



BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

- From the WID Office1
- Articles1
- Audiovisuals.....5
- Monographs and
Technical Reports7
- Periodicals.....9
- Books10
- Study Opportunities.....14
- Conferences.....14
- Grants and
Fellowships16
- Calls for Papers17
- Online Resources19
- Cooperation Column.....20
- Book Review20

Executive Editor:

Anne Ferguson, PhD

Managing Editors:

**Joel Christian Reed,
MA, MPH**

Heather Yocum

Editorial Assistants:

Emily Christensen

Laura Wolaver

Design and Layout:

Terri Bailey

Women and International Development
a program of



Michigan State University

From the WID Office

Women and International Development (WID), a program of the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) at Michigan State University (MSU), is pleased to present the Fall 2008 WID Bulletin. Focusing on sustainable development worldwide, the WID Bulletin, along with the WID Working Papers, encourages scholars, practitioners, and activists to view gender as a key component of programs, research, and theory. As a cross-disciplinary center, GenCen takes women's studies abroad to the Global South, where agriculture, health, environment, human rights, and humanitarian interventions require considering essential aspects of social organization, such as the roles women and men play in shaping and defining our world, cultures, politics, and economies. The WID Bulletin and WID Working Papers, as well as specialized annotated bibliographies, are downloadable at no charge from our Web site at www.gencen.msu.edu/publications.htm. Upon request, hard copies can be mailed to those who join our subscription list; just send an email to bulletin@msu.edu. Here you will find current and relevant resources on gender in the developing world, including academic articles, technical documents, and reports from international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Fellowships, grants, conferences, and calls for paper proposals are included as well. Please feel free to distribute or share this bulletin, and suggestions or contributions are always welcome.

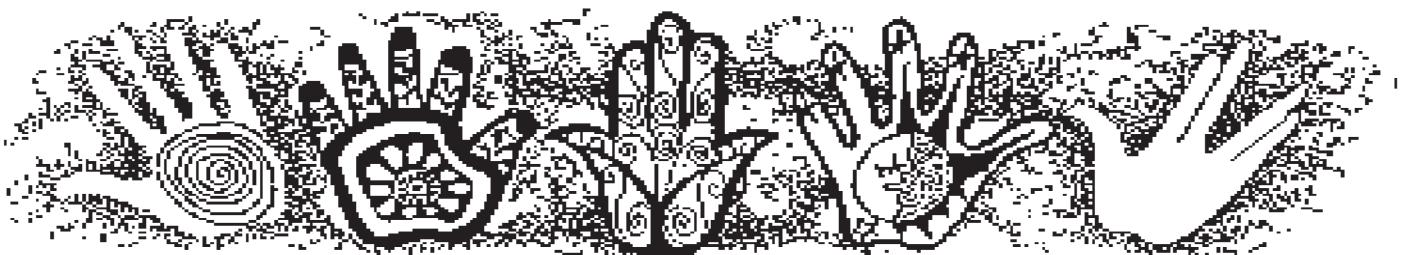
This semester has seen quite a few changes in the GenCen Staff. We bid farewell to **Nidal Karim**, former co-managing editor of the WID Working Papers series. She is now defending her proposal exploring the resource needs of domestic violence survivors with children. **Anna Jefferson** will continue editing the series. We also say goodbye to **Lisa Reichstetter**, GenCen's part-time secretary for nearly one year, who very soon will begin a full-time job in MSU's Study Abroad Office. Galena Ostipow has joined GenCen as the new part-time secretary. Galena is a May 2008 graduate from MSU's English Honors and Classical Studies programs. We also welcome three new interns to GenCen joining us

from MSU's James Madison College. **Laura Wolaver** is a senior studying international relations, with interests in science policy and public health. She is compiling an annotated bibliography on international water issues and health. **Emily Christensen** is a sociology major in her junior year at MSU, currently compiling an annotated bibliography for GenCen on male violence toward women and its impact on HIV/AIDS in South Africa. **Jena Donlin** is a professional writing senior from Birmingham, MI, who will be helping GenCen redesign and market our outreach materials. Also, we welcome **Heather Yocum** as the new managing editor of the WID Bulletin. Heather is a doctoral student in MSU's Anthropology Department and is studying natural resource management, access and distribution in Malawi.

Christian Reed, the former WID Bulletin managing editor, will begin his dissertation research in January, focusing on traditional and prophet healing, access to antiretroviral therapy, and HIV/AIDS activism in northern Mozambique. Both Christian and former GenCen Internship Coordinator **Becca Meuninck** received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award during the last funding cycle. We wish them both luck in the field!

Articles

Development, Volume 48, Issue 4, December 2005: "Integrating Feminist Agendas: Gender Justice and Economic Justice," by Carol Barton, pp. 75–84. Vibrant and vital global feminist movements have developed over the past thirty years to address a broad agenda for women's rights. Carol Barton argues that in many cases these movements have tended to focus on specific issues and, in particular, to prioritize one over another. This is particularly true in a divide between those working on gender justice issues, including sexual and reproductive health, violence, and women's control over their bodies, and women working on a broad development and/or economic justice agenda. Efforts like Cairo and Beijing UN conferences that link these themes have not always changed the fact of specialization among



women's organizations. This has had significant political implications, where feminist agendas have been pitted against each other in official venues such as the United Nations. Barton gives a brief history of this dichotomy and its pitfalls, the implications for the Millennium Development Goals and Millennium Summit process, and important new efforts to integrate feminist agendas, including the Feminist Dialogues, the Feminist Task Force of the Global Call against Poverty, the Countdown 2015 campaign, and recent collaborations at the UN Beijing +10 Review.

Development and Change, Volume 38, Issue 2, March 2007:

* "Old Dilemmas or New Challenges? The Politics of Gender and Reconstruction in Afghanistan," by Deniz Kandiyoti, pp. 169–199. This article situates the politics of gender in Afghanistan in the nexus of global and local influences that shape the policy agenda of post-Taliban reconstruction. Three sets of factors that define the parameters of current efforts at securing gender justice are analyzed: a troubled history of state–society relations, the profound social transformations brought about by years of prolonged conflict, and the process of institution building under way since the Bonn Agreement in 2001. This evolving institutional framework opens up a new field of contestation between the agenda of international donor agencies, an aid-dependent government, and diverse political factions, some with conservative Islamist platforms. At the grassroots, the dynamics of gendered disadvantage, erosion of local livelihoods, criminalization of the economy, and the insecurity at the hands of armed groups combine seamlessly to produce extreme forms of female vulnerability. The ways in which these contradictory influences play out in the context of a fluid process of political settlement will be decisive in determining prospects for the future.

* "Custom and the Courts: Ensuring Women's Rights to Land, Jharkhand, India," by Nitya Rao, pp. 299–319. Based on field research in Dumka district, Jharkhand, this article examines the mechanisms through which women operationalize their rights to land. It questions the polarization of legitimization systems into statutory codes and customary practices, and demonstrates the political and temporal situatedness of "law" and the processes of hybridization that allow for the actualization of a legal right, by providing it social recognition and validity. The article explores the choice of different arenas by women for making their claims, with the choice of a particular arena depending not just on access and resource availability, but also on the women's social positionality.



Development in Practice, Volume 17, Issue 4 & 5, August 2007:

"Talking of Gender: Words and Meanings in Development Organizations," by Ines Smyth, pp. 582–588. This article reflects on the vocabulary commonly used within development organizations to communicate about "gender and development." It argues that the relevant terminology, though frequently used, remains problematic. Some terms are almost entirely absent, while others are used loosely and inappropriately—with the subtleties of carefully developed and much-debated concepts often lost. Terms such as "empowerment," "gender," and "gender mainstreaming," which originated in feminist thinking and activism, have lost their moorings and become depoliticized. Despite these problems, there are indications that debates and language may be taking a more radical turn with the acknowledgement of the shortcomings of the practices of gender mainstreaming, the deepening interest in the notion of empowerment, and the explicit adoption of a human-rights language.

Gender & Development, Volume 15, Issue 1, March 2007:

* "No More Killings! Women Respond to Femicides in Central America," by Marina Prieto-Carroacuten, Marilyn Thomson, and Mandy Macdonald, pp. 25–40. This article looks at a specific form of social violence against women in Mexico and Central America—the violent murder of women—*femicidio* or *feminicidio* in Spanish, "femicide" in English. The authors explore the nature of femicide by analyzing the situation from a gender perspective, as an extreme form of gender-based violence (GBV), linking femicides with discrimination, poverty, and a "backlash" against women. In a climate of total state impunity, it is extremely important to support the responses of feminists and women's organizations in the region who are carrying out research to document

femicide and GBV in general, supporting survivors and their families, and carrying out advocacy activities.

* "Approaching Old Problems in New Ways: Community Mobilisation as a Primary Prevention Strategy to Combat Violence against Women," by Lori Michau, pp. 95–109. Raising Voices, a Uganda-based NGO, has been exploring and experimenting with community-based primary prevention methodologies that seek to shift attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate violence against women. This article shares some of the lessons learned from this process in East Africa over the last six years. It begins by setting forth a rationale for engaging in primary prevention efforts at the community level. It argues that comprehensive community mobilization is essential if we

are to see meaningful, sustained change on the issue of violence against women. It also describes the theoretical underpinnings of the approach and illustrates how these come to life in day-to-day programming in communities.

Gender & Development, Volume 15, Issue 3, November 2007:

“‘Telling Our Own Stories’: African Women Blogging for Social Change,” by Oreoluwa Somolu, pp. 477–489. This article explores how African women have embraced the blogging phenomenon and how blogs can be used to promote women’s equality and empowerment.

One of the reasons frequently cited for a lack of interest by African women in information and communication technologies (ICTs) is the lack of relevant content available to their needs. Blogging provides a way for women to become active creators and disseminators of knowledge, writing about what is important to them. As the author explores how African women are using blogs, she also examines the obstacles to blogging and why some women are not attracted to the technology.

Gender & Development, Volume 16, Issue 1, March 2008:

* “Investing in Women Farmers to Eliminate Food Insecurity in Southern Africa: Policy-related Research from Mozambique,” by Rose Gawayu, pp. 147–159. About 70 percent of the population in Southern Africa depends on agriculture as the main source of food, income, and employment. Women produce an estimated 70 percent of the food in the region. Recent studies have pointed to governments’ failure to invest in women farmers as one of the major contributing factors to food insecurity in Southern Africa (Drimmie and Mousseaux 2004). This article shares the findings of some Oxfam GB research, conducted in 2006, into government policy towards women farmers in Southern Africa, focusing on Mozambique.

* “AIDS, Women, Land, and Natural Resources in Africa: Current Challenges,” by Judy Oglethorpe and Nancy Gelman, pp. 85–100. AIDS-affected households in rural Africa often turn to natural resources as a livelihood safety net. Yet women affected by AIDS have less time for sound resource management, and indigenous knowledge is lost when parents die before educating their children. As demand and inappropriate use grow, resource depletion and land degradation increase. In many countries, widows cannot inherit land. As poverty deepens in the wake of AIDS, women and girls are often forced into prostitution,

accelerating the spread of HIV. Multi-sectoral approaches by development, health, and environmental organizations can reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS on women, rural communities, and the natural environment, through health work integrated with alternative livelihoods and women’s empowerment.

Gender & Development, Volume 16, Issue 2, July 2008: “Sexuality, Health, and Human Rights: Self-identified Priorities of Indigenous Women in Peru,” by Astrid Bant and Franccediloise Girard, pp. 247–256. The link

between sexuality and development is often not well understood, or it is thought to be a frivolous subject, to be addressed after other more “important” needs are met. But, from the perspective of indigenous women in Latin America, the right to control sexuality is in fact a crucial element in the improvement of their daily lives. Participatory assessments of health problems with Andean and Amazon women in Peru demonstrate that sexual-rights issues, particularly those related to gender inequality, are identified by the women themselves as the most important obstacles to their good health and wellbeing.

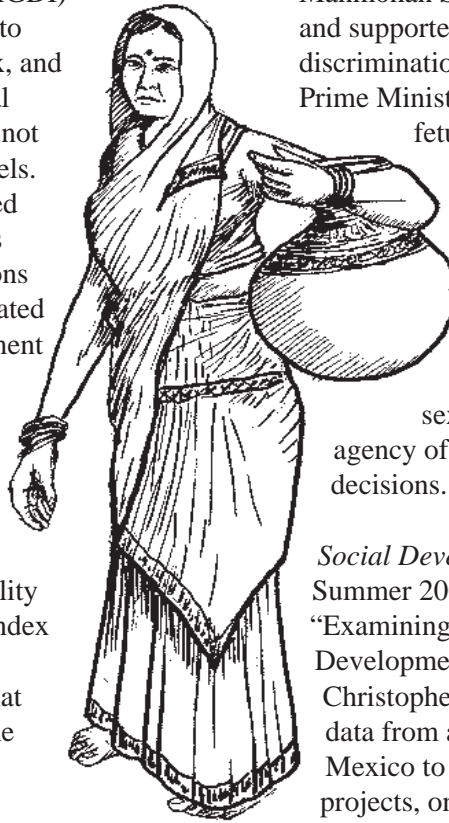
Journal of Historical Geography, Volume 34, Number 2, April 2008:

“From Trusteeship to Development: How Class and Gender Complicated Kenya’s Housing Policy, 1939–1963,” by Richard Harris, pp. 311–337. Colonial rule required the control of territory, nowhere more than in cities. In the early twentieth century, colonial policy in Kenya and the rest of East and Southern Africa had only grudgingly accommodated Africans in urban areas. After 1939, policy changed, not only in response to poor local conditions and social unrest but also because London’s new colonial development policy made a place for African workers in towns. From 1940, new housing and colonial policies acknowledged the importance of the discourses of class and gender. Administrators stabilized an African working class by building better municipal housing, and then sought to fashion a middle class by promoting home ownership. They began to promote housing for families, having recognized that African women could help make their men at home in the city and educate their children to become good citizens. The evolution of Kenya’s housing policy illuminates the characteristic pressures, calculations, and responses of colonial rule that were being played out internationally in the late colonial period.



Journal of Human Development, Volume 9, Issue 1, March 2008:

“On the Measurement of Gender Equality and Gender-related Development Levels,” pp. 87–108. The aim of this paper is, first, to present an overall development index corrected for gender differences—the Multidimensional Gender-related Development Index (MGDI)—which can be viewed as an alternative to the Gender-related Development Index, and secondly to present a Multidimensional Gender Equality Index (MGEI) that is not influenced by overall development levels. The new MGDI and MGEI are intended to overcome some of the shortcomings that characterize both the United Nations Development Programme’s gender-related indices—the Gender-related Development and the Gender Empowerment Measure—and other indices that try to measure gender inequality by itself. This is accomplished through an innovative approach in which the authors first outline the theoretical properties of a reasonable gender equality measure and an overall development index corrected for gender differences, and then present an appropriate measure that contains all those properties at the same time.



Medical Anthropology Quarterly, Volume 22, Number 1, March 2008:

“The Life and Death of a Street Boy in East Africa: Everyday Violence in the Time of AIDS,” by Chris Lockhart, pp. 94–115. This article focuses on the life history of Juma, a street boy in northwestern Tanzania. The author suggests that Juma’s experiences and his own life trajectory, as well as those of significant individuals around him—particularly his mother—was structured by everyday violence. Everyday violence is described in terms of a conjuncture between macrostructural forces in East Africa (including a history of failed development schemes and the contemporary political economy of neoliberalism) and the lived experiences of individuals as they negotiate local, contextual factors (including land-tenure practices, the power dynamics between immediate and extended kin, life on the streets, and constructions of gender and sexuality). The article suggests that AIDS and its many impacts on Juma’s life course can only be understood in a broader context of everyday violence. From this basis, the author draws several general conclusions regarding AIDS prevention and intervention strategies.

Population and Development Review, Volume 34, Issue 2, June 2008:

“Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on India’s Gender Imbalance,” pp. 387–389. India is one of a number of countries that record anomalous male-dominated sex ratios at birth. In a recent speech, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called attention to the gender imbalance and supported a nationwide campaign to end sex discrimination in this “gray area of national concern.” The Prime Minister describes selective abortion of a female fetus as a reprehensible practice. The remedy, he says, lies in education and empowerment of women. While that may well be the case in the longer run, cross-sectional research findings are less than supportive. The gender imbalance is positively associated with parental education and social status—whether linked to greater affordability of sex determination services or to the enhanced agency of higher-status parents in reproductive decisions.

Social Development Issues, Volume 29, Number 2, Summer 2007:

“Examining the Role of Gender in Community Development in Mexico,” by Eric Hadley-Ives and Christopher R. Larrison, pp. 61–76. This study used data from a survey of 701 people (418 female) in rural Mexico to measure perceptions of two development projects, one based upon a grassroots model and another expert-driven. Findings were indistinguishable across gender: the grassroots project was favored, and the poorest were least impressed with both projects, regardless of gender. Despite the lack of any special emphasis on women’s issues, men and women had similar perceptions of the projects, showing that in some cases projects may succeed without promoting gender equity.

Surfacing, Volume 1, Number 1, May 2008:

“Rethinking Women’s Empowerment: A Critical Appraisal of Gender Mainstreaming in International Human Rights Law,” by Kavita Kapur, pp. 26–50. This paper will focus on the empowerment dimensions of the human rights project. In particular, it explores how international human rights law, as constituted by the resolutions and policies of the United Nations, conceives of women’s empowerment. The author begins by introducing gender mainstreaming—the dominant discourse of women’s rights among international institutions—as well as the feminist theory foundations from which it stems. The article then applies this feminist lens to a reading of a number of texts by international institutions, including resolutions, definitions, and statements, in an attempt to outline the parameters of gender mainstreaming and some

of its most salient debates. In focusing on the dimensions of “gender perspective,” “women mainstreaming,” and “gender(ed) equality” that constitute the core constructivist aspects of gender mainstreaming, the article highlights the ways in which disruptive narratives are marginalized, gender is reduced and naturalized as a man-woman binary, and systems of oppression go unchecked. As such, this paper is not simply a pragmatic critique of gender mainstreaming, but rather questions the need for and usefulness of gender mainstreaming and highlights the problems associated with the creation of a gendered mainstream.

World Development, Volume 36, Number 1, January 2008: “Gender Differentials in Literacy in India: The Intriguing Relationship with Women’s Labor Force Participation,” by Aparna Sundaram and Reeve Vanneman, pp. 128–143. Contrary to expectations from either human capital or gender empowerment perspectives, analyses across 409 Indian districts show that girls have relatively lower literacy compared to boys in areas where more women are in the labor force. The most likely explanation is that areas with higher women’s labor force participation are also areas with higher girls’ labor force participation; these higher rates of girls’ labor depress their literacy and education. Gender inequalities in literacy are therefore an exception to the usual egalitarian impacts of women’s labor force participation and remind us again of the multidimensionality of gender inequalities.

World Development, Volume 36, Number 5, May 2008: * “Men’s Crops and Women’s Crops: The Importance of Gender to the Understanding of Agricultural and Development Outcomes in Ghana’s Central Region,” by Edward R. Carr, pp. 900–915. The study of gender and development is an area of inquiry fraught with tension between “theoretical” and “practical” concerns. This article seeks to intervene in the standoff between these concerns by examining the mismatch between the conclusions one can draw about gendered patterns of agriculture in Ghana if one adopts either a “mainstream” or a feminist post-structuralist approach to gender. By illustrating the ways in which mainstream approaches to gender and development conceal important variability in the vulnerabilities experienced by those often lumped into the categories of “woman” and “man,” this examination shows how contemporary writing on gender and development might inform “practical” development efforts in a manner that results in measurably improved project outcomes.

* “Women and Fish-for-Sex: Transactional Sex, HIV/AIDS and Gender in African Fisheries,” by Christophe Béné and Sonja Merten, pp. 875–899. This paper analyzes

the phenomenon of fish-for-sex in small-scale fisheries and discusses its apparent links to HIV/AIDS and transactional sex practices. The research reveals that fish-for-sex is not an anecdotal phenomenon, but is a practice increasingly reported in many different developing countries, with the largest number of cases observed in Sub-Saharan African inland fisheries. An overview of the main narratives that attempt to explain the occurrence of fish-for-sex practices is presented, along with other discourses and preconceptions, and their limits discussed. The analysis outlines the many different and complex dimensions of fish-for-sex transactions. The paper concludes with a set of recommendations.

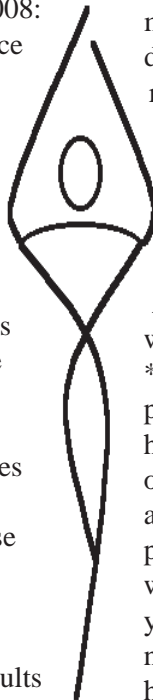
Audiovisuals

Available from Sun & Moon Video Productions
www.sunandmoonvision.com

Leading the Way of Peace. History is recorded from women’s perspectives in this inspiring documentary film. It presents a dynamic group of women from diverse backgrounds who reveal in-depth stories of the struggles they have been involved with and the progress that they have made in their countries. The film features women from the conflict-affected countries of Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala, tracing their personal stories of peacemaking, courage, and hope. The stories are those of four seemingly ordinary women (students, mothers, daughters, teachers, artists, business women) of different ages, religions, and cultural backgrounds, who rise up and take daring, non-violent stands and action in times of war and post-conflict resolution. In one way or another, they are all working toward the same goals—peaceful communities, gender equality, and human dignity—so that we all benefit. 2006, 65 min.

Available from First Run/Icarus Films
www.frif.com

* *The Sugar Curtain*. In this revealing autobiographical portrait, the filmmaker returns to Havana to reflect on her childhood and adolescence during the “golden years” of the Cuban Revolution. Growing up during the ’70s and ’80s, Cuba seemed like a paradise, where the state provided everything—education, healthcare, housing, work—and she was part of an idealistic generation of young “Pioneers” enthusiastically dedicated to building a new society. Although Camila and her former classmates have today largely become disillusioned because of the failure of the Revolution to deliver on its long-delayed promises, they remain nostalgic about a meaningful time in their lives and in the lives of their parents, the Revolution’s first generation. 2007, 80 min.



* *Inside Out*. This film relates the experiences of three transsexuals living in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Allowing them to tell their stories, we see the lifelong struggle to come to terms with their gender dysphoria, how this mind/body conflict has affected their everyday behavior, and the impact of hormone therapy and sex-change surgery on their lives. The film also includes revealing interviews with a Muslim cleric, who explains that the majority of Iran's religious leaders consider transsexuality to be a human rights issue and therefore support gender reassignment surgery; a psychiatrist, who explains the difference between homosexuality and transsexuality and how the condition cannot be cured psychologically; and a surgeon, who discusses the nature and the difficulties of the required surgery. 2006, 39 min.

Available from the National Film Board of Canada
www.nfb.ca

Finding Dawn. This film puts a human face on a tragedy that has received precious little attention—and one which is surprisingly similar to the situation in Ciudad Juarez, on the other side of the U.S. border. Dawn Crey, Ramona Wilson, and Daleen Kay Bosse are just three of the estimated five hundred Aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada over the past thirty years. Acclaimed Métis filmmaker Christine Welsh embarks on an epic journey to shed light on these murders and disappearances that remain unresolved to this day. She begins at Vancouver's skid row, where more than sixty poor women disappeared, and travels to the "Highway of Tears" in northern British Columbia where more than two dozen women (all but one Native) have vanished. This engrossing film illustrates the deep historical, social, and economic factors that contribute to the epidemic of violence against Aboriginal women. It highlights the disturbing, worldwide culture of impunity that allows murders of women—especially those who are poor, indigenous, or sex workers—to go unsolved and unpunished. Recommended viewing for courses in Native and Indigenous studies, women's studies, sociology, psychology, and courses that cover issues of violence against women. 2006, 73 min.

Available from the Public Broadcasting Service
www.pbs.org

Birth of a Surgeon. Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's deadliest place to give birth. Each year over a quarter of a million women die in childbirth in the region. But Mozambique is combating high maternal death rates by implementing unconventional programs. The film follows Emilia Cumbane, one of the first midwives-in-training. She performs Caesareans and hysterectomies in makeshift operating rooms in rural Mozambique. We follow Cumbane from her home in the Mozambican capital

Maputo, into intensive medical classes, and through night shifts in the delivery wards, and then watch as she fights for recognition of her surgical competence. Watch the film free online. 2008, 120 min.

Available from Women Make Movies
www.wmm.com

* *The Women's Kingdom*. One of the last matriarchal societies in the world lives beyond the strictures of mainstream Chinese culture. In this remote area of southwest China, women enjoy great freedoms and also bear heavy responsibilities. Beautifully shot, this documentary gives the audience a rare glimpse into a society virtually unheard of ten years ago. Mosuo women control their own finances and do not marry or live with partners. Instead, they practice what they call "walking marriage." A man may be invited into a woman's hut for a "sweet night," but he must leave by daybreak. Tourism has brought wealth and convenience to Mosuo, but has also posed difficult challenges to the preexisting culture. The effects of tourism range from the pollution of lakes, to the creation of brothels, to encounters with mainstream ideas about women, beauty, and family. This film sensitively portrays extraordinary women who struggle to hold on to their extraordinary society. 2006, 22 min.

* *Macho*. In 1998, Managua, Nicaragua, became host to one of the most publicized and controversial cases of sexual abuse to hit modern-day Latin America. A revolutionary hero, Nicaraguan Sandinista leader and ex-President Daniel Ortega was accused of rape and battery by his stepdaughter. After this occurrence, a group of men rallied to organize a radical campaign against domestic violence and sexual abuse. Their efforts eventually led to the development of an internationally acclaimed organization. Despite a destitute living style, this group has succeeded in providing a model that is used by men worldwide to discuss issues of violence and advocate for the rights of women. 2000, 26 min.

* *My Home—Your War*. This film offers an extraordinary look at the effect of the Iraq war through the eyes of an Iraqi woman. Shot in Baghdad over a period of three years, this film spans the time before, during, and after the invasion of Iraq. Profoundly moving, it articulates a perspective that has been unavailable to U.S. audiences in the past. This film not only contains insightful interviews with Layla Hassan and her family, but vibrant scenes of Baghdad as well. Also, Layla herself contributed intimate footage to paint a compelling picture of how the war has affected average Iraqis. As Islamic fundamentalism becomes more prominent in the chaos of Baghdad, her shy teenage son turns to militancy, her once-progressive



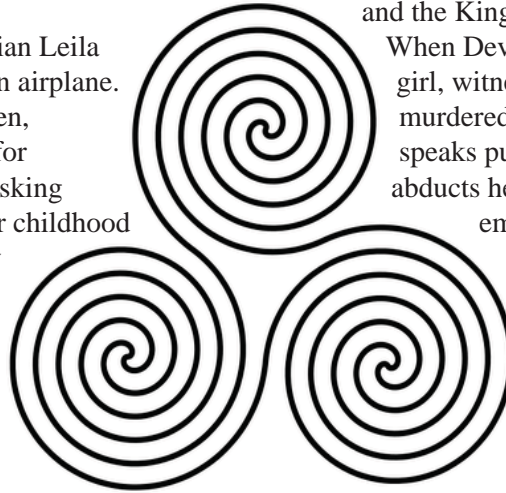
sister begins to wear the veil, and any freedom Layla had under Saddam Hussein's secular rule steadily erodes. *My Home—Your War* is a compelling account which details the progression towards fundamentalism within Iraqi society and the subsequent endangering of women's rights. 2006, 52 min.

* *Leila Khaled, Hijacker*. In 1969, Palestinian Leila Khaled became the first woman to hijack an airplane. As a Palestinian child growing up in Sweden, filmmaker Lina Makboul admired Khaled for her bold approach; as an adult, she began asking complex questions regarding the legacy her childhood hero created. This fascinating documentary is a portrait of Khaled, an exploration of the filmmaker's own understanding of her Palestinian identity, and a complicated examination of the ambiguous distinction between "terrorist" and "freedom fighter." Makboul finds Khaled living an ordinary life in Jordan, still firm in her belief that her actions were necessary and fully justified. The film weaves together scenes with Khaled, archival footage, and interviews with passengers from the planes Khaled hijacked. Makboul's understanding of the Palestinian national narrative now includes Khaled's actions. Throughout the film, Makboul attempts to reconcile this understanding with the negative images she encounters from the rest of the world of Palestinians as bloodthirsty terrorists. At the same time, she comes to know Khaled as a very real person. They talk, travel together, and share meals. The result is a multi-dimensional film unlike any other in its skillful handling of the complexities that arise when liberation movements incorporate violence as a tactic. 2005, 58 min.

* *Iron Ladies of Liberia*. After surviving a fourteen-year civil war and a government riddled with corruption, Liberia is ready for change. On January 16, 2006, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was inaugurated President—the first freely elected female head of state in Africa. Having won a hotly contested election with the overwhelming support of women across Liberia, Sirleaf faces the daunting task of lifting her country from debt and devastation. She turns to a remarkable team of women, appointing them in positions such as police chief, finance minister, minister of justice, commerce minister, and minister of gender. The film follows these "Iron Ladies" behind the scenes during their critical first year in office as they tackle indolent bureaucracy, black markets, and the omnipresent threat of violent riots. Highlighting the challenges that African countries currently face, this film provides an uplifting example of women who have become the backbone of change. 2007, 77 minutes.

* *The Sari Soldiers*. Filmed over three years during the most historic and pivotal time in Nepal's modern history, *The Sari Soldiers* is an extraordinary story of six women's courageous efforts to shape Nepal's future in the midst of an escalating civil war against Maoist insurgents, and the King's crackdown on civil liberties.

When Devi, mother of a fifteen-year-old girl, witnesses her niece being tortured and murdered by the Royal Nepal Army, she speaks publicly about the atrocity. The army abducts her daughter in retaliation, and Devi embarks on a three-year struggle to uncover her daughter's fate and see justice done. *The Sari Soldiers* follows her and five other brave women, including Maoist Commander Kranti; Royal Nepal Army Officer Rajani; Krishna, a monarchist from a rural community who leads a rebellion against the Maoists; Mandira, a human rights lawyer; and Ram Kumari, a young student activist shaping the protests to reclaim democracy. The film intimately delves into the extraordinary journey of these women on opposing sides of the conflict, through the democratic revolution that reshapes the country's future. 2008, 90 min.



*M*onographs & Technical Reports

Available from Population Council
www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/horizons/India_SakhiSaheli_Eng.pdf

"Promoting Gender Equity and Empowering Young Women: A Training Manual," by Sakhi Saheli, 2008, 136 pp. Women's heightened vulnerability to HIV is influenced by some of the major inequalities between women and men in various aspects of living. This manual aims to promote critical reflection on the social construction of gender that promotes inequality and women's vulnerabilities, and to create support for challenging these norms so as to enhance women's adoption of risk reduction practices. The manual is aimed at peer educators, community and health educators, teachers and/or other professionals working with young women aged 16 to 24 years. Its main sections look at: gender and identity; sexuality, reproductive health, and rights; violence; motherhood and care giving; and preventing and living with HIV/AIDS.

Available from the Division for the Advancement of Women, UN Department of Economic and Social Development
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing_gender_equality/EGM%20Report%20Final.pdf
“Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Report of the Expert Group Meeting,” 2007, 49 pp. The Expert Group Meeting explored the mechanisms of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular in relation to follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development, including macroeconomic policies; public finance, including gender-responsive budgeting; mobilization of international resources, including bilateral and multilateral assistance; and new and innovative sources of funding. The potentials and challenges of the different modalities and mechanisms, as well as the role of key actors involved, were discussed. This report is the outcome of the meeting. It provides inputs for the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women.

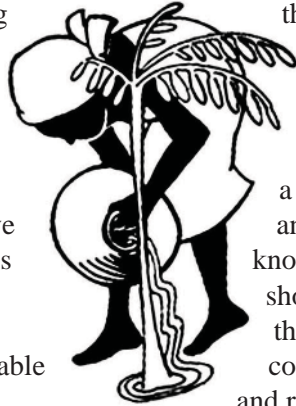
Available from the UK Gender & Development Network
www.gadnetwork.org.uk/pdfs/Jan08/GAD-Network-Report.pdf
“Women’s Rights and Gender Equality, the New Aid Environment and Civil Society Organizations: A Research Project of the UK Gender and Development Network,” by Helen Collison, Helen Derbyshire, Brita Fernández Schmidt, and Tina Wallace, 2008, 57 pp. This report was researched and written because of a growing concern about the fast changing aid structures, such as direct budget support, pooled funding schemes for supporting civil society, and other forms of donor alignment, and their possible implications for work on gender equality and women’s rights issues in the Global North and South. In many countries, Civil Society Organizations play a crucial role in working towards gender equality and women’s rights. Understanding how they are faring under the new aid mechanisms becomes critical in understanding whether current funding is supporting or inhibiting the commitment to gender equality and women’s rights present in so many policies. The report highlights some of the key questions emerging for civil society around the way the new aid systems promote, marginalize, or exclude gender equality and women’s rights issues, as well as developing themes for future targeted research. Above all, it reveals that many women’s organizations and those focused on challenging gender inequality feel threatened as the focus of funding moves in the direction of larger grants, tighter, short-term targets, demonstrable and ‘scaled up’ results, and intensive administration.

Available from the World Health Organization and the Health Systems Knowledge Network
www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/equity_feminism_chile_2007_en.pdf
“The Contribution Made by Women’s and Feminist Movements to Equity in Health: The Chilean Experience,” by Paula Santana Nazarit, 2007, 17 pp. This document offers an historic overview, stretching from the final years of the military dictatorship (1988–1989) to the present, of the action of women’s and feminist movements on behalf of health. The interest in recording the work of the women’s movement in the field of health has arisen because it is considered to have been the forerunner of the progress currently being made in respect to gender equity within the Chilean health system. A review of publications, working documents of a number of organizations (principally the Forum-Network on Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights and the Chilean Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence), and interviews with those who were active founders and participants in the most important moments of the women’s health movement has been used to highlight certain milestones and strategies, chosen because of their direct impact on public policies and government programs or their significant role in developing a public debate over certain topics.

Available from the World Health Organization and the Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network
www.who.int/social_determinants/resources/csdh_media/wgekn_final_report_07.pdf
“Unequal, Unfair, Ineffective and Inefficient ~ Gender Inequity in Health: Why It Exists and How We Can Change It,” by Gita Sen, Pirooska Östlin, and Asha George, 2007, 145 pp. Gender inequality damages the physical and mental health of millions of girls and women across the globe, and also of boys and men despite the many tangible benefits it gives men through resources, power, authority, and control. Because of the numbers of people involved and the magnitude of the problems, taking action to improve gender equity in health and to address women’s rights to health is one of the most direct and potent ways to reduce health inequities. Deepening and consistently implementing human rights instruments can be a powerful mechanism to motivate and mobilize governments, people, and especially women themselves. Seven approaches that can make a difference are outlined in the report.



Available from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/water/gender_water.pdf
 “Gender and Water ~ Securing Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods: The Multiple-uses System Approach,” by Robina Wahaj with Maria Hartl, 2007, 32 pp. Most of the world’s 1.2 billion poor people, two-thirds of whom are women, live in water-scarce countries and do not have access to safe and reliable supplies of water. IFAD recognizes the linkages between poverty and gender issues and places great importance on women’s empowerment as a means to reduce poverty and food insecurity. This review examines the impact of water-related projects on women, their role in managing water resources, and the constraints women face in gaining access to water. It presents lessons learned in promoting women’s participation in decision making for water management using experiences from several IFAD-supported water programs and projects. It highlights the innovative activities and catalysts that have helped to address gender issues in water programs and projects and offers recommendations on how to improve women’s access to water resources through equitable development and gender mainstreaming.



and over five million certificates have been delivered. This study, conducted in the Oromiya Region (OR) and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia, aims to assess the early impacts of land registration and certification, which has been implemented in those regions since 2004. Special emphasis is placed on the impacts of the reform on women, including the impacts of joint certification for husbands and wives. Recommendations offered by the study as to how women’s land rights could be strengthened further include: the recent change in the laws in OR and SNNPR allowing individual ownership can undermine the rights of women and can make them landless upon divorce or death of the husband; Land Administration Committees (LACs) should be established at the sub-village (sub-kebele) level with female representation (minimum two members); a system for training of local LAC members and conflict mediators to strengthen their knowledge of the law and their gender awareness should be developed; a critical assessment of the competence, knowledge, and practice of the courts at different levels needs to be undertaken, and radio should be used to disseminate information.

Available from the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

www.un-instraw.org/en/docs/1325/1325-Guide-ENG.pdf
 “Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A Guide to Policy and Planning on Women, Peace and Security,” by Kristin Valasek with Kaitlin Nelson, 2006, 78 pp. This practical guide facilitates the creation of policies and concrete action plans for women’s participation in peace and security initiatives through the provision of good practices, specific recommendations, and a six-step model process. It incorporates strategic planning, participatory planning, and gender/socio-economic analysis methodologies, as well as lessons from previous approaches used by regional organizations and countries, in order to compile a planning resource for governments, United Nations, and regional organizations, as well as NGOs who are interested in developing plans and policies on women, peace, and security issues.

Available from Centre for Property Rights and Development, Norwegian Mapping and Cadastre Authority
www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=35321
 “From Being Property of Men to Becoming Equal Owners? Early Impacts of Land Registration and Certification on Women in Southern Ethiopia,” by Stein Holden and Tewodros Tefera, 2008, 94 pp. Land certification has been implemented in Ethiopia since 1998,

*P*eriodicals

- Development in Practice*, special issue on Operationalizing Participatory Research and Gender Analysis, Volume 18, Issue 4 & 5, August 2008, includes the following articles:
- * Operationalizing Participatory Research and Gender Analysis: New Research and Assessment Approaches; by Nina Lilja and John Dixon
 - * Some Common Questions about Participatory Research: A Review of the Literature; by Nina Lilja and Mauricio Bellon
 - * The Lost 1990s? Personal Reflections on a History of Participatory Technology Development; by Stephen Biggs
 - * Impact Assessment of Farmer Institutional Development and Agricultural Change: Soroti District, Uganda; Esbern Friis-Hansen
 - * No More Adoption Rates! Looking for Empowerment in Agricultural Development Programmes; by Andrew Bartlett
 - * Appraisal of Methods to Evaluate Farmer Field Schools; by Francesca Mancini and Janice Jiggins
 - * Engaging with Cultural Practices in Ways that Benefit Women in Northern Nigeria; by Annita Tipilda, Arega Alene, and Victor M. Manyong

- * Strategies for Out-scaling Participatory Research Approaches for Sustaining Agricultural Research Impacts; by Aden A. Aw-Hassan
- * Integrating Participatory Elements into Conventional Research Projects: Measuring the Costs and Benefits; by Andreas Neef

Feminist Studies, special issue on Global Feminism, Volume 33, Issue 1, 2007, includes the following articles:

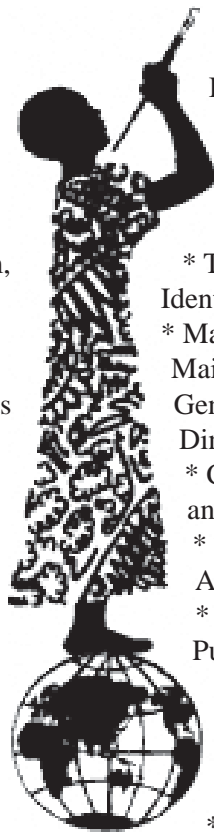
- * Ser y Tener: Black Women's Activism, Development, and Ethnicity in the Pacific Lowlands of Colombia; by Kiran Asher
- * Transnational Feminisms in a Globalized World: Challenges, Analysis, and Resistance (Book Review); by Marilyn Porter
- * Feminist Visions for Women in a New Era: An Interview with Peggy Antrobus; by Michelle Rowley
- * Women in the Oaxaca Teachers' Strike and Citizens' Uprising; by Electa Arenal
- * Attacking the Washington "Femmocracy": Antifeminism in the Cold War Campaign against "Communists in Government"; by Landon R. Y. Storrs
- * Permission to Rebel: Arab Bedouin Women's Changing Negotiation of Social Roles; by Sarab Abu-Rabia Queder

Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Volume 13, Number 1, 2006, includes the following articles:

- * Reflecting on Resistance: Hindu Women "Soldiers" and the Birth of Female Militancy; by Atreyee Sen
- * Labouring to Love: Romantic Love and Power in the Construction of Middle-class Femininity; by Louise Vincent and Caryn McEwen
- * Rethinking the Cost-Benefit Equation of Women's Participation in Community-driven Development in Northwestern Cameroon; by Charles C. Fonchingong and Canute A. Ngwa
- * Gender and the Composition of Corporate Boards: A Ghanaian Study; by Mohammed Amidu and Joshua Abor
- * The Part-time Degree Course and its Influence on Nigerian Women's Participation in Higher Education; by J.A. Aderinto, J.O. Akande, and C.O. Aderinto

Wagadu, a Journal of Transnational Women's and Gender Studies, special issue on Intersecting Gender and Disability Perspectives in Rethinking Postcolonial Identities, Volume 4, Summer 2007, includes the following articles:

- * (Post)colonising Disability; by Mark Sherry
- * Vitalism: Subjectivity Exceeding Racism, Sexism and (Psychiatric) Ableism; by James Overboe



- * Colonial Discourses of Disability and Normalization in Contemporary Francophone Immigrant Narratives: Bessora's *53 cm* and Fatou Diome's *Le Ventre de l'Atlantique*; by Julie Nack Ngue
- * Monsters in the Closet: Biopolitics and Intersexuality; by Nadia Guidotto
- * The Technology of Immortality, the Soul, and Human Identity; by Richard A. Jones
- * Making the "Unfit, Fit": The Rhetoric of Mainstreaming in the World Bank's Commitment to Gender Equality and Disability Rights; by Rebecca Dingo
- * Cultural Rehabilitation: Hansen's Disease, Gender and Disability in Korea; by Eunjung Kim
- * The Disabling Nature of the HIV / AIDS Discourse Among HBCU Students; by Bruce Wade
- * Gender, Disability and the Postcolonial Nexus; by Pushpa Naidu Parekh
- * "I Don't Ask God to Move the Mountain, Just Give Me the Strength to Climb It": Disability Stories of Southern Rural African American Women; by Aline Gubrium
- * Isolation and Companionship: Disability in Australian (Post) Colonial Cinema; by Katie Ellis.

Books

Published by Zubaan Books
www.zubaanbooks.com

* *Gender and the Built Environment in India*, edited by Madhavi Desai; 2004, 350 pp. At various levels, from the city to the institutions and from the neighborhood to the dwelling, the ideal and the real about the social relationship between men and women is expressed in the built form. Cultural rules govern the use of space and codes regulate behavior between genders. This work argues that in every aspect of life, public and private, gender roles have been created. Despite indigenous or urban environments, employment statuses, and class differences, cultural rules govern behavior between genders. Both ideal and actual relationships between men and women are examined through constructed norms. This book focuses on the role women play as consumers and creators of such norms and regulations, particularly in India and other areas of South Asia. These essays cover a wide range of issues, such as domesticity and the home, women laborers and construction work, the practice of architecture, education in general and in schools of architecture, women and leisure, and women's relationship to the public sphere and housing in common rhetoric.

* *Poster Women: A Visual History of the Women's Movement in India*, compiled by Zubaan; 2006, 146 pp. *Poster Women* is an archive of over 1,500 posters from the Indian women's movement, collected over an eighteen-month period from all over India. This unique archive illustrates the dynamism, richness, and variety of this important movement. Spanning from the '70s to today, this collection is divided into key components covering areas such as violence, health, political participation, the environment, religion and communalism, literacy rights, and marginalization. Different themes are also consistently utilized throughout the collection, such as the use of the goddess metaphor, or the marketing of days that have gained particular importance to the movement. The collection has been sourced from over two hundred groups all over the country.

Published by Routledge
www.routledge.com

* *Gendered Peace: Women's Struggles for Post-War Justice and Reconciliation*, edited by Donna Pankhurst; 2007, 224 pp. This volume contributes to the growing literature on women, conflict, and peace building by focusing on the moments after a peace accord or some other official ending for a conflict, often denoted as "post-conflict" or "post-war." Such moments often herald great hope for holding to account those who committed grave wrongs during the conflict and for a better life in the future. For many women, both of these hopes are often very quickly shattered in starkly different ways to the hopes of men. Such periods are often characterized by violence and insecurities, and the official ending of war often fails to bring freedom from sexual violence for many women. Within such a context, efforts on the part of women, and those made on their behalf, to hold to account those who commit crimes against them and to access their rights are difficult to make, are often dangerous, and are also often deployed with little effect. *Gendered Peace* explores the international and local contexts in which such struggles take place and evaluates their progress. The volume highlights successful international legal advances for women, but contrasts this with the lived experiences of women from Sierra Leone, Rwanda, South Africa, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, East Timor, Peru, Central America, and the Balkans.

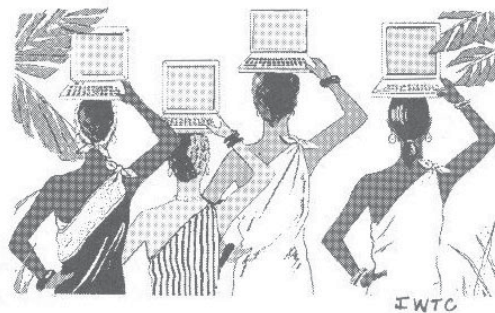
* *New Perspectives on Gender and Migration: Livelihood, Rights and Entitlements*, edited by Nicola Piper; 2007, 362 pp. This book discusses recent theoretical and empirical developments in international migration from a gender perspective. Its main objective

is to analyze the diversification and stratification of gendered migratory streams with regard to skill level, labor market integration, and legal status. In turn a migrant's position in relation to these axes influences access to entitlements and rights. Conceptually, the book builds upon the recent shift in scholarly research on migration, with women-centered research shifting more toward the analysis of gender. Migration is now viewed as a gendered phenomenon that requires more sophisticated theoretical and analytical tools than sex as a dichotomous variable. Theoretical formulations of gender as relational, and as spatially and temporally contextual, have begun to inform gendered analyses of migration. The contributions to this book elaborate on the broader social factors that influence migrating women's and men's roles and access to resources, facilities, and services. Empirically, all major regions are discussed, pointing to common trends, such as the increasing significance of the regionalization of migration flows, as well as some noteworthy differences.

Published by Women Ink
www.womenink.org

* *Revisiting Gender Training: The Making and Remaking of Gender Knowledge: A Global Sourcebook (Gender, Society and Development Series)*, edited by Maitrayee Mukhopadhyay and Franz Wong; 2007, 176 pp. What are the implications of building feminist knowledge and approaches, which ultimately challenge traditional models of power and knowledge, in contexts that value acquisition of knowledge over processes of learning? What are the assumptions of the links between knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and practice in gender studies and training and how do these mesh with the learning and knowledge contexts of the societies and organizations where such educations and training occur? This book is concerned with the thought behind gender education and training rather than with day-to-day practice. Weaving together case studies from India, Uganda, the Maghreb and Francophone Africa, this book critically explores the explicit and implicit assumptions in gender training—about the nature of knowledge, how knowledge is imparted, and about knowing. It includes an extensive and up-to-date annotated bibliography of international resources (print and online) on the subject as well.

* *Women, Development and the UN: A Sixty-Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, by Devaki Jain; 2005, 230 pp. This book traces the ways in which women have enriched the work of the United Nations (UN) from the time of its founding in 1945. Jain incorporates insights from extensive literature on women and development, as



well as from her own broad experience. The evolution of the UN's programs aimed at benefiting the women of developing nations and the impact of women's ideas about rights, equality, and social justice have greatly impacted UN thinking and practice regarding development. Jain presents this history from the perspective of the southern hemisphere, recognizing that development issues often look different when viewed from the standpoint of countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The book highlights the contributions of the four global women's conferences in Mexico City, Copenhagen, Nairobi, and Beijing in raising awareness, building confidence, spreading ideas, and creating alliances.

* *Women's Experiences during Armed Conflict in Southern Sudan, 1983–2005: The Case of Juba County Central Equatorial State*, by Isis-Women's Cross Cultural Exchange; 2007, 114 pp. As a result of the prolonged civil armed conflict in Southern Sudan the women experienced acute poverty, food insecurity, poor health, and sexual and gender-based violence. Aimed at documenting the experiences and circumstances of the Southern Sudanese women in the two decades of the armed conflict, this study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach that utilizes a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Issues addressed include the pre-armed conflict environment, causes of the conflict and women's experiences in the outbreak of conflict, including atrocities committed during the war, damages to property, sexual and gender-based violence, flight, life in refugee camps, and the causes of death.

* *What Happened to the Women? Gender and Reparations for Human Rights Violations*, edited by Ruth Rubio-Marín; 2006, 346 pp. What happens to women whose lives are transformed and curtailed by human rights violations? What happens to the voices of victimized women once they have their day in court or in front of a truth commission? Women face a double marginalization under authoritarian regimes and during and after violent conflicts. Reparations programs are rarely designed to address the needs of women victims and the introduction of a gender component is vital and necessary in order to improve their response to female victims and their families. This book considers these questions and ideas through contributions from a wide range of actors in transitional justice work, including human rights lawyers, NGO representatives, and members of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions. Gender and reparations policies in Guatemala, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Timor-Leste are also explored.

Published by Kumarian Press
www.kpbooks.com

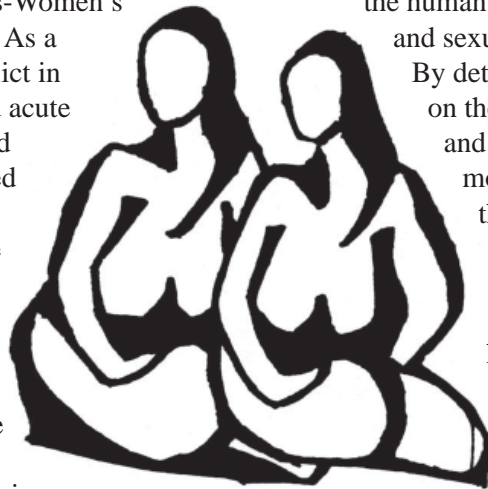
* *Born of War: Protecting Children of Sexual Violence Survivors in Conflict Zones*, edited by R. Charli Carpenter; 2007, 288 pp. Despite the international humanitarian community's interest in sexual violence as a problem in conflict situations and the protection of war-affected children, there has been no recent research that assesses the needs and interests of children born of war in different contexts. Further, there is no significant body of knowledge by which to establish best practices with respect to advocating for and securing their human rights. This book attempts to fill that gap by drawing together the perspectives of twenty-five scholars from fourteen disciplines to provide a multi-faceted view of

the human rights of children born of wartime rape and sexual slavery in conflict zones worldwide.

By detailing the impacts of armed conflict on these children's survival, protection, and membership rights, as well as through moving case studies, the book illustrates the tragic fact that these children are particularly vulnerable in conflict zones and pose a very pressing human security concern. Case studies also highlight the different responses made by communities towards these children. The book is framed within the lens of advocacy, as contributors have conducted their research with the goal

of advocating for greater consideration of this group of children in international human rights discourse and practice.

* *Budgeting for Women's Rights: Monitoring Government Budgets for Compliance with CEDAW*, edited by Diane Elson; 2006, 172 pp. People's access to services and resources are determined by government budget policies. Gender budgets initiatives around the world have attempted to systematically examine how government budgets address discrimination with regard to women's access to housing, employment, health, education, and other services. Often these exercises have been eye openers; a budget analysis of domestic violence policies and laws in seven countries in Latin America, for example, revealed that appropriations for domestic violence programs and interventions were non-existent in cases. Similar evidence of gender discrimination is found when examining taxation policies. This publication adds a landmark to the discourse on the link between human rights standards and government budgets. It elaborates on how budgets and budget policy-making processes can be monitored for compliance with human rights standards, in particular with the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).



Combining substantive analysis with country examples, the publication explores how a rights-based budget analysis can be applied to public expenditure and budget decision making. In the context of discussions on aid effectiveness, direct budget support, and accountability Budgeting for Women's Rights is of particular relevance.

Published by the University of California Press
www.ucpress.edu

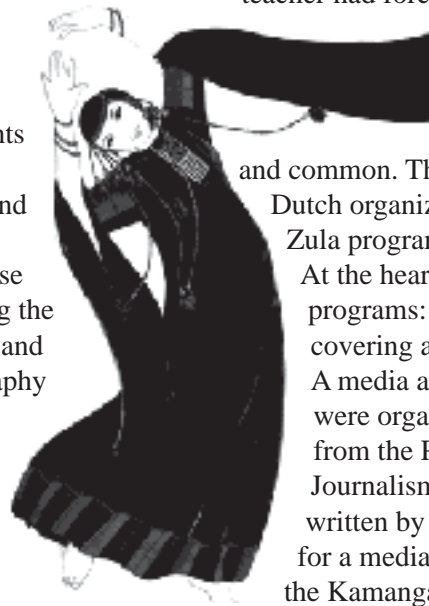
Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories, by Lila Abu-Lughod; 2008, 312 pp. In 1978, Lila Abu-Lughod climbed out of a dusty van to meet members of a small Awlad 'Ali Bedouin community. Living in this Egyptian Bedouin settlement for extended periods during the following decade, Abu-Lughod took part in family life, with its moments of humor, affection, and anger. She witnessed striking changes, both cultural and economic, and she recorded the stories of the women. *Writing Women's Worlds* is Abu-Lughod's telling of those stories; it is also about what happens in bringing the stories to others. She draws on anthropological and feminist insights to construct a critical ethnography of a small Awlad 'Ali Bedouin community in Egypt. She explores how the telling of stories of everyday life challenges the power of anthropological theory to render adequately the lives of others and the way feminist theory appropriates Third World women.

Published by Lynne Rienner Publishers
www.riener.com

Men, Militarism & UN Peacekeeping: A Gendered Analysis, by Sandra Whitworth; 2004, 225 pp. In important, controversial, and at times troubling book, Sandra Whitworth looks behind the rhetoric to investigate from a feminist perspective some of the realities of military intervention under the UN flag. Whitworth contends that there is a fundamental contradiction between portrayals of peacekeeping as altruistic and the militarized masculinity that underpins the group identity of soldiers. Examining evidence from Cambodia and Somalia, she argues that sexual and other crimes can be seen as expressions of a violent "hypermasculinity" that is congruent with militarized identities, but entirely incongruent with missions aimed at maintaining peace. She also asserts that recent efforts within the UN to address gender issues in peacekeeping operations have failed because they fail to challenge traditional understandings of militaries, conflict, and women. This unsettling critique of UN operations, which also investigates the interplay between gender and racial stereotyping in peacekeeping, has the power to change conventional perceptions, with considerable policy implications.

Published by the Michigan State University Press
www.msupress.msu.edu

* *Gender Based Violence: Twenty-Three Stories*, edited by Kamanga Zula; 2008, 128 pp. In 2006 the Malawian Parliament passed the "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act," providing a tool for the legal system to address a part of Gender Based Violence. Researchers at the Alan Guttmacher Institute reported in 2006 that 25 percent of female Malawian adolescents included in the research sample had experienced forced sex. Most of the participants stated that their boyfriends, strangers, or a teacher had forced them. Although reliable data on



the incidence of Gender Based Violence is scarce, there is an increasing body of knowledge indicating that it is widespread and common. The Story Workshop, supported by the Dutch organization Cortaid, initiated the Kamanga Zula program to fight Gender Based Violence. At the heart of the project are two weekly radio programs: a serial drama and a panel discussion covering all aspects of Gender Based Violence. A media analysis was carried out and workshops were organized for student journalists, both from the Polytechnic and the Malawi Institute of Journalism. The articles in this publication were written by the participants of those workshops for a media contest, organized as a component of the Kamanga Zula project.

* *Growing Up: A Chewa Girls' Initiation*, by Molly Longwe; 2008, 168 pp. Worldwide, societies have instituted rites of passage to mark transition, and African societies have given much prominence to them. Important as transition rites are, they are everywhere under the pressure of change. Even before colonial times, the Chagga reduced the boys' initiation from three months to one; and the Zaramo in Tanzania who in the 1930s secluded their girls from the onset of menstruation to marriage, reduced the seclusion to one week. Both the Chagga and the Zaramo made the changes as a group and without major outside influences. In other societies, specific outside influences are strong, as among the Chewa in Central Malawi where the Presbyterian Nkhoma Mission around 1940 forbade the traditional *chinamwali* for its members and replaced it by a Christian *chilangizo* with some success. There appears to have been much less success on the Baptist side, which attempted a similar approach in the 1960s. This book investigates that phenomenon: what factors caused the Baptist approach to fail, given initiation for girls was as important; what is the traditional initiation which any new approach would have to replace; and how could a *chinamwali* be framed for Chewa girls that is equally Christian and culturally relevant?

Published by Weaver Press

www.weaverpresszimbabwe.com

Women Writing Zimbabwe, edited by Irene Staunton; 2008, 144 pp. The fifteen stories in *Women Writing Zimbabwe* offer a kaleidoscope of fresh, moving, and comic perspectives on the way in which events of the last decade have impacted individuals, women in particular. Several stories (Tagwira, Ndlovu, and Charsley) look at the impact that AIDS has on women who become the caregivers, often without emotional or physical support. It is often assumed that women will provide support and naturally make the necessary sacrifices. Brickhill and Munsengezi focus on the hidden costs and unexpected rewards of this nurturing role. Many families have been separated over the last decade. Ndlovu, Mutangadura, Katedza, Mhute, and Rheam all explore exile's long, often painful, reach and the consequences of deciding to remain at home. In a lighter vein, but with equal sharpness of perception, Gappah, Manyika, Sandi, and Holmes poke gentle fun at the demands of newfound wealth, status, and manners. Finally, Musariri reminds us that the hidden costs of undisclosed trauma can continue to affect our lives for years afterwards. All of the writers share a sensitivity of perception and acuity of vision. Reading their stories will enlarge and stimulate our own understanding.



intensely experiential, ISDSI courses are expeditions into the cultures and ecologies of Thailand. Each course is focused on understanding sustainable development and designed in collaboration with local communities. The course model includes training in field research, leadership, and expedition skills. Courses include Thai Language; Society and Development; Ethnic People and Natural Resources; Social and Biological Factors in Sustainable Agriculture; Marine Protected Areas and Reef Ecology; Rivers, Dams, and Local Struggles; Islands, Reefs, and Mangroves; and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Development. Visit www.isdsi.org for more information or e-mail info@isdsi.org.

The *International Training Center of the International Labor Organization* (ILO) is offering online training courses. Gender, Poverty, and Employment is offered in English and Spanish, and Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the World of Work is offered in English and French. Courses can be taken through either a guided reading mode or a tutored course mode. These courses are available to ILO constituents (Governments, Workers', and Employers' Organizations of all member countries), other international and non-governmental organizations, individual experts, and professionals from all over the world. No costs or obligations are associated with using the online Gender Campus. For more information or to enroll in a course, visit www.itcilo.org/en.

SIT Study Abroad is offering programs in Mali on Gender, Health, and Development, in the Balkans on Gender, Transformation, and Civil Society, and in the Netherlands on International Perspectives on Sexuality and Gender. A variety of courses are offered during the programs. SIT offers culturally rich and academically engaging study abroad programs for undergraduates in over fifty countries. Applicants are welcome from all nationalities. More information can be found at www.sit.edu/studyabroad.

Study Opportunities

The United Nations established *The University for Peace (UPEACE)* in Costa Rica in 1980. The UPEACE Institute offers unique training and short course study opportunities for practitioners, students, and academics interested in the fields of environment, peace, conflict, entrepreneurship, terrorism, development, film, violence, and food security. A college degree and other UPEACE admission requirements are needed for those students who wish to obtain credits for their own programs. For training purposes no college degree is required. These courses generally vary in length from one to three weeks. The program course list ranges from "Peace Operations" to "Environmental Security Assessment: Principles and Practices" to "Exploring Constructs of Gender and Ethnicity." For further inquiries, please contact institute@upeace.org or visit www.upeace.org/academic/training.

The *International Sustainable Development Studies Institute* (ISDSI) is a recognized leader in innovative study-abroad programs. Academically challenging and

Conferences

The inaugural conference hosted by the *African Women in America* organization is being held October 17–18 at Loyola University in Chicago. The event aims to focus on grassroots needs, as well as the promotion of education and advocacy with regards to issues concerning

women and children in Africa. Organizers have outlined objectives to be achieved, including the establishment of a networking forum, the identification and development of resources, and continued work towards coordinated action, all focused on women and children in Africa. For more information, e-mail afwiamconf@luc.edu or visit their Web site at www.afwiam.org.

The Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, with support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is hosting a conference entitled *Sex/ualities In and Out of Time* November 28–29 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. The concept of time has become a useful component when approaching gender studies and queer theory, especially with how the concept structures and determines bodily experiences and expressions. Various panels will explore links between heterogeneous temporalities and dissident sex/ualities. Registration is open until October 25. Contact sexualitiesconference2008@hotmail.co.uk or access the event Web site at www.sexualitiesconference.co.uk.



The Association for Research on Mothering (ARM) is holding its 12th Annual Conference on *Mothering, Violence, Militarism, War, and Social Justice* from October 24–26 at York University in Toronto, Canada. Confirmed keynote speakers include Flavia Cherry, national chairwoman of the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA); Gertrude Fester, commissioner on the Commission of Gender Equality South Africa; Linda Renney Forcey, author of *Mothers of Sons: Toward an Understanding of Responsibility*; Sara Ruddick, author of *Maternal Thinking: Toward a Politics of Peace*; Tisetso Russell, comparative, international and development education at the University of Toronto; and Audette Sheppard, founder of United Mothers Opposing Violence Everywhere (UMOVE). See www.yorku.ca/arm/index.html for more information or e-mail arm@yorku.ca.

The South East Asian Association for Gender Studies, Malaysia branch, is hosting the 6th *International Conference on Gender Studies*. The event will be held in Penang, Malaysia on November 29–30. Objectives of this year's conference are centered on diversity, interconnectivity, and empowerment from a gender perspective. Attendees will be able to strengthen research and networks through discussions with fellow researchers, policy makers, and activists within the fields

of gender, diversity, interconnectivity, and empowerment. For registration information and more details on the conference, contact sama6pg@yahoo.com or bahiyah@ukm.my, or visit the Web site at www.geocities.com/sama_ukm.

The Gender Research Center and Gender Studies Program at the Chinese University of Hong Kong has announced it is hosting a conference called *Gender & Family in East Asia* on December 12–13 in Hong Kong, China. Many East Asian countries have experienced vast societal changes in the past century, and with that come transformations to the family structure. This event will examine the family structure patterns that have emerged recently with regards to the impact that globalization has had on the diversity and multiculturalism of the region and changing family values over time. A desired outcome of this conference is that factors contributing to evolving family patterns will be identified and networks will be established among participants and leaders. For more information, contact Sally Lo at grcentre@cuhk.edu.hk or visit their conference Web site at www.cuhk.edu.hk/hkiaps/grc/conference2008/conference2008.htm.

McGuire Global Recruitment will host the *World HIV/AIDS Conference* in Johannesburg, South Africa on October 16–17. As in the past, focus will be on the ongoing fight against the spread of the disease, and the presentation of the latest research and technology. Highlights include a group panel discussion hosted by industry leaders and the presentation of case studies and new scientific research. In addition, other panels, speakers, and sessions will cover topics such as access to affordable treatment, voluntary testing and counseling, sexual violence, and HIV and teen pregnancy. This conference will also provide opportunities for an international exchange of ideas regarding prevention education and strategies to help aid in the fight against HIV/AIDS. For more information contact info@mcguireglobalrecruitment.com or visit their Web site at www.mcguireglobalrecruitment.com/careerFairs.php?fid=8.

MELUS–India (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States–India Chapter) and MELOW (The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the World) announce a combined conference, *Literary Transactions in a Globalized Context: Multi-Ethnicity, Gender, and the Marketplace*, taking place November 28–30, 2008, at Visvabharati

University, in Shantiniketan, West Bengal. Themes for the conference include, but are not limited to, the relevance of literary theories; globalization and pedagogy; the politics of literary prizes and awards; and the global literary marketplace. These themes should be examined from various perspectives—such as gender, sexuality, economics, diversity, religion—and how they relate to biases in the production of literatures. This conference will focus on literatures of the South, including South America, Africa, and Australia, as well as critical studies of American literature and American Studies. For more information, please see www.melusmelow.org/conf.html.

The Jubilee Conference on Women's Education Secretariat and the Women's Studies and Research Centre of Banasthali University, a national institution for women's education in Rajasthan, India, announce the *Jubilee Conference on Women's Education: Vision and Mission of Women's Universities in Global Society*, to be held November 11–13, 2008. This conference aims to redefine the vision and mission of women's universities in the era of globalization and to understand what women's education would mean in years to come. Topics include, but are not limited to, the role of universities in empowering women and developing leadership; the impacts of globalization and development on educational culture and policies; women's experiences in the fields of science and technology; partnerships with NGOs, industry, the local community and universities abroad; and the future role of women's universities. For more information, please contact the JCWE Secretariat at jcwe@bv.banasthali.ac.in.

G **Grants and Fellowships**

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) provides grants to local, national, sub-regional, and regional organizations in Africa working towards women's empowerment. Grant beneficiaries should be running projects that fall within AWDF's six thematic areas of: women's human rights, political participation, peace building, health, reproductive rights, HIV/AIDS, and economic empowerment. Eligible applicants can be local, national, sub-regional, or regional African women's organizations from any part of Africa. The grants can be used for projects related to AWDF's six thematic areas, organizational growth and development, and for capital costs. Grant awards range from \$1,000–40,000. For more information on AWDF grant criteria and to apply, visit www.awdf.org or e-mail awdf@awdf.org or grants@awdf.org;



Ambassadorial Scholarships are being offered by the Rotary Foundation. The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to promote international understanding, cultural appreciation, and increase comprehension of the different challenges facing developed and developing nations. This program is available for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. For this reason recipients are only placed in regions where Rotary clubs exist. Upon returning home, scholars also share with Rotarians the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country. Founded in 1947, nearly 38,000 men and women from about 100 countries have studied under this program. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. For more information, visit www.rotary.org.

The Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program (IFP) provides opportunities for advanced study to exceptional individuals who will use this education to become leaders in their respective fields, furthering development in their own countries and greater economic and social justice worldwide. IFP 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 where the Ford Foundation maintains active overseas programs. Currently, these are Brazil, Chile, China, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, and Vietnam. Applicants may choose to study in any country. All applications must be submitted to the appropriate IFP International Partner in the country or region where the applicant resides. IFP International Partners determine application deadlines and selection schedules in their region or country. More information is available at www.fordifp.net.

The International Gender Studies Center at the University of Oxford accepts both visiting research and visiting study fellows, studying issues broadly concerned with gender, culture, and development. Visiting fellows come with their own research plans; they follow individualized research or study programs with appointed facilitators, according to their needs. They attend seminars, lectures, and workshops, and these provide useful opportunities for cross-cultural exchange of research ideas. Contact may be arranged with other universities or non-academic institutions for fellows to attend

seminars or give papers. Visiting fellows stay for up to a year or for as little as a month, depending on available funding and research time. Limited financial aid may be available. Applicants should write to the program coordinator of IGS, enclosing curriculum vitae, information about the proposed research, and the intended dates of their visit, and should arrange for two references to be sent to the center. More information is available at users.ox.ac.uk/~cccrw/visitingfellowships.html.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) sponsors an *Investing in Women in Development (IWID) Fellows Program*. The purpose of the IWID program is to make USAID programs and projects more effective by ensuring that gender issues are integrated in the design and implementation of all activities. This is accomplished by placing mid-career US professionals in USAID bureaus and implementing partners, in the field and in Washington, DC. Fellowships are appointed on an as needed basis and are posted on the IWID Web site. Applicants should be mid-career level, technically experienced US citizens holding a graduate degree. To obtain more information, visit www.iie.org/programs/iwid/.

Mama Cash supports innovative women's initiatives in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The organization supports grants, project grants, and travel grants. It allows organizations to fulfill the basic conditions for their activities: it pays for office costs; staff costs; and capacity building of the organization including its staff and volunteers. Project support is for costs directly related to a specific project that the group initiated and organizes. Travel grants are for individuals, who are members of women's rights organizations, to attend trainings, conferences, and other linking and learning events, which will help the organization build its knowledge and capacities in the area of their activities as well as strengthen their network. Find out more at www.mamacash.org/page.php?id=785.

The Program in Women's Studies at Duke University invites applications for two residential postdoctoral fellowships for the 2009-10 academic year for scholars engaged in research on visual culture and racial and gendered formation. The aim of the 2009-10 Women's



Studies Postdoctoral Program is to provide a space for generative intellectual conversations between visiting scholars and Duke faculty in different disciplines.

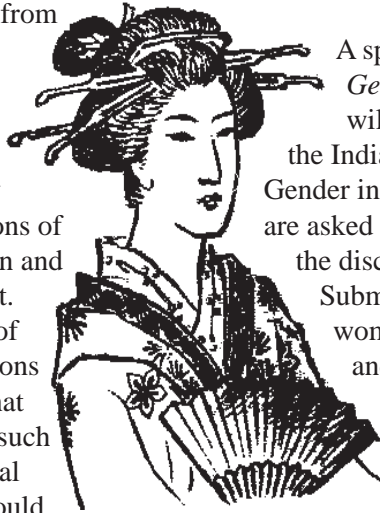
Successful proposals will be interdisciplinary in nature and demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of gender studies and critical race studies, as well as an expertise in visual culture as it pertains to their research project. The program is particularly interested in transnational, historical, and interdisciplinary projects. Postdoctoral fellows will be included in a faculty-graduate seminar on these themes, will teach one course related to their research, and are expected to be in residence for the 2009-10 academic year. The fellowship includes a stipend, health insurance, office space, and clerical support. For more information or to apply, please visit www.duke.edu/womstud.

Calls for Papers

A new journal entitled *Culture, Society and Masculinities*, to be launched in Spring 2009, is currently soliciting articles to be peer reviewed and used for publication. The main focus of this journal will be on men/boys, masculinity, and genders in historical, political and/or sociological frameworks. The editors of the journal are giving priority to papers that encompass reviews and critical discussions in theory development, policy trends and/or area studies. For additional details regarding submission and topic relevancy, visit the journal's homepage at www.mensstudies.info/CSM.html.

The March 2009 issue of the journal *Gender and Development* will feature articles focused around the theme of climate change and is accepting contributions. The journal presents an international viewpoint of the connections between gender and development, while also maintaining a feminist perspective. A key aim is to inform and improve development policy and practice through debating experience, identifying lessons, and advancing new ideas. Writers are asked to consider the causes of poverty and marginalization from both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Anyone interested in submitting a paper must contact the editor with their proposal, via e-mail at gadeditor@oxfam.org.uk. For additional details, visit www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1355-2074&linktype=44.

Organizers invite submissions for the eleventh annual *Stanford-University of California Law and Colonialism in Africa Symposium*, to be held March 19–21, 2009. The theme of this year’s symposium will be “Trafficking Women and Children after the End of Slavery: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives from Africa and Beyond.” Papers should focus on the changing modalities of the traffic in women and children in the aftermath of the “end of slavery” in late 19th and early 20th centuries and understanding law in practice in light of the changing conditions of supply and demand for women and children and changing mechanisms of legal enforcement. Papers which identify modes of exchange of subordinate women and children, explorations of the formal and informal legal regimes that underpin subordination, and efforts to end such trafficking from the international to the local levels are encouraged. Proposed papers should be based on original research in these areas. For further information, please contact Benjamin Lawrance (bnl@ucdavis.edu). To be considered, please send a 300-word abstract and a current CV to Richard Roberts (rroberts@stanford.edu) by October 30, 2008.



Conference organizers are requesting papers for the upcoming event, *Globalization and Human Rights in the Developing World*, to be presented March 21–22, 2009, at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada. Topics should be relevant to globalization and its impact in developing countries, as well as evaluate how human rights have been affected. Some possible options to focus on include: social movements; gender, health, and wellbeing; refugees and displaced persons; and food issues. Proposals need to be between 150–200 words and must be submitted by December 14, 2008. Additional information relating to proposals, as well as contact information, can be accessed at www.asia-globalstudies.org.

The *International Conference on Women and Spirituality* to be held in Aix-en-Provence, France, on June 12–13, 2009, will explore spirituality as a broad concept, of which religions are a crucial, visible part but which can also take a variety of pagan or secular forms. Studies offering a comparative analysis with France will be gladly considered, as will papers exploring such themes as the position of religious institutions and religious authorities towards women, female spirituality and the construction of a religious orthodoxy, accounts of female spirituality (autobiographies, diaries, hagiographies, eulogies), feminist perspectives, remembering the history of women’s spirituality, the historiography of female spirituality, female bodies and female spiritualities, and

women and spirituality in fiction and the visual arts. Proposals (approximately 400 words) should be sent to Dr. Laurence Lux-Sterritt (laurence.sterritt@univ-provence.fr) and Dr. Claire Sorin (clairesorin@hotmail.com) before November 15, 2008.

A special issue of the journal *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific* will feature articles about gender topics from the Indian perspective, entitled “Face(t)s of Woman: Gender in the Indian Cultural Context.” Applicants are asked to submit articles which center around the discussion of gender and women’s identities. Submissions would include representation of women’s issues in literature, arts, media, films, and book and film review, all with a connection to India. In addition to the aforementioned topics, interviews with activists and/or feminists, as well as book reviews of women previously unpublished or published before 2006, are welcome. E-mail carolyn.brewer@anu.edu.au or visit their call for papers at <http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue22/callforpapers.htm> for additional information.

Southern Africa in the Cold War Era, a Working Expert Seminar, will bring together scholars in the field of Southern African studies in the 1970s and 1980s—an era in which the sub-continent became a cauldron of the Cold War. Calls for papers are due to Dr Sue Onslow (s.onslow@lse.ac.uk) by December 1 for the seminar, being held in Lisbon, Portugal, from May 8–9, 2009. Topics might include: gender studies (the role and impact of armed struggle); the role of multinational corporations and NGOs; religion and liberation movements; and mobilization and organization. For more information, please see www.lse.ac.uk/collections/IDEAS/research/southernafricaninitiative/eventsSAI.htm.

The *Tenth Annual Graduate Symposium on Women’s and Gender History*, hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is issuing a call for papers. Organizers welcome individual papers on any topic of relevancy within the field of women’s and gender history. The theme of this year’s symposium is “Transforming Power,” and it is the goal of organizers to have papers which look at power as a world force and an analytical scaffold. The concept of power has transformed over the past few decades, especially in how it is utilized in feminist scholarship and activism. A range of interpretations on this topic are encouraged. The deadline for submission is November 1, 2008. For additional information see www.history.uiuc.edu/grad/current/org/wghs/cfp.htm or contact the Programming Committee Chairs at gendersymp@gmail.com.

The Pennsylvania State University Women's Studies Graduate Organization invites submissions for *Sexing the Globe: Affairs at Home and Abroad*. The conference seeks to address critical questions about the role of feminist studies in a global context. Organizers strongly encourage graduate students to submit proposals. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words in length and are due December 15, 2008. Possible topics include migration, local and global politics of reproductive health and choice, conflict and war, global LGBT issues, religion, or technology and communications. For a complete list of possible topics, or for more information on submission procedure, please contact the Women's Studies Graduate Organization at wsgo.officers@gmail.com.

Online Resources

The Association for Women's Rights in Development's *Aid Effectiveness and Women's Rights Series* notes how the Paris Declaration is the most recent donor-partner agreement designed to increase the impact of aid. The Association for Women's Rights in Development has developed a set of primers intended to encourage women's rights advocates and other actors to understand the relevance of this process and to engage in it to support the call for a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to reforming aid so that it reaches the people who need it most, including women.
www.awid.org

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) has created a new Web site specialized 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.
www.gaatw.net/atj

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set up a new Web site as a platform to support the campaign *MDG3 Global Call to Action* which focuses on the third Millennium Development Goal (MDG 3) on gender equality and women's economic empowerment. The site provides information on the struggle for equality and women's economic empowerment. There are links to film, debate, references, and other sources on gender equality.

The Web site also provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to commit to the MDG3 principles and become more involved in the cause.
www.MDG3action.org

The European Commission (EC), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization (ITC/ILO) have partnered to create an online resource center on gender equality for development and peace. The Web site provides experiences, knowledge, resources, and tools produced on gender and aid effectiveness in countries worldwide.
www.gendermatters.eu

The International Museum of Women (IMOW) is premiering a new global online exhibition on "Women, Power and Politics" through December 31. It is IMOW's most interactive exhibition to date. The Web site uses essays, art, film, photography, audio, and political cartoons, telling the untold stories of remarkable women transforming our world. The Web exhibition is available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.
www.imow.org/wpp



Human rights are recognized as fundamental by the United Nations. The organization's prominent role in this area is carried out by a number of human rights bodies, some of which date back to the very foundation of the United Nations. *The United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library*, available online, provides free access to a number of charters and treaties, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/spechr.htm#intro

The Internet offers an abundance of information about violence against women, including millions of Web sites, blogs, and other online resources. However, sifting through Web content and finding accurate and useful information can be challenging. This *Special Collection on Researching Violence Against Women Online* offers guidance that is meant to enhance skills and confidence on the Web, teaching ways to efficiently produce meaningful, relevant results. Access this Special Collection through the "Research" area.
www.VAWnet.org

Women, Ink. a program of the International Women's Tribune Center, has compiled a collection of materials entitled "HIV/AIDS & Women: A Collection of Resources to Support Policy and Advocacy on HIV/AIDS 2008." Comprising some fifty action-oriented tools as well as

analyses, reports, and case studies, this resource pack was assembled to support informed participation on issues of women and HIV/AIDS at the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS 2008. Please go to the Women, Ink Web site to access the materials or to download a complete list of the resources.
www.womenink.org.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) offers a Women's Empowerment Web site. The Web site provides factsheets and links to UNDP programs dealing with gender and women's empowerment throughout the world. Gender training resources as well as UN related reports on gender are available for download as well. The main Web page also provides news stories pertaining to UNDP's work with women's issues.
www.undp.org/women.

Cooperation Column

The Cynthia Nelson Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (IGWS) is an academic research institute and a graduate teaching center for scholars, researchers, and graduate students interested in gender issues in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. Part of the American University in Cairo (AUC), IGWS serves as a resource nexus through which research projects, conferences, workshops, policy debates, and educational programs on gender issues are engaged. IGWS was founded by the late Dr. Cynthia Nelson, Professor of Anthropology and former Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at AUC. For more information please visit the IGWS Web site at www.aucegypt.edu/researchatAUC/rc/igws.



Book Review

Mothers, Monsters, Whores: Women's Violence in Global Politics, by Laura Sjoberg and Caron E. Gentry, 2007, 232 pp, published by Zed Books, <http://www.zedbooks.co.uk>.

Reviewed by Monica Mukerjee, Marshall Scholar at Oxford and MSU James Madison College Alum

This book makes a confident entrance into the world of gender studies and international relations with its provocative title and compelling subject matter. The authors examine the growing phenomenon of women's global violence that has caused some to call gender subordination into question. Acknowledging that more women are committing violent acts, the book refocuses how we construct discourses surrounding women's proscribed violence in global politics. Although a small number of women may be taking hostages and hijacking planes, Sjoberg and Gentry contend that the narratives used to explain the actions of these women actually reifies gender subordination to deny their agency within the global sphere.

Using an explicitly feminist lens, *Mothers, Monsters, Whores* attempts to recognize women's capacity to engage in violence and calls attention to places where other analyses refuse to recognize this capacity. In the introduction and second chapter the authors introduce and explain the narratives that marginalize violent women and deny their agency in global political discourses. Women engaged in proscribed violence are often portrayed as 'mothers' fulfilling their biological destinies for maternal revenge; 'monsters' who are pathologically damaged and therefore naturally drawn to violence; or 'whores' whose violence is inspired by sexual dependence on men and depravity. All three narratives carry the weight of gendered assumptions about appropriate female behavior, which fully 'other-ize' violent women by attacking womanhood at its core. Violent women, then, are not women at all but individual mistakes and unfortunate accidents because of their flawed femininity. These narratives not only subordinate violent women but instead illustrate the continued salience of gender norms in global politics that subordinate all femininities.

The authors use four empirical case studies from different parts of the world to illustrate how the mother, monster, and whore narratives cross religious, ethnic, cultural, and national boundaries as part of a global trend. In the third chapter, the book examines United States military women's violence at Abu Ghraib. Sjoberg and Gentry argue that, unlike male soldiers inculcated in Abu Ghraib, the three women soldiers and female commanding general involved in the case were subject to representations because they had committed a 'triple transgression' against the laws of war, against their femininity, and against the military's proscribed roles for women. In the fourth chapter the authors analyze the narratives surrounding the shakhidki, or female holy warriors, dubbed 'black widows' by the Russian government and international media. Their analysis illustrates how the mother, monster, and whore narratives represent Chechen women insurgents as simultaneously monstrous and revengeful but powerless and controlled, comparing them to Palestinians to distance the women from their actual political motives. The fifth chapter focuses on women's involvement in suicide bombings in Iraq and Palestine. By situating their book within the academic, media, and governmental discourses on suicide bombing, which all treat female suicide bombers as different from male suicide bombers, Sjoberg and Gentry argue that the mother narrative is used as a linchpin to understand Middle Eastern women who participate in or initiate suicide attacks.

The final case study in the sixth chapter investigates the narratives surrounding women who participated in and led campaigns of genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda. The chapter focuses on case studies of two specific women accused of perpetrating the genocide. Because these deviant women shield some of the men involved from blame, while also serving as individual and incidental exceptions to the rule of women's purity, the authors contend that the patriarchal constructions of these two women make them both invisible and central to the genocide. The seventh chapter brings together a theoretical framework that synthesizes experiences and narratives of women's violence. Sjoberg and Gentry argue that men's violence is not shocking in its existence because it has been accepted and normalized by global political actors. The evidence in this book demonstrates the gendered patterns that prevent women's proscribed violence from being fully recognized. The final chapter offers insight to assist international relations to recognize and incorporate the individual actor into its dominant theory. While the idea that the individual actor has been taken up in international relations studies, that actor is assumed to be male, relatively autonomous, and occupying a well-understood place of power. Conclusions of the book point to how international relations as a discipline needs to change to better understand violence through a gendered lens.

What is fascinating about Sjoberg and Gentry's project is not the initial observation of the mother, monster, and whore narratives, which have been well documented within literature and mythologies, but the application of these narratives to accounts of violent women within global politics today. Without a doubt they succeed at integrating the case studies of individual women into a framework that illustrates larger patterns of subordination. This is best demonstrated with their strong chapters on US women soldiers in Abu Ghraib and Rwandan female genocidaires. The case studies in *Mothers, Monsters, Whores* are varied, unique, and necessary choices for readers to understand the complicated narratives surrounding women's violent acts in the global sphere. The clear, crisp, and concise style within these eight chapters provides a brief overview to the overlapping representations that definitely deny women agency.

Because the book is on such an under-published and contemporary subject I had some lingering questions after reading *Mothers, Monsters, Whores*. By using diverse case studies the authors seem vague on whether these narratives truly operate equally against violent women on all boundaries of religion, ethnicity, culture, and nationality. Are there cases where these boundaries shift? One example that Sjoberg and Gentry may have highlighted to address this question would be the race of the US women soldiers at Abu Ghraib; by calling these women's whiteness into attention, it would be possible to analyze how their narratives are different from violent women of color.

In addition, I question if Sjoberg and Gentry truly capture the voices of violent women in this project. Though they note this is one of their purposes, it seems impossible to accomplish when the book predominantly focuses on the narratives that block and obfuscate women's agency within violent acts. There is significant value in the analysis contributing to underlining continued gender subordination within global politics. Rather than 'finding' the voices of women who commit proscribed violence themselves, Sjoberg and Gentry have illuminated a path and foundation for other scholars to do so in the future. *Mothers, Monsters, Whores* is absolutely a necessary piece of scholarship to understand women's agency within proscribed violence and global politics. Essential as well as captivating, this book succeeds in analyzing discourses around women's violence so that readers can understand the complicated power relationships between women, men, and their nation-states.

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.

