual case studies, quotes, and illustrative text offers a powerful testimony of the different types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls worldwide throughout their lives. Based on the premise that human rights are both universal and indivisible, this book takes up the cry of researchers and activists who have been working on this issue for decades by insisting that violence against women be acknowledged and confronted.

* Engendering Human Security: Feminist Perspectives, edited by Thanh-Dam Truong, Saskia Wieringa, and Amrita Chhachhi, 2006, 326 pp. Engaging a feminist perspective to examine human security in the context of globalization, this volume of essays links culture with politics and economics, and integrates an analysis of class, ethnicity, and other dimensions of gender identity. The emergence of human security as an evolving concept represents a collective search among policymakers, academics, and civil society organizations for the ability to comprehend and respond to threats – to human life and dignity – that are the result of the interplay between global and national/local forces. While discourses about human security have brought together issues such as human dignity, rights, and wellbeing, and have spanned various disciplines (such as security studies, economics of human development, international relations, law, etc.), they have failed to incorporate gender issues in such a seamless manner. Thus, a key thematic area concerns the intersection between gender as a domain of power and human security as a policy framework. In this regard, contributors query the notion of human security from three angles – the body, the domain of care, and the domain of political agency.

* Gender and Trade Action Guide: A Training Resource, by Catherine Atthill, Sarojini Ganju Thakur, Marilyn Carr, and Mariama Williams, 2007, 214 pp. Developed out of a series of regional workshops, this action guide explores the different impacts of trade on women and men; provides practical tools on how to take advantage of the opportunities trade can offer to further development, alleviate poverty, and promote gender equality; and suggests ways to get gender onto the international trade agenda. The guide is flexible and can be used by trainers or for self-study. It includes case studies, activities, training suggestions, and recommended readings provided on CD-ROM and can be used as a basic introduction or as a resource to develop capacity building for others. It will enable people to take action and apply what is learned to their own context and requirements. Aimed at government officers in relevant trade sectors, gender specialists, NGOs, regional trade policy advisers, and more, the guide is intended particularly for those who are responsible for capacity building and bringing about change, for example through training, briefing, or lobbying.

* Migrant Women and Work: Women and Migration in Asia, Volume 4, edited by Anuja Agrawal, 2006, 226 pp. Gender-sensitive studies about migration have shown that women’s migration cannot be explained solely in terms of household migration or marriage migration. This volume of papers studies the patterns and consequences of long-term migration among Asian women, primarily ‘solo migrant women,’ who migrate globally as well as across the Asian continent in order to find work. Covering a broad terrain of gender issues, the volume analyzes the changing gender composition of migration
streams, examines the specific conditions under which migration occurs, and considers the different outcomes that migration brings to men and women. Contributors use case studies like the migration of Filipino women, Thai rural women’s migration to Bangkok, Indian nurses in the Gulf, and Asian women medical workers in the UK to discuss a variety of issues from a fresh perspective, including gender equality, household division of labor, and state policies regarding welfare provisions.

* Negotiating Culture: Intersections of Culture and Violence against Women in Asia Pacific, by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law, and Development, 2006, 82 pp. In order to be successful in upholding universal values, in particular the principle that no custom, tradition, or religious consideration can be invoked to justify violence against women, it is necessary to address and understand the process of legitimization that cultural discourses dictate. This report challenges us to systematically engage in a “cultural negotiation” whereby the positive elements of our cultures are emphasized, while the oppressive elements in culture-based discourses are demystified. Emerging from a regional consultation between NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, this consultation primarily evaluates the linkages between culture and violations of women’s human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. It names women as agents of culture rather than merely subjects of cultural norms and systems and offers strategies for addressing harmful cultural paradigms by engaging with international, state, and non-state actors.

* Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters, by Sanam Anderlini Naraghi, 2005, 257 pp. How and why do women’s contributions matter in peace and security processes? Why should women’s activities in this sphere be explored separately from peace-building efforts in general? This book offers a comprehensive, cross-regional analysis of women’s peace-building initiatives around the world, with particular emphasis on issues of conflict prevention; peace negotiations; post-conflict disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; governance; and transitional justice. It also traces the evolution of international policies in this arena and highlights the endemic problems that stunt progress. The author’s astute analysis, based on extensive research and field experience, demonstrates how gender sensitivity in programming can be a catalytic component in the complex task of building sustainable peace, and provides concrete examples of how to draw on women’s untapped potential.

Available from Vedams eBooks Ltd.; https://www.vedamsbooks.com:
* Rural Women in South Asia, edited by U. Kalpagam and Jaya Arunachalam, 2007, 294 pp. The book focuses on the similarities and differences between rural women’s experiences across countries and communities in the South Asian region. The authors assert that low status and weak empowerment of rural women is a result of structural conditions of poverty, inequality throughout the region, the social and cultural creation of gender ideologies, multiple patriarchies, caste and class dominance through which poor women experience power relations. However, the authors argue that optimism persists as with renewed concern countries adopt commitments to empower rural women through both state policy and social activism. The essays in the book reiterate the importance of poverty alleviation, stimulating adequate work opportunities, investing in education and health, and engaging women in decision making and governance. Women will be empowered only by fostering involvement to better their capabilities, entitlement, and choices.

* Education and Women Empowerment, edited by M.C. Reddeppa Reddy and P. Adinarayana Reddy, 2007, 208 pp. Women are regularly denied their right to education in patriarchal societies. Although women contribute to national development, their contributions are often overlooked or unrecognized. In fact, according to Education and Women Empowerment, women make up half of the world’s population and complete an estimated sixty percent of the world’s work, but only receive ten percent of the world’s income and own only one percent of the world’s land. The authors examine the education and welfare programs implemented by the government of India and conclude that they have resulted in little substantive change. This volume attempts to chronicle how different strategies have been adopted for women to stimulate sustainable education and empowerment. Finally this book looks at the role organizations have played in shaping women’s education.
* Matriliny in Transition: A Comparative Analysis, edited by Celine Augustine, 2007, 238 pp. This work examines the two elite female-dominant cultures located on the extreme poles of India: one in the northeastern corner of the country and the other on the southwestern end. Although most contemporary movements work to advance the empowerment of women, Augustine compares two societies where women have always had influence and authority. These two societies, the Nairs of Kerala and the Khasis of Meghalaya, have historically traced descent through the mother’s bloodline. The Khasis of Meghalaya maintain this system legally, whereas the Nairs of Kerala have shifted to patriline. Still, by recognizing matriliny as a historical process of social evolution, the author analyzes the most complex and compelling socio-politico-economic factors effecting change in these societies.

* Understanding Women Behaviour, edited by Sushma Sharma, Amrita Yadava, and Rattan Sharma, 2007, 430 pp. This work compiles twenty-seven articles from well known social scientists who research women and behavioral theories. The authors of these articles come from all walks of life, which contributes to diverse ideologies, opinions, and even innovations. The book is broken into five sections. The first six articles seek to trace and identify influences that affect perceptions regarding the worth of a woman. The second section includes five articles specifically addressing development and behaviors. The third section looks at the effects of stress on women and coping techniques. All four articles in section four assert that there is a double burden on women’s behavior and seek to explore the consequences of this double burden. The last section of the book examines major socio-political behavior patterns of women.

* Women’s Livelihood Rights: Recasting Citizenship for Development, edited by Sumi Krishna, 2007, 404 pp. This interdisciplinary work looks at natural resource-based livelihoods in the larger context of development viewed through the lens of citizenship rights. Without the deterioration of patriarchal society and policies within India, women will not take their dignified position as productive human beings with political rights beyond protection and welfare. For this to occur, the common conception of citizenship needs to be expanded to include roles that have historically been female-dominated. Drawing upon rich field-based research in thirteen states across India, the authors deal with complex and interrelated themes: the need to recognize women’s right to resources; their livelihood and employment strategies; the challenges of democratic governance and of restructuring institutional systems to make them responsive; and the role of women’s collective agency in development. This book explores and recognizes the value of collaboration, action, and dialogue among affected women.

Available from Zed Books; http://www.zedbooks.co.uk:

* The Gender Politics of Development: Essays in Despair and Hope, by Shirin M. Rai, 2008, 210 pp. The author attempts to provide a comprehensive assessment of how gender politics have emerged in post-colonial states, examining nationalism, democratization, globalization, and institutions of global governance in order to discern their role in establishing perceptions of gender. Rai argues that nationalist state building occurred in gendered ways, which contributed to fissures and pressures for development. She goes on to show how women have engaged with institutions of governance in developing countries, looking particularly at political participation, deliberative democracy, representation, leadership, and state feminism. In this context, the author argues new political identities have been created. Although she describes in detail how these debates have played out in India, her arguments are relevant to gender politics throughout the developing world.

* Making Space for Indigenous Feminism, edited by Joyce Green, 2007, 224 pp. Most indigenous women and scholars fail to see the relevancy of feminism to indigenous people. However, there is a small percentage of indigenous people who identify themselves as feminist. This book looks at the contributions of indigenous women, whose work demonstrates powerful, original, intellectual, and political contributions to the feminist movement. This book argues that feminism has much to offer indigenous women in their struggles against oppression and for equality. The book also claims that indigenous feminism is international in scope,
pertaining to indigenous women throughout the globe.

* Mothers, Monsters, Whores, by Laura Sjoberg and Caron E. Gentry, 2006, 232 pp. The reaction of most individuals to women’s political violence is incomprehension and shock. This is an empirical study of women’s violence in global politics. The book looks at military women who engage in torture; the Chechen ‘Black Widows’; Middle Eastern suicide bombers; and the women who directed and participated in genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda. The authors analyze the biological, psychological, and sexualized stereotypes through which these women are conventionally shown, arguing that these are based on assumptions about what is ‘appropriate’ female behavior. This book evaluates women’s motivations and actions as perpetrators of political violence. See the next WID Bulletin for a review of this book.

* Sexualities: Five Issues in Contemporary Indian Feminism, edited by Nivedita Menon, 2007, 380 pp. Although sexual violence is a subject well explored by feminist discourse, this book focuses on transgressive and marginalized sexualities. This volume combines writings on India which focus on the transgression of norms – of heterosexuality, of feminine and masculine behavior, of distinct gendered bodies, that declare their desire illegitimate. Menon also dedicates a section to select documents from different sexuality movements within India.

* Women and ETA: The Gender Politics of Radical Basque Nationalism, by Carrie Hamilton, 2007, 256 pp. At a time when conflicts in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere are highlighting women’s roles as armed activists and combatants, this is the first book-length study of women’s participation in Spain’s oldest armed movement, Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA). Founded in 1959, ETA is an armed group that demands Basque independence and maintains a Marxist-Leninist ideology. The title “Euskadi Ta Askatasuna” is Basque for “Basque Homeland and Freedom.” In examining women’s past influence on the ETA, Hamilton examines the role of women in violent nationalistic organizations.

* Worlds of Gender: The Archaeology of Women’s Lives around the Globe, by Sarah Milledge Nelson, 2007, 306 pp. In Worlds of Gender, ten prominent scholars consider the research on gender and archaeology that has been conducted around the world. The authors discuss the archaeological evidence for gender distinctions from Africa, East Asia, South Asia, Australia, Europe, Mesoamerica, North America, and South America. Although some regions of the world have only been studied sporadically, this volume brings together the totality of the evidence to make it possible to compare sexual roles and identities from far-flung cultures of vastly different time periods. This book is an excellent resource for comparative cultural studies and gender studies, as well as a useful examination of how gender roles affect social structures.

* Assembling Flowers and Cultivating Homes: Labor and Gender in Colombia, by Greta Friedemann-Sánchez, 2006, 232 pp. Colombia is a major exporter of fresh-cut flowers. As in other global assembly line industries, women constitute a majority of Colombia’s floriculture workforce. This ethnographic study explores the links between agro-industrial employment in the context of economic adjustment programs and the individual experience of employment and economic change at the household level. The author challenges the current academic consensus that transnational assembly line industries reinforce patriarchal ideologies of reproduction and the exploitation of women. What from a global perspective may be perceived as exploitation can be seen from the local perspective as an opportunity within the community. Specifically, the study focuses on how the interrelated factors of formal employment, wage income, property ownership, social capital, and self-esteem articulate with women’s resistance to male-dominated households and domestic violence. Expertly combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies, the book contributes greatly to the study of gender and power, household economics and structure, and Latin American society.

* Forsaken Females: The Global Brutalization of Women, by Andrea Parrot and Nina Cummings, 2006, 270 pp. Women around the world routinely
suffer from beatings, rape, torture, and murder. These are not the practices of a few demented individuals, but are often institutionalized, culturally-sanctioned behaviors. Millions of women live in a constant state of isolation, terror, and fear; for most, escape is nearly impossible due to economic, social, or cultural restrictions. *Forsaken Females* describes the many types of global brutalization that occur against women, including feticide, infanticide, female genital mutilation, sexual slavery, honor killing, acid attacks, trafficking, dowry death, rape, and intimate partner violence. The violence is varied in both method and practice and is often supported by patriarchal ideologies or policies that maintain the social conditions and cultural framework that accept women’s brutalization. The book also addresses the physical, emotional, and economic impacts of the violence. The discussion is structured around the experiences of women who describe their personal victimization. Each chapter concludes with examples of policies and practices developed to address and reduce violence perpetrated against women.

**Study Opportunities**

The *Gender Coordination Unit of the International Training Centre of the ILO* is pleased to share our 2008 regular gender calendar with several new courses and our regular gender mainstreaming courses now offered for a fourth consecutive year. Some of our courses are particularly relevant for individuals that are not gender experts but need to deal with gender issues in their work. The two-week course provides a good overview of gender issues, decent work and useful tools that staff can use in project and policy development. More advanced courses are available. These in-class courses are held in Turin. The Training Centre offers scholarships (cover tuition and living expenses but not travel) available only for participants in developing countries. To have a full description of our courses and to download the application, please visit our Gender Campus: http://gender.itcilo.org/ or contact GCU@itcilo.org.

MATILDA is the first *Joint European Master Degree program in Women’s and Gender History*. It is being set up by a consortium of five European universities and links these institutions in an exciting, innovative, and unique venture. The program supports integrative perspectives which go beyond local, regional, and national histories. It intends to situate these histories, as well as European history as a whole, in broader contexts. With its focus on comparative, entangled, and transnational history, it aims at exploring the history of gender differences and similarities in European cultures and societies, and the role of gender in shaping European history. The program of study comprises 120 ECTS spread over two years of study. Students can expect to study in at least two different countries over the course of four semesters, typically moving to a second institution for one or two semesters after one year in their start university. The master thesis will be completed in semester four (year two) of the program. There will also be a summer Intensive Program, during which all the students on the course will come together with staff from all partner institutions in order to learn and to strengthen cooperation. The program will start in autumn 2008. Applications are welcome to the consortium university of the prospective student’s choice. For further information please consult the Website run by the University of Vienna: http://www.univie.ac.at/Matilda; Contact: matilda.history@univie.ac.at.

*Public Health at Heidelberg University* is offering short courses on international health. The courses, offered through the Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health, are organized cooperatively with organizations such as the World Health Organization, GTZ, the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, and the South Asia Institute. These courses are generally formed as two week, intensive courses requiring full time attendance. Topics include disease control, policies and strategies, consultancy skills in international cooperation in health, proposal development targeting international donors, using research to better practices, improving the quality of healthcare services, leadership and change management, and medical anthropology.
as a tool for public health. For more information contact the Program Manager, Natascha Petersen, at petersen@uni-hd.de or visit http://www.klinikum.uni-heidelberg.de.

The International Center for Transitional Justice offers three- to five-day training courses, in English and French aimed at mid-career NGOs leaders, universities, diplomatic staff, and graduate/law students. The courses cover the essential themes, mechanisms, and case studies in the field of Transitional Justice. The courses focus on a range of topics including prosecution mechanisms, truth commissions, reparations programs, vetting mechanisms, and reconciliation initiatives. They also explore the interaction between attempting to achieve maintain justice and accountability, and negotiating to ensure sustainable peace. For more information contact nyessentials@ictj.org or visit http://www.ictj.org/en/workshops/courses/index.html#essentials.

Human Rights Tools.org is a nonprofit organization established in 2006. They have just updated one of the most popular pages of their Website: the Human Rights Short Courses page. It now features more than sixty short courses and summer schools spanning 2008 and 2009, from the general introductions to very specialized courses on indigenous peoples, discrimination, women’s rights, and more. Short courses are listed for Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Please visit http://www.humanrightstools.org/shortcourses.htm for more information.

The International Human Rights Network (IHRN) is organizing two courses. The first is entitled “Justice Sector Reform: Applying Human Rights Based Approaches,” and will take place at the National University of Ireland, in Maynooth. The dates are from June 16-20, 2008, and the application deadline is May 2, 2008. The aim of the training program is to enhance the skills of participants in applying Human Rights Based Approaches to Justice Sector Reform. The second IHRN course is entitled “Human Rights Fieldwork - Principles, Practice, and Skills” and will be held in the same location, from October 26 to November 2, 2008. This Annual Training Program will explore the principles underpinning effective human rights fieldwork; and enhance the skills of participants needed to carry this out safely before, during, or after armed conflict. Costs are involved for both programs. Please see http://www.ihrnetwork.org for more information.

Conferences

The Politics of Knowing: Research, Institutions and Gender in the Making is a conference scheduled for November 27-28, 2008, in Prague, Czech Republic. This conference acknowledges the influence of market values on research and higher education. The range of actors claiming to have a voice in science has also grown to include a range of voices beyond academe, from industry and the public. These new actors may play different roles in different contexts and geopolitical spaces. All these processes also have a gender dimension – from recruitment and retention of students and employees, to work-life balance and the gendering of knowledge production processes and practices. The conference will showcase research on these issues from (social) science and technology studies, and feminist and post-colonial studies under the framework of the project Knowledge, Institutions and Gender: an East-West Comparative Study. Several topics will be emphasized, including public accountability of research, gender in epistemic communities, generational differences in training and the resulting gender implications. For more details on the conference contact marcela.linkova@soc.cas.cz or visit http://www.knowing.soc.cas.cz/?page=conference.

The Gender Research Center and Gender Studies Program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, along with the Women’s Studies Centre of Peking University and the Institute for Women’s Studies at Keimyung University are pleased to announce Gender and Family in East Asia, a conference to be held December 12-13, 2008. Held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the conference acknowledges that East Asia has been characterized by political and economic change in the last half century. The coming conference
aims to address issues such as the effect of these changes on the family as a fundamental social institution, and the understanding or re-negotiation of the family as the core of Asian values and nation-building. What influences have contributed to past changes, and which will affect the future of family? Despite traditional gender hierarchies, what are the emerging patterns or possibilities of gender relationships surrounding the family in the rapidly changing societies of mainland China, Hong Kong, Korea, Macau, Japan, and Taiwan? With increasing globalization have issues of diversity and multiculturalism challenged the definition of the East Asian family? For more information on the themes and details of the conference, please contact grcentre@cuhk.edu.hk or visit http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/gro/2008conference.html.

The Centre for Gender Studies at Stockholm University welcomes feminist researchers to an international conference February 4-6, 2009, on research methods and methodological issues. The conference, Feminist Research Methods, is devoted to the exchange of experiences and innovations in the doing of feminist research, specifically the methods and research tools used. Most feminist researchers have long since agreed that there are no specific feminist research methods. The expression “feminist methods” is therefore used as shorthand for methods used by feminists in all fields of research. The conference is open to researchers in all disciplines, inter-disciplines and directions of research. For further information contact femmet09@kvinfo.su.se, or visit http://www.kvinfo.su.se/femmet09/index.htm.

In June 2008, Dichotomies: A Workshop on Gender on Gender and Music will be held at the University of Cologne. This conference will be supported by the Cultural Affairs Office of the City of Cologne, the Opera of Cologne, the Music School, the School for the Arts and Media, the School for Design, WDR TV Station and a local radio station Deutschlandfunk. This three-day conference will be comprised of concerts, exhibitions, multimedia installations and talks dedicated to questions of how gender and music interact. Interdisciplinary discussions will be held at the University of Cologne on the cultural implications and intersections of music theory and gender. Contributions are invited that cover a wide range of concerns from questions of gender and music production as well as reception, to aspects of gender and intermediality, to intersections of music theory with gender theory. The conference dates are June 13-15, 2008. For more information, visit http://www.genderforum.uni-koeln.de.

The Minnesota African Women’s Association (MAWA) will hold the 3rd African Women in the Diaspora Conference on June 20-21, 2008. The theme is Addressing Cultural Rites & Practices that Harm African Women & Girls – the role of African men, women, and youth. Speakers include Ghana’s youthful Hiplife artist, Mzbel. The bi-annual conference is a full day of speakers, panels, and presenters who address issues currently facing African women. It provides educators, social workers, diversity officers, legal advocates, students, and health and other service providers with best practices for interacting with African women and their families in the areas of health and education, socio-economics, youth development, and much more. Participants and presenters come from all over the US, Africa, Europe, and the rest of the world. The African Women in the Diaspora Conference is presented by MAWA in partnership with the Human Rights Program of the University of Minnesota at the University of Minnesota Law School. See http://www.mawanet.org/html/conference2008.htm for more information.

The West of England and South Wales Women’s History Network fourteenth Annual Conference, with the Centre for Medical History, University of Exeter focuses on Gender, Health & Medicine, to be held at the University of Exeter on July 5-6, 2008. Speakers include Professor Hilary Marland, University of Warwick; Dr Margaret Pelling, Oxford University; and Dr Sandra Cavallo, Royal Holloway College. For more information contact Sarah Toulalan, s.d.toulalan@exeter.ac.uk or Claire Keyte, c.e.keyte@exeter.ac.uk. See the conference Web page at http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/gender/index.shtml.
Grants and Fellowships

The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program provides support for up to three years of formal graduate-level study leading to a masters or doctoral degree. Fellows are selected from countries and territories in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Russia, where the Ford Foundation maintains active overseas programs. U.S. nationals are not eligible, although Fellows may study in the United States. Fellows are chosen on the basis of their leadership potential and commitment to community or national service, as well as for academic excellence. Fellows may enroll in masters or doctoral programs and may pursue any academic discipline or field of study that is consistent with the interests and goals of the Ford Foundation. The Foundation currently works in thirteen fields to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. Once selected, Ford Foundation International Fellows may enroll in an appropriate university program anywhere in the world, including their country of residence. The program provides placement assistance to those Fellows not yet admitted to graduate school. IFP support also enables Fellows to undertake short-term language study and training in research and computer skills prior to graduate school enrollment.

Proposals are being accepted for Innovative Global Health Research first round of Grand Challenges Explorations to support bold, unconventional ideas to fight infectious diseases. Initial grants through the Explorations initiative will be $100,000 each, and projects showing success will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of $1 million or more. The initiative will use an agile, accelerated grant-making process—applications will be two pages, and preliminary data are not required. The foundation will select and award grants within approximately three months from the proposal submission deadline of May 30, 2008. The first funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations will consider proposals in four topic areas: creating new ways to protect against infectious disease; creating drugs or delivery systems that limit the emergence of resistance; creating new ways to prevent or cure HIV infection; exploring the basis for latency in TB. See http://www.gcgh.org/explorations/Pages/Introduction.aspx and submit a proposal by May 15, 2008.

The Institute of Current World Affairs is offering long-term fellowships to provide individuals with the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of an issue, country, or region outside the United States. The Institute awards fellowships to those who demonstrate initiative, integrity, communication skills, are serious and enthusiastic. Each applicant must submit a self-designed program and a strong rationale for the topic of their proposed fellowship. Applicants are encouraged to consider basing projects in Burma, India, Iran, North Africa, Russia, Venezuela, and Southeast Asia, but candidates may seek fellowships in any country. Previous fellows have been everything from teachers, to political scientists, to economists, or to physicians. All fellows spend two years immersed within a distinct culture for two years in order to observe the standards of development, transitivity of culturally constructed norms, and the breadth of gender issues. For more information, please visit http://www.icwa.org/About.asp.

Calls for Papers

The Third International Conference on Women Studies, Gender at the Crossroads: Multidisciplinary Perspectives will be held April 10-22, 2009. Offered by the Center for Women’s Studies at Eastern Mediterranean University, the conference will take place at the campus in Famagusta, North Cyprus. The conference aims to bring together scholars, researchers, performers and activists from various disciplines in the social sciences to present their works and exchange ideas in a wide range of issues such as economic, socio-cultural, law, politics, communication, and design. Specifically the conference will address comprehensively issues
of women’s representation, visibility and space by examining women in the media, popular culture, poverty and social exclusion, and women’s role in public and private areas. Activism will be looked at in relation to environment, religion, ethnicity, conflict, and militarism. Also, emerging paradigms of research methods will also be examined. The deadline for submitting proposals is June 27, 2008. For further information on the conference, contact cws-kaem@emu.edu.tr, or visit http://cws.emu.edu.tr/GCR2009/index.htm.

The Journal of Women’s History invites short submissions on Critical Feminist Biography for a roundtable on “The Subject and Critical Feminist Biography.” In this roundtable, we ask scholars from various fields who have been engaged in biographical projects to reflect on how the subjects of feminist biography get consolidated. What sorts of “filters” operate through the process of biographical work, from a scholar’s choice of subject to the pressures publishers may exert that result in highlighting some subjects and not others? How do we write biographies of social actors whose “marginal” energies we want to highlight and interrogate? For historians who foreground gender and women, does biography continue to offer a useful arena for feminist historical scholarship, or does it as a genre risk overemphasizing the recuperative and celebratory aspects of earlier women’s history? This question links back to that of the pressures on the biographer as a result of the multinational capitalist configuration of the publishing industry. What kinds of compromises must be made—if any—to move feminist biography outside of the academy? Can we articulate a feminist politics to a broader audience through biography? Our due date for submissions to this roundtable is July 15, 2008. Editors for this special issue are Marilyn Booth and Antoinette Burton. Please send queries to womenshistory@uiuc.edu.

The Southern Association for Women Historians invites proposals for the Seventh Southern Conference on Women’s History, to be held June 4-6, 2009, on the campus of the University of South Carolina, Columbia, North Carolina. The conference provides a stimulating and congenial forum for the discussion of all aspects of women’s history. Its program seeks to reflect the best in recent scholarship, especially by young scholars and graduate students. The program also wishes to reflect the diversity of women’s historical experiences and to explore the histories of women from a wide range of racial, class, and ethnic backgrounds. Proposals in Public History are especially welcome. The Program Committee solicits proposals for complete panels and individual papers, as well as roundtable sessions. All materials and attachments should be emailed to the program committee at SAWH2009@gmail.com. The body of your email should include your name, affiliation, phone and email address; please send the supporting materials (cover sheet, proposal and CV) in a Microsoft Word attachment. (Email inquiries may be directed to committee co-chairs Joan Johnson at joannjohnson@comcast.net or Allison Sneider at sneider@rice.edu.) The deadline for receipt of all materials is August 1, 2008.

The Journal of Ambulatory Care Management is a peer-reviewed journal that provides timely, applied information on the most important developments and issues in ambulatory care management. A call for papers has been issued for a Special Issue on Innovations in Primary Health Care in Latin America and the Caribbean. General guidelines for submission to the journal are available at http://www.ambulatorycaremanagement.com. Authors describing original research assessing primary health care organization, financing, management, and delivery in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to submit their work. We are particularly interested in impact evaluations, demonstrations of best practices, and policy analyses, but will consider other themes. All manuscripts should be submitted in English. Authors should email a structured abstract (up to 350 words and including introduction, methods, results, conclusions) no later than June 1, 2008. The editors will then be in contact with authors upon review of the abstract. Full manuscripts will
be solicited from among those authors who have submitted abstracts. The deadline for submitting completed manuscripts is September 1, 2008. For more information or to answer any questions, authors should feel free to contact guest editor, James Macinko (james.macinko@nyu.edu) or journal editor, Norbert Goldfield (nigoldfield@mmm.com).

Michigan State University graduate students and the African Studies Center at MSU are hosting a Second Annual Michigan State University Africanist Graduate Student Conference: Knowledge of Africa: New Researchers and the Next Fifty Years with the intent to foster an engaging atmosphere in which graduate students can discuss their research and receive important feedback. The conference will be held September 26-27, 2008, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Papers focusing on gender and development in Africa are particularly welcome. The conference is interdisciplinary and open to students at all levels of their graduate careers. We hope to receive submissions that present research proposals, research designs, dissertation or thesis chapters, methodological models, work in progress, outlines of dissertation and preliminary research findings. Michigan State University has over 175 faculty members that focus on Africa and some faculty will serve as discussants in the hope that they will offer constructive feedback to the conference participants. The conference is also designed to help prepare students, those who will be the career Africanists of the next fifty years, who will present at the 2008 African Studies Association Meeting “Knowledge of Africa: The Next Fifty Years” to be held in Chicago. Abstracts are due by August 29, 2008, to msuasgc@msu.edu. Abstracts submitted should include the author’s name, address, institutional affiliation, email address, and phone number. A $20 conference fee can be paid online through the conference Website upon abstract acceptance. More information can be found at the conference Website: http://africa.msu.edu/gradconference. Questions can be addressed to the conference organizers at msuafcon@msu.edu.

The International Feminist Journal of Politics has issued a call for papers for its “Conversations” Section. What are feminist forms of writing/speaking/viewing and how do they make a difference to international feminist theory, practice, and politics? The “Conversations” section of IFjP offers a place in which to experiment with feminist narrative, dialogical, and visual forms. Submissions are sought that make strong theoretical and/or practical contributions to feminist debates without necessarily taking standard academic form. Interviews, poetry, film readings, photo essays, and exchanges of letters are some of the forms this section promotes. Transnational, multi-national, and global perspectives are especially welcome. Submissions and submission enquiries should be directed to both Conversations editors: Anna M. Agathangelou (agathang@yorku.ca) and Heather Turcotte (hmturcotte@juno.com).

Online Resources

The Minnesota African Women’s Association (MAWA) promotes the health and well-being of African refugee and immigrant women and their families in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul through research, education, advocacy, and programming. We are a pan-African women’s nonprofit organization providing services and programming of interest to women from all African countries living in Minnesota. MAWA is governed by a board that is made up of African and American men and women who have remarkable perspective of the issues that face African women and their families in the Twin Cities. MAWA believes in the advancement of African women that will lead to social and systems change. Find events, programs, and volunteer opportunities. http://www.mawanet.org/

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) is pleased to present its new Website. This is a specialized Website on access to justice for trafficked persons. It is intended to be a tool for those providing legal assistance or advocating for the rights of trafficked persons during the legal process. The site contains legal resources, relevant publications and guides as well as a forum for sharing information, strategies and experiences so that, ultimately, more individuals who have
been trafficked or exploited at work or during the migration process have better recourse to justice. http://www.gaatw.net/atj/

To mark International Women’s Day 2008, Oxfam Publishing is providing free online access to Oxfam books, journal articles, and policy papers on women and gender. This offer features free access to the latest Program Insights Papers: Learning for Action on Women’s Leadership and Participation recently published. http://publications.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam/IWD.asp

Francophone Resources and Websites (Siyanda). This interactive portal for French speakers aims to make visible different experiences and thinking on gender mainstreaming in the South and the North, across various sectors. The site includes “20 Key Gender Websites in French” and “20 Key Francophone Resources on Gender: An Annotated Bibliography.” http://www.genreenaction.net/

The Southern African HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service has developed a Women’s HIV/AIDS Treatment Literacy Toolkit. Southern Africa remains by far the most affected region by the HIV and AIDS epidemic. This toolkit aims to empower girls and women in communities to make informed decisions when accessing and demanding their rights to full participation in anti-retroviral (ART) treatment programs, strengthen their coping mechanisms in adhering to ART and be able to support the ongoing care of their counterparts. It comprises a number of separate PDF documents including information fact-sheets, illustrative stories and diagrams, posters, stickers and a treatment calendar. http://www.safaids.org.zw/viewpublications.cfm?linkid=47

WOMANSTATS Database is aimed at providing researchers, policymakers, students, and laypersons with a comprehensive compilation of information on the status of women in the world, this database contains over 240 variables on the status of women for 172 nation-states with populations over 200,000. Variables include those relating to nine aspects of women’s situation and security. The database will also include seven indices of women’s situation and security, including indices ranking nations concerning level of violence against women in society, equity in family law for women, degree of son preference, toleration of trafficking in women, extent to which women are involved in societal decision-making, access to appropriate health care for women, and societal investment in advancing women’s opportunities. http://www.womanstats.org

The Disseminating Research Online Toolkit provides broad tips and practical suggestions for communicating academic research using the Internet. It draws on best practice for Web strategies from the information and commercial worlds, especially selected to help the successful electronic dissemination of your research. http://www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=373

Peacewomen has compiled translations of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and made them available online in eighty-four languages. Translations in a number of other languages are needed. If you can help with those languages (see Website), write to info@peacewomen.org. http://www.peacewomen.org/1325inTranslation/index.html

Wikigender is your online platform to find and exchange information related to gender equality. The Website is a work in progress and benefits from your active participation. Users are invited to comment on or improve existing articles, and to create or upload new documents. By providing a platform to share experiences and to learn from each other’s knowledge, Wikigender will contribute to a better understanding on the situation of men and women around the world. http://www.wikigender.org
Cooperation Column

Founded in 1991, the Women’s Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) is an international organization that advocates for women’s equality in global policy. Working in key global forums such as the UN, WEDO advocates for and seeks to empower women as decision makers to achieve justice, a healthy, peaceful planet and human rights for all. WEDO is a women’s human rights organization that advocates for women’s equality at the global level. We emphasize women’s critical role in the social, economic, and political spheres and bring together women of diverse backgrounds from all regions of the world to share experiences and expertise and to take action on common agendas. WEDO advocates for the equal participation of women locally, nationally and globally, promotes alternative economic models that are just and equitable, and promotes multilateralism and international cooperation for peace and human rights. To advance our goals, we focus on four main program areas:
* The Economic and Social Justice Program promotes a gender perspective as necessary to advancing the economic and social rights of women and all people by focusing on poverty eradication, international trade, debt cancellation, and resource allocation.
* The Gender and Governance Program works for women’s full and equal access in public life, working towards women’s equal participation and representation, especially in governmental decision-making positions.
* The Sustainable Development Program fosters development that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just and works to strengthen alliances between the women’s and environmental movements.
* The U.S. Global Policy Program focuses on the unprecedented influence of the U.S. government on world affairs and its impact on women’s daily lives and works to counter the negative impact of U.S. unilaterism on women living in the U.S. and around the world.

For more information contact the Women’s Environment & Development Organization, 355 Lexington Ave., 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA. Email wedo@wedo.org, phone 212-973-0325, and visit their Website at http://www.wedo.org.

Book Review

Natives Making Nation: Gender, Indigeneity, and the State in the Andes, edited by Andrew Canessa, 2005, 201 pp. Published by the University of Arizona Press, Tucson.
Reviewed by Rowenn Kalman, Graduate Student, Michigan State University Department of Anthropology

In the introduction to Natives Making Nation, Andrew Canessa asserts that both individual identity and the ways in which individuals imagine the nation become corporeal through actions such as dancing, singing, and weaving. Through these acts, subaltern people in the Andes engage with hegemonic ideas about indigeneity and gender, but they also create, contest, reinvent, and deploy these ideas in unexpected ways. The volume contains six ethnographic case studies that focus on these corporeal actions and explore the interconnections among gender, nationalism, and race in the Andes.
Each chapter makes a contribution to global studies on gender and women, but a few key points merit mention here. Canessa examines the contexts of domestic violence in a rural town and writes that indigenous women are doubly removed from what is valued in Bolivia because they are both native and female. However, he finds that Indian women are central to the Bolivian state both economically and symbolically. These women support the economic center through subsistence agriculture while men migrate for low paying labor opportunities. Indigenous women also serve as the “other” to the mestizo-creole ideal. Thus the Andean nation-state relies on indigenous women, even as the dominant ideologies marginalize indigenous people and feminize indigenous men.

Several chapters also reveal how women confront and reinvent ideas of nationalism and belonging through their actions, drawing on existing gender ideologies to position themselves strategically. Elayne Zorn describes how the Peruvian government failed to protect the autonomy of an indigenous tourism industry on the Island of Taquile. This led the women of Taquile to physically confront an abusive tour operator. The men, who occupied the public positions and worked more with NGOs and agencies, were ultimately “shamed” into joining them. Krista Van Vleet focuses on the consumption of clothing to understand how young women in one rural village construct themselves as gendered, ethnic, and national subjects. In chapter five, she describes how one young girl marks herself as civilized by buying canvass shoes after a teacher calls her an Indian. Another young woman buys polleras (traditional skirts) with earnings from her urban job so that she can dance and show off her economic success at home during Carnival. Van Vleet argues that through their consumption choices, these youths articulate multiple identities which connect them to the nation state and their home villages.

Weismantel’s afterward does an excellent job of synthesizing diverse contributions. She argues that identities are not innate but made through everyday practices and thus have fluid, material, and social characteristics. Although Weismantel asserts that there are no authentic natives with intrinsic identities, at times contributing authors allude to “real” natives or simplify the Bolivian population in their discussions of dominant and marginal classes. The book reveals the complexity of rural identities, but authors occasionally reference generic “metropolitan elites” or “mestizo urbanites” as sources of coherent, dominant ideologies. This limits the analysis since these polarized categories are part of the hegemonic effect the book seeks to deconstruct.

The narrow focus of this book does have a few limitations. Very little is mentioned about other Indian populations in South America or transnational influences on identity politics in the Andes. Only the Bolivian Andes (with the exception of Zorn’s piece, set in Peru) is addressed, but the tight geographical focus is balanced by the diverse topics and multilayered analysis. Clearly written and concise, this book would be appropriate for undergraduate or graduate seminars in anthropology, history, and sociology, particularly those focused on gender, Latin America, or identity studies. It would also compliment other thematic courses that draw from Benedict Anderson’s Imagined Communities, Judith Butler’s work on performance, and Michael Taussig’s work on mimesis. Overall, Natives Making Nation makes a valuable contribution to Anthropology and Andean studies with insights about identity and gendered nationalisms.
If there are any problems with your address, please provide our office with a correction:
E-mail: bulletin@msu.edu  •  Telephone: 517-353-5040  •  Fax: 517-432-4845

For information on the Center for Gender in Global Context, visit http://www.gencen.msu.edu or e-mail gencen@msu.edu
For information on GenCen’s Women and International Development Program, visit http://www.wid.msu.edu

Thank You.