



# Gendered Perspectives on International Development

## IN THIS ISSUE

Articles .....	1
Audiovisuals .....	4
Monographs and Technical Reports .....	6
Periodicals .....	12
Books .....	13
Study Opportunities .....	17
Grants and Fellowships .....	18
Conferences .....	20
Calls for Papers .....	23
Online Resources .....	24
Book Review .....	26

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Greetings from the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) at Michigan State University, the host center for the Gender, Development, and Globalization (GDG) Program, formerly the Women and International Development (WID) Program!

The *Gendered Perspectives on International Development Working Papers* series is pleased to announce the publication of its newest paper, "Prolonging Suffering: Domestic Violence, Political Economy, and the State in Northern Vietnam," by Lynn Kwiatkowski. While the Vietnamese state has recently made domestic violence a prominent concern, it has continued to emphasize a reconciliation approach which has had the unintended effect of prolonging the suffering of many abused women. This paper examines the links between a state approach to domestic violence, transnational processes, and women's physical and emotional health and suffering.

This paper, along with much of the *Working Papers* series, is available for free online at [gencen.msu.edu/publications/papers.htm](http://gencen.msu.edu/publications/papers.htm).

As always, we encourage submissions and suggestions from our readers! We especially invite graduate students, scholars, and professionals to review one of a number of books that are available for review. We also encourage submissions by authors and publishers of relevant articles and books for inclusion in future issues.

Remember, the current issue of the Resource Bulletin, along with the most recent back issues, are now online! Visit [gencen.msu.edu/publications/bulletin.htm](http://gencen.msu.edu/publications/bulletin.htm).

Thank you very much, and enjoy the Fall 2011 issue of the *Gendered Perspectives on International Development Resource Bulletin*!

*\*\*The contents of this publication were developed under a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the U.S. Department of Education.\*\**



## Affilia

Volume 26, Issue 2, 2011

### **“The Impact of Unintended**

### **Consequences of the 1996 U.S.**

### **Immigration Reform Act on Women,”**

by Maria Gomes and Fariyal Ross-Sheriff, pp. 117-124. One of the unintended consequences of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), also known as the 1996 Immigration Reform Act, which was designed to address the issues of illegal immigration in the United States, is the fracturing of families. For some female deportees who have lived in the United States since infancy, deportation is a case of double despair because they are sent away from both the country to which they have been socialized and their families and are exiled to their countries of birth, where they are strangers. Despite the interlocking and overlapping oppressions of gender, migration status, and social class, many of these deported mothers and grandmothers (as well as fathers and grandfathers) have to use their social location and multiple identities to develop creative strategies for coping with the myriad challenges of reintegration or resettlement and parenting from strange lands, their birthplaces.

### **“To Be or Not to Be a Feminist in India,”**

by Aditi Mitra, pp. 182-200. This study was situated in the context of a postcolonial understanding of feminism by women in social action work. It analyzed how urban middle- and upper-class women in Kolkata, India, constructed a feminist praxis in terms of their everyday lived experiences as volunteers and social activists and as urban Indian women working in the social work sector of Indian society. The critical issue was the women's conception of feminism. Testimonies from 21 women form the crux of the data that were collected via semi-structured bilingual interviews

and participant observation, inspired by feminist standpoint analysis as a theoretical interest.

### Volume 26, Issue 1, 2011

### **“Gendered Matters: Undocumented Mexican Mothers in the Current Policy Context,”**

by Michele Belliveau, pp. 32-46. Feminist theorists have exchanged an exclusively gendered analysis for an intersectional lens that accounts for the multiple marginalized locations occupied by individuals in a hierarchy. This article uses both intersectional and feminist standpoint theories to analyze the findings from a qualitative study of undocumented Mexican mothers' strategies of attaining resources for their children in the current policy context. Standpoint theory foregrounds the voices of undocumented Mexican mothers, while intersectional analysis illuminates their multiple and interacting social locations. The findings that mothers accessed some needed resources but not others are analyzed to demonstrate the relevance of intersectional analysis to policy development and practice.

### **“Experiences of Racism by Female Minority and Immigrant Nursing Assistants,”**

by Natsuko Ryosho, pp. 59-71. In the long-term care system, gender, race, ethnicity, and class intersect. While both care providers and consumers are predominantly women, their caregiving and working relationships reflect a hierarchical pattern that is based on race and socioeconomic status. This qualitative study explored perceived racism and cultural conflicts of eight female minority and immigrant certified nursing assistants (CNAs) who work at the bottom of the nursing home industry hierarchy. On the basis of the findings, the author discusses implications for feminist practice in addressing interracial and cultural issues in nursing homes.

## Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East

Volume 31, Issue 1, 2011

**“Islamic Feminism Revisited,”** by Haideh Moghissi, pp. 76-84. Women in almost every Muslim society have placed issues of women's rights firmly at the heart of their societies' politics. Women-centered secular religious and/or nonreligious perspectives and activities, through their resistance against Islamist gender politics, have introduced a new dynamism into debates over religion and the secular and the separation of state and faith. This essay questions the outcome for women who in their continued and persistent intellectual tendencies push for Islamic feminism as the only homegrown, locally produced, and culturally appropriate frame for feminist activism in Muslim-majority countries.

### **“Ijtihad and Lower-Middle-Class Women: Secularism in Rural Bangladesh,”**

by Fauzia Erfan Ahmed, pp. 124-132. Scholars who argue for the compatibility of Islam with democracy tend to gloss over the fact that the separation of religion and state has not taken place in the history of the Muslim world. In fact, little research has been carried out on contemporary efforts to make this structural distinction, an imperative of the democratic state. The author begins this article with an analysis of the nineteenth-century debates between Islamic scholars and European positivists and how they created a polarized perspective that frames Western secular tenets as inherently opposed to Islamic religious principles and that continues to the present day. The author then examines the call by scholars and activists to separate religion and state in the Muslim world as well as the Bangladesh Supreme Court's decision in 2001 to declare the fatwa unconstitutional. The author investigates to what extent this decree has led to the separation

of religion and state and how it has influenced the future of political Islam in Bangladesh. Since fatwas target low-income rural women, the author concludes by exploring the implication of this decision on notions of gender, Muslim identity, and citizenship in Bangladesh.

## Development and Change

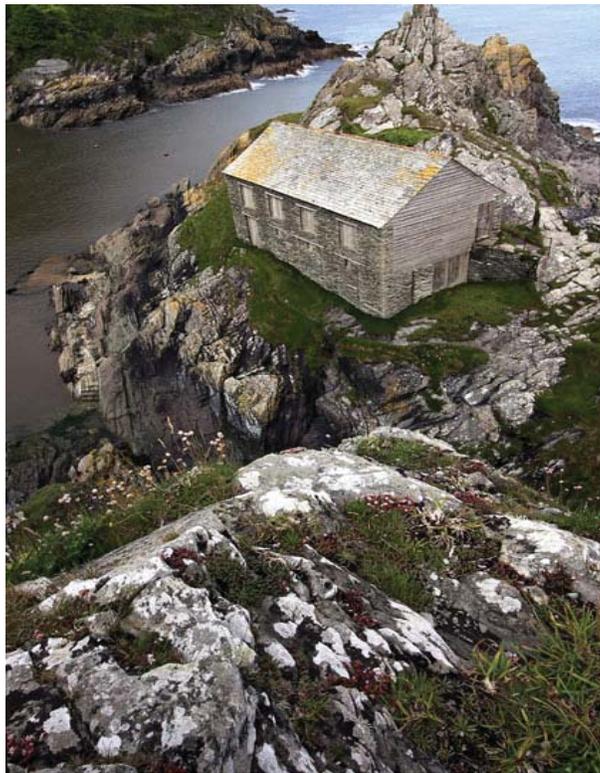
Volume 42, Issue 2, 2011

### “Between Affiliation and Autonomy: Navigating Pathways of Women’s Empowerment and Gender Justice in Rural Bangladesh,”

by Naila Kabeer, pp. 499-528. Inasmuch as women’s subordinate status is a product of the patriarchal structures of constraint that prevail in specific contexts, pathways of women’s empowerment are likely to be “path dependent.” They will be shaped by women’s struggles to act on the constraints that prevail in their societies, as much by what they seek to defend as by what they seek to change. The universal value that many feminists claim for individual autonomy may not therefore have the same purchase in all contexts. This article examines processes of empowerment as they play out in the lives of women associated with social mobilization organizations in the specific context of rural Bangladesh. It draws on their narratives to explore the collective strategies through which these organizations sought to empower the women and how they in turn drew on their newly established “communities of practice” to navigate their own pathways to wider social change. It concludes that while the value attached to social affiliations by the women in the study is clearly a product of the societies in which they have grown up, it may be no more context-specific than the apparently universal value attached to individual autonomy by many feminists.

### “Social Protection and Class Relations: Evidence from Scheduled Caste

**Women’s Associations in Rural South India,”** by Jonathan Pattenden, pp. 469–498. This article argues that the laboring class poor are best able to access social protection when they have sufficient economic autonomy from their village’s dominant class to allow them to act politically. To this end, the article analyzes the capacity of associations of scheduled caste female laborers in rural Karnataka (south India) to access social protection through collective action. It identifies links between modifications of the material conditions of the laboring class, their capacity to take political action and the social and



institutional forms that reflect the social relations of production. Three important variables are identified: the extent of economic autonomy from the dominant class, support from class-conscious social movement organizers and the political configuration of the local state. The former variable in particular is something that the mainstream social protection policy agenda fails to prioritize.

## Development in Practice

Volume 21, Issue 4-5, 2011

“**Gender and the Global Food-Price Crisis,”** by Agnes Quisumbing et al., pp. 488-492. This article argues that it is imperative to take gender into consideration when evaluating the impact of the global food-price crisis and developing crisis-related policies. Consideration of gender is important, given the key role that women play in agriculture, the disproportionate impact that the crisis has on women, and the potential role that women can play in resolving the crisis. Recent research on differential impacts of the crisis is discussed, as are gender dimensions—or lack thereof—in policy responses.

## Ethiopian Journal of Health and Development

Volume 16, Issue 3, 2002

### “The Role of Men in Fertility and Family Planning Programs in Tigray Region,”

by Gebrekidan Mesfin, pp. 247-255. This article seeks to assess men’s role on fertility and their attitudes towards family planning, to compare in which ways and to what extent they differ from their wives/partners, and the implications for future family planning programs. The study involved a cross-sectional comparative study design. The study included couples of the reproductive age group, who were married or in union for greater than six months at the time of the survey. Four hundred and ten respondents (205 men and 205 wives/partners) were

included. The study for the two sample proportions showed that Tigrayan men in general wanted a greater number of children than their wives/partners. Men’s fertility intentions, reproductive preferences and their attitude towards family planning seem to influence the fertility behavior of their wives and their attitudes towards the use of modern contraceptives. Traditional sociocultural norms, economic and property ownership status mean that Tigrayan men dominate decision-making at all levels of the reproductive processes. Therefore

in an attempt to promote reproductive health through the increasing use of modern contraceptives, family planning programs need to target men specifically at all levels of the program. Men should be actively involved at “knowledge” level, “supportive” level and “acceptor” level.

## **Feminist Theory**

**Volume 12, Number 1, 2011**

**“Eco/Feminism and Rewriting the Ending of Feminism: From the Chipko movement to Clayoquot Sound,”** by Niamh Moore, pp. 3-21. This article draws on research at an eco/feminist peace camp set up to facilitate blockades against clear-cut logging in a coastal temperate rainforest in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in Canada in the early 1990s. The camp was said to be based on feminist principles and sometimes these were even articulated as eco/feminist principles. The slippage between these terms provides a focus for discussion. Specifically the article explores the apparent paradox of the sheer vitality of this eco/feminist activism, and in particular its insistence on international connections, in contrast to the widely circulating accounts of the end of feminism, and especially the end of global sisterhood, which emerged in the early 1990s. Thus this article is also necessarily about how recent histories of eco/feminism, including tensions between theory and activism, are narrated. Taken as a departure point are references to the work of Vandana Shiva and the Chipko movement which circulated in accounts of the camp, and explore ways in which eco/feminists might read such utterances as more than evidence of a naive and problematic universalism. Eco/feminism’s internationalism is situated genealogically in feminism and eco/feminism and read as a counter-narrative to the ending of global sisterhood. Through paying attention to various movements, back and forth, between Clayoquot and Chipko, Canada and India, and drawing on Anna Tsing’s

notion of “friction,” this article offers an account of what has been at stake in disavowals of the possibility of reading Chipko as eco/feminist, and suggests the importance of a more generous reading of eco/feminists’ attention to the Chipko movement.

## **Journal of International Women’s Studies**

**Volume 12, Number 2, March 2011**

**“‘Giving Memory a Future:’ Confronting the Legacy of Mass Rape in Post-Conflict Bosnia-Herzegovina,”** by Teodora Todorova, pp. 3-15. Responses to the prevalence of wartime rape in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the 1990s civil war has been characterized by a conflicting paradox between the international legal attempts by the ICTY to prosecute perpetrators, and Bosnian society’s silence, marginalization of individual victims, and the pronounced desire to “forget” about certain aspects of wartime victimization. Given that the contemporary prospects of retributive justice and interethnic reconciliation in Bosnia-Herzegovina remain a distant prospect, the question of what can be done to reassert the ethical value of the victims of mass rape and violence continues to be of great importance. Minow’s response to this question is that even “if the rigor of prosecution and punishment are not pursued, some other form of public acknowledgement, overcoming communal denial, is the very least that can be done to restore dignity to victims” (1998: 17). Pertaining to this, women’s testimonies of wartime violation have resulted in the conception of critical and reflective cultural texts such as the two analyzed in this paper.

**“Palestinian Women’s Everyday Resistance: Between Normality and Normalization,”** by Sophie Richter-Devroe. The paper traces Palestinian women’s understandings, practices and framings of everyday resistance. Women’s resistance acts consist of both materially-based survival strategies and various coping strategies at the ideational level. Focusing on the

latter, this study investigates women’s practices of travelling to create (a sense of) normal joyful life for themselves, their families, friends and community with the aim of shedding light upon the complex and mutually constitutive interplay between women’s agency and the various social and political power structures. It is argued that Palestinian women, although framing their acts of crossing Israeli-imposed physical restriction as acts of resistance against the occupation, are in fact also seizing an opportunity to covertly challenge and trespass internal patriarchal forms of control.

## **Race, Gender and Class**

**Volume 17, Number 3-4, 2010**

**“The Abject Bodies of the Maquiladora Female Workers on a Globalized Border,”** by Guadalupe Taylor, pp. 349-363. This paper questions the universalism of materialist feminist theories to explain the violence against the bodies of female maquiladora workers. The author draws on Simone de Beauvoir and Judith Butler’s conceptualizations of the female body as well as socialist feminist theory to advocate for a transcultural-transnational feminist approach that includes class, gender, culture, state, globalization, free-trade agreements, and phenotype of women who work in the maquiladora industry. Since the Mexican government exemption of taxes to US companies that opened factories on the border, NAFTA has turned Mexico in an excellent source of profits for transnational companies based on the exploitation of Mexican workers, mainly female workers. The patriarchal state and capitalism have reinserted women in a space where they have lost citizenship and where their bodies have become abject objects for the benefit of globalized industrial production. The author suggests that a transcultural-transnational feminist approach is needed to explain and to foster an agenda for improving the plight of the maquiladora workers.

# Audiovisuals

## Documentary Educational Resources

[www.der.org](http://www.der.org)

### **Ritual Burdens**

*Ritual Burdens* is part of the *Afflictions: Culture & Mental Illness in Indonesia* series of ethnographic films on severe mental illness in Indonesia, based on material drawn from 12 years of person-centered research

by director and anthropologist Robert Lemelson. The film focuses on Ni Ketut Kasih who has lived her whole life surrounded by the complex rhythms of the Balinese ritual calendar. Here, participation in ritual events is both a spiritual mandate and social obligation for women who spend countless hours crafting offerings. Ni Ketut's masterful hand has contributed to her status as a highly respected

ceremonial leader. However, the pressures of ritual requirements often overwhelm her, crowding her mind with memories of her difficult childhood during Indonesia's war for independence. 2011, 25 min.

### **Filmmakers Library**

[www.filmmakers.com](http://www.filmmakers.com)

### **The Cutting Tradition**

*The Cutting Tradition* focuses on the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM), a custom which appears barbaric to the westernized eye but is still practiced in many African and some Middle-Eastern countries. Despite being illegal in many

of the places where it is practiced, FGM continues to be administered to very young women, often even little girls. In the majority of cases it exposes them to medical and psychological problems from which they sometimes never recover. The reasons are rooted in religious, cultural and historical grounds; this film comprises a balanced

### ***¡Ya No Mas! (I've Had Enough!)***

Violence against women affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, in all socioeconomic classes. It is the leading cause of death and injury among women from fifteen to forty-five years of age, occurring in greater numbers than traffic accidents, cancer or war, according to U.N. statistics. Nicaragua has not



and non-judgmental exploration into those factors. Natives of Burkina Faso, Egypt, Djibouti and Ethiopia express their opinions both in support of and against FGM. Their authentic, undiluted statements highlight the difficulty of resolving an issue that is as deeply rooted in their cultures as it is shocking to us. Narrated by Meryl Streep, with footage of traditional wedding celebrations and a shocking scene which follows a young girl experiencing FGM, Streep's narration takes us through this journey in a delicate and non-judgmental way. 2011, 47 min.

escaped this pandemic. The pervasive culture of machismo and the general public's indifference to the problem in its male-dominated society led to the murders of more than fifty women at the hands of their husbands or partners last year. Half of these women had filed police reports on their assaulters before they were murdered. In this documentary, several women describe their husbands' and partners' attacks and their frustrating attempts to obtain justice from the Nicaraguan police, district attorneys and judges. The victims are routinely ignored by the police and bureaucrats responsible for arresting

their attackers. The media makes fun of the women's suffering, using songs to encourage male chauvinism. The psychologist Ruth Marina Matamoros says the situation is so bad that violence against women has been declared a public health problem. To alleviate this a few all-women police precincts have been set up, staffed by specially-trained policewomen. The policewomen deplore that no shelters exist for the battered women. In the film, some of the women attend a meeting to learn how to break the cycle of violence. 2010, 38 min.

### **Good Fortune: The Development Dilemma in Kenya**

Are international aid programs in Africa undermining the very communities they aim to help? Good Fortune is a rare and intimate portrait of two vibrant Kenyan communities, one rural, one urban, battling to save their homes and businesses from large-scale development organizations. Both communities believe the aid projects will devastate their lives and are organizing to fight back. Part I is set in the rural countryside where an American company is threatening to flood Jackson's family farm. The company has invested over \$21 million in a commercial rice farm in the region that they say will stimulate the economy, create employment, and provide infrastructure. But to irrigate its farm, the company is planning to flood over 1100 acres of local farmland, including the homes of 500 families like Jackson's. As water reaches his doorstep, Jackson organizes his community and vows to fight to protect his land. Part II shows the life of a successful midwife, Silva Adhiambo, who lives in Kibera, Africa's largest squatter community. Her home and business are being demolished as part of a UN slum-upgrading project. The government and the U.N. insist the evictions will be temporary but the residents do not believe them. Silva, her husband and her neighbors organize to stop it. The film suggests that poor people should not be passive recipients of well-intentioned international aid

programs that affect their lives. 2010, 73 min.

### **Films Media Group**

[www.films.com](http://www.films.com)

#### **Tribal Wives: Female Roles, Western Norms, and Tribal Life**

Entering a developing-world culture, especially an isolated one, is a reality check for any Westerner. If the visitor is a woman, issues related to patriarchal control and female independence will almost certainly shape her interactions with the community. This three-part series follows three British women as they become temporary additions to families in remote areas of Turkey, Tanzania, and Ethiopia. As an on-the-ground case study, each episode evokes challenging questions regarding women's rights across the globe. To what extent can we impose Western standards? Should they enter the discussion at all? Is defiance or conformity the better strategy when the customs under discussion, however alien, are no longer theoretical? 2010, 50 min.

### **Icarus Films**

[www.icarusfilms.com](http://www.icarusfilms.com)

#### **Nostalgia for the Light**

For his new film master director Patricio Guzmán travels 10,000 feet above sea level to the driest place on earth, the Atacama Desert, where atop the mountains astronomers from all over the world gather to observe the stars. The Atacama is also a place where the harsh heat of the sun keeps human remains intact: those of Pre-Columbian mummies; 19th century explorers and miners; and the remains of political prisoners, "disappeared" by the Chilean army after the military coup of September, 1973. So while astronomers examine the most distant and oldest galaxies, at the foot of the mountains, women, surviving relatives of the disappeared whose bodies were dumped here, search, even after twenty-five years, for the remains of their loved ones, to reclaim their families' histories. Melding the celestial quest of

the astronomers and the earthly one of the women, *Nostalgia for the Light* is a gorgeous, moving, and deeply personal odyssey. 2011, 90 min.

### **Indie Pix Films**

[www.indiepixfilms.com](http://www.indiepixfilms.com)

#### **Pearls on the Ocean Floor**

*Pearls on the Ocean Floor* examines the lives and works of Iranian female visual artists living and working in and outside the Islamic Republic. This unflinching and incisive study, featuring interviews with Shirin Neshat, Shadi Ghadirian, Parastou Forouhar, Sara Rahbar, and twelve others, captures the uncertainty of this momentous time in Iran's history. Speaking with grace and honesty, these brave women express what is seldom seen in the western media: unique individual perspectives regarding issues of identity, gender, and the role art plays in challenging the traditional stereotypes often associated with women in Iran. 2009, 77 min.

### **Women Make Movies**

[www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

#### **The Price of Sex**

An unprecedented and compelling inquiry into a dark side of immigration so difficult to cover or probe with depth, *The Price of Sex* sheds light on the underground criminal network of human trafficking and experiences of trafficked Eastern European women forced into prostitution abroad. Filming under cover with extraordinary access, even posing as a prostitute to gather her material, Bulgarian-born Chakarova travels from impoverished rural areas in post-Communist Eastern Europe, including her grandmother's village, to Turkey, Greece, and Dubai. This dangerous investigative journey brings Chakarova face to face with trafficked women willing to trust her and appear on film undisguised. Their harrowing first-person accounts, as well as interviews with traffickers, clients, and anti-trafficking activists, expose the root causes, complex connections, and stark significance of sexual slavery today. 2011, 73 min.

# Monographs and Technical Reports

## ActionAid

[tinyurl.com/5varpta](http://tinyurl.com/5varpta)

**“Farming as Equals: How Supporting Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Makes the Difference,”** 2011, 44 pp. This report takes seven concrete examples of policy interventions which highlight good practice for focusing on women, and combines this with wider evidence to draw out key lessons for delivering stronger outcomes for women smallholder farmers. It then looks at the current role that different institutions and donors are playing in supporting women, concluding with concrete steps that donors and multilateral initiatives can take to start putting women’s rights and gender equality at the heart of their agricultural policies.

## Arid Lands Information Network

[tinyurl.com/4x3vrax](http://tinyurl.com/4x3vrax)

**“Joto Afrika: Women as Key Players in Climate Adaptation,”** by G. Adeniji, 2011, 8 pp. Joto Afrika, Swahili for “Africa is feeling the heat,” is a series of briefings and online resources about adapting to climate change in Africa. Gender often dictates who gains and who loses in environmental disasters: where women lack basic rights, more will die from natural disasters than men; where they enjoy equal rights, the death rate is the same. Global debates therefore identify the need to mainstream gender into climate change analysis, particularly as women provide up to 90 percent of rural poor people’s food and produce 60-80 percent of the food in most developing countries but are insufficiently represented in

decision-making processes on climate change. Drawing on case studies and local action in countries across Africa (South Africa, Togo, Cameroon, Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania), the sixth edition of the briefing series highlights ways to improve gender analysis and increase representation in climate adaptation.



## Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)

[tinyurl.com/3vt7qlm](http://tinyurl.com/3vt7qlm)

**“Capturing Change In Women’s Realities: A Critical Overview of Current Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks and Approaches,”** by Srilatha Batliwala and Alexandra Pittman, 2010, 43 pp. This

document provides a critique of current monitoring and evaluation frameworks and approaches as experienced by women’s organizations and movements worldwide along with an analysis of a large number of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and tools. Part I of this document provides a broad overview of common challenges with monitoring and evaluation and identifies feminist practices for engaging in to strengthen organizational learning and more readily capture the complex changes that women’s empowerment and gender equality work seek. Part II offers an analysis of a large number of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and tools, along with some of their strengths and weaknesses in assessing women’s rights and gender equality processes and impacts.

[tinyurl.com/5v4t4ez](http://tinyurl.com/5v4t4ez)

**“The Power of Investing in Women’s Rights and Empowerment: A Mid-Term Summary of the MDG3 Fund and its Gender Equality Outcomes,”** by Alexandra Pittman, 2011, 18 pp. This brief shares an assessment of the Dutch MDG3 Fund, highlighting the mid-term outcomes of grants made to a sample of women’s organizations worldwide. The findings reveal how critical support to women’s organizations, working from a rights-based approach, catalyzes a broad and wide-reaching set of outcomes that truly make a difference in women’s lives, rights, and participation around the world.

## Center for Advocacy on Stigma and Marginalization and the Paulo Longo Research Initiative

[tinyurl.com/4x2lk52](http://tinyurl.com/4x2lk52)

**“The First Pan-India Survey of Sex Workers: A Summary of Preliminary Results,”** by Rohini Shani and V. Kalyan Shankar, 2011, 14 pp. This pan-India survey found that while poverty and limited education are conditions that push women into sex work, poverty pushes women into other labor markets at earlier ages than in sex work. Therefore, sex work cannot be considered as singular or isolated in its links with poverty, as other occupations are pursued before sex work emerges or is considered as an option. Sex work may also be regarded as offering a significant supplementary income to other forms of labor. Many of those surveyed also worked in diverse occupations in the unskilled manufacturing or services sector for extremely poor wages.

## Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria

[tinyurl.com/3p6d3dc](http://tinyurl.com/3p6d3dc)

**“Saving Newborn Lives in Nigeria: Newborn Health in the Context of the Integrated Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Strategy,”** 2011, 120 pp. This report contains new data that shows that as the death toll in Nigeria is falling, the percentage of deaths that happen in the first month of life is increasing. The authors argue that, since 241,000 babies die in the first month of life in Nigeria every year, Nigeria is the African country with the highest newborn death toll. The authors report that newborn deaths now make up 28 percent of all deaths under five years compared to 24 percent two years ago. Also, six out of 10 mothers give birth at home without access to skilled care during childbirth and it is in the first few days of life when both women and newborns are most at risk.

## Food and Agricultural Association (FAO)

[tinyurl.com/3lvuhtr](http://tinyurl.com/3lvuhtr)

**“Governing Land for Women and Men: Gender and Voluntary Guidelines**

**on Responsible Governance of Land and Other Natural Resources,”** by Elizabeth Daley and Clara Mi-young Park, 2011, 45 pp. This paper is written as a contribution to the subsequent preparation of the Gender Technical Guide, tentatively titled, “Governing Land for Women and Men,” which will focus on gender-equitable land governance and what this means in practice for all the national and local government officials, civil society groups, and land administrators, technicians and professionals working in the land sector worldwide. The paper is based both on the outcomes of the consultation process to date and on supporting research, consultation and literature review on gender and governance of tenure. It contextualizes and defines gender, discusses what governance of tenure means from a gender perspective, and identifies and analyzes key issues and themes. It then summarizes the recommendations relevant to gender that emerged during consultations in different regions of the world.

[tinyurl.com/3lbg42z](http://tinyurl.com/3lbg42z)

**“The Vital Role of Women In Agriculture And Rural Development,”** 2011, 11 pp. This document provides evidence on the vital role of women in agriculture and rural development. It demonstrates that eliminating the gap between men and women in access to agricultural resources and inputs would raise yields on women’s farms by 20-30 percent and increase agricultural production in developing countries by 2.5-4 percent, which could in turn reduce the number of undernourished people in the world by 12-17 percent or 100-150 million people. The document also reviews policy recommendations and proven strategies for closing the gender gap in agriculture and rural development.

## Forest Peoples Programme

[tinyurl.com/3tc4ax4](http://tinyurl.com/3tc4ax4)

**“E-Newsletter: Special Edition on Gender,”** 2011, 14 pp. The articles assembled in this special edition of the FPP newsletter highlight the gendered

aspects of FPP’s work with its partners. In Indonesia, Thailand, and Guyana, attention to women’s systems of land use shows how these complement male systems of land use. When indigenous women also mobilize to defend their rights, then the collective force of the society is strengthened, not divided. This newsletter highlights discussions among indigenous women themselves, on how best to approach issues of gender discrimination in their own countries and communities.

## Gender Action

[tinyurl.com/3on4ovh](http://tinyurl.com/3on4ovh)

**“Gender, IFIs, And Food Insecurity,”** 2011, 4 pp. Gender Action’s primer explores IFI-related causes and gender-specific impacts of recent soaring food prices. Demonstrating that IFI-led agriculture, macroeconomic, financial and trade policies in developing countries intensify gender inequalities and disproportionately impoverish women and girls, this primer recommends targeted actions IFIs must take to address the disproportionately negative impact of food insecurity on women and girls.

## Gender at Work

[tinyurl.com/43puehy](http://tinyurl.com/43puehy)

**“A Holistic Approach to Gender Equality and Social Justice,”** by Michel Friedman and Ray Gordezky, 2011, 18 pp. The authors of this paper describe the key elements of Gender at Work’s Organisation Strengthening Program: the Integral Framework, Action Learning and Capacity practices. These represent ideas woven together from a variety of fields (concerned with the individuals’ psychology and consciousness, access to resources, and the social structures in which they live and work) to address the lack of progress toward gender equality. This paper builds on over 15 years of Gender at Work’s engagement with civil society organizations on women’s rights, gender equality and social justice issues in Bangladesh, South Africa, India, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Zanzibar, as well as previous papers written for the organization. It

concludes with a case study of work in Ethiopia, and poses questions for those undertaking social innovation and societal change initiatives regarding scaling up impact.

### **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development**

[tinyurl.com/3guzvc8](http://tinyurl.com/3guzvc8)

#### **“Pro-Poor Value Chain Development for High Value Products in Mountain Regions: Indian Bay Leaf,”**

by Dyutiman Choudhary et al., 2011, 24 pp. Interventions with the mountain stakeholders led to immediate benefits in terms of increased income, enhanced understanding of environmental values, and increased gender equality. Results show that fair and equitable integration of producers/collectors in value chains can enhance food security, promote resilient livelihoods, and reduce the poverty of mountain people. Production of high value products and services can help reduce poverty in mountain regions. Value chains can be used to describe the activities and benefits involved in bringing such a product from the producer to the market, and analyzed to identify improvements along the chain which, if addressed, yield the highest positive outcome for small producers, traders, and processors.

### **International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)**

[tinyurl.com/3o0e8to](http://tinyurl.com/3o0e8to)

#### **“Gender, Land and Asset Survey Uganda,”**

by Aslihan Kes, Krista Jacobs, and Sophie Namy, 27 pp. The Survey (GLAS) is one of the first studies to undertake a quantitative and gendered assessment of men’s and women’s rights over assets—including ownership, documentation and degree of control over use, transfer and transactions—and the implications thereof. GLAS, developed and piloted by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Associates Research Uganda Limited and University of

KwaZulu-Natal, is a survey methodology for collecting and analyzing individual- and household-level quantitative data on women’s rights over assets with the goal of providing more in-depth detail on determinants of women’s asset rights. This study points to significant gender gaps with respect to women’s asset ownership in Uganda. Further, it sheds light on more detailed aspects of asset ownership, looking beyond land to a wider array of assets, and not just asset ownership but also control and decision-making authority over assets. The results also point to significant nuances in the nature of the gender asset gap and its drivers.

how well they have worked. ICRW summarizes a systematic review of child marriage prevention programs that have documented evaluations. Based on this synthesis of evaluated programs, the authors offer an analysis of the broader implications for viable solutions to child marriage.

### **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**

[tinyurl.com/3vzseck](http://tinyurl.com/3vzseck)

#### **“Gender: A Key Dimension Linking Agricultural Programs to Improved Nutrition and Health,”**

by Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Julia Behrman, Purnima Menon, and Agnes Quisumbing, 2011, 4 pp. This four-page brief highlights the need for a



[tinyurl.com/3fxxrk88](http://tinyurl.com/3fxxrk88)

#### **“Solutions to End Child Marriage: What the Evidence Shows,”**

by Anju Malhotra et al., 2011, 38 pp. Child marriage is increasingly recognized as a serious problem, both as a violation of girls’ human rights and as a hindrance to key development outcomes. As more resources and action are committed to addressing this problem, it becomes important to examine past efforts and

gender equitable approach to standard agricultural development strategies in order to improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of rural poor. Evidence shows that increasing women’s access to capital and resources, such as land, raises productivity, improves children’s nutrition and education and contributes to overall poverty reduction. Three agricultural development strategies are discussed within this brief, which

highlight the significance of gender roles and equality in improving nutrition and health: homestead food production; linking small holders; and producer marketing groups.

[tinyurl.com/6j7m865](http://tinyurl.com/6j7m865)

**“Agricultural Extension Services and Gender Equality: An Institutional Analysis of Four Districts in Ethiopia,”** by Marc Cohen and Mamusha Lemma, 2011, 44 pp. This paper explores whether decentralization has improved the quality of service delivery and citizen satisfaction with the services provided, focusing on agricultural extension. Specifically, authors examine whether services are responsive to the needs and expressed demands of poor farmers, including women farmers. This article focuses on the institutional arrangements through which agricultural extension services are provided and how these contribute to efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in service delivery. Authors carried out qualitative research on these questions in four districts in four different regional states. Findings include: (1) deployment of extension agents to rural communities (kebeles) has increased the agents’ knowledge of local problems as well as access to extension services for both female and male farmers; (2) rapid expansion of the service has created opportunities for women to become agents; and (3) both male and female agents offer services to women farmers. The authors conclude that greater emphasis on downward accountability in service provision would allow extension agents to adapt their services to the needs and knowledge of the farmers.

[tinyurl.com/62au9ks](http://tinyurl.com/62au9ks)

**“Do Men and Women Accumulate Assets in Different Ways?: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh,”** by Agnes R. Quisumbing, 2011, 43 pp. This paper examines asset dynamics for husband-owned, wife-owned, and jointly owned assets, using unique longitudinal survey data from rural Bangladesh. Nonparametric and parametric methods are used to examine the shape of the

dynamic asset frontier, the number of equilibria, and whether land and non-land asset stocks converge to such equilibria. The paper also investigates the differential impact of negative shocks and positive events on husbands’, wives’, and jointly owned assets. Husbands’ and wives’ asset stocks are drawn down for different kinds of shocks, with husbands’ assets being liquidated in response to death of a household member and dowry and wedding expenses, and both husbands’ and wives’ assets being negatively affected by illness shocks. The paper concludes by drawing out implications for the design of gender-sensitive social protection mechanisms.

### **International Gender and Trade Network**

[tinyurl.com/3d7sqb6](http://tinyurl.com/3d7sqb6)

**“A Gender Primer of Trade and Investment Policies,”** by Pamela Sparr, 2002, 11 pp. This paper looks at the policy measures put in place by governments to regulate international trade, and considers how these measures relate to gender roles and relationships. It discusses the reasons for addressing gender in the context of trade, arguing that trade has different impacts on men and women, and that men and women respond differently to trade policies. It then analyzes several key policy measures including: tariffs, quotas, subsidies, exchange rates, capital controls/investment limitations, investment incentives, intellectual property and non-tariff barriers. For each of these measures a definition is provided, as well as an outline of purpose and a gendered example. In the case of tariffs, for example, the paper describes how in Senegal the lowering of tariffs on foodstuffs has had an adverse effect on a women’s tomato paste microenterprise which collapsed when cheap imports of tomatoes flooded the market. The paper concludes by highlighting the need to undertake social impact assessments with a strong gender component, which should be carried out before trade and investment agreements are finalized.

### **Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation**

[tinyurl.com/5vnfjem](http://tinyurl.com/5vnfjem)

**“Gender Review: Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan,”** Petter Bauck, Janne Lexow, and Janne Andresen, 2011, 52 pp. In 2007 Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) adopted an action plan for Women’s Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation (GEAP). The purpose of this gender review is to strengthen the efforts of the Norwegian embassy in Pakistan in particular to plan, implement, monitor, and report on how issues are promoted in programs and in the policy dialogue with partners. The paper demonstrates these two findings: first, that Pakistan’s gender indicators are discouraging since it ranks as one of the worst countries in the world in terms of gender gap; and second, that women’s hard-won legal rights are under pressure as the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) of Pakistan has declared several critical clauses of the Protection of Women Act of 2006 unconstitutional. The report concludes with recommendations regarding opportunities for the embassy to improve gender mainstreaming in the program follow up, and to strengthen the institutionalization of cross-cutting concerns at the embassy.

### **Plan International**

[tinyurl.com/3tc7f9w](http://tinyurl.com/3tc7f9w)

**“Weathering the Storm: Adolescent Girls and Climate Change”** by A. Swarup, 2011, 44 pp. Analyzing how and why climate change disproportionately affects adolescent girls, this report seeks to inform decision-makers and policy analysts in countries facing the pressures of climate change about ways forward. Using evidence collected from Ethiopia and Bangladesh, the report demonstrates that climate change is exposing a growing number of girls and young women to very specific risks. These risks include dying during disasters, enduring early and forced marriages, being exposed to sexual violence, and dropping out of school.

## Rwanda Men Engage Network

[tinyurl.com/3fcysap](http://tinyurl.com/3fcysap)

### “Masculinity and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda: Experiences and Perceptions of Men and Women,”

2010, 58 pp. This report examines the results of the first national household survey conducted in Rwanda (from January 2010 to June 2010) regarding men and women’s perceptions of masculinity and gender-based violence (GBV). The experiences and opinions of those surveyed were quantitatively and qualitatively studied in relation to the ways in which men are supposed to behave according to Rwandan sociocultural norms. The final section contains recommendations for developing programs, including awareness trainings, psychosocial support and campaigns with a special focus on male environments such as the police and army. This official report was commissioned by the Rwanda Men Engage Network and coordinated by the Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre.

## Save the Children Fund

[tinyurl.com/3dwd22p](http://tinyurl.com/3dwd22p)

### “Champions for the Children: State of the World’s Mothers,”

2011, 42 pp. This State of the World’s Mothers report ranks 164 countries on women’s access to health care, education and opportunities. Whereas millions of children are alive today because of past investments in lifesaving programs, the authors note that 22,000 children still perish per day, mostly from preventable or treatable causes. The authors

contend that Norway is the world’s best place to be a mother. Also, eight of the 10 top-ranked countries are in Western Europe, and the remaining two are in the southern hemisphere, with Australia ranking second and New Zealand eighth. On the other hand, eight of the world’s 10 worst countries to be a mother are in Sub-Saharan Africa. The worst place in the world to be a mother, according to the authors, is Afghanistan. The authors argue that despite ongoing conflict and rising civilian casualties, expecting mothers in Afghanistan are at least 200 times more likely to die during childbirth than from bombs or bullets. In light of this, the authors conclude that while many countries are making progress, many are still lagging behind and thus in need of support. Finally, the authors

argue that effective solutions to this challenge are affordable—even in the world’s poorest countries.

## United Nations

[tinyurl.com/6k7wncd](http://tinyurl.com/6k7wncd)

### “State of the World’s Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2011,”

2011, 262 pp. This year’s edition presents an overview of the situation of minority and indigenous women today, and includes discussions of gender-based violence and armed conflict, including the violence that indigenous and minority women experience within their own communities, and the difficulties that they face in accessing justice and support from outside; consideration of the lack of progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals for

minority and indigenous women, with special focus on reproductive rights and maternal mortality; interviews and special reports on trafficking, intersectional discrimination, land seizures and women’s political representation; overviews of the human rights situation of minorities and indigenous peoples in every major world region.

## UN Women

[progress.unwomen.org](http://progress.unwomen.org)

### “Progress Of The World’s Women: In Pursuit Of Justice,”

2011, 167 pp. This report is UN Women’s first major report, following the organization’s launch in early 2011. It recognizes the positive progress made—139 countries and territories now guarantee gender equality in their constitutions, for example—but also shows that too often, women continue to experience injustice, violence and inequality in their home



and working lives. To ensure justice becomes a reality for all women, UN Women calls on governments to repeal laws that discriminate against women, and ensure that legislation protects women from violence and inequality in the home and the workplace; support innovative justice services, including one-stop shops, legal aid and specialized courts, to ensure women can access the justice to which they are entitled; and put women on the frontline of justice delivery as police, judges, legislators and activists; and invest in justice systems that can respond to women's needs.

### Women and Children First

[tinyurl.com/3g8h2pn](http://tinyurl.com/3g8h2pn)

**“Good Practice Guide: Community Mobilization through Women’s Groups to Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies,”** 2011. The aim of the guide is to provide a case study of good practice in working with women’s groups to address maternal and newborn health and to share lessons learned from this experience. While the guide describes an approach used in rural communities in India and Bangladesh, this can be successfully adapted to different contexts. The project worked through women’s groups, using a participatory learning and action cycle, to mobilize community action to improve the health of mothers and babies. In India, the project resulted in a 45 percent reduction in newborn deaths and a reduction in maternal deaths, as well as a 57 percent reduction in moderate maternal depression. In Bangladesh, the project resulted in an increase in uptake of health services. In both India and Bangladesh, the project resulted in a significant improvement in hygienic delivery practices, including use of delivery kits, and an increase in exclusive breastfeeding.

### Women’s Edge Coalition

[tinyurl.com/3z4q96s](http://tinyurl.com/3z4q96s)

**“NAFTA and the FTAA: a Gender Analysis of Employment and Poverty Impacts in Agriculture,”** by Marceline White, Carlos Salas and Sarah Gammage, 2003, 48 pp.

This case study seeks to quantify the differential impact of trade agreements on Mexican women and men so that the lessons learned can inform new trade agreements. It uses the Trade Impact Review (TIR) developed by the Women’s Edge Coalition for their Look FIRST (Full Impact Review and Screening of Trade) campaign. This framework enables trade negotiators, governments and others to forecast the potential benefits and drawbacks of a trade agreement before it is ratified. Since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was introduced, the number of female-headed households living in poverty in Mexico has increased by 50 percent. While the jobs created by NAFTA primarily went to women, they are low-waged and insecure jobs, for example in the border export factories (maquiladoras). While offering women some autonomy, they do not alleviate poverty.

### Women in Development Europe (WIDE)

[tinyurl.com/3h3jeqc](http://tinyurl.com/3h3jeqc)

**“Information Sheet: Gender and Trade Indicators,”** 2002, 4 pp. WIDE’s information sheet—aimed at governments, trade policy makers, the World Trade Organization and academic researchers—is designed to assist efforts to measure and monitor the relationship between trade and gender. It outlines three sets of indicators which can be applied to an analysis of any trading relationship between countries or trade blocks. The first are situational indicators, which describe the social and economic position of women. These should be utilized as a starting point for any gender analysis of trade. The second indicator is of political will, which measures the extent to which trade policy makers take gender concerns into account, and to what extent they actually include gender equality measures in the trade agreements they negotiate with a trading partner. Finally, there are dynamic indicators including measures such as trading volumes as well as a breakdown of trade by sector, including

agriculture and manufacturing. These dynamic indicators provide insights into the links between gender and trade over the period that a trade agreement is operating, where, for instance, the situation before an agreement could be compared with the situation five years after the start of a trade agreement. They therefore show to what extent women gain or lose from increased trade. The information sheet concludes with a number of practical uses for these indicators, including: to assess how well gender policy coincides or overlaps with trade policy; to assess the gendered effects of trade and the effect that trade has on gender relations; to assess the need for gender-sensitive policy measures in trade agreements; to assess the need for gender-sensitive policy measures to be included in trade policy.

### The World Bank South Asia Region Human Development Unit

[tinyurl.com/3ha6sp5](http://tinyurl.com/3ha6sp5)

**“Empowering Women: The Effect of Women’s Decision-Making Power on Reproductive Health Services Uptake Evidence from Pakistan,”** by Xiaohui Hou and Ning Ma, 2011, 20 pp. What correlations are there between women’s autonomy and their uptake of reproductive health services in Pakistan? This policy research working paper suggests that women’s decision making power has a significant positive impact on services uptake, while influential males’ decision making power has the opposite effect. This study finds that empowering women (for example, improving their education and economic status) improves their utilization of maternity services. It also finds that reproductive health policy should target Pakistani male household members involved in making such decisions so that they may gain a greater understanding of the importance of maternity services. Data for this research was drawn from the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey.

## Gender and Development

Volume 19, Number 1, 2011

The special issue on migration includes the following articles:

- Remittances and Transnational Families in Italy and the Philippines: Breaking the Global Care Chain, by Charito Basa, Wendy Harcourt, and Angela Zarro
- Climate Change and Migration: a Case Study from Rural Bangladesh, by Katha Kartiki
- Gendering Remittances in Albania: a Human and Social Development Perspective, by Julie Vullnetari and Russell King
- Feminised Financial Flows in Honduran-US Transnational Families, by Allison J. Petrozziello
- The Impact of Remittances on Gender Roles and Opportunities for Children: Research from the International Organization for Migration, by Christine

Aghazarm et al.

- Constructing “Modern Gendered Civilised” Women and Men: Gender-Mainstreaming in Refugee Camps, by Katarzyna Grabska
- Protecting Migrant Domestic Workers in the UK, by Krisnah Poinasamy
- Who Cares? HIV Related Sickness, Urban-Rural Linkages, and the Gendered Role of Care in Return Migration in South Africa, by Lorena Nunez, Jo Vearey, and Scott Drimie
- The Influence of Male Migration on Female Resources, Independence, and Development in Gambian Villages, by Björn Gunnarsson

## Institute of Development Studies Bulletin

Volume 42, Issue 1, 2011

The special issue on *Gender, Rights and Religion at the Crossroads* includes the following articles:

- Introduction: Gender, Rights and Religion at the Crossroads, by Mariz Tadros
- Disentangling Religion and Politics: Whither Gender Equality?, by Deniz Kandiyoti
- Religion and Development: A Practitioner’s Perspective on Instrumentalisation, by Cassandra Balchin
- The Islamisation of Human Rights: Implications for Gender and Politics in the Middle East, by Yousry Moustafa
- Cohesion, Multi-Faithism and the Erosion of Secular Spaces in the UK: Implications for the Human Rights of Minority Women, by Pragna Patel
- Islamism and Secularism: Between State Instrumentalisation and Opposition Islamic Movements, by Islah Jad
- Re-thinking the Promotion of Women’s Rights through Islam in India, by Nida Kirmani
- Beyond “Islam” vs “Feminism,” by Ziba Mir-Hosseini
- From Islamic Feminism to a Muslim Holistic Feminism, by Margot Badran
- The Muslim Brotherhood’s Gender Agenda: Reformed or Reframed?, by Mariz Tadros

## Journal of International Women’s Studies

Volume 12, Number 3, 2011

The special issue on *Arab Women and Their Struggles for Socio-Economic and Political Rights* includes the following articles:

- The Fourth Wave: Revolution and



Democratization in the Arab Middle East, by Muhamad Olimat

• Arab Women and Political Development, by Rowaida Al Maaitah et al.

• The Millennium Development Goals: Prospects for Gender Equality in the Arab World, by Nadine Sika

• Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Women and Misyar Marriage: Evolution and Progress in the Arabian Gulf, by Tofol Jassim Al-Nasr

• Woman Entrepreneurship in the Al-Batinah Region of Oman: An Identification of the Barriers, by Ruqaya Al-Sadi, Rakesh Belwal, and Raya Al-Badi

• Women and the Kuwaiti National Assembly, by Muhamad S. Olimat

• Women's Empowerment in Bahrain, by Fakir Al Gharaibeh

• Job Satisfaction among Women in the United Arab Emirates, by Musa Shallal

• Engaging Ancient Islamic Traditions in the Poetry of Saleha Ghabesh, by Saddik M. Gohar

• Promoting Gender-Sensitive Justice and Legal Reform in the Palestinian Territories: Perspectives of Palestinian Service Providers, by Stephanie Chaban

• Factors Associated with Contraceptive

Use among Jordanian Muslim Women: Implications for Health and Social Policy, by Muntaha K. Gharaibeh et al.

• Women's rights: Tunisian Women in the Workplace, by Sangeeta Sinha

• Algerian Women between French Emancipation and Religious Domination on Marriage and Divorce from 1959 Ordonnance no. 59-274 to the 1984 Code de la Famille, by Teresa Camacho de Abes

### Journal of International Women's Studies

Volume 12, Number 1, 2011

This issue includes the following articles:

• Women War Survivors of the 1989-2003 Conflict in Liberia: The Impact of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, by Helen Liebling-Kalifani et al.

• Women and Peace Talks in Africa, by Akin Iwilade

• The Golden Cage: Western Women in the Compound in a Muslim Country, by Roni Berger

• Women under Attack: Violence and Poverty in Guatemala, by Corinne Ogrodnik and Silvia Borzutzky

• Occupational Health and Safety of Women Workers: Viewed in the Light of

Labor Regulations, by Jinky Leilanie Lu

• Antecedent and Sequelae Issues of Nepalese Women Trafficked into Prostitution, by Chandra Kant Jha and Jeanne Madison

• When the Sex Market Rejects, by Harsankar Adhikari

• Gender and Increased Access to Schooling in Cameroon: A Marginal Benefit Incidence Analysis, by Tabi Atemnkeng Johannes and Armand Gilbert Noula

• Sexual-Political Colonialism and Failure of Individuation in Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*, by Sima Aghazadeh

• Creeping Online: Canadian Feminist Scholarly Journals, by Katherine Side

• Risk Factors for Homelessness and Sex Trade Among Incarcerated Women: A Structural Equation Model, by Seijeoung Kim, Timothy P. Johnson, Samir Goswami, and Michael Puisis

• Women in Administration in India, by Jayasheela George

• Gender Empowerment and Equality in Rural India: Are Women's Community-Based Enterprises the Way Forward?, by Maria-Costanza Torri and Andrea Martinez

## Books

### Duke University Press

www.dukepress.edu

**Spectacular Rhetorics: Human Rights Visions, Recognitions, Feminisms**, by Wendy Hesford, 2011, 296 pp.

This book is a rigorous analysis of the rhetorical frameworks and narratives that underlie human rights law, shape the process of cultural and legal recognition, and delimit public responses to violence and injustice. Integrating visual and textual criticism, Wendy S. Hesford scrutinizes "spectacular rhetoric," the use of visual images and rhetoric to construct certain bodies, populations, and nations as victims and incorporate them into human rights discourses geared toward Westerners, chiefly Americans. Hesford

presents a series of case studies critiquing the visual representations of human suffering in documentary films, photography, and theater. In each study, she analyzes works addressing a prominent contemporary human rights cause, such as torture and unlawful detention, ethnic genocide and rape as a means of warfare, migration and the trafficking of women and children, the global sex trade, and child labor. Through these studies, she demonstrates how spectacular rhetoric activates certain cultural and national narratives and social and political relations, consolidates identities through the politics of recognition, and configures material relations of power and difference to produce and,

ultimately, to govern human rights subjects.

**The War Machines: Young Men and Violence in Sierra Leone and Liberia**, by Danny Hoffman, 2011, 328 pp.

Hoffman considers how young men are made available for violent labor both on the battlefields and in the diamond mines, rubber plantations, and other unregulated industries of West Africa. Based on his ethnographic research with militia groups in Sierra Leone and Liberia during those countries' recent civil wars, Hoffman traces the path of young fighters who moved from grassroots community-defense organizations in Sierra Leone during the mid-1990s into a large pool of

mercenary labor. Hoffman argues that in contemporary West Africa, space, sociality, and life itself are organized around making young men available for all manner of dangerous work. Drawing on his ethnographic research over the past nine years, as well as the anthropology of violence, interdisciplinary security studies, and contemporary critical theory, he maintains that the mobilization of young West African men exemplifies a global trend in the outsourcing of warfare and security operations. A similar dynamic underlies the political economy of violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, and a growing number of postcolonial spaces.

**Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh: Remembering 1971**, by Yasmin Saikia, 2011, 336 pp. Fought between India and what was then East and West Pakistan, the war of 1971

led to the creation of Bangladesh, where it is remembered as the War of Liberation. For India, the war represents a triumphant settling of scores with Pakistan. If the war is acknowledged in Pakistan, it is cast as an act of betrayal by the Bengalis. None of these nationalist histories convey the human cost of the war. Pakistani and Indian soldiers and Bengali militiamen raped and tortured women on a mass scale. In this book, survivors tell their stories,

revealing the power of speaking that deemed unspeakable. They talk of victimization—of rape, loss of status and citizenship, and the “war babies” born after 1971. The women also speak



as agents of change, as social workers, caregivers, and wartime fighters. In the conclusion, men who terrorized women during the war recollect their wartime brutality and their postwar efforts to achieve a sense of humanity.

**The Nation Writ Small: African Fictions and Feminisms, 1958–1988**, by Susan Z. Andrade, 2011, 280 pp. Andrade focuses on the work of Africa’s first post-independence generation of

novelists, explaining why male writers came to be seen as the voice of Africa’s new nation-states, and why African women writers’ commentary on national politics was overlooked. Since Africa’s early female novelists tended to write about the family, while male authors often explicitly addressed national politics, it was assumed that the women writers were uninterested in the nation and the public sphere. Challenging that notion, Andrade argues that the female authors engaged national politics through allegory. In their work, the family stands for the nation; it is the nation writ small. Interpreting fiction by women, as well as several feminist male authors, she analyzes novels by Flora Nwapa and Buchi Emecheta (Nigeria); novellas by Ousmane Sembene, Mariama Bâ, and Aminata Sow Fall (Senegal); and Bildungsromans by Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe), Nuruddin Farah (Somalia), and Assia Djebar (Algeria). Andrade reveals Africa’s early women novelists’ influence on later generations of female authors, and she highlights the moment when African women began to write about macropolitics explicitly rather than allegorically.

### Earthscan

[www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk)

#### **Gender and Climate Change:**

**An Introduction**, edited by Irene Dankelman, 2010, 312 pp. This textbook, now in paperback, provides a comprehensive introduction to gender aspects of climate change. Although climate change affects everybody it is not gender neutral. It has significant

social impacts and magnifies existing inequalities such as the disparity between women and men in their vulnerability and ability to cope with this global phenomenon. Over 35 authors have contributed to the book. It starts with a short history of the thinking and practice around gender and sustainable development over the past decades. Next it provides a theoretical framework for analyzing climate change manifestations and policies from the perspective of gender and human security. Drawing on new research, the actual and potential effects of climate change on gender equality and women's vulnerabilities are examined, both in rural and urban contexts. This is illustrated with a rich range of case studies from all over the world and valuable lessons are drawn from these real experiences. Too often women are primarily seen as victims of climate change, and their positive roles as agents of change and contributors to livelihood strategies are neglected. The book disputes this characterization and provides many examples of how women around the world organize and build resilience and adapt to climate change and the role they are playing in climate change mitigation. The final section looks at how far gender mainstreaming in climate mitigation and adaptation has advanced, the policy frameworks in place and how we can move from policy to effective action.

### Routledge

www.routledge.com

**Gender and Labour in Contemporary India: Eroding Citizenship**, by Amrita Chhachhi, 2011, 256 pp. Providing a comprehensive analysis of the electronics industry in India, this book highlights the gendered nature of labor regimes and domestic regimes and also the linkages between households, labor markets, factories and the state, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between gender and economic/ industrial restructuring. Making an important contribution to the growing

amount of available literature on gender and globalization, the author analyzes the struggles that women workers have been engaged in over their work, wages and service conditions and in their personal lives. These assertions of citizenship in practice highlight the significance of agency and public action in ensuring legal entitlements as well as a consciousness of rights among workers and provide a new perspective on the broader theme of women's employment and globalization.

**Changing Marriage Patterns in Southeast Asia: Economic and Socio-Cultural Dimensions**, edited by Gavin W. Jones, Terence H. Hull, and Maznah Mohamad, 2011, 240 pp. This book provides a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of partnerships and marriage in the Southeast Asian region using quantitative data alongside qualitative approaches. Through the research of demographers, sociologists and anthropologists, it examines the way trends in the formation and dissolution of marriages are related to changes in the region's economy and society; illuminating both the broad forces affecting marriage patterns and the way these forces work out at the individual and family level. This book presents the variety of contemporary marriage patterns in the region with an emphasis on the ways in which marriage issues impinge on the welfare of those concerned.

**The Political Economy of Global Remittances: Gender, Governmentality and Neoliberalism**, by Rahel Kunz, 2011, 226 pp. Over the last decade, a new phenomenon has emerged within the international community: the Global Remittances Trend (GRT). Thereby, government institutions, international (financial) organizations, NGOs and private sector actors have become interested in migration and remittances and their potential for poverty reduction and development, and have started to devise institutions and policies to harness this potential.

This book employs a gender-sensitive governmentality analysis to trace the emergence of the GRT, to map its conceptual and institutional elements, and to examine its broader implications. Through an analysis of the GRT at the international level, combined with an in-depth case study on Mexico, this book demonstrates that the GRT is instrumental in spreading and deepening specific forms of gendered neoliberal governmentality.

**Vulnerable Daughters in India: Culture, Development and Changing Contexts**, by Mattias Larsen, 2011, 228 pp. In India, girls are aborted on a massive scale merely because they are girls. Underlying this widespread problem is the puzzling fact that daughters have become vulnerable in a time of general improvement of welfare, female status and deep economic and social changes. The findings center on a contradiction between the continued importance of the cultural factors which for so long have established that a son is necessary, and socioeconomic changes that are challenging the importance of these very same factors. This contradiction entails an uncertainty over sons fulfilling expectations which has, rather than tilt the balance in favor of daughters, instead increased the relative importance of sons and intensified negative consequences for daughters. The original findings are based on set theoretic systematic comparisons of eight villages in Himachal Pradesh that facilitate a reconceptualization and an alternative analysis that takes contextual differences into account. It builds on extensive fieldwork and collection of both qualitative and quantitative data.

**Microcredit and Women's Empowerment: A Case Study of Bangladesh**, by Aminul Faraizi, Taskinur Rahman, and Jim McAllister, 2010, 160 pp. Using a case study of Bangladesh, and based on a long term participatory observation method, this book investigates claims of the success of microcredit, as well as

the critiques of it, in the context of women's empowerment. It confronts the distinction between women's increasing wealth as a consequence of the success of microcredit programs and their apparent non-commensurate empowerment, looking at two organizations (the Grameen Bank and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) as they operate in two localities in rural Bangladesh, in order to discover how enrichment and empowerment are often confused. The book goes on to establish that the well-publicized success stories of the microcredit program are blown out of proportion, and that the dynamics of

**The Gender Imperative: Human Security vs State Security**, edited by Asha Hans and Betty A. Reardon, 2010, 472 pp. The book asserts that human security derives from the experience and expectation of human wellbeing which depends on four essential conditions: a life sustaining environment, the meeting of essential physical needs, respect for the identity and dignity of persons and groups, protection from avoidable harm and expectations of remedy from them. The book demonstrates their integral relationship to human security. Patriarchy being the germinal paradigm from which most major human institutions such as the state, the

ways in which to refute the dominant paradigm, indicate a clear gender analysis that challenges the current system, and suggests alternatives to militarized security.

### Practical Action

[www.practicalaction.org](http://www.practicalaction.org)

**Gender and the Economic Crisis**, edited by Ruth Pearson and Caroline Sweetman, 2011, 170 pp. Contributors to this book map the emerging impact of the economic crisis on women, men and their families in different contexts, and suggest policy and practice changes. Authors include key figures in the

research field as well as policymakers and development practitioners, who analyze, with first-hand experience, the initial impacts of the economic crisis in South and East Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. The current global economic crisis is expected to lead to millions more people being pushed into extreme poverty. The effects are profoundly different for women and men, and the existing gender inequalities and power imbalances mean that additional problems are falling disproportionately on those who are already structurally disempowered and marginalized. The economic crisis is the latest element in a complex web of shocks and longer-term traumas affecting women, men and

their families in developing countries. These include food and fuel shocks, changing climatic conditions, and the HIV pandemic. For many people living in poverty, these crises are experienced as one multifaceted crisis, which has accentuated already existing underlying chronic concerns in both the productive and the reproductive (care) economies of the world. While these issues remain largely invisible to mainstream economists and policymakers, they are critical to the development of effective and sustainable responses to the crisis.



collective responsibility for repayment of loans by a group of women borrowers—usually seen to be a tool for the success of microcredit—is in fact no less repressive than traditional debt collectors. This book makes a contribution to development debates, challenging adherents to more closely specify those conditions under which microcredit does indeed have validity, as well as providing insights relevant to South Asian Studies and Development Studies.

economy, organized religions and social relations have evolved, the book argues that fundamental inequalities must be challenged for the sake of equality and security. The fundamental point raised is that expectation of human wellbeing is a continuing cause of armed conflict which constitutes a threat to peace and survival of all humanity and human security cannot exist within a militarized security system. The editors of the book bring together 14 essays which critically examine militarized security in order to find human security pathways, show

# Study Opportunities

## **Michigan State University** **Graduate Specialization in Women's and Gender Studies**

### **Deadline: Rolling Applications**

[tinyurl.com/4f56x6c](http://tinyurl.com/4f56x6c)

The graduate specialization in Women's and Gender Studies is an elective addition to master's and doctoral degree programs at Michigan State University. Once admitted to their chosen department, students may enroll in this program. Jointly sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Social Science, the specialization is designed to provide opportunities for graduate students to obtain a comprehensive, cross/interdisciplinary academic experience in women and gender and to foster the growth of interdisciplinary research and teaching on women and gender. Emphasis is given to understanding the diversity of women's lives nationally and globally. The graduate specialization is open to graduate students with adequate undergraduate preparation in women and gender. MSU Graduate students interested in enrolling in the specialization should contact [gencen@msu.edu](mailto:gencen@msu.edu).

## **Study Abroad: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Sexual Politics in the Netherlands**

### **Summer 2012**

### **Deadline: TBA**

[gencen.isp.msu.edu/academics/studyabroad.htm](http://gencen.isp.msu.edu/academics/studyabroad.htm)

The Netherlands has a history of LGBTQ tolerance that is unparalleled. Homosexual sex was decriminalized in 1811, and the country was the first in the world to legislate same-sex marriage. The city prominently features a HomoMonument memorial to LGBTQ persons who have been persecuted because of their sexuality, erected in 1987. The Netherlands is not only a country with one of the longest histories of granting LGBTQ rights, but it is also a place where "social tolerance" is

challenged by the increasing diversity of Dutch society in terms of race, religion, and nationality. Thus, unlike the US, the right wing supports gay rights, while denigrating Muslim immigrants.

At the same time, Amsterdam has a significant Muslim gay movement, giving students an opportunity to explore the differing political alignments and intersections between culture and politics in Dutch society. Students will be housed in dormitories at the University of Amsterdam. Excursions will include visits to major activist organizations, a tour of the red light district, the Anne Frank House, and The Hague. For more information or to apply for the program, email [gencen@msu.edu](mailto:gencen@msu.edu).

## **Columbia University**

### **Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP)**

### **Deadline: November 8, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3qgqw9b](http://tinyurl.com/3qgqw9b)

HRAP's comprehensive program of advocacy, networking, skills-building, and academic coursework provides advocates the opportunity to hone practical skills, develop a deeper understanding of human rights, and foster mutually beneficial relationships with organizations and individuals in their respective fields. Throughout the four-month program, program participants are able to meet with a range of human rights organizations, international institutions, foundations, donors, and policymakers that are based in New York City and participate in a networking and advocacy trip to Washington DC. During group and individual meetings, advocates share their unique grassroots knowledge and learn more about the strategies and best practices of other human rights organizations. These meetings also often lead to joint projects and funding opportunities. The four-month program gives Advocates time and space to reflect on their work and

share their experiences and insights with one another. HRAP also facilitates relationship-building among alumni of the program.

## **Yale University**

### **Yale World Fellows Program**

### **Deadline: December 9, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3ufupqq](http://tinyurl.com/3ufupqq)

Creating a global network of emerging leaders and to broaden international understanding at Yale, the World Fellows Program each year brings to Yale 14-18 highly accomplished men and women from a diverse set of countries around the world. The Fellows spend an intensive semester exploring critical issues and undergoing leadership training, with the full resources of Yale University at their disposal. There are two primary aspects to the World Fellows' experience on campus. First, the Fellows participate fully in a specially designed academic curriculum that advances their critical-thinking and leadership skills. Second, the Fellows become teachers and mentors by deepening the understanding of the entire Yale community about the complexity and diversity of the world. They guest lecture in classes, meet with student groups, deliver campus-wide lectures, and contribute to informal dialogue and learning across the campus.

## **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**

### **School of Gender and Development Studies (SOGDS)**

[tinyurl.com/3tla2es](http://tinyurl.com/3tla2es)

SOGDS aims at achieving gender justice and equity through developing and launching programs in the area of women's and development studies. The School examines the existing gender gap and addresses the issue of gender disparity, with the objectives of strengthening individual and institutional efforts that enable women's

empowerment. The School of Gender and Development Studies analyzes and supports human, social, cultural and economic development to bring about gender equity and social justice. In addition to numerous traditional certifications, the school has recently announced distance mode certifications for: MA in Gender and Development Studies, PG Diploma in Gender and Development Studies, PG Certificate in Gender and Development Studies, and a Diploma in Women's Empowerment and Development.



**SIT Graduate Institute**  
**Master of Arts**  
**in Sustainable**  
**Development**  
**Deadline: Rolling**  
[tinyurl.com/3kot8ad](http://tinyurl.com/3kot8ad)  
 SIT's one-year MA for development professionals uniquely integrates theory and practice with an emphasis on local leadership, community ownership, and global collaboration. Graduates will be prepared for positions such as program director; program manager; capacity building specialist; monitoring and evaluation officer; policy analyst; advocate, outreach, and education officer; and coordinator of partnerships, networks, and alliances.

## Grants and Fellowships

### School for Advanced Research

#### Campbell Fellowship for Women Scholar-Practitioners from Developing Nations

**Deadline: November 1, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/ybxxpnk](http://tinyurl.com/ybxxpnk)

One six-month fellowship is available for a female postdoctoral social scientist from a developing nation whose work addresses women's economic and social empowerment in that nation. The goal of the program is twofold: to advance the scholarly careers of women social scientists from the developing world, and to support research that identifies causes of gender inequity in the developing world and that proposes practical solutions for promoting women's economic and social empowerment.

### Social Science Research Center International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)

**Deadline: November 3, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/luzc9t](http://tinyurl.com/luzc9t)

The International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) offers nine to twelve months of support to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who are enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States and conducting dissertation research outside of the United States. IDRF promotes research that is situated in a specific discipline and geographical region but is also informed by interdisciplinary and cross-regional perspectives. Research topics may address all periods in history, but applicants should be alert to the broader implications of their research

as it relates to contemporary issues and debates. Seventy-five fellowships are awarded annually.

### University of Pennsylvania Melon Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship 2012-14

**Deadline: November 30, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/244so3w](http://tinyurl.com/244so3w)

The School of Arts and Sciences invites applicants for four two-year postdoctoral teaching fellowships in the humanities and humanistic social sciences. Fellows will teach one course per term. Eligibility is limited to applicants who will have received their Ph.D. within two years prior to the time they begin their fellowship at Penn (August, 2010 or later). The university is especially seeking fellows in Anthropology specializing in Medical Anthropology

and Africa or specializing in Sexuality Studies and Queer Theory with some knowledge of Trans Studies. Fellows in English, French and Music History are also wanted. Positions include a \$49,440 stipend.

### **American Association of University Women (AAUW)**

#### **AAUW International Fellowship**

**Deadline: December 1, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3kvsgls](http://tinyurl.com/3kvsgls)

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not United States citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate studies at accredited institutions are supported. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. The overwhelming majority return to their home countries to become leaders in government, academia, community activism, the arts, and science. Several fellowships are available for study outside of the U.S. Funding is available for Master's/Professional Fellowships, Doctoral Fellowships, and Postdoctoral Fellowships.

### **Georgetown Law**

#### **Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP)**

**Deadline: December 1, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3pz5keu](http://tinyurl.com/3pz5keu)

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) offers Fellowships for public interest lawyers from the United States who are committed to advancing women's rights throughout their careers. Throughout the Fellowship year, participants gain invaluable experience by working on women's issues in Washington, D.C. with a public interest

organization or governmental agency and by participating in educational and professional development opportunities organized by WLPPFP. Possible placements for 2012-2013 include Teaching Fellows at Georgetown Law, Fellowships at the National Partnership for Women and Families, Fellowships at the National Women's Law Center, and Fellowships at organizations working on Gender Rights and HIV/AIDS.



### **Institute for Advanced Studies on Science, Technology and Society (IAS-STS)**

#### **IAS-STS Fellowship Program**

**Deadline: December 31, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3offz62](http://tinyurl.com/3offz62)

The IAS-STS in Graz, Austria, promotes the interdisciplinary investigation of the links and interactions between science, technology and society as well as technology assessment and research into the development and implementation of socially and environmentally sound technologies.

Research Fellowships are offered for a variety of issues, including projects on Gender, Technology, and the Environment.

### **The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation**

#### **Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies**

**Deadline: TBA**

[tinyurl.com/3d6v85h](http://tinyurl.com/3d6v85h)

The Women's Studies Fellowships

are provided to Ph.D. candidates at institutions in the United States who will complete their dissertations during the fellowship year. The most competitive applications include not only a clear, thorough, and compelling description of the candidate's work, but also evidence of an enduring interest in and commitment to women's issues and scholarship on women. The Women's Studies competition is for projects in the humanities and social sciences.

### **Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA)**

#### **LGBT Foreign Affairs Scholarship**

**Deadline: Unspecified**

[www.glifaa.org/home](http://www.glifaa.org/home)

GLIFAA is sponsoring a scholarship for students of foreign affairs interested

in LGBT advocacy and working in a foreign affairs-related internship. The LGBT Foreign Affairs Scholarship Board will award one \$2,500 scholarship to a disadvantaged student who plans to intern in a foreign affairs-related field. The LGBT Foreign Affairs Scholarship serves as need and merit-based financial aid for students pursuing degrees and/or careers in foreign affairs. For more information, email [lgbt scholarship@glifaa.org](mailto:lgbt scholarship@glifaa.org).

# Conferences

## **Department of Sociology at Jamia Millia Islamia**

### **International Seminar on Gender, Violence, and Development: The South Asian Experiences**

**October 12-13, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/433g8fd](http://tinyurl.com/433g8fd)

The seminar is an attempt to look into the various forms, contexts, and nature of violence against women in the light of the challenges to development that it poses. While global economic integration has provided new opportunities for some poor women, overall it is further impoverishing millions of already poor people, and is creating new pockets of poverty. The South Asian region shares a rich culture and reflects multiculturalism, intermingling of various religions and ethnicities. Most of the countries in South Asia suffer from widespread gender inequalities and violence against women. This violence is multicausal. The social structures and institutions of society, widespread militarization of the region and armed conflicts, neoliberal economic reforms are some of the major players in the violence against women. Papers based on empirical research fit into the following sub-themes: Gender, Violence, and Development; Cultural Violence; Armed Conflict and Militarization; Social Responses to Violence Against Women. This conference will be held in New Delhi, India.

## **Center for Population and Policy Studies at Gadjah Mada University**

### **The 6th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights (APCRSHR)**

**October 19-22, 2011**

[www.apcrshr6.org](http://www.apcrshr6.org)

This conference aims to foster critical engagement and discussion regarding reproductive and sexual health in the Asia Pacific region. To meet this goal, the conference theme is “Claiming

Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Asian and Pacific Societies.” The current challenges in Asia Pacific region—such as the sensitive issues of sexual and reproductive health—need to be resolved. It is therefore critical to claim sexual and reproductive rights within Asian and Pacific societies. The conference will include several formats, namely: plenary session; parallel session; satellite session; poster; and youth forum. The youth forum will be conducted one day before the conference, which is designed to give participants opportunity to discuss youth-related global issues, and to build their capacity on networking and advocacy skills. This conference will take place in Yogyakarta, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

## **Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI)**

### **Motherhood Studies: Developing and Disseminating a New Academic Discipline for a New Century**

**October 20-22, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3breYW6](http://tinyurl.com/3breYW6)

The International Conference on Mothering, Education and Maternal Pedagogies will explore the relationship between mothering, motherhood, and education, examining the countless ways in which women have been affected by, view, and/or challenge existing educational ideologies and policies and/or develop new theories, practices, identities, and meanings from the multiple locations of teacher, learner, and mother/other mother/surrogate mother. This conference will take place in Toronto, ON, Canada.

## **Avon Global Center 2011 Women and Justice and Jinal Global Law School**

**Second Annual Women and Justice Conference: Gender-Based Violence and Justice in South Asia**  
**October 22-23, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/4x22n8n](http://tinyurl.com/4x22n8n)

The theme of the second annual Women and Justice Conference is “Gender-Based Violence and Justice in South Asia.” This two-day event will comprise plenary sessions and working group sessions. The program aims to facilitate a substantive dialogue across sectors and jurisdictions on the topic of gender-based violence and justice, convening distinguished judges, scholars, legal practitioners and other advocates from South Asia and around the world. The conference organizers hope this meeting will provide a forum for: discussion and collaboration between and among justice system actors, civil society advocates, health professionals, and academics from South Asia and other regions to develop solutions for eradicating gender-based violence; sharing best practices emerging from within South Asia to address violence against women and girls; examining opportunities for using international human rights frameworks and mechanisms to analyze gender-based violence and design solutions to it; engaging academia and scholarly works to inform the development of advocacy tools and strategies to combat gender-based violence, including designing laws and monitoring their effectiveness; and enhance international collaboration and networks of stakeholders addressing gender-based violence. The conference will take place in New Delhi, India.

## **WIDE**

### **Women’s Rights and Gender Equality Amidst The “Arab Springs”—Challenges and Lessons Learnt Across Regions**

**October 27-28, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3fuhmjy](http://tinyurl.com/3fuhmjy)

What is now known as the “Arab spring” has had a dramatic ripple effect all over the region, still in upheaval to different extents. Although women were prominent actors of those upheavals, issues of non-discrimination, equality

and women's rights face difficulties to be included in the frameworks of ongoing and/or upcoming constitutional reform processes. Moreover, in many countries retaliation against women has been brutal, ranging from rapes to virginity tests to imprisonment and torture. The international community is playing a significant role both in terms of diplomacy as well as direct support and selective media coverage. "The Arab spring" has created new international interests as well as new funding pots. What are the implications for the peoples of these countries and for women's rights in particular? This conference has been organized to address these questions.

### University of the West of England

#### Gendered Violence Conference November 23-25, 2011

[www.genderedviolence.com](http://www.genderedviolence.com)  
Timed to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25, 2011, this conference is concerned with promoting cross-disciplinary and cross-sector debate about the causes and prevention of gendered violence and aims to provide a forum in which a dialogue between academics, practitioners, policy makers and grass roots organizations can develop. Violence committed to establish or maintain power relations between genders continues to be a major global public health problem. The personal, social and economic costs of gendered violence are recognized by the UN, WHO and individual governments as untenable and the need for developing and disseminating preventative and curative actions remains pressing. This conference will also include sessions regarding the ongoing symbolic and representational

violence committed in the oppression of any gendered identity that challenges dominant heteronormative representations. This conference will take place in Bristol, United Kingdom.

### International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Law (ICIRL) and the Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy (CRSJP) International Conference on Sustainable Development December 5-7, 2011

[tinyurl.com/4drdz4d](http://tinyurl.com/4drdz4d)

This conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum on global sustainable development for practitioners and academics. The conference will serve as a forum to foster dialogue among various stakeholders, including senior level policy makers, academics, and practitioners. The conference aims to promote mutual exchange of stakeholders' experiences and research results about all aspects of sustainable



human and social development, and foster discussions about the practical solutions to various challenges. This congress also provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and apply experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations, and to find global partners for future collaboration. This conference will take place in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

### **Association of Sexuality Educators, Counsellors and Therapists (ASECT)**

#### **First National Conference on Sexual Medicine: Mind to Molecule**

**December 16-18, 2011**

[www.sexconf.com](http://www.sexconf.com)

The main focus of this conference is to embrace the areas of sensuality, sexuality, sexual psychology and sexual medicine. It is an attempt to bridge the gap from all streams of medicine and strengthen ties. The official language at the conference is English. All abstracts and presentations must be made in English only. This conference will take place in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India.

### **Association for Gender Research, Education, Academia and Action (AGREAA)**

#### **Trans Studies Conference**

**March 2-4, 2012**

[agreaa.wordpress.com/conference](http://agreaa.wordpress.com/conference)

This interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary conference seeks to examine and explore issues which are current in transgender studies of all kinds. In particular the project is interested in investigating the various contexts in which trans identity, practice and embodiment matters, including legal, activist, medical, anthropological, sociological, psychological, artistic, cinematic, literary, linguistic, moral, social, (geo) political, philosophical, and religious dimensions. This conference will take place in Ontario, California at the University of La Verne College of Law.

### **United Arab Emirates Gender and Women's Studies Consortium**

#### **Gender and Women's Studies in the Arab Region**

**March 7-9, 2012**

[www.aus.edu/conferences/cfp](http://www.aus.edu/conferences/cfp)

The UAE Gender and Women's Studies Consortium is committed to supporting UAE and Arab Region faculty interested in developing Gender and Women's Studies courses. Scholars, practitioners and students interested in gender and women's studies in the UAE and the Arab region are encouraged to attend. This conference will address the following three issues and topics: curriculum matters in gender and women's studies in/on the Arab region classrooms; research issues in gender and women's studies perspectives in/on the Arab region; and Arab feminisms. This conference is co-sponsored by the American University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE and the University of Southern Maine, Portland, USA.

### **The 2nd Biannual Irish Sexuality Studies Conference**

#### **Self, Selves and Sexualities**

**March 9-10, 2012**

[tinyurl.com/4xwhxgp](http://tinyurl.com/4xwhxgp)

This cross-, inter-, and multi-disciplinary conference is aimed at enhancing sexual literacy, generating well being and advocating social justice. The many discourses of Sexuality Studies permeate and inform the different narratives of life, be it at private or public levels. This conference aims to provide a global platform on which to discuss in an open fashion the varied processes and variations in sexual cultures, sexual identities, and gender role formation. In this way, participants will elaborate on the many debates informing the cultural, economical, ethical, historical, and social foundations of sexuality, at personal and societal levels. This conference will take place at Dublin City University (DCU).

### **The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)**

#### **Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice**

**April 19-22, 2012**

[www.forum.awid.org/forum12](http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12)

The 12th AWID International Forum will gather up to 2000 women's rights leaders and activists from around the

world at the Halic Congress Center in Istanbul, Turkey. Istanbul was selected as the site for the next AWID Forum for many reasons. AWID wanted to bring the event to a region that had not already hosted a Forum. Istanbul is a very accessible location for Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Middle East and North Africa—all regions that have been underrepresented in past AWID Forums. Through the 2012 AWID International Forum, organizers aim to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together we contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women's rights and justice. Questions should be addressed to conference organizers at [forum12@awid.org](mailto:forum12@awid.org).

### **The XIX International AIDS Conference**

**July 22-27, 2012**

[www.aids2012.org](http://www.aids2012.org)

The International AIDS Conference is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV, as well as policy makers, persons living with HIV and other individuals committed to ending the pandemic. It is a chance to assess where we are, evaluate recent scientific developments and lessons learned, and collectively chart a course forward. The AIDS 2012 program will present new scientific knowledge and offer many opportunities for structured dialogue on the major issues facing the global response to HIV. A variety of session types—from abstract-driven presentations to symposia, bridging and plenary sessions—will meet the needs of various participants. Other related activities, including the Global Village, satellite meetings, exhibitions and affiliated events, will contribute to an exceptional opportunity for professional development and networking. The conference will take place in Washington, DC.

# Calls for Papers

## Izmir University of Economics Gender/Violence International Conference

**Deadline: October 15, 2011**

[ekokam.ieu.edu.tr/gv2012](http://ekokam.ieu.edu.tr/gv2012)

The aim of this interdisciplinary conference is to understand and expose the violence involved in the production of bodies, spaces and politics. It will open up the question of violence to inspire different trajectories of thinking and action towards the production of different bodies, different spaces and different politics. In the final analysis this is an ethical project inquiring into the possibility of theorizing and acting from a place of openness to hearing the voice of the other. Abstracts should be single-spaced 350 words or less. The title and applicant's name and affiliation should be printed on a separate page. This conference will take place April 4-6, 2012 at the Izmir University of Economics.

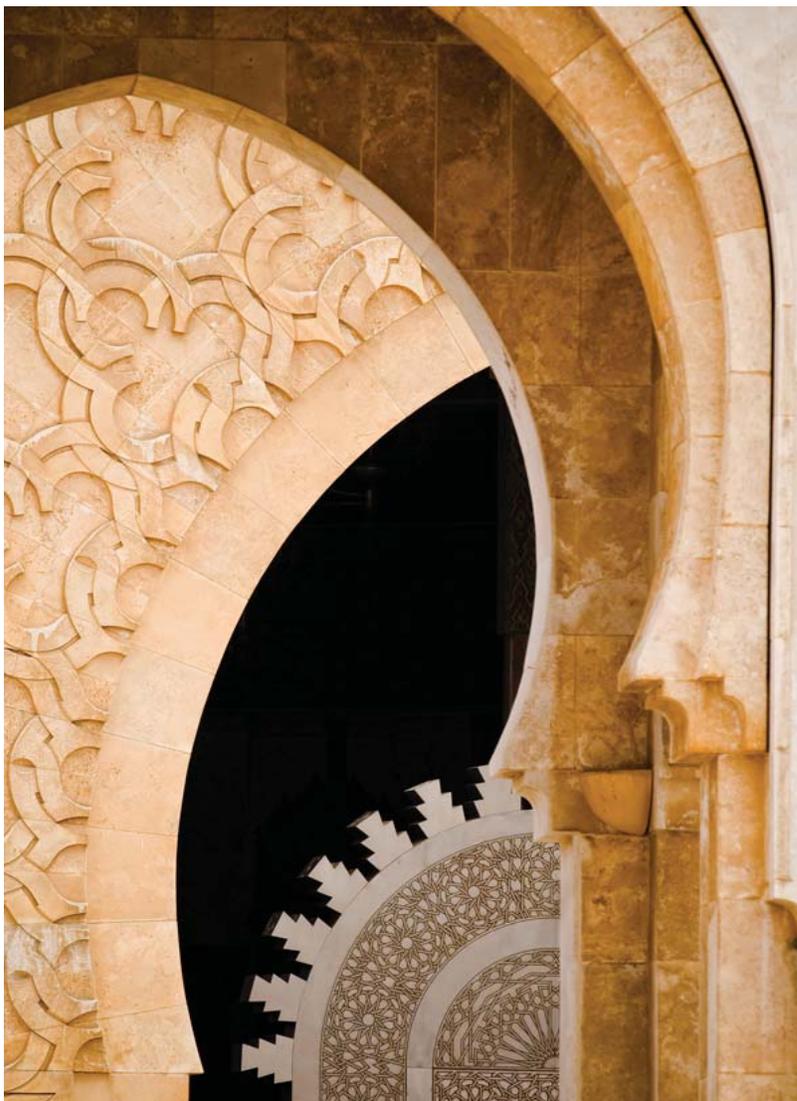
## 13th World Congress on Public Health

**Deadline: October 21, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3aqrofa](http://tinyurl.com/3aqrofa)

The World Federation of Public Health Associations and the Ethiopian Public Health Association invite local, national and international public health leaders, service providers, advocates, trainers and students to submit abstracts dealing with major issues related to opportunities and threats in realizing global health equity. These abstracts should demonstrate the role that public health could play in addressing emerging issues and current problems that contribute

to global health inequity. Abstracts should also showcase innovations, tools, transferrable knowledge, and technology. Highlighting these lessons learned from across the globe, will help us make collective decisions and



recommendations to the global health community, thereby, moving us forward towards sustainable global health equity. Accepted abstracts will be presented at the 2012 world congress on public health titled Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 23-27, 2012.

## International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Law (ICIRL)

**The International Conference on  
Sustainable Development**

**Deadline: October 30, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/65yr22m](http://tinyurl.com/65yr22m)

This conference consists of four main sessions: Sustainable Social and Human Development; Social Sciences and Humanities; Human Rights and Good Governance; and Sustainable Development. This conference aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum on global sustainable development for practitioners and academics; foster dialogue among various stakeholders, including senior level policy makers, academics, and practitioners; and find global partners for future business or research collaborations. All full paper submissions will be peer reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical and/or research content/depth, correctness, relevance to the conference,

contributions, and readability. The accepted full papers will be published in the refereed conference proceedings. All accepted full papers will also be published on the OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development and will be indexed in SSRN, EBSCO and AMICUS, Library and Archives Canada's database to ensure their permanent

preservation for present and future generations. This conference will take place December 5-7, 2012 at the Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

### **The XIX International AIDS Conference**

**Deadline: October 30, 2011**

[www.aids2012.org](http://www.aids2012.org)

Organizers of the XIX International AIDS Conference welcome the submission of abstracts for original contribution to the field in the following program tracks: Basic Science; Clinical Science; Epidemiology and Prevention Science; Social Science, Human Rights and Political Science; and Implementation Science, Health Systems and Economics. Submissions should include a cover page, a 300-word abstract, and indicate which of the tracks listed would be most appropriate for the submission. For more information, please see the organization's website. The conference will take place in Washington, DC on July 22-27, 2012.

### **Gender and History**

**Special Issue: Gender and Religion**

**Deadline: October 31, 2011**

[tinyurl.com/3mwcf5z](http://tinyurl.com/3mwcf5z)

From medieval female spirituality to modern Hindu or Muslim

“fundamentalisms,” from Buddhist saints and African healers to nineteenth-century muscular Christianity, histories of gender and religion have attracted increasing attention from scholars over the last two decades. This special issue of Gender and History will highlight the rich diversity of ongoing historical work in this field and provide an opportunity to critically reflect upon contemporary theoretical, methodological and historiographical debates and issues within this burgeoning area of gender history. Editors plan to approach the creation of this volume via a colloquium to be held September 17-18, 2012 at the University of York (UK). Paper proposals (500-750 words maximum) are to be submitted by October 31, 2011 and invitations to present at the colloquium will be issued by January 2012.

### **Association for Gender Research, Education, Academia and Action (AGREAA)**

**Trans Studies Conference**

**Deadline: December 2, 2011**

[agreaa.wordpress.com/conference](http://agreaa.wordpress.com/conference)

Organizers invite proposals which examine and explore issues which are current in transgender studies of all kinds. In addition to academic analysis, organizers welcome the submission

of work around activist struggles and academic accountability to the trans community, creative works, and other approaches from community members and activists and others for whom trans existence and experience is salient. Papers, reports, works-in-progress and workshops are invited on issues related to any of the following themes: trans law; trans activism and the academy; race and trans issues; trans youth; trans persons and the medical establishment; trans spirituality; and representations of trans practice and trans persons. Abstracts of 300 words should be submitted to the organizers.

### **UN Women's Housing, Land & Property Rights**

**Call for Contributions: Virtual Platform Of The UN SR On The Right To Housing**  
[tinyurl.com/6edl5da](http://tinyurl.com/6edl5da)

The virtual platform of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing is now up and running. This new tool will be used initially for developing the project “Women and the Right to Land and Housing.” People worldwide can now register and contribute to the thematic report and the guide and leaflet which will be produced on the subject.

## **Online Resources**

### **Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)**

**May 24 Pack on Faith-Based Peacebuilding: The Need For A Gender Perspective**

[tinyurl.com/3nqwn1u](http://tinyurl.com/3nqwn1u)

This May 24 Pack looks at the point where religion, women's rights and peacebuilding intersect. Here, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) shares the outcomes of its research on religious fundamentalism and how that impacts women's rights worldwide. Women peace activists and women religious leaders from different corners of the

world share their stories of frustration as well as inspiration, and tell of the need to be creative and patient in terms of changing the patriarchal features of religions. Several of the women featured in this May 24 Pack share how progressive male allies have been crucial in terms of supporting and sustaining them in their work for peace and justice in faith-based settings.

### **NYU School of Law**

**Business and Human Rights Documentation Project (B-HRD)**

[www.B-HRD.org](http://www.B-HRD.org)

The Business and Human Rights

Documentation Project was recently launched at a public event at NYU School of Law. B-HRD is an interactive, multilingual information portal that connects and informs advocates by providing an online forum to share information about corporate accountability campaigns and advocacy strategies. Available in English, French, and Spanish, the site features content contributed by advocates and organizations around the globe including: an extensive, searchable database of human rights documentation; an “In Focus” section that highlights recent developments in

key campaigns against business-related abuse; and a “Tools & Strategy Forum” with resources and advocacy strategies to help advocates prevent and seek justice for business-related abuses. B-HRD’s In Focus section highlights several campaigns against business-related abuse from around the world. B-HRD was designed to complement existing online resources, such as the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and was jointly developed by International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net; [www.escr-net.org](http://www.escr-net.org)) and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ; [www.chrgj.org](http://www.chrgj.org)) as well as the International Human Rights Clinic at NYU School of Law.

## Gender Action

### Factsheet on International Financial Institutions and Sexual and Reproductive Rights

[tinyurl.com/3zqwyrj](http://tinyurl.com/3zqwyrj)

Gender Action research shows that although sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights are promoted by international financial institutions’ policies, they are rarely acknowledged or fulfilled through investments. This document explores how ideological assaults on SRH investments undermine the World Bank’s SRH and gender policies. Examples of the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank project funding shortfalls are also provided. 2011 United Nations data on women and reproductive rights around the world are briefly outlined. Recommended actions are given in the “What Can Civil Society Do?” section. At the end, there are additional SRH resources suggestions.

### Mother Pelican: Journal of Sustainable Human Development

[www.pelicanweb.org/#infoarchive](http://www.pelicanweb.org/#infoarchive)

The April 2011 issue of this online journal focused on gender equality and human development. The May 2011 issue focused on gender equity and energy policy. Two leaps forward are needed to attain the transition from consumerism to sustainability: a leap

from sexism to gender equality, and a leap from fossil fuels to clean energy. This issue addresses the gendered implications of the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy. It is argued that both issues are tightly coupled, and that jointly pushing for both gender equality and clean energy is the best global strategy at this point in human history. This issue also includes two additional supplements:

#### \*Status of Gender Equality in Society (Supplement)

[tinyurl.com/3jhn2de](http://tinyurl.com/3jhn2de)

This online supplement is a digest of recent events and significant contributions to fostering gender equality—and human development—in various secular cultures and institutions. Editors have compiled information on the following topics: Current Status of the World’s Women and Girls; A Centenary of Celebrations?; Egypt’s Revolution Through the Eyes of Five Women; Women as Key Players in Climate Adaptation; UN Women and the WomenWatch Web Site; Gender, Humiliation, and Global Security; Plight of Japanese Astronaut and her Family; Rising Tide: Gender Equality and Cultural Change around the World; and Gender Equality Video by the European Commission.

#### \*Status of Gender Equality in Religion (Supplement)

[www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv07n05supp5.html](http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv07n05supp5.html)

This supplement is a digest of recent events and significant contributions to fostering gender equality—and human development—in various religious traditions and institutions. With so much going on, the selected items are the editor’s choice.

### The National Academies

[www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu)

Starting on June 2, 2011, all PDF versions of books published by the National Academies Press will be downloadable to anyone free of charge. This includes a current catalog of more than 4,000 books plus future reports produced by the Press. Before today’s announcement, all PDFs were free to download in

developing countries, and 65 percent of them were available for free to any user.

## Violence is Not our Culture (VNC)

### Strategising Online Activism: A Toolkit

[tinyurl.com/3bdygy](http://tinyurl.com/3bdygy)

A new resource from Violence is Not our Culture (VNC), this toolkit was inspired by the workshops held in Asia and Africa. While this toolkit has been designed primarily for the local partners and activists of the VNC campaign, this can be a resource, too, for human rights activists who are keen to develop their online activism and want to know where and how to start. The toolkit included information on why and how information and communication technologies (ICTs) can be used by women’s rights and human rights groups in their advocacy skills; maximizing the efficiency of online tools, including networking and mobile tools for advocacy and campaigning; developing an advocacy and/or communication strategy; using social networking; and understanding online privacy and security issues relevant to building online activism. The toolkit is available for free download and distribution.

## UNIFEM

### Investing In Gender Equality: Ending Violence Against Women And Girls

[www.endvawnow.org](http://www.endvawnow.org)

This publication presents important data analysis and graphs from various countries of the world showing how gender equality and violence against women are correlated. Countries with greater progress on gender equality, girls’ secondary education, and women’s reproductive health and rights (including maternal mortality) have lower levels of violence against women. The tool highlights how advancements in gender equality and reducing violence against women and girls is a “smart” investment which is central to women’s empowerment with high pay-offs for poverty reduction and development overall. The rigorous statistical analysis is based on the leading global gender equality indices and violence against women prevalence surveys,

for countries for which such data was available through 2009. The resource is currently available at the Virtual Knowledge Centre and is available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish.

### **United Nations Women's Watch and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality**

#### **Fact Sheet: Women with Disabilities**

[www.un.org/womenwatch/enable](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/enable)

This WomenWatch special feature is on women with disabilities. It serves as a portal to resources and the work of the UN in this area. Information on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) is presented, including a section with links to information related to the Convention's article on women with disabilities. The factsheet provides information about girls and women with disabilities in the following areas: education, employment and paid work, health and housing. The sources for this factsheet are various UN divisions and the World Bank. There is also a "Citations" section with

excerpts from the Beijing Platform for Action, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and other documents. It encompasses information such as stigmas associated with disability and gender inequality as well as a call for action to ensure that women with disabilities enjoy all human rights and inclusion in development. Links to a selection of UN publications and documents and resources on other UN websites are provided. WomenWatch is the United Nations system's central gateway to gender equality and women's empowerment information and resources.

### **Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice**

#### **Legal Eye On The ICC**

[tinyurl.com/3pr45yt](http://tinyurl.com/3pr45yt)

The *Legal Eye on the ICC* is an online newsletter which contains summaries and gender analysis of judicial decisions and other legal developments at the International Criminal Court (ICC), and discussion of legal issues arising

from victims' participation before the Court, particularly as these issues relate to the prosecution of gender-based crimes in each of the situations under investigation by the ICC. The Court currently has six situations under investigation: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur, Sudan, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Libya. Available in French and English.

### **Women's Voices**

[www.iccwomen.org](http://www.iccwomen.org)

Women's Voices is a regular e-letter which provides updates and analysis on political developments, the pursuit of justice and accountability, the participation of women in peace talks and reconciliation efforts from the perspective of women's rights activists within armed conflict situations, specifically those countries under investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) including Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Darfur, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Libya. In English/French.

# Book Review

*Contesting Archives: Finding Women in the Sources*, edited by Nupur Chaudhuri, Sherry J. Katz, and Mary Elizabeth Perry. 2010, 223 pages. University of Illinois Press, IL. Reviewed by Jason Black, Doctoral Student, History, Michigan State University.

*Contesting Archives: Finding Women in the Sources* contains a wealth of information and covers a wide range of specific subjects while maintaining the goal outlined in the title of finding women in historical sources. The principle argument of the book holds that archives are not neutral sources, but are collected with specific goals in mind, by specific people, and tend to be created by men collecting sources that primarily deal with men. This does not mean that finding women in the archives is impossible, only that it requires a fair amount of work.

The twelve essays within are split up into three sections. The first, "Locating Women in Official Documents," contains four essays which focus their attention on official archival sources and how to read them in such a way as to find women and female agency in collections that were not collected with these goals in mind. Mary Elizabeth Perry explores the life of Fatima, a slave in early modern Spain. Fatima appears in a single Inquisitorial record, after she challenged a local priest's claim that she had converted from Islam to Christianity while being treated for the plague. Daniel S. Haworth introduces us to María Petra Fernández, a nineteen-year-old orphan living in nineteenth-century Mexico. Fernández appears in an 1854 case file, attempting to have herself declared an adult so that she could be free to marry the man of her choice, and not one chosen by her foster father. Julia Clancy-Smith explores the lives of migrant women in nineteenth-century Tunis through the testimonies of Giovanna Tellini, who was prosecuted for grand larceny and contraband. Finally, Kali Nicole Gross investigates intersection of race, crime and gender in an early twentieth century racially integrated neighborhood in Philadelphia, through the trial of Henrietta Cooper, charged with killing her newborn child.

Each of these essays centers around legal documentation of some kind. In three of the four essays the women in question were the subject of criminal proceedings; only Fernández initiated legal proceedings of her own volition. Legality aside, what these essays also have in common is that they locate evidence of female agency within the archives, illustrating some of the

ways in which women navigated the societies in which they lived. The necessary reliance on legal documents leaves a number of questions unanswered, namely what happened to each of these women after their respective cases were resolved, but there is only so much that official archives can provide in these cases.

The second section, “Integrating Varied Sources Found Inside and Outside Official Archives,” attempts to address that problem. Lisa Sousa utilizes criminal and civil records, as well as formal texts and a variety of images, to explore women’s lives in colonial Mexico. In order to reconstruct the lives of progressive era radical women in California, Sherry J. Katz began with the limited archival and interview materials available and then expanded her focus to materials from feminist, social reform and labor campaigns. Malgorzata Fidelis focuses on letters to the editor of the communist era magazine *Girlfriend*, supplemented by interviews, to explore the experiences of Polish working women under communism. By working with the collected papers of two of Marcus Garvey’s wives, Amy Ashwood Garvey and Amy Jacques Garvey, Ula Taylor is able to reconstruct the Harlem cultural tradition of “street-strolling.” This activity allowed these women to maneuver around Harlem, interacting with their neighbors and compiling knowledge relevant to their community. Nupur Chaudhuri uses the 1825 travel narrative of a Bengali woman, Krishnobhabini Das, to explore gender, racial and colonial relations in Bengal, India. Finally, Mansoureh Etehadieh (Nezam Mafi), Elham Malekzadeh, Maryam Ameli-Rezaei, and Janet Afary utilize court registers, personal letters and the memoirs of a European doctor to reconstruct women’s lives in turn of the century Iran.

The essays in this second section explore a variety of source material in order to accomplish their goals. They illustrate the ways in which historians, when faced with minimal obvious resources, must be flexible enough to approach other, perhaps seemingly tangential sources, to expand their understanding of their subjects. Even these essays leave much to be explored in their respective areas of research, but not for lack of effort. Even with additional sources at their disposal, these historians are still working with a small pool of resources.

The third section, “Creating Women’s History Archives,” is the shortest, containing only two essays, but serves as a call to arms for historians. Joanne L. Goodwin traces the creation of two collections of women’s history documents in Nevada, at the University of Nevada in Reno, and in Las Vegas. The collections were created with the express purpose of recording the history of women in Las Vegas, Nevada, and their contributions to the city and the state at large. Kathleen Sheldon, upon arriving in Beira, Mozambique in 1982, discovered that, although the new socialist state was endeavoring to empower its female citizens, there were almost no archival records dealing with women. Sheldon set about creating a collection of interviews to serve as a foundation for studying the history of working women in the recently independent Mozambique. Both of these essays provide examples of how archives can be constructed in such a way as to focus on women’s history, which is so often obscured in other archival projects.

The book overall provides excellent models for historians, whether they’re researching women’s history or not, of how to perform archival research on historical subjects who did not create archives, or did not have archives created specifically to preserve their works. It also exposes the dangers of treating archives as neutral sources. Although the creation of women’s history archives in Nevada or Mozambique is certainly a good thing, it also helps to illustrate the fact that archives are created with a specific goal in mind, and pursuing that goal can obscure some aspects of the historical record. The book doesn’t provide a model for archives that do not do this, and it seems impossible to do so. Knowledge is subjective, as is the way in which it is organized, and this will likely always be the case.

Where *Contesting Archives* shines is in providing positive examples of how to do research despite this, of ways in which historians can make use of archives that do not, on the surface, deal directly with their research, or that obscure it through sheer volume or organization.

For historians of women’s history, this book is of immense value, as it provides specific models that can certainly be applied or modified to fit their own research interests and the archives in which they find themselves, or when there are no archives to utilize. The same can be said for other historians of the so-called “subaltern” who wish to study historical actors who are not well represented within archival materials. Finally, the book is useful for anyone embarking on research or first tackling the methodologies of historical research, as it provides detailed models used by fifteen historians of almost as many regions and cultures, and does so in a book that is compact and readable.



*Beyond Women's Empowerment in Africa: Exploring Dislocation and Agency*, by Elinami Veraeli Swai. 2010, 220 pages. Palgrave Macmillan, New York, NY. Reviewed by Erin Moore, Doctoral student, Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago.

In the summer of 2009, the New York Times Magazine proclaimed: "the oppression of women worldwide is the human rights cause of our time." Indeed, since the ratification of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, "women's empowerment," in the eyes of the western public, has assumed the position of panacea to global poverty. In Africa in particular, "empowerment" comes in various forms from national governments and international NGOs (nongovernmental organizations): small loans, public health campaigns, education initiatives, and leadership training. Swai's *Beyond Women's Empowerment in Africa: Exploring Dislocation and Agency* is a timely intervention into what might be considered the "women's empowerment industry" in Africa.

As Swai notes, the contemporary women's empowerment industry follows in a long line of nearly two hundred years of missionary and colonial domestic training initiatives that fundamentally refigured—and continue to influence— notions of gender and power in African colonies (see Allman et. al. 2002, Comaroff and Comaroff 1991, Hodgson 2005, Hunt 1990, Thomas 2003). Swai argues that while we imagine the women's empowerment industry to personally, politically, economically, and socially advance the rights and abilities of women and girls, it was actually through participation in colonial and missionary women's education groups that women came to understand themselves as disempowered. Mission education, according to Swai, taught women to devalue the knowledge of everyday life they had learned in their homes and communities in favor of modern education. She writes: "I believe that education shapes women's predisposition toward certain predetermined goals without considering their realities, and I see this as problematic because it is inherently normative, often unknowingly so; it is a way of avoiding or hiding a foundational element of the hegemony of patriarchy and capitalism" (8).

Drawing on Catherine Odora-Hoppers' (2002) notion of "Indigenous Knowledge Systems," Swai's goal is to bring African "women's knowledge systems" to the center of "any discourse on development in Africa" (2). She explains how the dislocation of African women is part and parcel to the evisceration of these knowledge systems by both colonial archives and modern empowerment projects. For Swai, African women's knowledge systems are inter-psychological, process-based, and marked by agentive identity construction: "...knowing is a process of constructing identity" (47-8). Given their fluid and ever-changing nature, according to Swai, these knowledge systems are not easily discernible by standardized quantitative studies nor have they been paid adequate attention in colonial histories and ethnographies of Tanzania, where she bases her ethnographic work.

Swai uses ethnography, discourse analysis, and archival research to illustrate African women's knowledge systems at work among rural women in Tanzania, as well as to demonstrate how, under the name of "women's empowerment," these knowledge systems have been devalued and dismissed. In her interesting and thorough rendering of the earliest colonial ethnographies of the Tanganyika Territory in Chapter 1, Swai demonstrates how colonial officials blamed what they perceived as a lack of "development" on women, which drove the matriculation of these women to mission schools. Mission education was nearly always domestic and was designed to prepare African women to keep a clean and Christian home (Hunt 1990). While contemporary women's education in Africa covers topics beyond home economics, according to Swai: "the types of education that are considered to empower women are often used as a sieve, as a gate keeping device to control and manipulate women's social and economic mobility" (7).

In Chapter 2, Swai unfolds her theoretical approach to "Women's Knowledge Systems." Drawing from Carol Gilligan's (1982) line of developmental psychology, the idea that women are relational—as opposed to men who are goal-oriented—is the linchpin to her formulation of "women's knowledge systems." However, Swai does not argue for simply identifying and revaluing these knowledge systems as important and as filling gaps in the literature on African women. Rather, she goes to great length to show the bidirectional and ambivalent processes through which, for example, discourses on marriage disenfranchise women while simultaneously engendering a source of women's knowledge. Chapter 3 builds on historical and anthropological interest in African women's fashion by examining the khanga, print-cloth made and worn by Tanzanian women, as a mediator of women's knowledge systems. Swai argues that women use the khanga to represent and teach cultural meaning through the use of images and slogans. Chapter 4 gives examples of other uses of women's knowledge systems, including women's natural healing techniques and agricultural practices. Chapter 5 details the "Genesis of Women's Disempowerment" by describing attempts by international NGOs to incorporate traditional and indigenous knowledges in community development initiatives. These attempts emphasized local participation in NGO programs in such a way as to further disenfranchise women from their land and to make domestic and care-giving tasks more time consuming. Chapter 6 traces the evolution of the concept of "women's empowerment" internationally and in Tanzania specifically, highlighting its correlation with education. "The classic oxymoron 'women(s) empowerment,'" Swai writes, "has come to mean women conforming to social and cultural expectations, a practice that '...is likely to be antithetical to empowerment'" (160, quoting Kabeer 1999: 457). In her conclusion, Swai reiterates the ambivalent and bidirectional nature of women's knowledge systems.

According to Swai, these knowledges make themselves available for both transcending and reproducing women's current social position.

*Beyond Women's Empowerment in Africa* is a richly detailed argument for reconsidering what we, as scholars and as activists, mean by "women's empowerment." Rather than taking economic, social, and educational intervention initiatives at face value, Swai interrogates these programs for their complexities to underscore how outside interventions are never just imposed; they always meet local practices to produce unintended consequences. By combining archival and ethnographic material, Swai shows what "women's empowerment" means to various actors in variegated sites and queries its putative benefits. Swai combines the insights of western social theorists (e.g. Foucault, Bourdieu, and Vygotsky) with those of African and Africanist feminists (e.g. Hunt, Kanogo, Oyewumi) to produce an argument equally influenced by feminist and sociological theory. As such, this text will be of interest to those in many fields including development studies, gender studies, and African studies.

Throughout the text, Swai is also refreshingly self-reflexive, which is especially important given her own subject-position as an educated Tanzanian woman gives her paradoxically both great closeness to and an impassable distance from her informants. In this way, she pays homage to the feminist insistence that one must situate herself in order to tell the most authentic story. In Swai's own words: "The strength of this endeavor is to help us understand that 'African woman' is a cultural-historical construction, which scholars have taken as truthful and real" (11).

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**Thank You.**

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