



Photo: Tracy Ore

Winter Meeting Preview

See you in Antonio

by Tracy Ore, SWS President Elect

Over the years of my involvement with SWS I have grown stronger as an activist and a scholar due to the support that I have received from the organization as a whole as well as many of you individually. As a result, SWS has become a central part of my identity as an academic and

an activist committed to social justice. In selecting me as president-elect, I am honored by the trust the membership has shown in me to work toward strengthening and deepening our mission.

Our upcoming 40th anniversary Winter Meeting theme “Reflecting & (Re) imagining SWS” will provide us all with an opportunity to participate in this important work. Taking place at the locally-owned El Tropicano Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, we will take the time to pause and reflect on the path that we have

(continued on page 23)

Report on SWS Global Feminist Partnership from Trento, Italy

[Ed: The International Committee of SWS administers Global Feminist Partnerships. Partners receive SWS membership including a Gender & Society subscription, and report to SWS here in our newsletter.]

by The Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, University of Trento

www.unitn.it/csg, csg@soc.unitn.it

Gender as a concept entered Italian political debates in the late 1970s, thanks to the demands of women in the feminist movement and the acknowledgment by those women pioneers of sociology—like Laura Balbo, Franca Bimbi e Chiara Saraceno— of its heuristic value for understanding important social phenomena in contemporary societies. Like many other European countries and the United States, theoretical reflections on gender emerged first outside of academia and were deeply linked to political activism for women equal rights like abortion and divorce. From women studies, then, the debate moved to gender studies or from focusing solely on women and women’s rights to encompass broader aspects of gender relations and the intersection between gender and other identity categories like race, ethnicity and sexual identity. Only in the late 1980s gender studies began their fight to come discipline fully acknowledged by Italian academic institutions.

As Saraceno (2010) states, in fact, among women feminist academics there

(continued on page 22)

1	Winter Meeting Preview	13	Fact Sheet: Gender and Medicalization
1	Global Feminist Partnership	19	Chapters
2	President’s Column	20	People’s...
3	Election Results	21	Tweet tweet
4	Feminist Change in the Academy	25	Barbara Rosenblum Dissertation Scholarship
6	SWS Statement to the UN-CSW	26	SWS Investment
9	Call for Campus Visits		
10	Beth B. Hess Scholarship		
11	2011 SWS Membership		

Reflections on my Presidency

Denise A. Segura

University of California, Santa Barbara



At our winter meetings in San Antonio, I will hand over the SWS gavel to incoming President Tracy Ore. As my presidency draws to a close, I thought to share with you some reflections of what I learned during this past year. I do this because it might be helpful to all those who may consider running for the presidency and may be interesting for those interested in learning more about our organization.

In February 2010, I began my presidency when Shirley Hill handed me the gavel near the end of the second business meeting in Savannah following a heated discussion questioning whether the vote—or rather the revote—following the initial tie between me and the other candidate, was fair. I felt uncomfortable hearing a few members argue that I was not the best qualified, had not been “active enough” in SWS and had reaped unfair advantage from working in a Research 1 university which, it was asserted, might provide greater name recognition. Ultimately these arguments, and others, did not overturn or modify the revote, but I felt shell-shocked by the anger expressed by some of our members over my election. For a moment, I forgot my own worth, or what had brought me to that moment where so many feminists *had* thought I would make a good president. I remember giving myself a pep talk during this meeting—reminding myself that I have been elected or appointed to a number of committee chairships in the University

of California, both systemwide and on my campus, as well as in the ASA. In a few instances, I have been confronted (usually privately as opposed to publicly) with one or two faculty members who have “concerns.” The concerns invariably center on whether or not I am familiar enough with the committee’s agenda and the worry that I might be more of an advocate for a specific community and therefore, lack a broad perspective. What I do in such cases is what I did with SWS: listen and unpack the multiple agendas without being defensive, and try to remain confident that my background—academic, activist and personal—equips me in unique ways to benefit the organization. Without dismissing others’ doubts, I have found that such concerns are often anchored in a sense of unfamiliarity with me, my experience, and my community. Ultimately I began my presidential year with hope that I could both serve the organization and enhance my leadership capacities.

So, in a whirl of controversy, I took the gavel in Savannah. Immediately I set about learning the ins-and-outs of SWS. I remember asking Jessica, our Executive Officer, “why does the Executive Council (EC) make ‘x’ decision and not the Executive Office and Budget committee (EOB)?” Jessica would good-naturedly explain who does what and why. But then there were the fun times when an agenda item would come up and no one was quite sure which entity made the final decision. So we did, and still do, the best we can to make it work. I know I’ve over-simplified the inner-workings of SWS policy-making and budget decisions, but we nevertheless confront a critical need to re-evaluate the SWS governing structure to clarify the functions of each respective SWS committee, the EC, and the EOB, and how each one interfaces with one another and streamline the Executive Office.

I’m very pleased that in October SWS hired a consultant team, Boffo

Associates, to evaluate SWS’ administrative and committee structure and suggest some ways to maximize efficiency, productivity, and delineate accountability. As I promised to our membership at the summer meetings, I formed a Strategic Planning Task Force to work with the consultants as an advisory board. I sought members, some of whom have extensive experience in SWS, and others who seek greater involvement. I considered the recommendations of members and utilized our committee structure to identify potential Task Force members. I consulted with the Chair of the Task Force, SWS Vice President Susan Farrell and the Executive Council to come up with the finalists whom I personally contacted. I am pleased to say that every person I contacted agreed. Your Strategic Planning Task Force includes: Susan Farrell (Chair), Corinne Castro, Judith Lorber, Gail Murphy-Geiss, Mary Osirim, Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, and Patricia Warren. Executive Officer Jessica Holden Sherwood and President-Elect Tracy Ore, represent the Executive Council. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more from the strategic planning consultants so stay alert!

What I am proudest about, however, is SWS’ generous contribution to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program. Our donation of \$100,000 will help to support graduate students from communities historically underrepresented in the academy. This is something we can all be proud of!

In addition, I am still basking in the warmth of hosting you at the Winter meetings in Santa Barbara. I have written about this meeting in our previous Network News so I won’t discuss it here. I’m sorry the Executive Office did not get you the evaluation surveys until several months later which undoubtedly contributed to the modest response rate. But, I’m pleased to say that the majority of those who responded indicated that

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

they enjoyed the conference and found the environment beautiful, the speakers informative, and the food delicious! I know we are all looking forward to President-Elect Tracy Ore's upcoming meeting in San Antonio. She has worked hard to keep the costs as moderate as possible so hopefully I will see you all there!

One issue we should discuss is the need for new strategies to pursue our feminist advocacy and scholarship in the midst of a budget sea of red. That is, except for some of the coastal states, the country elected conservative politicians to the Senate, House of Representatives, and state Governorships. All

of us—the recently impoverished, and those still hanging on -- must engage in dialogue to map out strategies to contest and overturn reactionary politics in the coming years. How can we better integrate feminism into grass roots popular imaginaries? How do we strengthen our appeal to young women and men, particularly those hard hit by economic recession? How do we broaden our feminisms to incorporate the outrage within communities of color concerning racial profiling and the abuse of undocumented children and workers? Are we listening to our communities or are we just talking to them? These are just a few of the challenges we will face in the coming

years. I believe SWS is up to the task.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support and help. I began my presidency with hope and end with great appreciation for the tremendous work this organization does to support feminist scholarship and activism. I loved meeting new people, hearing new research, and expanding my feminist vision. As Humphrey Bogart said at the end of *Casablanca*, "I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship." And, for those of you who visit Santa Barbara, I invite you to visit me and my wonderful feminist colleagues and friends.

Election Results

by Shirley Hill

As Past President of SWS, I am pleased to announce the winners in this year's election.

Their terms begin at the upcoming Winter meeting.

Congratulations to everyone who was elected! I extend a special thank you to everyone who ran for office; we appreciate your willingness to step into service and your support for SWS.

I want to acknowledge the hard work of the Nominations Committee—Judith Howard, Patricia Richards, Gail Wallace, Oret Avishai, Cathy Zimmer, and Shirley Jackson—and all of you wonderful SWSers who nominated, recruited, and contacted potential candidates. Of course none of this could happen with the help and oversight of our EO, Jessica Holden Sherwood.

Patricia Yancey Martin, President-Elect

Leslie Hossfeld, Vice President

Catherine (Kay) Valentine, Treasurer-Elect

Laura Logan, Student Rep

Katrina Bloch, Committee on Academic Justice Co-Chair

Jeanne Flavin, Social Action Committee Chair

Vrushali Patil, Sister-to-Sister Co-Chair

Sara Crawley, Career Development Committee Chair

Marla H. Kohlmann, Awards Committee member

Tina Fetner, Career Development Committee member

Stephanie Nawyn, Membership Committee member

Tiffany Taylor, Membership Committee member

Adina Nack, Nominations Committee member

Kristen Schilt, Nominations Committee member

Josephine Beoku-Betts, Publications Committee member

Julia McQuillan, Publications Committee member

Me and My Posse: Making Feminist Change in the Academy

Laura Logan, Jessica Holden Sherwood,
Julia McQuillan, Joya Misra, & Kris De
Welde

The Committee on Academic Justice (CAJ), now in its third year, usually focuses its workshops and meetings on experiences of injustice that (too) many of us face in our work environments. For the 2010 committee session, we wanted to focus on successful feminist change in the academy. CAJ co-chair Kris De Welde and CAJ member Laura Logan put out an open call for members to share their trials and tribulations of changing academic structures and practices, with a focus on successes. The resulting panel featured four SWSers' experiences of facilitating and witnessing feminist change in the academy, with an eye to the lessons others could learn and apply at their institutions.

De Welde was so inspired by the successes shared, that she promptly requested a meeting with her Dean to request that a Committee on the Status of Women be formed (status of this is pending). We hope that by sharing some of these amazing victories, you too will be inspired to find ways to take action and make some feminist change!

Undergraduate Student & Faculty Organizing: Lobbying for a Women's Center (Logan)

In 2005/2006 academic year, after several women students at my undergraduate university (The University of Nebraska at Kearney) reported being victims of sexual assault, it became clear to a tight-knit group of feminist students—who also happened to be members of the Women's Studies honor society—that services and resources for

women on campus were too limited. We did not have a Women's Center on campus, though other feminists on campus, particularly Women's Studies faculty, had lobbied for a Women's Center in the past. The time seemed quite right for another concerted effort to get a Women's Center so our group of WS students decided to conduct a petition drive to lobby for a Women's Center.

With strong faculty support from WS professors, we parked ourselves in the student union and at other heavily trafficked campus locations during the busiest times and asked students to support our efforts with their signatures. We employed a variety of strategies to obtain signatures such as reaching out to students in other departments and in organizations (including sororities) that we thought might be particularly supportive. Ultimately, we gathered hundreds of signatures. We and others also wrote letters to the local paper, the university paper, and to the university Chancellor.

Ultimately, our efforts resulted in a formal meeting with the chancellor in the Spring of 2006. During that meeting, we presented the petition and some letters of support, leading to a thoughtful discussion. Before the meeting was finished, the Chancellor agreed to support the development of a Women's Center, to be in place by the fall—which is exactly what he did.

Feminist faculty leaders were essential to this activist effort. They explained some of the history of previous efforts to get a Women's Center on campus, which helped us be strategic in our actions. They steered us away from unnecessary conflict and helped us learn a little bit about university politics. Finally, I think faculty's guidance prevented us from taking an ineffective approach. As one student noted, we were quite inclined to go all "Norma Rae" on this issue. However, a lighter touch was more effective, as were the effective strategies provided by feminist leaders on our campus.

Feminists ADVANCE-IT at URI (Sherwood)

When I arrived at the University of Rhode Island in 2006, it was in the midst of a first-round NSF ADVANCE-IT grant, IT meaning Institutional Transformation. These grants are designed to improve the proportion of women faculty in STEM disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math. (For details, see <http://uri.edu/advance>.) Early in the project, the leadership team planned both micro and macro level changes, presuming that targeting both the individual and the institution would yield good results. It did indeed help, but previous experience taught the leaders to expand their targets. For example, imagine a department where faculty respond positively when asked about gender equity—the individual level—and where work-family policies are on the books at the institutional level. Anyone who's heard the term "chilly climate" can imagine ways in which this department could still be inhospitable to its women faculty.

The ADVANCE team embraced Barbara Risman's theory (see *Gender & Society* 2004: 429) that gender must be analyzed on the individual, institutional, and interactional levels. Their interventions expanded to include the interactional level, with: workshops on departmental climate, training on the mentor-mentee relationship, gatherings to build campus social capital, and more.

I'm not responsible for the team's sociological approach, but I am of course pleased about it. My role has been serving on the URI Work-Life committee, which was formed as part of the ADVANCE grant, but—as the NSF suggests—remains permanently after the grant's conclusion.

Feminist victories at URI include: improved parental leave policy, guidelines for dual career assistance, and an award-winning new lactation program. Also, the Work-Life committee

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

educates administrators about the business case and the necessity of work-life programs. We show that improvements for women can also be improvements for men employees and the institution overall. It's been gratifying to participate as we apply feminist theory to effect real-world change.

“Nursing Social Change in the Academy Through Lactation Spaces” (McQuillan)

I gave birth almost nine years ago. I was committed to breastfeeding my child, but it was a challenge for me. The two months maternity leave from my University was essential to establishing a good nursing relationship with my infant. My department was supportive; I brought my infant to my office often. Through challenges with nursing I became involved with a support group at a local non-profit organization—Milkworks. Once my daughter and I mastered nursing, I sought to help other women by joining the Mayor's Commission on Breastfeeding—which became the Healthy Kids 2010 Breastfeeding Coalition and then the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition. Milkworks also held “You can do it! Return to Work and Breastfeed” workshops. Through these activities I gained a bit of a reputation on campus as a breastfeeding advocate.

A few years ago an undergraduate student contacted me after she ran out of ideas to find a place to pump while going to school. She was having trouble finding places to pump, and a staff member told her that she should not be in school if she had a lactating child, or that she should no longer nurse if she wanted to go to school. I was quite distraught by this news and told her that I'd do what I could. I called the staff person in charge of the room and found the same negative attitude. I kept asking “there is nothing that can be done? In the three story building that houses your department,

there is not one little space that a woman can have privacy to pump?” I got similar comments—does she really need to breastfeed? Does she really need to be in school? I tried bringing in some authority by using my status on the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women (I thought of them as my “posse” in this situation). Still I met resistance. At this point I did not realize that my approach was a problem—I was looking for an ad-hoc solution, but clearly depending upon individual good will was a bad idea—we needed structural change.

I tried a new approach. I looked around campus for possible lactation spaces, but continued to face resistance. In the short run I started having the undergraduate student—who by now had a night class and no other options—use my office at night. We had a system that allowed her in and then she locked my door. I never met her—we never crossed paths—but I was pleased she had persevered and stuck with nursing.

I brought the issue to the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women. The Chancellor and his advisor wrote a lactation policy and designated several spots on campus as lactation/nursing spaces (e.g. in the Student Union). The Americans With Disabilities compliance officer also took on this cause. The formal “Lactation Policy” is now on the web: http://www.unl.edu/ucomm/chancellor/policymemoranda/Lactation_policy_2009.pdf

In addition to lactation spaces on campus, the University provides refrigerators for storing milk. The Chancellor's lactation policy is so much more powerful that attempting to cajole—even with a posse—individual staff or department chairs to support lactating students. Additionally, the work to institutionally accommodate lactation—similar to any other accommodation necessary because the University was originally designed for able-bodied men—was essential to really helping lactating students.

Our Sociology department has also been a leader for change, creating a dedicated lactation room out of a storage closet. This room is beautifully painted, has a rug, a table, lamp, plug, rocking chair and Koala changing table. The department obtained matching funds from the College and the Chancellor to complete the renovation.

This experience demonstrates the value of institutional change over ad-hoc solutions, the power of having a Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women committee with direct access to the Chancellor and the ability to challenge “business as usual”, and the benefits of flexible administrators. All of this happened at the same time that the University was formalizing many work/life flexibility options and disseminating information to guide faculty—and this lactation information was added to the list of many other policies and programs on campus.

Feminist Change in Work/Life Policies: the Case at U-Mass Amherst (Misra)

My example of feminist change in the academy comes out of my experience with the Massachusetts Society of Professors, the faculty union at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, founded in 1976.

In the early 2000s, the union took on the issue of work-life policies—and as a result, the university has adopted a range of policies that support work-life balance at the university. In part, this has occurred due to the work of the Joint Administration-MSP Work-Life Committee. This committee was bargained by the union, and meets regularly every semester, with the power to bargain work-life policies without waiting until contract bargaining (usually every three years). The committee includes feminists (and others) in the administration and on the faculty. For the most part, we

(continued on page 6)

(Feminist Change continued from page 5)

have the same goals in mind—how to increase support for, lessen turnover of, and increase the diversity of our faculty.

Our work-life/care policies include a many of the usual suspects such as health and dental insurance, life and long term disability insurance, and sick leave. Faculty members also have access to a sick leave bank that allows them to use up to 90 days of paid leave when they are ill. A range of bereavement leaves, unpaid leaves, tuition remissions, and other supports are also available, as well as health care and dependent care spending accounts. The most recent work-life policies developed by MSP, and with the Joint Work-Life Committee include policies meant to support parental caregiving—but also care for partners, parents, or other household members:

Family Sick Leave: Paid leave for 5 days, 30 days, or one semester for care of family or household members who is seriously ill.

Care Postponement of Tenure Decision Year: One-year delay on tenure-decision year related to the care of a family or household member who is seriously ill.

Paid Parental Leave: One semester paid leave during the semester of or the semester following the birth or adoption of a young child for tenure-line faculty. Full-time contract faculty employed for 6 years are also eligible.

Parental Postponement of Tenure Decision Year: One-year delay on tenure-decision year related to the birth or adoption of a child under 5.

Partner Employment Program: Consideration of partner hire without a national search, in order to recruit or retain tenure-line faculty; initial contract funded 1/3 provost, 1/3 initiating unit, 1/3 host unit.

Child Care Assistance: A fund is dispersed to newly hired faculty to help subsidize childcare costs.

The change in the university is remarkable. Many, many faculty have young

children, including pre-tenure faculty, and departments and colleges are adjusting to the idea that there are now, and should be clear and effective policies to support caregiving for parents, partners, children, and others. In addition to the policies, the Work-Life Committee has also developed a toolkit (adapted from one developed by the University of California) to train chairs and deans in the implementation of the policies, meant to help address changing the *culture*, as well as the policies. This is the next step—as we move from policy development, to ensuring that policies are implemented well and equally to all faculty.

All in all, our Work-Life Committee has had a tremendous impact on policies at the university, and we believe it is beginning to help shift the culture around caregiving on campus. These outcomes are truly in keeping with feminist ideals.

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-fifth session
22 February -4 March 2011

Statement submitted by Sociologists for Women in Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.¹

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

School fees must be abolished to reach universal primary education.

The 2000 UN Millennium Summit challenged the world's nations to reach universal primary education for all children (MDG 2) and to eliminate gender disparities at all educational levels (MDG 3) by 2015.² Yet sixty-nine million children are still not in school, and in sub-Saharan Africa, 48 percent of children do not complete primary school.³ About two-thirds of these children are girls.⁴ School fees present an insurmountable barrier for the parents of girls and contribute greatly to the number of children out of school.

School fees prevent the most vulnerable children, especially poor rural girls, from enrolling in school.

In some poor rural areas no more than 10 or 15 percent of girls are enrolled

in school.⁵ In Mexico, children from the bottom quintile of Mexican society, especially girls, are more likely to be engaged in alternatives to schooling.⁶ Children in poor families may have to spend part of their time in informal work earning their own school fees, taking time away from their studies.⁷ Poor parents delay their children's entrance into school or trade one child's education for another's when they do not have funds for school fees.⁸ When families encounter financial difficulties such as an illness requiring medicine, a girl's school fees are easily diverted.⁹

There is a strong correlation between increases in school fees and the incidence of school drop-outs.¹⁰ Even small fees prevent the most vulnerable children from being able to attend school. School fees are highly regressive in

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

the sense that they prevent the poorest children from attending, reserving scarce public resources for children whose families are able to afford the school fees.¹¹

Poverty is perpetuated by the imposition of school fees.

In some areas, as much as 25 percent of all household expenditures are spent on school fees when two students or more are in the household.¹² Families go into debt for school fees to lenders who charge usurious rates of 50 percent per month. School fees divert income away from food and small businesses.¹³ Uneducated women earn less and often must choose whether to support their families or pay for their children's school fees.¹⁴ Illiterate women work for meager wages at the lowest levels of employment and cannot reinvest their irregular modest profits to develop their small business because they need to pay for their children's school fees.¹⁵ This reinforces a cycle of poverty. It is estimated that 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if they left school with basic literacy skills.¹⁶

School costs force poor parents to choose between the education of their sons and their daughters.

In patrilocal societies, where girls leave their natal family to become part of their husband's family, there are fewer benefits to poor families from educating daughters since they do they bring income into the family. Older sisters in poor families are particularly at risk of not continuing their education because their labor is needed at home.¹⁷ A China study showed that girls must compete with their brothers for their parents' investment in education expenses. In rural areas of China, 80 percent of girls (and 60 percent of boys) are not in school, despite the requirement of

universal education. Even in prosperous regions of China, three-fourths of school drop-outs are girls. In the 1990s, having a brother reduced a girl's chances of attending senior high school or college.¹⁸

School fees result in less educated mothers and less healthy families.

Educated mothers tend to have healthier families. When girls are not educated, the long-term result is that their families have poorer nutrition and suffer more illnesses. The problem is particularly acute for orphaned girls who have great difficulty getting an education and are likely to be uneducated as mothers.¹⁹ Providing every mother with a secondary education would save the lives of 1.8 million children every year.²⁰ Yet a lack of funding prevents poor families from sending their daughters on to secondary school.²¹

School fees make the lives of female AIDS orphans more difficult.

School fees are a significant problem in the care of AIDS orphans.²² Grandmothers who care for their orphaned grandchildren struggle to find the money for school fees.²³ Without money for school fees, AIDS orphans must forego school and earn their living on the streets in informal work. Orphaned girls may find a "sugar daddy" to pay their school fees in exchange for sexual favors,²⁴ placing girls in the difficult position of trading their privacy, virtue, and health for their schooling.

School fee abolition benefits all children, especially poor children, in low-income countries.

A number of low-income countries have taken bold, positive steps to reduce fees as called for in the 2000 Dakar Framework for Action.²⁵ Sub-Saharan Africa's gross enrollment rate (GER) grew to 97 percent in 2005, a thirty-six percent increase in enrollment over

six years.²⁶ Dramatic gains in primary school enrollment were made when school fees were abolished in sub-Saharan countries, a 68 percent increase in Uganda, 51 percent in Malawi, 26 percent in Cameroon, and 23 percent in Tanzania.²⁷ In countries that have abolished school fees, enrollment of children in the lowest quintile has increased dramatically so that poor children are the main beneficiaries of school fee abolition. In Malawi, for instance, the net enrollment ratio for children in the poorest quintile was only 33 percent in 1990; following school fee abolition, the ratio increased to 76 percent in 1997.²⁸

Without school fee abolition, the goal of universal primary school completion by 2015 will not be met.

The large majority of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are at risk of not reaching universal primary school completion by 2015.²⁹ Tanzania was the only major sub-Saharan country to reach universal primary school completion by 2005.³⁰ To help children complete primary school, school fee abolition must be combined with broad programs to maintain educational quality such as increased numbers of teachers, teacher manuals, and teacher training. Governments need to lower indirect school costs such as uniforms, textbooks and informal fees.³¹ To provide funding for these improvements, capitation grants that provide a per-pupil amount have proven effective in replacing school fees while providing access for vulnerable groups, including poor rural girls, the disabled, and orphans.³²

(Endnotes)

- 1 Sociologists Without Borders joins Sociologists For Women in Society in endorsing this statement.
- 2 Sociologists for Women in Society extends thanks to Dr. Susan

(continued on page 8)

(Commission continued from page 7)

- Hagood Lee for drafting this statement and to Barret Katuna and Dani Jauk for assisting with research and editing.
- 3 Global Campaign for Education. 2010. *Back to School? The Worst Places in the World...* Saxonwold, South Africa: Global Campaign for Education.
- 4 UNICEF and The World Bank. 2009. *Abolishing School Fees in Africa: Lessons from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Mozambique*. Washington, DC: The World Bank.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Post, David. 2001. "Region, Poverty, Sibship, and Gender Inequality in Mexican Education: Will Targeted Welfare Policy Make a Difference for Girls?" *Gender & Society* 15(3):468-489.
- 7 Evans, Ruth. 2002. "Poverty, HIV, and Barriers to Education: Street Children's Experiences in Tanzania." *Gender and Development* 10 (3) 3:51-62.
- 8 Lee, Susan Hagood. 2006. *"Rice Plus:" Widows and Economic Survival in Rural Cambodia*. New York: Routledge.
- 9 Akuri, John, Susan Weinger, and Barbara Baron. 2009. "When Personal Dreams Derail, Rural Cameroonian Women Aspire For Their Children." *Journal of International Women's Studies* 11 (2).
- 10 Nguyen, Phuong. 2006. "Effects of social class and school conditions on educational enrollment and achievement of boys and girls in rural Viet Nam." *International Journal of Educational Research* 45:153-175.
- 11 UNICEF and The World Bank, 15.
- 12 Nguyen, Phuong. 2006. "Effects of social class and school conditions on educational enrollment and achievement of boys and girls in rural Viet Nam." *International Journal of Educational Research* 45:153-175.
- 13 Van Driel, Maria. 2009. "The Social Grants and Black Women in South Africa: A Case Study of Bopelongii Township in Gauteng." *Journal of International Women's Studies* 10(4).
- 14 Akuri, Weinger, and Baron.
- 15 Chitsiki, Colletah. 2000. "Culture as a barrier to rural women's entrepreneurship: Experience from Zimbabwe." *Gender and Development* 8:1.
- 16 UNICEF and The World Bank.
- 17 Post, David.
- 18 Tsui, Ming and Lynne Rich. 2002. "The Only Child and Educational Opportunity for Girls in Urban China." *Gender & Society* 16(1):74-92.
- 19 Nyambedha, Erick Otieno, Simiyu Wandibba, and Jens Aagaard-Hensen. 2001. "Policy implications of the inadequate support systems for orphans in Western Kenya." *Health Policy* 58: 83-96.
- 20 Global Campaign for Education.
- 21 Brown, P., & Park, A. (2002). Education and poverty in Rural China. *Economics of Educational Review*, 21, 523-541
- 22 Nyambedha, Wandibba, and Aagaard-Hensen.
- 23 Upton, Rebecca L. 2003. "'Women Have No Tribe': Connecting Carework, Gender, and Migration in an Era of HIV/AIDS in Botswana." *Gender & Society* 17: 314.
- 24 Evans, Ruth.
- 25 World Education Forum. 2000. *Education For All: Meeting Our Collective Commitments*. Text adopted at Dakar, Senegal 26-28 April, para. 32.
- 26 UNICEF and The World Bank.
- 27 Ibid., 4.
- 28 Ibid., 9-10.
- 29 Ibid., 2.
- 30 Ibid., 2.
- 31 UNESCO 2010. *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2010: Reaching the marginalized*. Paris: UNESCO; Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 32 Ibid., 27.

Call for Applications for Campus Visits of 2011

Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, Nancy Naples, and 2010 Feminist Activism Winner, Akosua Adomako Ampofo
Due March 1, 2011

During the 2011-2012 academic year, each award winner will visit two campuses. These campus visits are intended to celebrate and enhance feminist scholarship and social activism on college campuses.

The **Distinguished Feminist Lecturer** visits campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or are characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship.

The **Feminist Activism Awardee** visits campuses with departments with a focus on feminist activism, social movements, sociological practice, and/or activist research.

The selection committee will look especially favorably on campuses that are committed to gaining the widest possible audience for these visits. This may be demonstrated by evidence of

- collaboration with other departments and programs on campus
- multiple-campus cooperation
- community partnerships.

SWS will pay at least a portion of the expenses for the two site visits; institutions should not let resource scarcity prevent them from applying. (Detailed reimbursement levels and guidelines are pending approval by SWS Executive Council and will be made available when finalized.) SWS awards the Distinguished Feminist Lecturer and the Feminist Activism Awardee a one-time honorarium of \$1000.

If you are interested in hosting a campus visit send your application by **March 1, 2011** to:

Distinguished Feminist Lecturer Committee Chair Lisa D. Brush
email: lbrush@pitt.edu;
phone: 412-648-7595

Feminist Activism Award Committee Chair Andrea Miller
email: andreamiller31@webster.edu;
phone: 314-246-8698

The application should include the following information:

1. An explanation of your interest in hosting a campus visit and the merits of awarding a campus visitation to your school.
2. A description of the type of presentation you are interested in hosting (this is particularly important in the case of the Feminist Activist).
3. The number of days you will ask the awardee to stay.
4. The audience to which the presentation will be targeted.
5. A description of how local costs will be met.
6. Tentative dates.*

*NOTE: The two campuses who host the 2010 Feminist Activist, Dr. Ampofo, will need to coordinate dates as she is based in Ghana and we would like to have only one international flight.

Guidelines for Arranging and Funding Campus Visits for the Feminist Lecturer and Feminist Activism Award Winners

Communication and Planning

The host and speaker will communicate *directly* about travel arrangements, accommodations, scheduling, and any other details of the site visit. This communication should occur in a timely fashion to facilitate reasonable airfare and flight schedules (including best local information about alternative airports). The SWS Executive Office is *not* responsible for travel arrangements or scheduling.

In the event that the award winner is based internationally, the committee

choosing the host institutions should work with them to attempt to schedule talks so only one international flight is necessary.

SWS does not pay costs upfront. The host and speaker are responsible for all payments and must submit receipts for reimbursable expenses to the SWS Executive Office within 30 days of the visit.

The speaker should not incur any financial costs for these trips.

Funding

- SWS reimburses up to a total of \$750 for domestic travel (airfare and ground) or \$1500 for international travel (airfare and ground) and

lodging at each site if needed.

- SWS reimburses only the cost of coach airfare (up to the \$750/\$1500 limit). If the speaker prefers to fly first or business class, she or he (or the host institution) is responsible for paying the difference compared to the coach class fare.
- If airfare, major transportation, and lodging exceed the funding limits, SWS will match the host institution's expenditure dollar-for-dollar, to a maximum of \$250.
- The host is responsible for local transportation, food, and any other hosting expenses in excess of the reimbursable limit (as described above).

The 2011 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an advanced sociology Ph.D. student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student advanced to candidacy (ABD status) in an accredited Ph.D. program in sociology in the U.S. is eligible to apply if she or he studied at a U.S. two-year college either part-time or full-time for the equivalent of at least one full academic year that was not part of a high-school dual-enrollment program.

The Scholarship carries a stipend of \$3500 from Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and an additional \$300 from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) to be used to support the pursuit of a Ph.D. as well as a one-year membership in SWS (including a subscription to *Gender & Society*) and SSSP. The Scholarship will be awarded at the summer meetings of SWS and SSSP. Recognizing Beth Hess's significant contributions to the American Sociological Association (ASA), ASA joins SWS and SSSP in supporting and celebrating the awardee at their Annual Meetings, August 13-16, 2010 in Chicago, IL. The awardee's economy class airfare, train fare or driving mileage/tolls will be paid jointly by SWS and SSSP. ASA also supports applicants for this award via their student travel award program (more than one such award may be given, but students must apply to ASA separately). Each association will also waive its meeting registration and provide complementary banquet and/or reception tickets for the awardee.

To honor Beth Hess's career, the committee will be looking for:

- Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other

institution serving less-privileged students.

- Research and activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology being especially positive.
- Service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring and activism.
- High quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

Applications for the award should be sent electronically as a single Word or RTF file via e-mail attachment to: dcopelto@brockport.edu. Applications must contain in the following order:

1. A cover sheet with:
 - Name and full contact information, including phone and email
 - Current academic affiliation, with years
 - Community college or technical school attended, with years and number of credits completed
 - Name and contact information for graduate faculty reference
 - If included, name of honored faculty member
2. A letter of application (no more than 2 pages) describing the student's decision to study sociology, commitment to teaching, career goals, research agenda, service and activism that would help the committee to see how the Scholarship would be a fitting honor
3. Full curriculum vitae, including all schools, degrees awarded, years of study, and full or part-time status in each
4. (Optional) A one-page letter describing a community/technical college faculty member who contributed in a significant way to the decision to study sociology or pursue higher education

Applicants should also arrange for the following to be sent directly either electronically via e-mail attachment or in hard copy:

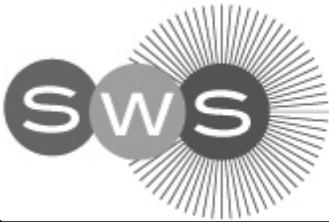
1. A letter confirming advancement to candidacy (ABD status) in a sociology Ph.D. program and aid award, if any
2. A letter of recommendation from a sociologist
3. Transcript (official or unofficial) from the community or technical college attended

Only the enrollment confirmation, letter of recommendation, and transcript will be accepted in hard copy. *Electronic copies of these materials are preferred* and should be sent directly by the individual or institution supplying them. Hard copies can be mailed directly to:

Dr. Denise Copelton
Department of Sociology
The College at Brockport, State University of NY
350 New Campus Dr.
Brockport, NY 14420

To be considered, all application materials (electronic and hard copy) must be received by midnight on April 1, 2011.

For further information contact Denise Copelton at: dcopelto@brockport.edu.



Name: _____

Email: _____

Please print neatly. SWS will email you a log-in for adding your mailing address etc. to our database.
(If this is a problem, please call the below number.)

Member Options:

- I do **NOT** want my name included when SWS rents its membership list (usually to publishers)
- I do **NOT** want to be included in the members' directory
- I do **NOT** want to receive the *Gender & Society* journal (available online)

e-Newsletter options

check neither to receive the e-newsletter,
or check either or both:

- contact me **only** for voting, renewing, and conference registration (no e-newsletter)
- Please mail me a hard copy of the e-newsletter

2011 MEMBERSHIP FEE

Income less than \$15,000	\$ 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$15,000-\$19,999	\$ 21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$20,000-\$29,999	\$ 31	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$30,000-\$39,999	\$ 41	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$40,000-\$49,999	\$ 46	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$50,000+	\$ 51	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining Member	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership : \$1800		
payable in equal installments over (1) (2) (3) (4) yrs	\$ _____	

you may ALSO check:

Gift Membership (please fill out information on page 2) \$14

optional: **Register now
for the next meeting!**



February 3 to 6, 2011
on the San Antonio riverwalk
at www.eltropicanohotel.com

MEETING REGISTRATION FEE

← use the same line as for MEMBERSHIP

Income less than \$15,000	\$ 140	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$15,000-\$19,999	\$ 160	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$20,000-\$29,999	\$ 180	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$30,000-\$39,999	\$ 200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$40,000-\$49,999	\$ 220	<input type="checkbox"/>
Income \$50,000+	\$ 240	<input type="checkbox"/>

On-site fees will be higher.
Fee includes most meals but not lodging.

TOTAL PAID (US currency only)

\$ _____

credit card ↓

check ↓

Cardholder Name: _____

Credit Card #: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card:

MasterCard

Visa

Make checks or money orders

(in U.S. currency) payable to:

Sociologists for Women in Society

URI Sociology

10 Chafee Road

Kingston, RI 02881

Phone: 401-874-9510

Fax: 401-874-7717

Email: swseo@socwomen.org

Website: www.socwomen.org

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

May be done as you renew, or separately.

1.) Check one:

- This is a gift that I am paying for – payment information on reverse.
 Free gift, as this is my third year in a row as a dues-paying (or life) member.

The EO will confirm your 2009, 2010, and 2011 memberships, and your one free gift membership coupon will be e-mailed to your recipient.

NOTE: This program was designed to bring new members to SWS.

2.) Gift Recipient's Information:

Name: _____

Email: _____

please print neatly

SWS INTERESTS

SWS works on fostering feminism in sociology and society in several ways.
Which of the following two or three are most interesting to you personally?

- ___ Publishing feminist scholarship
___ Fighting discrimination against feminists in the academy
___ Supporting the careers of feminist sociologists
___ Helping make feminist social change
___ Providing resources for feminist teachers
___ Building membership
___ Giving scholarships and awards to outstanding feminists

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

(consistent with ASA)

List 3 areas in order of importance: #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Application and Practice

- A.1. Applied Sociology/Evaluation Research
A.2. Communication and Information Technologies
A.3. Policy Analysis
A.4. Social Welfare/Social Work
A.5. Sociological Practice
A.6. Teaching and Learning in Sociology

Comparative and Historical Approaches

- B.1. Comparative Sociology/Historical Sociology
B.2. Development

Family, Life Course, and Society

- C.1. Aging/Social Gerontology
C.2. Animals and Society
C.3. Children and Youth
C.4. Family

Gender and Sexuality

- D.1. Sex and Gender
D.2. Sexualities

Inequalities and Stratification

- E.1. Disabilities
E.2. Education
E.3. Race, Class and Gender
E.4. Stratification/Mobility

Medicine and Health

- F.1. Alcohol and Drugs
F.2. Medical Sociology
F.3. Mental Health

Place and Environment

- G.1. Community
G.2. Environmental Sociology
G.3. Rural Sociology
G.4. Urban Sociology

Politics and Social Change

- H.1. Collective Behavior/Social Movements
H.2. Marxist Sociology
H.3. Military Sociology
H.4. Peace, War, World Conflict, and Conflict Resolution
H.5. Political Economy
H.6. Political Sociology
H.7. Public Policy
H.8. Social Change

Population and Ecology

- I.1. Biosociology
I.2. Demography
I.3. Human Ecology

Race and Ethnicity

- J.1. Asians/Asian-Americans
J.2. Latina/o Sociology
J.3. Migration/Immigration
J.4. Racial and Ethnic Relations

Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance

- K.1. Criminal Justice
K.2. Criminology/Delinquency
K.3. Deviant Behavior/Social Disorganization
K.4. Law and Society
K.5. Penology/Corrections
K.6. Social Control

Social Psychology and Interaction

- L.1. Emotions
L.2. Small Groups
L.3. Social Psychology
L.4. Socialization

Sociology of Culture

- M.1. Art/Music
M.2. Cultural Sociology
M.3. Leisure/Sports/Recreation
M.4. Mass Communication/Public Opinion
M.5. Religion
M.6. Visual Sociology

Theory, Knowledge, Science

- N.1. History of Sociology/Social Thought
N.2. Knowledge
N.3. Rational Choice
N.4. Science and Technology
N.5. Theory

Work, Economy and Organizations

- O.1. Economic Sociology
O.2. Labor and Labor Movements
O.3. Occupations/Professions
O.4. Organizations, Formal and Complex
O.5. Social Organization
O.6. Work and Labor Markets

Qualitative Approaches

- P.1. Ethnography (Anthropology)
P.2. Ethnomethodology/Conversational Analysis
P.3. Language/Social Linguistics
P.4. Qualitative Methodology

Quantitative Approaches

- Q.1. Mathematical Sociology
Q.2. Quantitative Methodology
Q.3. Social Networks
Q.4. Statistics
Q.5. Micro-computing

Thank you for your 2011 SWS membership.

Gender and Medicalization

Sociologists for Women in Society Fact Sheet 2010

Prepared by Miranda R. Waggoner, MA and Cheryl D. Stults, PhD

Medicalization: A Definition

Medicalization is the process by which non-medical (or social) problems become defined and treated as medical problems, usually as illnesses or disorders. Most sociologists have been critical of the process of medicalization in society, emphasizing its potential for adverse social and medical consequences. One consequence of medicalization is that it can be conceived as a creeping form of social control into more aspects of daily life under the auspices of medicine or biomedicine (e.g., pharmaceuticals, surgery, or medical surveillance).

Some groups with specific problems, disorders, or contested illnesses advocate *for* medicalization, in part to validate their experience of illness or to acknowledge their pain and suffering. One benefit of medicalization is that it may reduce the stigma associated with certain problems through redefinition as physiological or biological rather than behavioral in origin [1]. However, medicalization precipitates disempowerment as well. The Boston Women's Health Book Collective's *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, first published in 1970 and recently again in 2005, epitomizes the women's health movement's collective resistance to unwarranted medical surveillance of women's bodies.

Historically, women's life experiences have been more medicalized than men's, but men are beginning to fall under the gaze of medicalization in the 21st century. Although some medicalized conditions, such as depression, appear to be gender neutral, a gendered undercurrent still usually exists [2]. There are also cases of ambiguously sexed bodies that undergo gender assignment surgery via medical intervention. Here, we use a variety of select gendered cases of medicalization to highlight the phenomenon, and we divide these gendered aspects of medicalization into three main categories: normal life events, enhancements, and surveillance/interventions. There are too many examples of medicalization and gender to mention, so we focus on specific illustrative cases. For normal life events, we will focus on cases related to women's reproductive health in addition to erectile dysfunction and andropause in men. Both men and women have turned to aesthetic cosmetic surgery to enhance their appearance: breast implants and eyelid surgery for women and pectoral/calf implants, steroids, and treatments for baldness in men. Finally, men's bodies fall under the gaze of medical surveillance with cases like circumcision, but women receive a disproportionate amount of attention with mammography, pap smears, infertility treatments, and prenatal care.

Medicalization of Normal Life Events

One of the ways that medicalization takes shape is by "pathologizing" and gendering normal life events into disorders or risks that seemingly necessitate medical intervention.

Women

- **Infertility:** Reproductive technologies have expanded medicalization. For instance, infertility, once considered an individual or social problem, now seems "fixable," and over time has moved within the medical gaze. Infertile couples seek medical interventions to enhance putatively normative reproductive capabilities. In 2006, 138,198 assisted reproductive technology (ART) cycles were performed, resulting in 41,343 live births [3].
- **Menopause, Aging, and Hormone Replacement Therapy:** Menopause has been medicalized since the 1930s and 1940s as a "deficiency disease," often with the recommendation of treatment with hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Claims of keeping women "feminine forever" and purported preventive benefits against heart disease, breast cancer, and osteoporosis helped to make estrogen and its different formulations the most frequently prescribed drug in the U.S. in 2001 with more than 15 million women consumers. However, these views dramatically shifted in July 2002 with the termination of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) trial due to a disproportional increase in risk of breast cancer, heart disease, blood clots in the HRT group. Women responded to these findings with a 43% reduction in prescriptions for all forms of oral estrogen [4].
- **Menstrual Suppression:** Women have the option to medicalize their "normal" monthly cycle (and subsequently, perhaps, normative femininity) through extended-cycle birth control pills. The FDA approved the extended regimen pill Seasonale in 2003 and subsequently approved the drugs Seasonique and Lybrel. Other methods, including NuvaRing, Ortho Evra, Depo-Provera, Mirena, and Implanon, may also be used to suppress menstrual bleeding [5].
- **Childbirth:** Childbirth is a clear example of medicalization in that it has moved over time from the social realm of the home and the midwife to the medical realm of the hospital and the obstetrician. Today, pregnancy and birth are considered medical

events. In 2006, 99% of all births occurred in hospitals [6].

C-sections and Scheduling Births: Cesarean sections have risen exponentially in the U.S in the last decade. A necessary medical procedure in some cases, the C-section is often performed without an indication of necessity, further medicalizing the birthing process. The Cesarean delivery rate in 2006 hit an all-time high at 31.1%, and this rate has risen 50% since 1996 [6]. Scheduling a C-section birth for convenience is common today, and research has found that this practice is associated with adverse birth outcomes [7].

- **PMS:** Premenstrual syndrome is an example of defining women's physiology as "disordered". Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) is included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-IV. The medicalization of PMS and its related diagnoses is controversial because it fosters essentialist biological assumptions about the natural female body as in need of control, normalization, and treatment; although, some women have advocated for the medicalization of PMS so as to legitimate distress related to PMS [8].

Men

- **Erectile Dysfunction:** Erectile dysfunction (ED) became a mainstream and medicalized issue with the introduction of the pharmaceutical drug Viagra in 1998, which helps men achieve and sustain an erection. Although this discovery seemed to even the playing field by bringing men under the gaze of medicine, the driving force is the medical marketplace and desire for profits. Through the power of direct-to-consumer advertising with the slogan "ask your doctor if Viagra is right for you," 6 million men were using Viagra in 2003. This proved to be very lucrative for the pharmaceutical company with \$1.7 billion in sales. Advertising has also expanded the market beyond erectile dysfunction by portraying Viagra as an enhancement targeted to younger men [1, 9, 10].
- **Andropause:** Andropause refers to the declining production of testosterone in males resulting in decreased energy and loss of sexual desire. This common bodily change used to be viewed as a natural consequence of aging but has now become medicalized as a disorder requiring testosterone replacement therapy. Testosterone therapy comprises one of the main treatments for andropause, but its use is "controversial" due to a potential risk of prostate cancer and lack of clear benefits of the treatment in some men [1].

Biomedical and Cosmetic Enhancements

A form of self-improvement in contemporary society is biomedical enhancement, which includes drugs, surgeries, and other medical interventions aimed at achieving goals of the self, of bodily performance, or of appearance [11]. Aesthetic surgery serves as a potent example of this aspect of medicalization with consumers actively seeking out these procedures from medical doctors. Since 1992, cosmetic surgery procedures have increased 234%. Moreover, the percentage of cosmetic surgery procedures performed on racial and ethnic minorities increased between 2007 and 2008 [12]. Women are still the primary recipients of cosmetic surgery to alter their bodies to conform to dominant conceptions of beauty. Men are increasingly seeking for medical solutions to combat aging and diminished performance typically associated with declining masculinity [1]. For both sexes, the media and contemporary society exert pressure to maintain youth and produce an improved self.

Women

- **Aesthetic Surgery:** The top five cosmetic surgeries for women in 2008 were breast augmentation, liposuction, rhinoplasty (nose reshaping), blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery), and abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) [12].
Breast Implants: The majority of cosmetic breast surgeries in the U.S. result from purely cosmetic, not medical, concerns. Approximately 307,000 breast augmentation procedures were performed in the U.S. in 2008 [12].
Eyelid surgery: Surgery to "Westernize" eyes serves as an example of the way in which medicalization is racialized [13]. Women of Asian descent predominately seek out double eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty). 190,000 eyelid surgeries were performed on women in 2008 [12]. Although this surgery is more common for women, men also undergo cosmetic eyelid surgery.

Men

- **Aesthetic Surgery:** The top five cosmetic surgeries for men in 2008 were: rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty, liposuction, gynecomastia (reduction of male breasts), and hair transplantation. Men comprise only 9% of cosmetic surgery patients [12]. Other cosmetic procedures and enhancements that seemingly propagate dominant masculinity include:

Pectoral/Calf Implants: Some men receive pectoral implants from plastic surgeons to improve the delineation of their chest through a structured silicone shape inserted into the muscle. The procedure is primarily cosmetic with 1,335 operations performed in 2008. Calf augmentation to enhance the appearance of the lower leg(s) occurred less frequently with 247 procedures in 2008 [12].

Steroids: Steroids can be legally prescribed by physicians to treat delayed puberty and wasting diseases like AIDS. However, anabolic steroids (tissue building) are being used to enhance muscle mass for body builders or performance for athletes. Steroids can cause a number of problems including violent mood swings and shrinking of testicles in men, and utilization occurs even among males in high school [14].

Treatments for baldness: In general, baldness is considered to be a cosmetic problem and not a disease unless hair loss becomes physician-defined “excessive”. Treatments for baldness now reside in the medical realm (i.e. with Rogaine, Propecia, and hair transplants), shifting beyond toupees. However, none of these treatments reach the level of “miracle cures,” with their limited effectiveness and painful potential side effects [1].

Medical Surveillance/Interventions

The medical gaze may translate into a state of constant bodily surveillance and monitoring.

Women

- **Mammography:** The National Cancer Institute (2009) recommends that women over the age of 40 receive a mammogram every 1 to 2 years and that women who have increased risk factors (e.g., family history, long term use of HRT, or the genetic mutations BRAC1 or BRAC2) may need more frequent screening. However, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, in November 2009, recommends mammograms starting at age 50 and every 2 years thereafter, with the aim to combat the harmful effects of overdiagnosis and overtreatment. The American Cancer Society, while still acknowledging the questionable efficacy of mammography, quickly responded in November 2009 that its guidelines will not change and continues to recommend that women get screened at age 40 [15].
- **Pap Smears:** The Pap smear, since the late 1940s, represents *the* medical screening tool for cervical cancer [16]. Like mammography, this tool leads to overscreening and overtreatment due to false results. A new vaccine (Gardasil, Merck) that treats certain strains of HPV (a virus that potentially increases the risk of cervical cancer) has inflamed political controversy concerning the gendered (and youthful) sexual body. Medical organizations, including the CDC, recommend the vaccine for young women. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all risk to cervical cancer.
- **Reproduction: Prenatal Care and Testing:** Given technological advances and the medicalized nature of today’s pregnancies and births, women’s pregnancies occur within a culture of heightened medical surveillance and monitoring. In 2003-2005, 84% of U.S. live births had early prenatal care [17]. Chorionic villus sampling (CVS) and amniocentesis test for genetic abnormalities in the fetus. These types of procedures remain ethically controversial. Some physicians call the necessity of prenatal preventive services a myth, while U.S. women generally have higher average prenatal visits than women in many European countries [18]. Experts now recommend preconception care as an intervention tool to prevent adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes [19].

Men

- **Male circumcision:** Male circumcision (MC) has long been practiced as a religious ritual but is now advocated as a widespread preventive medical measure against the spread of HIV/AIDS. The World Health Organization currently recommends MC as an “efficacious intervention for HIV prevention” [20], thus medicalizing the male sexual body. The main risks associated with circumcision include bleeding, local infection, and possible decreased sexual sensitivity. National estimates of U.S. men who are circumcised range from 65-80% [21].

Resources

Activist/Community Organizations

- *Our Bodies, Ourselves:* (www.ourbodiesourselves.org) The 1970 book *Our Bodies, Ourselves (OBOS)* advocated for women to take control of their health and become aware of alternatives to the medical model. The group has produced more recent English editions as well as versions in 25 languages.
- *Natural Birthing Movement:* The Internet has helped to springboard this movement through sites that give a complete and

detailed overview of a non-medicalized version of birth: home birth (www.homebirth-usa.org; www.waterbirth.org; www.childbirth.amuchbetterway.com; www.bradleybirth.com; www.naturalchildbirth.org).

- *New View Campaign*: (<http://www.newviewcampaign.org/fgcs.asp>). A grassroots organization of feminists and other professionals with the primary mission of “challenging the medicalization of sex” and dispelling the beliefs constructed by pharmaceutical companies that sex is a simple problem that can and should be medically fixed.
- *Plastic Surgery for Men*: (<http://plasticsurgeryformen.blogspot.com/>) Web log that advocates for the medicalization of cosmetic surgery. The site provides information about “men’s issues” and “men’s health and fitness” including articles on hair transplants, pectoral implants, andropause, and testosterone replacement therapy.
- *Mothers Against Circumcision*: (<http://www.mothersagainstcirc.org/>) A group started by mothers that advocate against the medicalization of male circumcision, a procedure that is “painful.”
- *Resolve-The National Infertility Association*: (www.resolve.org) Established in 1974, this non-profit organization provides both women and men suffering from infertility with information and support needed “during their family building journey.”

Teaching Applications: Films

Absolutely Safe (Amaranth Productions, 2007)

Beauty in China (Filmmakers Library, 2008)

The Business of Being Born (International Film Circuit, Inc, 2007)

Mother’s Day: New Reproductive Technology (Filmmakers Library, 1991)

The Remarkable Story of John/Joan (Filmmakers Library, 1999)

Sex, Lies and Secrecy: Dissecting Hysterectomy (Filmmakers Library, 2006)

Sex: Unknown (PBS, WGBH Boston, 2001)

Western Eyes (First Run/Icarus Films, 2001)

Youth Knows No Pain (HBO Documentary Films, 2009)

References

- [1] Conrad, Peter. 2007. *The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- [2] Blum, Linda M. and Nena F. Stracuzzi. 2004. “Gender in the Prozac Nation: Popular Discourse and Productive Femininity.” *Gender and Society* 18:269-286.
- [3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2008. “2006 Assisted Reproductive Technology Success Rates: National Summary and Fertility Clinic Reports.” Atlanta: Department of Health and Human Services, CDC.
- [4] Majumdar, Sumit R., Elizabeth A. Almasi, and Randall S. Stafford. 2004. “Promotion and Prescribing of Hormone Replacement Therapy After Report of Harm by the Women’s Health Initiative.” *Journal of the American Medical Association* 292:1983-1988.
- [5] Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP). 2008. “What You Need To Know: Menstrual Suppression,” Retrieved 9/26/2009, (<http://www.arhp.org/Publications-and-Resources/Clinical-Fact-Sheets/Menstrual-Suppression>).
- [6] Martin, Joyce A., Brady E. Hamilton, Paul D. Sutton, Stephanie J. Ventura, Fay Menacker, Sharon Kirmeyer, and T.J. Mathews. 2009. “Births: Final Data for 2006 “ *National Vital Statistics Reports* 57.
- [7] Tita, A.T.N., M.B. Landon, et al. 2009. “Timing of Elective Repeat Cesarean Delivery at Term and Neonatal Outcomes.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 360:111-120.
- [8] Markens, Susan. 1996. “The Problematic of “Experience”: A Political and Cultural Critique of PMS.” *Gender and Society* 10:42-58.
- [9] Loe, Meika. 2004. *The Rise of Viagra: How the Little Blue Pill Changed Sex in America*. New York: New York University Press.
- [10] Conrad, Peter and Valerie Leiter. 2004. “Medicalization, Markets and Consumers.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 45:158-176.
- [11] Conrad, Peter and Deborah Potter. 2004. “Human Growth Hormone and the Temptations of Biomedical Enhancement.” *Sociology of Health & Illness* 26:1-32.
- [12] American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). 2009. “2009 Report of the 2008 Statistics: National Clearinghouse of Plastic Surgery Statistics,” Retrieved 9/27/09, (<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/Media/stats/2008-US-cosmetic-reconstructive-plastic-surgery-minimally-invasive-statistics.pdf>)
- [13] Kaw, Eugenia. 1993. “Medicalization of Racial Features: Asian American Women and Cosmetic Surgery.” *Medical Anthropology*

Quarterly 7:74-89.

- [14] National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). 2009. "NIDA InfoFacts: Steroids (Anabolic-Androgenic)," Retrieved 9/15/2009, (<http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/steroids.html>).
- [15] American Cancer Society (ACS). 2009, "American Cancer Society Responds to Changes to USPSTF Mammography Guidelines," Retrieved 11/17/09, (http://www.cancer.org/docroot/MED/content/MED_2_1x_American_Cancer_Society_Responds_to_Changes_to_USPSTF_Mammography_Guidelines.asp).
- [16] Casper, Monica J. and Adele E. Clarke. 1998. "Making the Pap Smear into the 'Right Tool' for the Job: Cervical Cancer Screening in the USA, circa 1940-95." *Social Studies of Science* 28:255-290.
- [17] National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). 2009. "Health, United States, 2008 With Chartbook." Hyattsville, MD.
- [18] Strong, Thomas H. 2000. *Expecting Trouble: What Expectant Parents Should Know about Prenatal Care in America*. New York: New York University Press.
- [19] Johnson, K., SF. Posner, et al. 2006. "Recommendations to Improve Preconception Health and Health Care --- United States: A Report of the CDC/ATSDR Preconception Care Work Group and the Select Panel on Preconception Care." *MMWR* 55(RR06):1-23.
- [20] World Health Organization (WHO). 2009. "Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention," Retrieved 9/17/2009, (<http://www.who.int/hiv/topics/malecircumcision/en/index.html>).
- [21] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2008. "Male Circumcision and Risk for HIV Transmission and Other Health Conditions: Implications for the United States," Retrieved 9/17/09, (<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/resources/factsheets/PDF/circumcision.pdf>).

Chapters

News:

The Bay Area chapter of SWS held a kick-off event in October to bring together local social scientists, both in and outside of academia, engaged in topics related to women in society. We plan to hold regular gatherings, both social and professional, as well as coordinate a local listserv. Currently, we are about 35 members strong.

If you're interested in joining the Bay Area chapter, please contact Katrina Kimport, kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu.

The Tallahassee chapter has had a fun and exciting fall!

First off, we had two excellent meetings that generated quite a bit of discussion around the department. The first meeting's topic centered on the organizations and workers who deal with rape victims and was led by Pat Martin. Our second meeting featured Anne Barrett as she presented her "Top Ten Reasons to Study Gender and Aging," as well as Miriam Sessions co-presenting their research on the Red Hat Society.

Secondly, we saw the birth of a new feminist reading group, which has held two successful book discussions this semester and we look forward to helping foster many more. Thirdly, we found out that local chapter member and Florida State faculty emeriti Pat Martin was elected president SWS! Congratulations Pat!!!

This coming spring, we look forward to an interdisciplinary panel on teaching and discussing feminism in the classroom, and possible screening a film in conjunction with another organization here in town.

Submitted by Erica Toothman, etoothman@fsu.edu.

Local chapters:

Arizona: Tucson

Cindy Cain (ccain@u.arizona.edu)

Jason Crockett (jlc76@u.arizona.edu)

Karen Gordon (kegordon@u.arizona.edu)

Monika J. Ulrich (mjulrich@u.arizona.edu)

Megan Wright (mwright@u.arizona.edu)

California: Bay Area

Katrina Kimport (kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu)

Lori Freedman (freedmanl@obgyn.ucsf.edu)

Signy Judd (signyjudd@gmail.com)

Florida: Tallahassee

Janice McCabe (jmccabe@fsu.edu)

Erica Toothman (elt03c@fsu.edu)

Illinois: Chicago

Alison Moss (amoss4@uic.edu)

Iowa: Iowa State University

Molly Sween (moll15@iastate.edu)

Anna Kosloski (kos10021@iastate.edu)

Anastasia Prokos (aprokos@iastate.edu)

Michigan: Michigan State University, Lansing

Linda Gjokaj (gjokajli@msu.edu)

Minnesota: University of Minnesota

Teresa Toguchi Swartz (tswartz@umn.edu)

Nevada: UNLV

Jennifer Reid Keene (jkeene@unlv.nevada.edu)

Ohio: University of Akron

Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu)

Jennyerin Steele-Stats (jes91@zips.uakron.edu)

Ohio: Kent State University

Kelly MacArthur (kmacart1@kent.edu)

North Carolina: North Carolina State University

Alison Buck (arbuck@sa.ncsu.edu)

Abigail Cameron (abby_cameron@ncsu.edu)

Kylie Parrotta (klparrot@sa.ncsu.edu)

Elizabeth Seale (ekseale@sa.ncsu.edu)

Stephanie Teixeira-Poit (stephanie_teixeira@ncsu.edu)

Lisa Tichavsky (lptichav@sa.ncsu.edu)

Kendra Jason (kjjason@ncsu.edu)

North Carolina: Southeastern

Jean-Anne Sutherland (Sutherlandj@uncw.edu)

North Carolina: University of North Carolina

Mairead Eastin Moloney (moloney@email.unc.edu)

Cathy Zimmer (cathy_zimmer@unc.edu)

Regional Chapters:

These meet at the annual meetings of regional sociology associations.

SWS Midwest

Sue Wortmann (swortmann2@gmail.com)

SWS East

Laura West Steck (lsteck@ycp.edu)

SWS South

Kris DeWelde (kdewelde@fgcu.edu)

Shannon Davis (sdavis@gmu.edu)

SWS NCSA

Natalie Haber-Barker (nhaber@luc.edu)

Kathy Feltey (felteyk@uakron.edu)

SWS West

Audrey Devine-Eller, Rutgers (auderey@rutgers.edu)

Patti Donze, UCLA (pdonze@ucla.edu)

Evren Savci, USC (savci@usc.edu)

Chapters in formation or interested:

New York — Albany/Tri-Cities — Sally Dear (sdear@binghamton.edu)

People's...

ACTIVITIES

Adina Nack, California Lutheran University, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Council on Contemporary Families: <http://www.contemporaryfamilies.org/>.

AWARDS

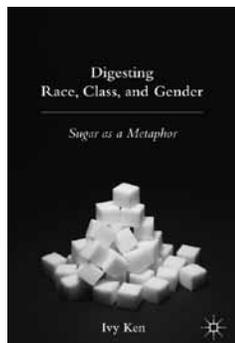
Miranda Waggoner received a dissertation improvement grant from the NSF for her project "The Emergence of Pre-conception Care: 1980-2010."

Susan W. Hinze won the 2010 John S. Diekhoff Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring at Case Western Reserve University.

Catherine Richards Solomon has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Sociology at Quinnipiac University.

BOOKS

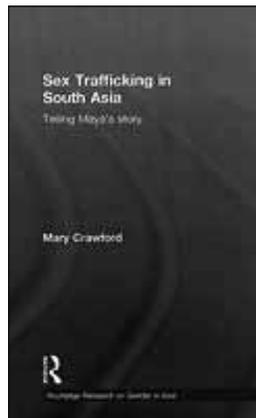
Digesting Race, Class, and Gender: Sugar as a Metaphor, by Ivy Ken.



How are the ways that race organizes our lives related to the ways gender and class organize our lives? How might these organizing mechanisms conflict or work together? In *Digesting Race, Class, and Gender*, Ivy Ken likens race, class, and gender to foods—foods that are produced in fields, mixed together in bowls, and digested in our social and institutional bodies. In the field, one food may contaminate another through cross-pollination. In the mixing bowl, each food's original molecular structure changes in the presence of others.

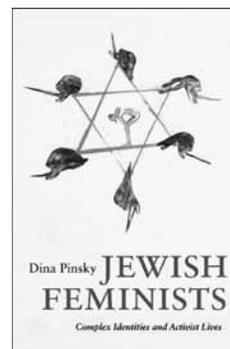
And within a meal, the presence of one food may impede or facilitate the digestion of another. At each of these sites, the "foods" of race, class, and gender are involved in dynamic relationships with each other that have implications for the shape—or the taste—of our social order. <http://us.macmillan.com/digestingraceclassandgender>

Sex Trafficking in South Asia: Telling Maya's Story, by Mary Crawford.



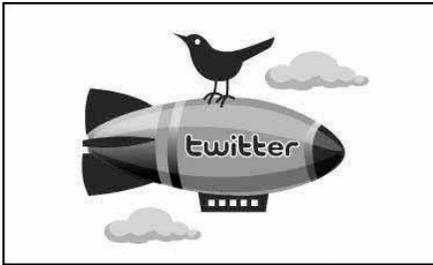
Based on field research in Nepal, the book is a critical analysis of sex trafficking that has implications for other contexts as well. In Nepal, trafficking as a social construction—that is, the concept and its representation in discourse—are influenced by the dynamics of gender, caste, and the development establishment. The defining figure is an innocent, naive young girl being lured or duped into leaving the safety of her village. The trafficking victim is portrayed as "backward;" however, she is "backward" in specific ways that resonate with Nepal's struggle to resist and yet encompass Western influence. This view of trafficking may lead to paradoxical effects in which efforts to protect girls and women instead restrict their human rights. Crawford explores how sex trafficking in South Asia might be prevented without compromising women's human rights. <http://www.routledge.com/9780415778435>

Jewish Feminists: Complex Identities and Activist Lives, by Dina Pinsky.



Studying American Jewish feminism from the 1960s and '70s, *Jewish Feminists* examines how second-wave feminist activists retrospectively construct their identities as Jews and how these constructions have changed throughout their lives. Dina Pinsky argues that these Jewish feminists experience a sense of ambivalence as both feminists and Jews as they ask how being Jewish makes them different from other women (or feminist men). Drawing from interviews with more than two dozen second-wave feminist Jews, of which five are men, Pinsky describes how these identities sometimes coincide or contrast. The book demonstrates that Jews share a unique relationship to gender, influenced by their experiences and perspectives as Jews. Pinsky adds to the feminist dialogue about cultural difference and intersectionality by exploring the narratives of a group that has long been absent from this discussion. <http://www.uiuc.edu/goto/f09pinsky>

Tweet tweet— Dispatches from social media



Members of SWS are all over old media and new media. SWS itself is also on twitter and facebook, courtesy of Jessica and Rachel in the executive office. Find us at <http://bit.ly/FacebookSWS> and www.twitter.com/socwomen. You can also see there the people that follow socwomen, and the feminist people and organizations that we follow.

November 2010 excerpts:

#intersectionality types: submit now for the Race+Class+Gender conference -<http://rgc.uno.edu/conference.cfm> - go to New Orleans in March.

Love! So! Much! "New York Times' gender essentialist trend piece" by @amandahess on @tbd <http://tbd.ly/fjSCH6> via @Womens_eNews

Reteaching Gender & Sexuality <http://fb.me/BES1w8nH>

Gem: <http://www.putthisonthemap.org/> = New alt to #ItGetsBetter #LGBT

I love this, still. "Sexual Assault Prevention Tips Guaranteed to Work!" <http://tinyurl.com/39a5nk8>

You want to attend the #SWS winter meeting! Check the venue & city: http://web.me.com/tore6/SWS/San_Antonio_Preview.html #feminist #sociology

Just booked flights & rooms for #SWS meeting in Feb. Follow me: start here www.socwomen.org/meetings.php & for rooms, Group Code = "SWS."

12 retouching steps to a cover photo. (like the Dove Evolution ad but interactive) <http://demo.fb.se/e/girlpower/retouch/retouch/>

ReTweet: ACLU Transgender and traveling? Check out these handy tips: <http://bit.ly/emmqgl>

ReTweet: msfoundation Great interview with Beverly Guy Sheftall on Black Feminism <http://wapo.st/fKMYak>

HS & College students can apply here to go to Ghana next summer: <http://www.schoerkefoundation.org/>

If you read the NYT Mag thing about "biblical womanhood," then cleanse the palate with this from @msmagazine: <http://bit.ly/fUgapr>

Apply for an interdisciplinary #postdoc in Brazil: www.centrodametropole.org.br/index.php?section=content&subsubsection_id=9&content_id=743

ReTweet: readywriting Why researchers should blog: <http://bit.ly/dRJY7o> Excellent example of the power of #sm #highered @uvenus

ReTweet: wendyphd Awwwww, so sorry, #FRC. If you preach hatred, you're going to be called a hate group. Thems the breaks. <http://shar.es/XXd09>

Like boys' pageants, evaluating the bodies of political men isn't the #gender

equality we want. <http://shar.es/XXmSM> cc @NameItChangeIt.

Hey, rich old white dudes may continue to get elected if overweight. "Can a #Fat Man Be President?" <http://shar.es/XXmSM>.

ReTweet @msmagazine This #Thanksgiving, Remember the Migrant Hands That Feed You : Ms Magazine Blog <http://bit.ly/fN8evM>

"White Women, Race Matters, Pt.2" <http://bit.ly/f48sI7> <- Bravo @JessieNYC! Love the posts & the links within. #intersectionality #feminism

ReTweet: @MotherJustice Remind y'all to please share this training opp for female professors interested in institutional leadership <http://bit.ly/bfBktW>

ReTweet @clmallinson: Watch an extended video interview with me about language in U.S. schools! <http://goo.gl/7en7o>

ReTweet @CTurlington Allowing women to die from preventable causes is also a violence against women. WWW.Every mothercounts.org Pls add your name in support today

So relevant. "The Don't Be That Guy campaign, announced Friday by a coalition of groups fighting sexual assault,..." <http://fb.me/wi4Xh0Kf>

Congrats @MomsRising I admire your effectiveness. | USAToday op-ed by Joan Blades: investing in employees: <http://bit.ly/bDGPY4> #WorkLife

"Sure some act suspiciously or drive recklessly, but certn groups of ppl R more likely 2B screened at airpt or stopped." <http://bit.ly/aIKm5d>

(continued on page 27)



Left: *The Vagina Monologues* draws a crowd at the University of Trento. Right: Bulletin board at the Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. Photos: Trento Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies

(Report from Trento, continued from page 1) has been a debate on how to better achieve institutionalization inside academia by introducing specific women and gender studies curricula or attempting to mainstream a women and gender perspective in existing courses and curricula. Given the rigidity institutional context of the Italian university system feminist scholars opted for a mainstream solution introducing a focus on women and later on gender in their regular teaching subjects, offering to students seminars, initiatives and events in addition to normal curricula and eventually establishing gender research center. The first center was in 1991 at the University of Torino, CIRSDE (Women and Gender Studies Interdisciplinary Centre) whose founders came from many academic fields both humanities like sociology, psychology, history, political science, literature, economics, foreign languages and “hard” sciences like biology, law, medicine, and chemistry. From that time on, several research center and programs were founded and nowadays there are around fifteen research center all over Italy universities.

The Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (CSG) of the University of Trento falls into this tradition. On the one hand it aims to transform

social reality and promote equal rights for women and girls and on the other hand, it works to develop critical and interdisciplinary theoretical approaches to gender relations. The Trento Center was formally established in 2008 by a group of professors and researchers from different faculties and departments. Its aim was to give formal recognition to an existing active collaboration among gender scholars in multiple fields. Cooperation among scholars in these fields had been in existence informally for several years and their collaboration was strengthened by the joint effort to establish an interdisciplinary specialist programme in Gender Policies in the Labour Market. This collaboration was based from the beginning on the conviction that studying gender needs an articulated glance, the adoption of multiple perspectives, the ability to consider the complexity of cultural, social, and structural factors that come into play in the social construction of gender. Of necessity, then, gender studies must draw on varied knowledge bases--sociological, legal, economic, political, psychological, narrative, and philosophical--in an interdisciplinary perspective.

A second cornerstone of the Centre is recognition of the importance of

collaboration between university and community. For this reason the Centre is open to external members including individuals as well as public and private institutions which are concerned in any way with gender issues. The ultimate goal of the Center is, in fact, to create a multidisciplinary laboratory in which interaction between the university and society can become a stimulus for reflection, debate and social change.

In order to achieve its goals, the Center of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies undertakes initiatives in three realms: teaching, conferences and seminars, and research.

Teaching. Concerning teaching, the Trento Centre has created several programs addressed to students and professionals alike. For instance, it organized a Specialist Program in Gender Policies in the Labour Market in 2005. This Masters Program aims at creating professionals experienced in gender politics at work by offering participants an interdisciplinary perspective on both gender and organization theory. The professional profile that this program tries to create is an ability to manage projects of innovation and change from a gender perspective and, consequently, the participants’ acquisition skills in research and project

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)
management.

Alongside this program, the Center also organized a graduate course “Women, Politics and Institutions” in cooperation with the Ministry of Equal Opportunity in 2008 and 2009. The course aimed at enhancing theoretical and practical knowledge about institutional mechanisms, policies and governance from a gender perspective. It also hoped to promote a particular kind of *gender culture* including the affirmation and participation of women in political and social life.

Third, the Center has also organized a training course “Gender and Interculture” in cooperation with the European network, ATHENA. This course is conceptualized as an introduction to the major critical issues and basic concepts that define gender studies as interdisciplinary knowledge and intercultural experience,

focusing on ideas developed in the U.S. and Europe.

Fourth, in 2010, the Center organized

**We believe in the rightness
of what we do and its
utility for both academics
and community leaders.
Much like SWS, we are “for
women in society,” not only
for women sociologists or
women academics.**

its first (but we hope, not last) international doctoral school in gender studies, which we called, “Writing and Publishing

in Gender Studies.” The school was addressed to Ph.D students and early stage researchers in the field. Taking advantage of the presence at the University of Trento of two visiting American gender scholars, Patricia Yancey Martin and Barbara Risman, the three-day school offered a learning experience focused on “the tricks of the trade” for writing and publishing in Gender Studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Participants were invited to share their experiences and perspectives as well regarding epistemological and practical experiences and tools for this field of studies.

Conferences and Seminars. Alongside our teaching initiatives, CSG has organized several seminars during each year and a national conference every two years. The seminars deal with a variety of topics and are usually connected

(continued on next page)

(San Antonio Preview, continued from page 1) taken to become this well-established organization and to (re)imagine our future both inside and outside of the academy. I want to thank the members of the planning committee for their generosity of time and creativity of ideas in working with me to develop an exciting and fun conference program. At the meeting, we will have the opportunity to hear from our external strategic planning consultants from Boffo Productions as we work toward articulating and defining a strategic plan to help guide the organization over the next five years. We will also have workshops and presentations that feature addressing the continuing needs of feminist sociologists inside and outside of the academy, such as working with media, doing applied work, the changing face of discrimination, doing



Photo: Tracy Ore

anti-racist work, preparing for careers in the 21st century, doing more with declining resources, and doing interdis-

ciplinary work. In addition, we will continue our tradition of providing a forum for emerging and continuing work at several roundtable sessions. There will also be time for celebration, relaxation, and fun. Opportunities to celebrate will range from luncheons recognizing recent

award recipients to panels featuring leaders from the membership. Chances for relaxation range from strolling along the San Antonio Riverwalk, participating in a yoga session lead by SWS member Gayle Sullik, to socializing with new and old friends at one of the organized dinners. And, as always, we will have wonderful prospects for fun at our annual banquet and silent auction, this year held at Pearl Stable, a beautifully restored building located on the San Antonio Riverwalk

that was once home to the Pearl Brewery’s draft horses.

This year the recipient of the auction proceeds will be the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, a non-profit cultural arts and education center that

(continued on page 25)

(Trento continued from page 23)

with key issues in the Italian debate on gender and feminism. Although we have held many such seminars, we highlight two particularly meaningful series of seminars addressed both to students and to a wider audience. The first series was called “Something about Gender” and was organized by an informal group of Ph. D. students and junior researchers in Sociology and Social Research who belong to CSG with support from the Equal Opportunity Board of the Autonomous Province of Trento. The series of interdisciplinary seminars introduces young Italian researchers to emergent issues in the Italian debate on gender including queer theory, reproductive technologies, and feminist legal theory. Moreover, the series end with performative events aimed at translating the key concepts of gender studies into the language of the performing arts.

A second series of seminars, called “Body, Sexuality and Power: Women’s Answers,” was created to address concerns about the political situation in Italy relative to women and minorities’ rights. It focused on three public debates about gender: discrimination against homosexual persons (including a new wave of homophobia), the representation of women’s bodies in the media, and the sex industry (including trafficking). Finally, as previous stated, CSG is going to organize a national conference every two years. The theme of the first one was “Gender and Precarity”, held in November 2009 for more than 200 participants offering 40 contributions in a variety of academic disciplines. The conference was aimed at creating an intellectual and interdisciplinary space for scholars who question social precarity—both in the labour market and in other realms of social life—from a gender perspective.

Research. Finally, CSG leads the way and also cooperates with others in conducting research projects. In 2008, CSG completed a research study titled, “the

Equal Project—Equal Gelso (Gender, Work and Occupational Segregation),” which was an action-research project aimed at analyzing occupational segregation in major employment sectors in the province of Trento (public administration, health service, cooperation, and advanced services). From 2009 to 2010, CSG cooperated in the project DI.RE funded by the Autonomous Province of Bolzano; its aimed was to contrast gender stereotypes and inequalities in the labour market from the path of entrance to the end result of income inequalities. In Fall 2010, CISG is carrying out a project on education and gender in cooperation with the Board for Equal Opportunities of the Autonomous Province of Trento by conducting workshops for high school students on gender stereotypes and also by offering training courses for teachers and educators on the pedagogy of gender differences and similarities.

Thanks and Conclusions. The Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Gender at the University of Trento is delighted to be associated with the U. S. organization, Sociologists for Women in Society. Our Center is young—only two years old. But we are organized, enthusiastic, and hard-working. As Chiara Saraceno says in the cited essay (2010; Saraceno, now in Berlin, was formerly affiliated with the University of Trento), we are like most Italian Gender Studies centers in Italy--struggling to find resources and insinuate ourselves into the university’s ongoing degree programs and structures. While doing so is challenging, we believe tenacity and hard work will win the day. Also, we believe in the rightness of what we do and its utility for both academics and community leaders. Much like SWS, we are “for women in society,” not only for women sociologists or women academics generally. Thank you, SWS, for supporting us and our work. We invite you to visit. If you come to the Venice, Verona, or Bolzano environs on holiday or for other reasons, come meet us and,

if you have time, give a talk about your research and teaching. We would love to meet you.

References

Saraceno, Chiara. 2010. Women and Gender Studies in Italy: Lack of Institutionalization or a Different Kind of Institutionalization? *European Journal of Women’s Studies* 17 (6): 269-274.

CSG has more than 60 members and a complete list can be seen at this website: <http://www.unitn.it/csg/79/componenti-del-centro>

The Trento Board of the CSG is composed of:

Dr. Barbara Poggio, coordinator, researcher, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, Barbara.poggio@unitn.it

Dr. Maria Micaela Coppola, researcher, Dept. of literature, linguistic and philological studies, mariamicaela.coppola@unitn.it

Dr. Giovanna Covi, ricercatrice, researcher of the Dept. of literature, linguistic and philological studies. giovanna.covi@lett.unitn.it

Dr. Alessia Donà, researcher of Dept. of Sociology and Social Research. Alessia.dona@unitn.it

Dr. Claudia Loro CGIL national union. claudia.loro@cgil.tn.it

Professor Stefania Scarponi, full professor, Department of Law, Stefania.Scarponi@unitn.it

Dr. Giulia Selmi, research fellow, Dept. of Sociology and Social Research, Giulia.selmi@unitn.it

Professor Paola Villa, full professor, Dept. of Economics, Paola.villa@unitn.it

SWS Network News

Published and distributed by Sociologists for Women in Society, an international organization of more than 1,000 social scientists, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, sociology practitioners and independent scholars who share a dedication to social equality.

Editor Jessica Holden Sherwood
Designer Debra Yoo

Sociologists for Women in Society

President Denise Segura
President -Elect Tracy Ore
Past President Shirley Hill
Vice-President Susan Farrell
Secretary Shirley A. Jackson
Treasurer Laura Kramer
Treasurer-Elect Kristen Myers
Executive Officer Jessica Holden Sherwood
Student Representative Rachel Allison

Standing Committee Chairs

Academic Justice Committee Kris DeWelde
. Gail Murphy-Geiss
Awards Heather Laube
Career Development Joya Misra
Discrimination Support Katja Guenther
International Clare Weber
Membership Susan Farrell
Publications Linda Grant
. Kathrin Zippel
Social Action Jodie Lawston
Nominations Shirley Hill
Sister to Sister Marcia Hernandez
. Ronni Tichenor
Gender & Society Editor Dana Britton
Book Review Editors Denise Copelton
. Joan Spade

Material for publication (including advertisements) should be submitted to SWS at the below email/address.

Deadlines for submission:

Summer–May 15
Fall–September 15
Winter–November 15
Spring–March 15

Fee schedule for advertisements (invoices will be sent after announcements appear):

Full page–\$200
Half-page–\$100
Quarter-page or less–\$50
Job announcements–\$25

Change of Address? Members, please log on at www.socwomen.org/members to update your address

SWS Executive Office
URI Sociology, 10 Chafee Rd.
Kingston, RI 02881
Office: 401.874.9510
Fax: 401.874.2588
swseo@socwomen.org

2011 Barbara Rosenblum Dissertation Scholarship Announcement

Please apply or notify others that we are currently accepting applications for the 2011 Barbara Rosenblum Dissertation Scholarship for the Study of Women and Cancer. The candidate's doctoral work can be in Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology or related fields (e.g. Ethnic Studies, Women's and Gender Studies). As stated on the website,

"The candidate will be a woman: With a feminist orientation who is sensitive to studying breast cancer and its impact on women of color as well as white women, on lesbians as well as heterosexuals, and women from diverse social classes and cultural backgrounds.

With approval of prospectus for doctoral research on breast cancer that will be useful not only academically but which will have pragmatic and practical applications. Such applications would include research that could be used to inform and empower women and demystify the disease and/or prevent disease.

Planning to present her research findings and applications to lay audiences as well as to social scientists."

Application forms are due April 1, 2011, to susan.hinze@case.edu.

(*San Antonio Preview, continued from page 23*) provides resources and space where the creation and presentation of the arts can reflect the culture of people in struggle, such as women, people of color, lesbians and gay men, the working class, and the poor. Founded in 1987, Esperanza grew out of a progressive coalition of women activists opposed to Regan-era policies with a desire to establish an organization that would redress a collective experience of injustice across generations, acknowledging the intersection of injustices based on gender and sexual orientation with race and class struggles. Esperanza advocates for those wounded by domination and inequality, believing in creating bridges between people by exchanging ideas and educating and empowering each other. A fantastic organization the exemplifies much of what SWS is about, conference participants will have the chance to meet some of its powerful women at our welcoming reception on Thursday evening.

As we reflect on our path that has led us to today and begin constructing our path toward reimagining our future, I hope that you will join me in San Antonio to celebrate our milestones and share in this exciting endeavor.

SWS: Making Change with Investment Dollars



SWS is committed to Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), and our advisors and our portfolio reflect that commitment. This space spotlights the good works of some of the companies in our investment portfolio.

As I flipped through *Newsweek* recently, I saw “The 25 Greenest Companies in the World.” Of the 100 largest public companies in the world, the top three “greenest” are IBM, Hewlett-Packard, and Johnson & Johnson. It turns out that all three are holdings in the SWS investment portfolio. This means that the companies also clear our social responsibility screens, which is required before any stock purchase. I’m pleased that social responsibility—to environment and to people—is not a trade-off or concession, but is truly good business.

For more information, see <http://greenrankings.newsweek.com>.

Criminal Justice: The Criminal Justice Program in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at SUNY Fredonia invites applications for the position of Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, tenure-track, beginning fall 2011, contingent upon state funding. The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. by 9/1/11 in criminal justice, sociology, or other relevant field. We are looking for a generalist who should be prepared to teach from among the following: Corrections, Criminology, and Judicial Process. Review of applications will commence on November 1, 2010 and continue until the position is filled. To apply, consult the specific guidelines for this position on the Human Resources page of the SUNY Fredonia website: <https://careers.fredonia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=50699>

SUNY Fredonia prides itself on an outstanding workforce. To continually support organizational excellence, the university conducts background screens on applicants. An affirmative action/equal opportunity employer, SUNY Fredonia encourages and actively seeks applications from minorities, women, and people with disabilities.

Understanding and Dismantling Privilege is a new online, open access, interdisciplinary journal focusing on the intersectional aspects of privilege, bridging academia and practice, highlighting activism, and offering a forum for creative introspection on issues of inequity, power and privilege. UDP is a project of the annual White Privilege Conference, a program of the Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS). Submit your work! www.wpcjournal.com



The 12th Annual White Privilege Conference is April 13-16, 2011, in Minneapolis. The WPC attracts approximately 1,500 students, educators, activists and artists from around the U.S., and the globe. WPC provides a yearly forum for critical discussions about privilege, intersectionality, and social justice. (Academic credit is available for undergraduate and graduate students.) More info at www.uccs.edu/wpc

Announcements from SSSP

FUNDING

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is recruiting applications for the 2011 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Persons identified as either Black/African American, Hispanic/ Latino, Asian/Asian-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences are invited to apply for the \$12,000 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 1, 2011. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2011. All applicants must be a current member and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States when applying. For further information and an application, visit www.sssp1.org. Contact Chair Michelle A. Harris with all questions at michelle.harris@nau.edu.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 61st Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, August 12-14, 2011. The program theme is "Service Sociology." The submission deadline is January 31, 2011. Questions relating to the program should be directed to Program Committee Chair Karen McCormack at mccormack_karen@wheatonma.edu. When sending an e-mail, please place SSSP in the subject line.

SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. If you are involved in scholarship or action in pursuit of a just society nationally or internationally, you belong in the SSSP. You will meet others engaged in research to find the causes and consequences of social problems, as well as others seeking to apply existing scholarship to the formulation of social policies.

Please e-mail us if you have any questions: sssp@utk.edu.

MEETING

August 12-14, 2011. 61st Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel, Chicago, IL. Contact: Michele Koontz, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager at mkoontz3@utk.edu.

(Tweets continued from page 21)

"Professing While Female" on Inside Higher Ed: <http://bit.ly/alKm5d> <- more great public #sociology: get past individuals, see patterns.

Oops, shoulda checked @luriemel and got this tinyurl <http://tinyurl.com/22otwjh> <- cites #SWS membs Bianchi, Hochschild, Garey. #WorkLife

Great public #sociology on Gender+Work+Family by @luriemel <http://mindysmuses.blogspot.com/2010/11/good-parenting-in-age-of-work-family.html>

#SWS memb @Sex_and_Society [Interested in Bully-Free Zones? (or Not?)] was a guest on "Voices of Diversity,"... <http://bit.ly/dzjjOd>

Some deep #gender #sociology by @SocProf - "Raewyn Connell's Plea for An Epistemological Democracy" <http://bit.ly/b9pJIG>

Spread the word: opportunity for #WOC in #STEM - www.aacu.org/pcf/index.cfm (that's women of color in Sci/Tech/Engineering/Math).

@RemovingMts #intersectional #sociology book by #SWS member Rebecca Scott - thanks for the follow & backatcha.

Stay Connected With SWS!

Join us if you haven't yet:
Visit www.socwomen.org to join online
or print a form

Fan us on Facebook:
<http://bit.ly/FacebookSWS>

Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/socwomen

See the feminist organizations and activists
we're already connected with, and join in the
online action.



Sociologists for Women in Society
URI Sociology
10 Chafee Rd.
Kingston, RI 02881

To update address or contact information with SWS please log on at:
www.socwomen.org/members and click "Update Contact Information"