

WOMEN'S DUKE STUDIES

Fall 2005 Newsletter

Director's Column

Dear Friends-

It is my pleasure, during Director Robyn Wiegman's year-long sabbatical, to take on the responsibilities of the Director of Women's Studies. I know it will be a busy and exciting year.



Robyn Wiegman and Tina Compt outside the women's studies office.

I'm particularly excited about a project Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology) and I have been developing over the past year that is about to come to fruition this fall. As part of our three-year "Diasporic Hegemonies" project, we will be hosting a major symposium entitled "Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational" November 17-19, 2005. This issue of the newsletter describes the event in detail. We have invited 21 distinguished scholars along with eight Duke faculty moderators and respondents who will debate and discuss the relationship between race and gender in African Diaspora and transnational feminist studies more broadly. The symposium is open to the public and we hope that many of our students, faculty colleagues and interested alumnae/i will join in this important discussion.

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The Duke Women's Studies fall symposium, "Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational" – November 17-19, 2005

Hypervisible Bodies:

The New Erotics of Plastic Surgery

By Alvaro Jarrin

This abstract derives from a paper I recently presented at the conference on "The Popular" at UCLA in May 2005 with help from a travel grant from Women's Studies at Duke. The paper is an initial foray into the popular culture concerning plastic surgery and its effects on the way we conceive of our bodies in relation to beauty. I analyze both reality television shows and online journals written by patients, to make the case that those narratives about plastic surgery render bodies hypervisible, where the body at its most

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Board” for the student journal, “Saturday Night: Untold Stories of Sexual Assault at Duke.” More recently, in June 2005, Pierce-Baker led a graduate seminar at the University of Coimbra in Portugal on the topic of sexual assault.

Martha Reeves (Assistant Professor in Sociology and Women’s Studies) was interviewed on June 8, 2005, on the National Public Radio show, “The State of Things,” discussing gender and pay equity. Reeves has served on an advisory board for the North Carolina Office of State Personnel to investigate pay equity for female state employees.

Jenny Reardon has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Reardon’s Women’s Studies associates enjoyed her brief stay at Duke University, wish her well and look forward to her continuing association with the Program as adjunct assistant professor.

Robyn Wiegman (Margaret Taylor Smith Director and Associate Professor of Women’s Studies at Duke) will spend the 2005-06 academic year on a much-deserved sabbatical at the University of Washington, working on a book project. In spring 2005, she presented a paper, “The Desire for Gender,” at the Heteronormativity Conference in Norway and will participate in the November 2005 Duke Women’s Studies symposium, “Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational.”



Robyn Wiegman, Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women’s Studies at Duke and Clare Hemmings (Senior Lecturer in Gender Theory & Gender Studies, London School of Economics) in Norway

Faculty Focus

Pete Sigal, Visiting Associate Professor of Latin American History, Department of History, plans to accept a secondary appointment in Women’s Studies. Sigal is also Director of “The Global Americas,” a “Focus” program that offers first year students an opportunity to live and study in small groups with a focus, in this case, on the ways that technology, trade, and migration have fostered unprecedented levels of integration in the Americas. Sigal’s Focus program examines the social, cultural, economic, and political implications of this hemispheric integration. Primarily from the Latin American and Caribbean perspective, the courses Sigal directs examine how globalization has transformed people’s lives. Among the requirements for students is an expectation of related service work.



Other newly approved secondary and adjunct faculty in Women’s Studies are: Banu Gokariksel (Women’s Studies Adjunct and Assistant Professor, Geography, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill); Jenny Reardon (Women’s Studies Adjunct and Assistant Professor, Sociology, UC-Santa Cruz); and Women’s Studies Associates at Duke, Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology); Charles Piot (Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology); Karla Holloway (William R. Kenan Professor, English); and Rebecca Stein (Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology).

Faculty Search

The Duke University Program in Women’s Studies invites applications and nominations for a tenured position in Sexuality and Gender, with an emphasis on the African Diaspora, to begin September 1, 2006. We seek a candidate for appointment at the Associate or Full Professor level who can provide intellectual and institutional vision and leadership. The successful candidate will direct the Undergraduate Certificate Program in Sexuality Studies, which is housed in Women’s Studies, for a renewable three-year term, and be a regular member of the Women’s Studies faculty. Send applications, C.V., and names of three recommenders to Robyn Wiegman, Director, Women’s Studies, Box 90760, 210 East Duke Building, Durham, NC 27708. Applications and nominations received by November 1, 2005 will be guaranteed full consideration. Duke University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Women’s Studies at Duke and Kenya

Sheryl Broverman (Senior Research Fellow - Health Inequalities Program, Department of Biology, Duke) reports that she and Dr. Rose Ogwang Odhiambo, Director of The Centre for Women Studies and Gender Analysis at Egerton University, the first Women’s Studies department in Kenya, have received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop linked curricula on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Broverman and Women’s Studies hosted Dr. Odhiambo’s visit to Duke last year, which they say was extremely beneficial to the work being done in Kenya.

“Having access to a premier library allowed [Dr. Odhiambo] to find the resources to complete two papers on malaria, which she has just had published. Her interactions with your colleagues in Women’s Studies led to alterations in her offerings on gender and to a planned talk at the conference of International Women in Science and Engineers (IWISE) on ‘Creation of Science Curriculum for Gender Sensitization and HIV/AIDS Control in Kenya Universities.’ Truly, your support for her visit has had far reaching consequences.”



My Path to the Ph.D.

By Cindy Current

As a first year graduate student in English, I enrolled in a foundational graduate seminar taught by Robyn Wiegman. I was an atypical student in a number of ways. I was a graduate student at the University of North Carolina, my undergraduate degree in English had been completed in the 1980s, and I had worked as a registered nurse in critical care units for more than twenty years. Though these traits were not without interest to professors and peers in my program, Robyn Wiegman (Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies), was the first professor to view my path to Women's Studies as an absolute asset. She encouraged me to complete course work toward the certificate and to participate in interdisciplinary debate seminars along with numerous graduate/faculty workshops with prominent scholars such as Elizabeth Grosz (Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers). Additionally, my work with Tina Campt as a Graduate Scholars Fellow has been invaluable as a forum that promotes both greater professionalization and deeper understandings of the values of interdisciplinarity in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies.



Scholarship in women's studies, then, has embraced the undervalued qualities I bring from my previous work--a knowledge of physiology, medical discourse and technology, and the cultural and narrative capacities of medicine, science and the institutions in which they reside. Crucially, however, Women's Studies at Duke University has provided the resources that enable me to produce the intellectual projects that were difficult, or at times, impossible to conceptualize within the field of critical care nursing. Such work not only enhanced my course of study this summer at Cornell University's School of Criticism and Theory, where I again had the opportunity to work with Elizabeth Grosz, but will also enrich my use of the Women's Studies Professional Development Grant I received this fall. I intend to work with Priscilla Wald in the interdisciplinary debates seminar entitled "The Genome Age," thus completing an intellectual path that has taken me from critical research and patient care in institutions such as Duke University Medical Center, to the works of Darwin and evolutionary theory, to contemporary understandings of the outcomes and impacts of genomics on concepts of race, gender, and sexuality.

Cindy Current is a Duke Women's Studies Graduate Scholar and Fellow. She expects to graduate in 2007 with a PhD in English from the University of North Carolina and looks forward to an academic career as teacher and scholar.

Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences

By Alexis T. Franzese

I recently attended the fourth annual meeting of the Hawaii International Conference on Social Sciences in Honolulu, Hawaii. My presentation received very interesting comments and questions, which I credit to the interdisciplinary nature of the conference, which permitted us to look at research questions through multiple lenses and from a variety of perspectives. Conversations I had and presentations I attended helped me to think of my research in new ways. I am grateful to the Women's Studies for supporting my attendance at this conference.

Alexis Francese is pursuing PhD's in Sociology and Psychology at Duke and is in the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate program.

The International Association for Feminist Economics conference

By Adetola Hassan

I would like to thank Women's Studies for the award that allowed me to attend the International Association for Feminist Economics conference. I had never been to a professional conference before. It was really inspiring to interact with so many women who were knowledgeable about all areas of economics. The presentations on topics that I am interested in reinforced my desire to study economics, specifically development, at a graduate level. I presented a paper, "Sisterhood Divided: A Cohort Analysis of U.S. Native Born Black and Sub-Saharan Immigrant Women from 1980-2000", which I co-authored with Dr. Rhonda Sharpe. To go from doing preliminary research and submitting the paper proposal, then having it accepted, preparing the material for presentation, and finally actually presenting it was very fulfilling. As an undergraduate, I appreciated the experience of presenting a paper and having it critiqued and getting good feedback. Dr. Sharpe and I plan to continue working on the paper. The conference also allowed me to network with people in the UK as I prepare to pursue a PhD. The conference was a great learning experience.

Ade Hassan graduated from Duke in 2005 with majors in Economics and English. She will attend the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London for her Masters in Finance and Development.

Alumni Updates

Madelaine Adelman received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from Duke in 1997. She is currently Assistant Professor at the School of Justice Studies, Arizona State University. Madelaine is also Co-Chair, GLSEN Phoenix (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network). She is completing an analysis of ethnographic research on the politics of domestic violence in Israel.

Amy Carroll graduated from Duke in 2005 with a PhD in Literature and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She has received a postdoctoral fellowship in Latino/a Studies affiliated with the English Department at Northwestern University for the coming academic year. Amy has also accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in Latina/o Studies, a joint appointment in the Program in American Culture and the English Department beginning 2006-2007.

Christina Gier graduated from Duke in December 2003 with a Ph.D. in Music. Her dissertation was on gender discourse and Alban Berg's musical modernism. In September 2000, she received a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, and this July, began a position as Assistant Professor of Musicology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Christina says, "I know that my women's studies background helped me land this job, because they were interested in my feminist scholarship. So, thanks for everything Duke Women's Studies!"

Diane McKay received both her B.A. (English, with a concentration in Film and Video) and Ph.D. (English, with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies) from Duke. While in graduate school, she served as a Pre-Major Advisor. Diane was recently hired by Duke University as a new assistant dean for pre-major advising, having spent several years teaching at Rutgers University and Montclair State University and serving as an academic advisor at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Gwenn A. Miller completed her degree in History from Duke in September 2004 with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. She was a member of the Graduate Scholars Colloquium. Gwenn is now beginning her second year in a tenure-track position at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Susanne Sreedhar received the Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from Duke when she earned her PhD in Philosophy from UNC in spring 2005. She has since been offered a position at Tulane University. Susanne reports, "I am looking forward to the challenge of having a joint appointment and building bridges between Women's Studies and Philosophy. We will actually be creating Tulane's Women's Studies program, which is not institutionalized and currently has no tenured positions. I would never have even been considered for the joint Philosophy and Women's Studies position if I hadn't been enrolled in the Women's Studies Graduate Certificate program at Duke. It's also really what kept me in Graduate School. It

was most helpful, especially since I am at UNC, to be able to teach at Duke and see the boundaries and limits of traditional philosophy. I'm much better educated as a result of doing the certificate than I ever would have been otherwise. Hands down!"

Susan B.A. Somers-Willett graduated from Duke in 1995 with an undergraduate degree in Anthropology and program honors in Women's Studies. She recently was awarded a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Illinois. Her first book of poetry, *Roam*, was selected for the Crab Orchard Award Series in Poetry, to be published by the Southern Illinois University Press in April of 2006.

Cybelle McFadden Wilkens has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of French at Georgia Tech. Cybelle received her PhD in Romance Studies and graduate certificate in Women's Studies in May 2005. She received her BA from the College of William & Mary in 1997 and conducted research in Brussels as a Fulbright scholar before starting at Duke. During 2001-2002, she was a *pensionnaire étrangère* at the ENS, rue d'Ulm, Paris, which allowed her to conduct research on her dissertation entitled, "Women's Artistic Expression: Reflexivity, Daily Life and Self-Representation in Contemporary France." This dissertation examines self-representation and reflexivity in works of a selection of contemporary French female artists from the 1980s to the present.

Cybelle writes, "The Women's Studies Program was very instrumental in helping me finish my dissertation. During 2003-2004, I received a year of funding support that allowed me to write, participate in the graduate scholars program, travel internationally to finish my dissertation research and view an exhibit related to my topic, participate in teaching workshops, and go on the job market. I also had the opportunity to deepen my knowledge of current issues in Women's Studies that year. I received a travel grant to present a paper, "The Role of the Artist: Agnès Varda's Meditation on Art," at the 20th-21st Century French Studies conference at Florida State University in April 2004. And last year, I was able to finish my dissertation through teaching opportunities in the Program. I taught my own course, "Women and Contemporary Film," which introduced students to a range of contemporary female filmmakers and feminist film theory. I also presented my dissertation work at the Women's Studies interdisciplinary graduate student colloquium and organized the visit of French filmmaker Dominique Cabrera to campus with the support of the Program. I'm really appreciative of the support from Women's Studies. The Program has made a huge impact on my professional career and development."

Margot Weiss, who graduated from Duke in 2005 with a PhD in Cultural Anthropology and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, began a one-year teaching position in Anthropology at Sweet Briar College in Virginia. Margot received travel and merit awards from Women's Studies during her college career that helped to advance her research.

We're interested in you! If you are a graduate of the Program in Women's Studies at Duke or a friend of the Program, please send us news of your academic progress, awards and honors, career moves, book publications, or any other information of interest to our readers and to the Program. Send your news by email to phoffman@duke.edu or Women's Studies at Duke, 210 East Duke Building, Durham, NC 27708.

Ford Seminar

"The Genome Age", Reproductive Ethics And "Genes and Screens"

Women's Studies inaugurated its new Ford Seminar: Interdisciplinary Debates (WST360) in fall 2003 as a way to address the needs of advanced graduate students and to offer faculty at Duke course development funds for their participation in ongoing interdisciplinary discussion. The inaugural course, taught by Anne Lyerly (DUMC), focused on "Gender and Bioethics," and featured faculty participants from Women's Studies, History, the Medical Center, and English. Last fall, Claudia Koonz (Professor, History and Women's Studies at Duke) taught "Gender and Ethnic Conflict," which was followed in the spring by a two day symposium on the topic. This fall, Priscilla Wald (Professor, English and Women's Studies at Duke) will teach the fall 2005 course on genomics, entitled "The Genome Age."

Dr. Wald has invited two scholars to deliver lectures and participate in a faculty and graduate seminar discussion. The first is Jenny Reardon (Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Women's Studies at Duke), whose training is in Science and Technology Studies and who is the author of *Race to the Finish: Identity and Governance in an Age of Genomics* (Princeton University 2004) about the history and politics of the study of human genetic difference. A second lecture and seminar discussion will feature Dr. Fatimah Jackson (Professor, Applied Biological Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park), author of numerous articles on modern human diversity. Her work is focused on Africa where she has concentrated on the biological histories of African peoples and the patterns of human ecogenetic variation in this continent.

Wald describes "The Genome Age" seminar as "focused on discoveries surrounding the genome sciences that influence and produce the definition of 'human being.' The seminar begins with the premise that feminist theory can be of particular use in the categorical rethinking that the genome sciences demand and the ethical, legal, and policy analysis that they require. She says of the class, "We will explore the questions raised by the genome sciences through the lens of analytic frameworks developed in feminist theory and science and technology studies that allow us to call into view and critically explore the refashioning of race, nation, colonialism, property, human being, individuality, democracy, sovereignty, health, and disease in the emergent zone of genomics."

Kathy Rudy (Associate Professor, Women's Studies at Duke) also offers a spring Women's Studies undergraduate course, "Feminism, Reproduction Ethics and Genetic Information," that addresses genetics and the genome project. The class examines the relatively new frontiers of pregnancy intervention and genetic detection, with particular attention to how the two fields of inquiry support and control each other. Rudy and her students look at the growing cases and literatures about women who are charged with endangering the

life of their fetus through alcohol and illegal drug consumption, as well as, developments in genetic research in testing for various diseases, technologies that have spawned a host of questions regarding the morality of our ability to enhance the "quality" of fetuses. Rudy asks, "What kinds of children should we be producing and who should bear them? What should count as defect in the next generation? Who should decide? And who should have access to information about genetic material?" The question of what it is to be human is further investigated in Kathy Rudy's new course, "Animals and Ethics" for spring 2006, a special topics course that will tie in to a symposium currently being organized by New Beginnings, a collaborative Duke faculty think tank.

Complimenting these courses is the film series "Genes and Screens: Cinematic Bodies and Machines" Film Series, presented by Women's Studies with support from Film/Video/Digital Program. Other co-sponsors for the series include the Program in Literature, the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, the Duke Anime Club, and Freewater Presentations (DUU). The series raises questions about the Human Genome Project and film's contributions to the genomic social imaginary. "Genes and Screens" will include Hollywood, independent, and foreign films, concluding with a documentary followed by a panel of local faculty experts who will comment on the ways science and culture influence each other. The panel includes Priscilla Wald, Jenny Reardon, and David Goldstein (Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, Duke).

Films will be screened at 8pm, unless otherwise noted, in either the Griffith Film Theater in the Bryan Center on Duke University's West Campus or the Richard White Lecture Hall on East Campus and are free and open to the general public. Please mark your calendars and consult the schedule at: <http://www.duke.edu/web/film/screensociety/genes+screens.html>. You may also contact Hank Okazaki at hokazak@duke.edu or look for the schedule posted on the Women's Studies web site at: <http://www.duke.edu/womstud/>.

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A Personal Perspective on Palestine

By Allison Brim

Immediately after graduating from Duke in spring 2005, I flew to Israel. Before I left the U.S., I was aware that Palestine was under violent occupation by the Israeli military. However, I believe our country blames the region's violence on 'Palestinian terrorism,' an idea exaggerated by the media and governments of Israel and the USA. I encourage anyone with an open mind and a caring heart to come to Palestine. Language is inadequate to describe the Occupation. One must be here to know the reality Palestinians face daily. I offer here an account of my personal experience.

The decision to lock myself inside a large metal cylinder with six other people, knowing I would likely be arrested and beaten by soldiers, was surprisingly easy to make. After working in solidarity with Palestinians in the 1600-person village of Bil'in for two months, this act of protest seemed a small sacrifice to make. Israel is appropriating a substantial proportion of Bil'in's 1,000 acres to build and expand Israeli settlements and construct the annexation barrier (better known as the Wall). This agricultural village has begun to collapse economically as villagers watch high-rises go up on the same dirt that once held their olive trees.

Construction of the Bil'in portion of the annexation barrier began last winter, and residents began demonstrating nonviolently against the barrier on February 18. Since then, Palestinians, Israelis, and other international protesters have participated in over fifty demonstrations. Each of these protests has been unique, ranging from activists chaining themselves to olive trees, to marching with a huge scale of injustice showing how Israel is breaking international law, to nine people and a goat locking ourselves inside a jail cell on the route of the barrier, thus demonstrating how the wall and the occupation are imprisoning Palestinians in their own villages.

In addition to the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), as the occupying army is called by International Solidarity Movement activists, entering Bil'in during demonstrations, soldiers have made it common practice to

come in the middle of the night, waking families in their homes to search and harass them. I witnessed women in their eighties crying, barely able to catch their breath as they tried to make sense of why Israeli soldiers were able to violate their privacy and basic rights in such a ruthless way. Before I arrived in Bil'in and before the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) was asked to keep a permanent presence there, one young man was arrested after being grabbed from the safety of his home at night, leaving his family feeling helpless.

So just after dawn on July 20th, the day following my 22nd birthday, I confidently crawled into a large cylinder with other international, Palestinian, and Israeli demonstrators. The top of the cylinder carried flags from various Palestinian political parties as well as one large Palestinian flag. On the front and back of the cylinder, in Arabic, English, and Hebrew, was the message that Palestinians must unite, rather than fight among themselves, in order to reclaim the land that has been taken away from them. We locked ourselves inside as four others chained themselves to the outside of the cylinder. Then, along with our many supporters and journalists, we awaited the IOF. The soldiers soon came and after a warning, began to remove those chained to the outside of the cylinder and beat those of us inside the cylinder with batons and the flagpoles that had been attached to the top of the cylinder. They jabbed their weapons unrestrainedly into the cylinder through the holes that were there for our heads. Several of us inside sustained head injuries, and all seven of us received substantial bruises and other injuries from the beatings. Strangely, we felt lucky-- because the soldiers did not use most of the weapons they normally fire at nonviolent demonstrations--tear gas, rubber-coated metal bullets, live ammunition.

Eventually the IOF dragged us out of the cylinder and carried us away to be arrested as the other demonstrators were forced back to their homes. We were charged with



Allison Brim, right, and other demonstrators

assaulting an officer, resisting arrest, illegal demonstration, and obstructing an officer in the course of duty and subsequently interrogated. After several hours of waiting, we were told that they were ready to release everyone except Tamer, one of the Palestinians. They had dropped the charge of assaulting an officer for all of us except Tamer. Four of us refused to sign for our release and therefore submit to the racist justice system by accepting special treatment as foreigners. We were then sent before a judge who ordered our release on condition that we sign a statement agreeing to pay 3,000 shekels (about \$675) if we were caught within 500 meters of the barrier in Bil'in for the next fifteen days. Three of us again refused to sign and were sent to jail for one night.

The next day my two cell-mates and I were set free. Of the seven who were arrested, only Tamer was still in prison, awaiting his chance to see a military judge sometime in the next eight days. The legal system for Palestinians from the occupied territories is completely different from the system that holds for Israeli citizens. I believe the legal system includes neither justice nor basic rights. Some have said that my decision to enter the cylinder was brave, but it was hardly courageous in comparison to Tamer's decision to take part in the same demonstration.

Allison Brim graduated in May 2005 with a Major in Women's Studies. Allison says that many of her cohort in the Middle East worked in or studied social work. Back in the United States now, she hopes to begin a Masters program in social work at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Hypervisible Bodies: The New Erotics of Plastic Surgery continued from Page 1

grotesque - its tissues, fluids, deformities and scars - becomes the funnel through which beauty is achieved. Following Kipnis's reading of Hustler (1992, "(Male) Desire and (Female) Disgust: Reading Hustler," Cultural Studies. L. Grossberg, et. al. London, Routledge: 373-391), I argue that the very grotesqueness and materiality of the body functions here as that which the bourgeois body must work against and excise to become beautiful. In other words, the televised representations of cosmetic surgery emphasize the grotesque imperfections of the body in order to portray plastic surgeons as miracle workers able to perform "the labor of suppressing the grotesque body, in favor of what Bhaktin refers to as 'the classical body'... a refined, orifice-less, laminated surface" (Kipnis 1992: 376). The online journals written by patients, however, also provide a space for the painful recuperation period and the possible complications and scars from surgery, questioning both the plastic surgeon's authorship of their body and the seamless path to beauty. Yet they rely just as much, or more, on an erotics of hypervisibility, where the grotesque body is the source and target of constant surveillance.

I also analyze how cosmetic surgeons portrayed in these programs frequently compare themselves to artists, describing their work as "sculpting" the body. I believe the insistence on artistry allows the surgeon to claim authorship of the body he or she works on, where only the labor of the surgeon acting on the body is able to provide that body with surplus value. The aesthetic and erotic value of this new commodity depends directly on the surgeon's supposed mastery over the body, from the moment of diagnosis to the end of the operation - from the "before" to the "after" of plastic surgery. A double effacement is at work here: one where the body is evacuated of its material, embodied history, as if it were a blank slate that can be endlessly corrected, and another one where the labor of the patient, endured through weeks of pain and healing scars, is minimized in comparison to the labor of the surgeon. Yet I do not share the view that plastic surgery patients and their desires are entirely constructed through a misogynist medical gaze. Such a reading of plastic surgery does not account for its increasing appeal among men, and it pathologizes the consumers of plastic surgery rather than really attempting to understand what pleasures they take from the practice.

One website in particular, YesTheyreFake.net, is particularly fascinating due to unabashed and prideful approach to plastic surgery. As the name of the website suggests, participants of this online community, who are mostly women, have no qualms about describing how many surgical procedures they have had and how they went. The very notion of plastic surgery patients uniting to

talk amongst themselves about their experiences seems to challenge the control that plastic surgeons attempt to keep over knowledge-production about their practice. Here, the pain of surgery and the long recuperation period are central, rather than peripheral, to the experience of surgery. Eventually, those journal entries conclude that the surgery was worth it after all, even with all that pain. These descriptions of pain, however, are meant as warnings to other people who might be considering surgery, and not as propaganda for certain procedures. In these narratives about pain, the body becomes even more visible than it was in the television shows, with detailed descriptions and accompanying pictures that trace the several stages of recuperation, and how the scars, cuts and bruises heal every day after the operation.



“ In other words, the televised representations of cosmetic surgery emphasize the grotesque imperfections of the body in order to portray plastic surgeons as miracle workers... ”

The emphasis on pain also questions the authority of the surgeon over the patient's body. Frequently, the online journals portray the surgeons as somehow incompetent in the way they handle a crisis, like the rejection of an implant. I believe these narratives about pain question the seamless path to beauty that surgeons and reality TV programs promise to the consumer. This beauty has rather been gained through the painful labor of recuperation that the consumer puts into the surgery; it is a beauty that the patient merits as much as anyone else. It is the consumer's pain, not the surgeon's skill, which adds surplus value to the body as commodity. The persistent pictures of healing bruises and weeping wounds - rather than the simple "before" and "after" that surgeons promote - are testimony to that ownership through pain.

In Volatile Bodies: Towards a Corporeal Feminism (1994, Indiana University Press), Elizabeth Grosz urges us to rethink the body as a lived, embodied experience, which always exists as a social object and never as a prediscursive, 'pure' body. The body is not a blank canvas onto which cosmetic surgeons can simply carve out the fantasies of consumers, or inscribe social norms. Rather, many patients of plastic surgery emphasize the very materiality of the body, and how the body reacts viscerally and painfully to the efforts to transform it. Following Hayles (1999, *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature and Informatics*, University of Chicago Press), I would like to propose incorporation - rather than inscription - as an alternative for understanding cosmetic surgery as an embodied technology. Cosmetic surgery interacts with the body to create new experiences of embodiment, and does not inevitably lead the body into the same familiar landscapes of oppression.

Alvaro Jarrin is pursuing a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and recently won a Women's Studies Race and Gender Research Merit Award, which allowed him to travel to present his research on "hypervisible bodies." He is also a Women's Studies Graduate Scholars Colloquium member.

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We want to know what you think! Send your comments on past issues of the newsletter and ideas for upcoming issues to: Women's Studies, Duke University, Box 90760, Durham, NC 27708 or email your comments to phoffman@duke.edu.

Directors Column continued from page 1

Women's Studies will co-sponsor a number of interdisciplinary events this year, including a symposium at the new Nasher Museum, featuring a show of Romare Bearden's art and distinguished visiting speakers. In collaboration with Judaic Studies and the Office of Student Affairs, we also are pleased to bring Grace Paley to Duke on October 21-22, Parent's Weekend. And we are working with the Film/Video/Digital Program on a film series entitled "Genes and Screens," which complements our new graduate and faculty seminar "The Genome Age," taught by Priscilla Wald (Professor, English and Women's Studies, Duke). Invited speakers to the seminar include Fatima Jackson (University of Maryland, College Park) and Jenny Reardon, who we welcome back to Duke from her recent move to a faculty position at University of California, Santa Cruz. Both of these scholars work on issues of genetic diversity from the perspectives of the history and politics of science and technology on the one hand, and biological anthropology on the other. Others who will speak in the lecture series are Sherrie Tucker (University of Kansas) who writes about gender issues in jazz and Mimi Nguyen (University of Michigan) who specializes in popular culture and transnational feminism. For the complete schedule of outreach events as they develop for 2005-06, please check our web site (<http://www.duke.edu/womstud>).

I'm also delighted to welcome a number of secondary faculty members to Women's Studies this year. Joining us are new Women's Studies Adjunct Professors, Banu Gokariksel (Geography, UNC) and Jenny Reardon (Sociology, University

of California Santa Cruz); and Duke University Women's Studies Associates, Deborah Thomas (Cultural Anthropology, Duke), Charles Piot (Cultural Anthropology), Karla F. C. Holloway (English), and Rebecca Stein (Cultural Anthropology). We also are fortunate to have Professor Clare Hemmings, visiting from the London School of Economics, on our faculty this year.

Currently, we have plans to fill two open positions for core faculty in the program. This fall, we are conducting a search for a new position for Director of Sexualities Studies, a program that soon will be housed in Women's Studies. In 2006-07 we look forward to our search to fill the Jean Fox O'Barr Chair in Women's Studies. In the coming weeks and months we will also be updating you on courses and teaching in the program.

As always, students remain central to the mission of the Program. In this issue of the newsletter you will read undergraduate and graduate students' personal accounts of their scholarly and activist work. We also report on our graduate students' placements and encourage past graduates to send us news for our newsletter.

With so many projects in the offing, I'm quite enthusiastic to begin my interim directorship this year. I look forward to seeing or hearing from friends and colleagues during what promises to be an extremely eventful year in Women's Studies at Duke.

With best regards,
Tina Camp
Interim Director of Women's Studies at Duke

Women's Studies and Sexualities Studies Conference at Duke Friday, September 30, 2005

Sexual Citizens or Transnational Queer Subjects? Sexuality Studies and the Emergency of Empire.

"Sexual Citizens or Transnational Queer Subjects" is a one-day mini-conference that aims to generate a compelling discussion on the stakes of theorizing citizenship, diaspora and the effects of different modalities of globalization and transnational movements, as these terms are currently being engaged within the field of Sexuality Studies. Invited speakers will interrogate these questions in an attempt to think through the way contemporary global emergencies are transforming the aims, vocabularies, and assumptions of queer theory and sexuality studies. The conference is hosted by the Duke Program in the Study of Sexualities and the Program in Women's Studies, its future home.

The geopolitical urgency of globalization, transnational movements, diaspora and citizenship have produced a new critical idiom in the study of sexuality and have become key terms of analysis for queer theory. For many sexuality studies programs in the US today, the "transnational turn" defines the current agenda of research and curricula reform and has inaugurated important new conversations about sexuality in the context of empire, knowledge hierarchies, subalternity, and capitalist development.

What does it mean for US queer theory and sexuality studies to now traffic in the conceptual language of citizenship, diaspora, globalization and transnationality? In what ways does its use of these critical discourses produce transformative and counter-hegemonic politics and analyses, and in what ways does it also potentially reinscribe other or older inequitable relations of power and dominance, both within the academy and beyond it? What, in short, is this new critical idiom yielding for the field? These and other questions will be explored by three key thinkers in the field: Miranda Joseph (Women's Studies, English and Geography, University of Arizona), Chandan Reddy (English, University of Washington, Seattle), Tom Boellstorff (Anthropology, University of California, Irvine) and David Rubin (PhD Program in Women's Studies, Emory University). Please contact Sexualities Studies Director Anne Allison (anne.allison@duke.edu) or consult the Women's Studies web site for more details as they develop (<http://www.duke.edu/womstud>).

Faculty Updates

Tina Camp is Associate Professor and 2005-06 Interim Director of the Women's Studies Program. Camp is the author of *Other Germans: Black Germans and the Politics of Race, Gender and Memory in the Third Reich*. She is co editor with Michelle M. Wright of a special issue of the journal *Callaloo* on the Black German experience, and together with Paul Gilroy, co-edited the volume, *The Black Atlantic: Traveling Cultures, Counter-History and Networked Identities*. Camp is currently beginning work on a comparative project examining the role of memory in the articulation of Black German and Black British diasporic identities in postwar Europe. She will be one of the keynote speakers at the "Feminist Dialogues on Social Justice: Forging Articulations Across U.S.-Based Anti-Racist and Transnational Feminisms Conference" to be held at the University of Washington October 28-29, 2005. She is coordinating with Deborah Thomas (Cultural Anthropology, Duke) the "Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational" symposium to be held at Duke November 17-19, 2005.

Clare Hemmings (Lecturer, Gender Studies, London School of Economics) will join the faculty of Women's Studies as a visiting professor for the spring 2006 semester, teaching the Foundations in Feminist Theory course normally taught by Associate Professor Robyn Wiegman, as well as the undergraduate senior seminar on "Globalizing Sexualities." For the past two years, the Program has taken members of this class to a national feminist conference, first in Chicago to a conference on feminist generations and then in spring 2005 to Purdue University for the "Transpositions" conference there. This year, Women's Studies will co-sponsor a conference at Rutgers University, which will be the venue for the Foundations class trip and will provide an opportunity for Hemmings and her graduate students to engage with others on feminist studies and theory.



Deborah Hicks (Associate Professor, Education and Women's Studies, University of Cincinnati) will spend her sabbatical teaching in Women's Studies at Duke. Her spring undergraduate course is called "Growing Up Girl," a course that draws upon the fields of

gender studies, education, psychology, and cultural studies. Hicks has just completed an exhaustive four-year ethnography focused on the lives of girls coming of age in what feminist scholar bell hooks termed the hidden face of poverty - poverty as lived by poor whites. With their focus on girls' situated lives and voices, course readings will emphasize ethnographic, documentary, and pedagogical scholarship that takes into account context, diversity, identity, and politics. Narrative texts like

bell hooks' memoir of girlhood (*Bone Black*) and Dorothy Allison's raw literary portrayal of gender, class, and sexuality (*Bastard out of Carolina*) will be juxtaposed with ethnographic, documentary, and theoretical texts. Hicks notes that narratives of girlhood add important texture and depth to contemporary *girl studies*, a subfield that is rapidly growing in importance in Women's Studies and related interpretive and social science fields.

'You have to acknowledge it, because if you don't, it's going to come back and kick you.'

Charlotte Pierce-Baker
66, Durham, N.C.

When asked how she feels about being on the *Voices and Faces* Web site, Pierce-Baker laughs like she can't quite believe her image is out there. For her, being raped was something she kept secret for more than a decade. Only her husband and other close family members knew what had happened in 1976, when two men broke into the house in Philadelphia and raped her.

She stayed quiet because she thought she needed to get on with life for her family's sake and because she was afraid. When she started writing a book in the 1990s about black women and rape, she didn't want her photo on the book jacket. The book did come out with her picture, and Pierce-Baker says she grew stronger going interviews and talks after it was published.

Pierce-Baker, a professor of English and women's



studies at Duke University, wasn't other rape victims not to stay silent like she did. It made life harder for her and her family and it cost her friends who didn't understand the reason she acted so strongly.

"You have to deal with rape," she says. "You have to acknowledge it, because if you don't, it's going to come back and kick you." —K.M.

Charlotte Pierce-Baker, research Professor in Women's Studies and English, is a featured image on the "Voices and Faces" Web site and a Chicago Tribune article about the Web site and its effort to promote rape awareness. Pierce-Baker has written a book on survival after rape, about her own and other women's experience. *Voices and Faces* is a book/photography project authored by Anne Ream and Patricia Evans, photographer, focusing on the issue of rape survivorship. The goal of the project is to show the diverse population of rape survivors, across occupation, race, ethnicity, sexuality, age and to "show faces" as well as give voice to the narratives. It is a first in this specific area. The website, www.voicesand-faces.com, which features Charlotte Pierce-Baker, has already received about three million "hits."

While visiting Professor of English at the University of Illinois in Chicago, Pierce-Baker taught and began discussion groups with colleagues about violence against women and plans a future symposium on the topic of violence and incarceration of women. Pierce-Baker also serves on the "Faculty Advisory

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Board” for the student journal, “Saturday Night: Untold Stories of Sexual Assault at Duke.” More recently, in June 2005, Pierce-Baker led a graduate seminar at the University of Coimbra in Portugal on the topic of sexual assault.

Martha Reeves (Assistant Professor in Sociology and Women’s Studies) was interviewed on June 8, 2005, on the National Public Radio show, “The State of Things,” discussing gender and pay equity. Reeves has served on an advisory board for the North Carolina Office of State Personnel to investigate pay equity for female state employees.

Jenny Reardon has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Reardon’s Women’s Studies associates enjoyed her brief stay at Duke University, wish her well and look forward to her continuing association with the Program as adjunct assistant professor.

Robyn Wiegman (Margaret Taylor Smith Director and Associate Professor of Women’s Studies at Duke) will spend the 2005-06 academic year on a much-deserved sabbatical at the University of Washington, working on a book project. In spring 2005, she presented a paper, “The Desire for Gender,” at the Heteronormativity Conference in Norway and will participate in the November 2005 Duke Women’s Studies symposium, “Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational.”



Robyn Wiegman, Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women’s Studies at Duke and Clare Hemmings (Senior Lecturer in Gender Theory & Gender Studies, London School of Economics) in Norway

Faculty Focus

Pete Sigal, Visiting Associate Professor of Latin American History, Department of History, plans to accept a secondary appointment in Women’s Studies. Sigal is also Director of “The Global Americas,” a “Focus” program that offers first year students an opportunity to live and study in small groups with a focus, in this case, on the ways that technology, trade, and migration have fostered unprecedented levels of integration in the Americas. Sigal’s Focus program examines the social, cultural, economic, and political implications of this hemispheric integration. Primarily from the Latin American and Caribbean perspective, the courses Sigal directs examine how globalization has transformed people’s lives. Among the requirements for students is an expectation of related service work.



Other newly approved secondary and adjunct faculty in Women’s Studies are: Banu Gokariksel (Women’s Studies Adjunct and Assistant Professor, Geography, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill); Jenny Reardon (Women’s Studies Adjunct and Assistant Professor, Sociology, UC-Santa Cruz); and Women’s Studies Associates at Duke, Deborah Thomas (Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology); Charles Piot (Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology); Karla Holloway (William R. Kenan Professor, English); and Rebecca Stein (Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology).

Faculty Search

The Duke University Program in Women’s Studies invites applications and nominations for a tenured position in Sexuality and Gender, with an emphasis on the African Diaspora, to begin September 1, 2006. We seek a candidate for appointment at the Associate or Full Professor level who can provide intellectual and institutional vision and leadership. The successful candidate will direct the Undergraduate Certificate Program in Sexuality Studies, which is housed in Women’s Studies, for a renewable three-year term, and be a regular member of the Women’s Studies faculty. Send applications, C.V., and names of three recommenders to Robyn Wiegman, Director, Women’s Studies, Box 90760, 210 East Duke Building, Durham, NC 27708. Applications and nominations received by November 1, 2005 will be guaranteed full consideration. Duke University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Women’s Studies at Duke and Kenya

Sheryl Broverman (Senior Research Fellow - Health Inequalities Program, Department of Biology, Duke) reports that she and Dr. Rose Ogwang Odhiambo, Director of The Centre for Women Studies and Gender Analysis at Egerton University, the first Women’s Studies department in Kenya, have received funding from the National Science Foundation to develop linked curricula on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Broverman and Women’s Studies hosted Dr. Odhiambo’s visit to Duke last year, which they say was extremely beneficial to the work being done in Kenya.

“Having access to a premier library allowed [Dr. Odhiambo] to find the resources to complete two papers on malaria, which she has just had published. Her interactions with your colleagues in Women’s Studies led to alterations in her offerings on gender and to a planned talk at the conference of International Women in Science and Engineers (IWISE) on ‘Creation of Science Curriculum for Gender Sensitization and HIV/AIDS Control in Kenya Universities.’ Truly, your support for her visit has had far reaching consequences.”



“Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational”

The Duke Women’s Studies fall symposium, “Gendering Diaspora and Race-ing the Transnational,” will be held November 17-19, 2005. The symposium is part of “Diasporic Hegemonies,” a project on gender, race and diaspora, which was designed by Women’s Studies Interim Director Tina Campt and Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology Deborah Thomas. As a three-year scholarly and pedagogical project, “Diasporic Hegemonies” facilitates communication between those doing transnational feminist research and feminist scholarship on the African Diaspora. The project began in spring 2005 with a lecture series and a graduate-faculty seminar and will continue next year with a series of faculty workshops. The goal is to study with other scholars the ways transnational feminist scholarship might benefit from a more engaged dialogue with those who work on the African diaspora, and how the study of diaspora and diasporic communities might be transformed through a more directed engagement with feminist transnationalism, and particularly the work of feminists theorizing other models of diaspora (for example, South Asian or Asian American diasporas).

“An extended conversation of this sort would lead us to challenge invocations of diaspora that privilege liberation and similarity in the service of solidarity among Afro-diasporic populations,” Campt said. “We are particularly interested in foregrounding difference as central to diasporic formations.” Campt and Thomas believe a gendered transnational analysis of the relations of Diaspora could ultimately transform the ways scholars, students, and policy-makers conceptualize current processes of globalization, and could therefore help to foster more critically engaged responses to these processes.



GENDERING DIASPORA AND RACE-ING THE TRANSNATIONAL

Co-Organizers: Tina Campt and Deborah A. Thomas, Duke University

Thursday, 17 November 2005

Franklin Center 240

4:30 PM **Welcome and Introductions,**
Deborah A. Thomas (Duke)

5:00 PM **Keynote Presentation #1:**
Hazel Carby (Yale)
Respondent: Tina Campt (Duke)

6:30 PM **Reception** (Franklin Center Café)
Keith Piper Digital Installation
“The Historical Sounding Gallery.”

2:30 PM **Break**

3:00 PM **Panel #2:** Transnational Sexualities
Chair and Moderator:
Maurice Wallace (Duke)

Presenters:
Denise Noble (Goldsmiths)
Rinaldo Walcott (Toronto)
Meg Wesling (UCSD)
Respondent: Suki Ali (LSE)

4:30 PM **Panel #3:** Diasporic Ambiguity and
Transnational Perplexity
Chair and Moderator:
Ranjana Khanna (Duke)

Presenters:
Jayne Ifekwunigwe (UEL/Duke)
Priti Ramamurthy (Washington)
Deborah A. Thomas (UNC)
Respondent: Avtar Brah (Birkbeck)

6:00 PM **Break**

6:30 PM **Keynote Presentation #2**
Chair and Moderator:
Robyn Wiegman (Duke)

Presenter:
Inderpal Grewal (UC-Irvine)
Respondent: Alissa Trotz (Toronto)

8:00 PM **Reception** - East Duke Parlors

Saturday, 19 November

Richard White Auditorium

9:30 AM **Coffee in the East Duke Parlors**

10:00 AM **Panel #4:**
The Status of Race in Diaspora
Chair and Moderator:
Carlton Wilson (NCCU)
Presenters: Kesha Fikes (Chicago)
Lena Sawyer (Mid-Sweden)
Michelle Wright (Minnesota)
Respondent:
Michaeline Crichlow (Duke)

11:30AM **Roundtable #2:** Translation and
the Place of African-America in
Diaspora
Chair and Moderator:
Tina Campt (Duke)
Discussants: Jacqueline Nassy Brown
(Hunter-CUNY)
Barnor Hesse (Northwestern)
Karla F.C. Holloway (Duke)
John L. Jackson, Jr. (Duke)
Anne-Maria Makhulu (Duke)

1:30 PM **Closing Remarks**

Friday, 18 November

Richard White Auditorium

9:30 AM **Coffee in the East Duke Parlors**

10:00 AM **Panel #1:** Africa Diasporic
Chair and Moderator:
Charles Piot (Duke)
Presenters: Paulla Ebron (Stanford)
Saidiya Hartman (UC-Berkeley)
Jemima Pierre (UT-Austin)
Respondent: Bayo Holsey (Duke)

11:30 AM **Lunch**

12:30 PM **Roundtable #1:** Diasporic Masculinities
Chair and Moderator:
Mark Anthony Neal (Duke)
Discussants: Claire Alexander (LSE)
Ben Carrington (UT-Austin)
Maureen Mahon (UCLA)
Harvey Neptune (Temple)

Scholars participating in the three days of panels will gather on Sunday, November 20, for a working group meeting to consider the previous days’ proceedings and to develop phase III of the project, an ongoing working group of faculty interested in critically engaging these topics over time.