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Spring 2003 Newsletter

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WOMEN'S STUDIES

Spring 2003 Newsletter

Congratulations!

On May 9 at 6:30 PM in the Nelson Music Room, Women's Studies held its ceremony in honor of majors, minors and graduate students. The guest speaker was Associate Professor Kathy Rudy, a core faculty member in Women's Studies. A buffet dinner followed in the East Duke Parlors. The following students were honored for the completion of course work in Women's Studies:

1st Major: Kimberly Hammersmith, Cheryl Lynne Morgan

2nd Major: Colleen Stack, Linda Tang, Morgan Rehrig

Minor: Dana Alpert, Chikwere Amachi, Stephanie Blalock, Julia Bloom, Theresa Brewer (December 2002), Margaret Brooks, Kristen Doody, Erica Featherstone, Nirupa Goel, Stephanie Grant, Lauren Hooker, Abigail Huff, Jillian Johnson, Tamara Johnson, Sylvia Lee, Allison Murphree, Andrea Murray, Julie Rosenberg, Jennifer Schwartz, Sarah Smith, Jamie Trevit

Graduate Certificates: Wesley Nan Barker, Jana M. Bennett, Leah Moore Bennett, Stephanie Bennett, Brian Carr, Min-Ah Cho, Marie Hicks, Blair Murphy, Heather Nicole Pilatic, Jennifer Marie Sanka, William Thomas Tyson, Kristi Upson-Saia, Tracy Lane Yale, Lydia Henry, Elizabeth Wadsworth Thomas.

Scenes from Graduation



Theresa Brewer, Women's Studies Minor



Women's Studies Director Robyn Weigman with certificate.



Kim Hammersmith, Women's Studies Major, and her mother.



Undergraduates Cheryl Morgan, Jillian Johnson, Kristen Doody, Linda Tang, Colleen Stack, and Kimberly Hammersmith.

New Women's Studies Faculty Interview with KATHI WEEKS

Interviewed by Jaya Kasibhatla

JK: What kind(s) of disciplinary training do you have and how would you identify your own work?

KW: My areas of focus are Anglo-American feminist theory since the 1960s and modern and contemporary political thought, primarily Marxism and post-structuralism.

KW: I trained at the University of Washington in political science as a political theorist with a specialty in feminist political theory. I describe my work as feminist political theory, which I conceive as a tradition of feminist theoretical scholarship that privileges questions about power and the study of feminist movements for change.

JK: What are you working on currently, and how do you see this work diverging from or developing on your earlier projects?

JK: Would you describe your work as falling within a particular period or geographical range (for example, 20th century American, or Continental political philosophy)?

KW: My current book project presents a feminist critique of work in the U.S., both the structure of its current organization and the values that support it. Feminist political theorists have paid little attention to work over the past 20 years. Yet, in this same period, women in the U.S. continued to be incorporated as gendered workers into the waged labor force and traditional work values—those which

(continued on page 8)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Director's Column	1
Congratulations	1
2003 Fellowship Awards	2
Neighborhood Assembly Movement in Argentina	3
Race and Gender in Global Perspective	4
More Congratulations 2003 Award Winners	6
Faculty Spotlight	7
New Women's Studies Faculty	8
People	10
Campus Events "Reel Evil"	10
Council on Women's Studies	11
Council News	11

Director's Column

Dear Friends,

It's fitting that at graduation time, this issue of the newsletter highlights our students, their research, and their success in life after Women's Studies. We want to congratulate the twenty-six undergraduate Majors and Minors and the fifteen graduate students who earned certificates in Women's Studies this May for their persistence and dedication to feminist knowledge, and we wish them the best as they pursue the goals that motivated their education for the past few years.

It's odd, of course, to be writing words of congratulations to our graduates as they seek a fresh future when so little optimism for peace and equality exists in our world. Students leaving the university today face challenges beyond the typical quandaries of building fulfilling intimate and working lives. In the context of global conflict, they will need the lessons of feminist scholarship in profound ways: of respect for difference, of love for critical thought and democratic debate, of a life dedicated to political commitment. We hope that the traditions of thinking and living that they have learned in Women's Studies will sustain them.

Some of these traditions are evidenced in the student writing featured in this issue. Jaya Kasibhatla, a graduate student in English and Women's Studies who specializes in postcolonial theory, offers an in depth interview with Kathi Weeks, Associate Professor in Women's Studies, who joined the faculty last fall. The interview demonstrates how central has been Marxist feminist thought for scholarship on women's labor and how central the question of labor has been to

feminism as a whole. This issue also features a review of the First Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies on Race and Gender in Global Perspective by Marie Hicks, a graduate student in history and Women's Studies. Hicks reveals the timeliness of the symposium's focus and the significance of continued questioning about global economic change on women's lives around the world.

We are pleased to offer a feature article by Carolyn Sattin, who minored in Women's Studies, about her work for social change in Argentina. One of a number of research projects funded by Women's Studies endowment, Sattin's project demonstrates how Women's Studies knowledge is put to work for justice in everyday life.

And finally, we are inaugurating a regular column by the Council on Women's Studies, our alumnae group, which organized the February symposium and continues to do vital work in sharing the knowledge of Women's Studies to the Duke community. Our Council chair, Joanne Mazurki, reviews the Council's role as it changes to meet new developments in teaching and research in the program.

This summer we plan to unveil our new website and to develop several outreach programs designed for student advisors, all as part of our investment in teaching members of the university about the new Major and Graduate Certificate. I will continue to travel to build new friends for the program, and will be representing Duke Women's Studies at conferences in Amsterdam and Bonn. These international connections are crucial, because they enable inter-institutional collaborations and allow us to understand better the challenges of building Women's Studies programs worldwide.

The endeavor to make the study of women, gender, race, class, and sexuality central to the university's role throughout the world has long been a dream of Women's Studies. Its urgency is perhaps greater today than ever before as the seismic changes in economy, politics, and social relations under globalization require that we develop new models of critical thought and practices for social justice. That we may not have the answers we need should worry us only if we do not know how to ask the most pressing questions. As our students repeatedly tell us, women's studies is valuable because it teaches us all how to ask such questions and in the mere act of formulating what we want to know, we begin to know something crucial about ourselves and our relation to the world.

Robyn Wiegman,
Margaret Taylor Smith Director of Women's Studies at Duke

“The endeavor to make the study of women, gender, race, class, and sexuality central to the university's role throughout the world has long been a dream of Women's Studies. Its urgency is perhaps greater today than ever before...”

The Neighborhood Assembly Movement in Argentina

By Carolyn Sattin

In December of 2001, while everyone around me was interviewing for jobs and graduate schools, I was more confused than ever as to how I was going to put into action everything I had learned as a public policy and women's studies major at Duke.

I followed the news coverage of the historic events that occurred in Argentina during the volatile months of December 2001 and January 2002 when the government defaulted on billions of dollars in loans from the International Monetary Fund, the economy collapsed, and President Fernando De la Rúa was forced to resign amid massive public protests. Five presidents had cycled through the executive office in a period of eleven days and the economy hit rock bottom, leaving more than half of the country's 36 million people living below the poverty line. Searching through the media, the only stories and images I could find about Argentina emphasized the danger, violence and disorder of the country.

In contrast, my email communications with friends who live there indicated unprecedented solidarity among Argentines trying to achieve much needed political and social change.

I decided to return to Argentina in September 2002, with guidance and financial support from a number of Duke's academic departments, particularly Women's Studies, where my interest in social movements and, specifically, women's political participation was first awakened. My goal was to work with the neighborhood assembly movement. This movement had developed out of the spontaneous public mobilizations, marches, protests, and "cacerolazos" (banging of pots and pans in the street) that began the previous December 19 and continued

during the intense period that followed. Specifically, I wanted to concentrate on women's roles in these new popular organizations. Since that December, citizens have been congregating weekly in centralized locations in their respective neighborhoods across the country to construct alternatives and develop solutions to a corrupt political system, dysfunctional economy, and an alienated society.



Leiberman, right, greets Carolyn Sattin (PPS '02) as Institute Director Bruce W. Jentleson looks on.

Paul Figuerado

The neighborhood assembly movement slowly carved out its niche as a vehicle for social and political transformation and public participation. I was struck by the gender equality and horizontal structure of the assemblies that, without formal leadership positions or designated roles, functioned with surprising efficiency and equity. Since last year's unprecedented outburst of collective action, many people who had never been active in social or political movements, particularly middle-class women who for years had been trapped inside their homes by the often-suffocating responsibilities of being a wife and mother in

Argentina, have found their political voice. The neighborhood assemblies serve as an essential outlet for emergent and veteran activists, where people can express themselves freely and take political action. The collective actions of the Argentine public over the last year have begun to convince people across the globe of the vital role that mobilized citizens can play in creating economic and political change and determining the future of a nation.

Carolyn Sattin graduated from Duke in 2002 with a degree in Public Policy Studies and a minor in Women's Studies. She received a travel award from Women's Studies in 2002, which partially subsidized her trip to Buenos Aires and another to present a paper at a March 2003 conference in New York on "Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Civil Rights Movement".

The First Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies

Race and Gender in Global Perspective

By Marie Hicks

The First Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies on the issue of Race and Gender in Global Perspective was held February 8 at Duke University, inaugurated by a performance the evening before from renowned actor and recipient of the Mac Arthur "Genius" Award, Anna Deavere Smith. In her performance, Smith posited the idea of "safe houses of identity"—realms of identity in which we feel most comfortable, and in which we seek to operate in our daily lives. Her call for at least a few people in the audience to attempt to operate outside of their comfortable identity realms, in order to better understand how largely pre-formulated identities work to structure our lives and viewpoints, seemed to resonate with many of the attendees. The next day, in discussion at the conference, the concept of "safe houses of identity" emerged as a useful tool for further complicating our understanding of our own approaches to the symposium's subject.



Pictured from Left to Right: Tracy Nayer '93, Professor Jean Fox O'Barr, Heather Dean, graduate student, Neurobiology, Amy Smith O'Connor '80, Pamela Stone Schearer '73

Duke University President, Nannerl O. Keohane gave the opening remarks for the symposium, which was comprised of three panels, each with two presenters and one moderator. All of the presentations interrogated how global forces and ideologies have been and should be used in addressing race and gender. Indeed, the twin themes of globalization and global thinking proved to be immensely effective in reorienting the dialogue o

In race and gender at the symposium. In the first panel of the day, "Feminist Perspectives on Globalization," moderated by Robin Wiegman (Women's Studies, Duke University), Beverly Guy-Sheftall (English and Women's Studies, Spelman College) noted the differences between investing in global thinking, as opposed to international thinking, especially when interrogating the effects and meanings of industrial globalization. Guy-Sheftall noted the problematic nature of international dialogues on race and gender, which often ask

African feminists, for instance, to speak only about local concerns and are less interested in incorporating their ideas on gender and race more generally into the international discourse. Given that some modern African

patriarchies are being created or reinscribed via the collusion of international capital and white decolonization, Sheftall pointed out, it is crucial to incorporate African feminists global concerns into our thinking, as opposed to only including their perspectives on their local and national situations into a patchwork of international issues, which we think about according to our own pre-existing, national, theoretical frameworks.

Agreeing with Sheftall's points, Leith Mullings (Anthropology, City University of New York) underscored the importance of refusing to naturalize the model of emerging global capitalism, and spoke about the effects of the rapid gentrification of Harlem in just the past few years. Presenting in the "Globalization from Below" panel, Mullings' connected the deterritorialization of capital in globalization to many of the negative impacts on the current residents of Harlem, and noted how other neighborhoods have been similarly affected. Also in this panel, which was moderated by Tina Camp (Women's Studies, Duke University), Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Sociology, University of Southern California) spoke about the changing gender of globalization's labor demands, and how capital's globalization must be interrogated not only on the grounds of creating a new type of consumerism, but more importantly on the grounds of its new, exploitative modes of production. By looking at globalized labor from the perspective of those providing the labor, and the costs and benefits of that labor to them, Hondagneu-Sotelo felt one could arrive at a more balanced image of the meanings of globalization to women's labor. Hondagneu-Sotelo's

talk echoed many of the issues presented by Rhacel Parréas (Womens' and Asian American Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison), who spoke in the first panel of the day on Filipino women's paid domestic work in the U.S. Showing the linkages between a lack of government responsibility for citizens' welfare and an increased dependence on, and exploitation of immigrants' domestic labor, Parrenas called for a reevaluation of bases on which domestic labor has increasingly become commodified, with special attention to the race and gender of the migrants and the employers. Parrenas reviewed the severe problems with working conditions and the breakup of their families that immigrants face when they come to labor in the "domestic" spaces of the U.S., in order to foreground the question of why this work is necessary, and for what people and systems it holds the greatest benefits, or the largest disadvantages. In discussion, Robyn Wiegman highlighted the need to be attentive to the way the workers about whom Parrenas spoke become racialized as they migrate, underscoring the fluidity and multiple meanings of race in a global context. Charlotte Bunch (Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University) noted how an ideology of privatization in the U.S. has joined with the lack of government responsibility for citizens' welfare in contributing to a U.S.-led model of globalization that undermines and prevents greater government responsibility.

In the third panel, "Human Rights: Considering Race and Gender," which was moderated by Kathi Weeks (Women's Studies, Duke University), Bunch expanded on these ideas as she discussed the usefulness of human rights discourse to the fight against race and gender oppression. Bunch remained convinced that human rights could be usefully expanded and reshaped to meet these goals, while her co presenter, Kamala Visweswaran (Anthropology and Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin), expressed more skepticism about the viability of human rights to serve this purpose. Pointing out that current models of feminist human rights, for instance, have generally employed western standards of ethics and have cast non-western women as victims, Visweswaran challenged the current human rights discourse to account for, if not break down, its own universalism. In order to take seriously local feminist and women's organizations around the globe and allow their ideas currency in international dialogue, we need to understand how feminist human rights has been dominated by western feminists she pointed out. Furthermore, Visweswaran noted the alarming current trend for non-western women's interests to increasingly be used to help justify the ideologies behind western military actions. Visweswaran further problematized the idea that human rights is the only ideal



Rhacel Parrenas



Kamala Visweswaran

system to which women, children, and minorities should be able to lay claim to in international political discourses.

The symposium's focus on the "global" reinvested the local experiences of women around the world with a new importance, or rather, an importance that has too often been overlooked or devalued in international discussions of the meanings and purposes of globalization. As Kamala Visweswaran noted, local civil-rights activists around the world are often misunderstood, and their ideas "trumped" by international movements which seek to help, but which provide that help according to organizational systems and value systems that have not been developed in conversation with the local contexts in which they seek to deploy their aid. In fact, Visweswaran's concluding ideas align in interesting ways with Anna Deavere Smith's call to step outside "safe houses of identity," and engage with other people on the basis of ideals and identities with which we might have little experience or comfort.

Marie Hicks is a Duke University graduate student in History, 2003 Ann Firor Scott Award winner, and May 2003 recipient of a graduate certificate in Women's Studies.

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More Congratulations **2003 AWARD WINNERS**

The **Mary Faison Alden Service-Learning Award** was given to **Kirsten Delebard**, who incorporated a service learning component into the Women's Studies course "Women in the Political Process," which she taught in Fall 2002.

The **Anne McDougall Memorial Award** is given annually to a Duke woman undergraduate or graduate student who pursues areas of human service by studying psychology and related fields.

Nicole Polanichka, Ph.D. candidate in Child Clinical Psychology, in support of her work with children in a summer obesity camp

Alejandra Ortiz Nino de Zepeda, Masters candidate in International Development Policy for her study of gender inequity

The **Ann Firor Scott Award** is given to students, both undergraduates and graduates, engaged in research in women's history to spend time in archives and resource centers where they can use original historical materials.

Anne Failing, Senior Honors History Seminar student, to research a sex discrimination lawsuit brought by the League of Academic Women against the University of California, Berkeley in 1972

Wallis Foley Avalone, Senior Honors History Seminar student, to research the activism of African American women in Charlotte, NC in the debate over public housing

Lisa Hazirjian, Ph.D. candidate in History, to complete her dissertation, "Negotiating Poverty: Economic Insecurity and the Politics of Working-Class Life in Rocky Mount"

Marie Hicks, Ph.D. candidate in History, to further her dissertation project on the history of the evolution, implementation, and use of computing technologies in British offices of the 1960's and 1970's

Stephanie Lin, Ph.D. candidate in French Literature in the Department of Romance Studies, to conduct dissertation research in Paris on "Russian Salonnières in Paris and their Influence on the Early Nineteenth-Century French Literary Imagination"

Linda Rupert, Ph.D. candidate in History, to further her research on "Trade, Gender, and Ethnicity in the Maritime Atlantic: Curacao, 1675-1791"

The **Suzanne E. and Margaret B. Franks Gender and Science Research Award** is offered to graduate or professional school students for work that is part of the student's dissertation research or is a separate interest the student is cultivating at the intersection of gender and science, mathematics or engineering.

Tracy Duvall, candidate in Mechanical Engineering, Pratt School of Engineering, for her proposal on Exploring Engineering Team Design Project

Karen Owens, Master of Divinity candidate, for her proposal "Breaking the Silence of Suicide in the African American Female Community"

Robin Smith, Ph.D. candidate in Botany, for her proposal on the evolution of self-fertilization in plants

Luke Dollar, Ph.D. candidate, Nicholas School of the Environment, for his proposal "The Relationship Between the Tribal Roles of Women and Rates of Habitat Loss in Madagascar"

The **Ernestine Friedl Research Award** is given to advanced graduate students working on the cultural, social, and biological constructions of gender in their dissertations.

Brian Carr, Ph.D. Candidate in LITERATURE, for his proposal to investigate Margaret Mead's use of visual technologies in her ethnographic practice and her critique of biological racism

Lila Ellen Gray, Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Anthropology, for her proposal "Re-Sounding History, Embodying Place: Fado Performance in Lisbon, Portugal"

Jaya Kasibhatla, Ph.D. Candidate in English, for her proposal to study, through the literature of India and Nigeria, the relationship between concepts of citizenship and discourses of identity and community in postcolonial contexts

Margot Weiss, Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Anthropology, for her research project, "Techniques of Pleasure, Scenes of Play: SM in the San Francisco Bay Area"

2003 Student Travel Awards

Women's Studies gave the following travel awards to help subsidize student research.

Brian Carr, Women's Studies Graduate Scholar, and Ph.D. student in Literature, received a travel award to present a paper, "Race, Slavery and the Drive," at the annual meeting of the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Association at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in March 2003. He also presented "Universalism's Irrational Outbursts," as a participant on a panel called "Deconstruction in Cultural Studies," at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in San Diego, California.

Elizabeth Krause, Women's Studies certificate holder and Ph.D. student in Psychology, traveled to Reno, Nevada, to present a paper, "Influence of Abuse History, Gender Stereotypes, and Female Self-Discrepancy on Women's Vulnerability to Depression," at the Association for the Advancement of Behavioral Therapy conference in November, 2002.

Eden Osucha, Women's Studies Graduate Scholar, and Ph.D. student in English and African American Studies, traveled to the City University of New York to attend the April 10-11, 2003 Future Matters Conference, along with faculty members, Robyn Wiegman (Director, Women's Studies at Duke) and Priscilla Wald (Associate Professor, English).

Carolyn Sattin, 2002 graduate Major in Public Policy Studies and Minor in Women's Studies, received a travel award, which partially subsidized her trip to Buenos Aires and another to present a paper at a March 2003 conference in New York on "Sisters in Struggle: Women in the Civil Rights Movement."

Olga Trokhimenko, Ph.D. student in German Languages and Literature, presented a paper at the International Congress in Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan (May 8th-11th, 2003). Her presentation "Ich erwirbe von ir ein lachen [I will see her laugh]: Female Laughter in Minnesang" analyses the way female laughter is presented in the medieval German courtly love poetry of Minnesang (minnesong) and how it masks and simultaneously makes visible the power relationships in these medieval texts.

Yiman Wang, Ph.D. student in Literature, traveled to the Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Minneapolis, MN, March 6 - 9, 2003 to chair a panel entitled "Made in China and Japan, Remade in Hollywood, or Vice Versa," and to present a paper entitled "The Phantom Strikes Back - from Hollywood to Shanghai to Hong Kong." Her paper dealt with the issue of gender in a Hollywood silent film and its sound remakes in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Charlotte Pierce Baker, Associate Research Professor in Women's Studies, spent spring 2003 as a visiting scholar at the University of Illinois-Chicago, where she taught courses and worked on her current book *Mixed Blessings: Mental Illness and the African American Community*. This fall at Duke, Professor Pierce Baker will teach "Trauma, Violence and lives of Women."



Tina Campt

Tina Campt, visiting Associate Professor in Women's Studies, has officially accepted a tenured position at Duke and will be a permanent member of Women's Studies next fall. She was recently invited to work with a group of scholars and artists as a consultant on a project that the House of World Cultures in Berlin is planning on the Black Atlantic. The project will be a 6-8 week series of cultural events (music, performing arts, visual arts, literature and history) on Black Atlantic cultures scheduled for October 2005. Dr Campt will also serve as a Program Consultant, along with Robyn Wiegman, Program Director, for Rice University's development of a graduate program in Women's Studies. This fall at Duke, Professor Campt will teach "Gender, Culture and Representation."

Anne D. Lyerly, Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke, this fall will teach "Interdisciplinary

Debates: Gender and Bioethics." This new course will examine the impact of gender and the distinctive contributions of feminist theory on the analysis of bioethical issues arising in clinical medicine and health policy.



Jean Fox O'Barr

Jean Fox O'Barr, founding director of Women's Studies at Duke (1983-2001), has continued her commitments to teaching and development of the field of Women's Studies since she stepped down from the directorship in 2001. The February 2003 symposium "Race and Gender in Global Perspective" was the first in a series of symposia in Women's Studies named in honor of Dr. O'Barr. Funded by Laura Ellen and Robert Muglia, the Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium will provide the Program a way to foreground cutting edge scholarship on various topics. Dr. O'Barr was also honored last November when she was chosen to speak at the Woman's College Celebration. More recently, she was a featured speaker on the legacy of women's leadership at Duke's 2003 Reunion on April 12.

Dr. O'Barr's scholarly projects continue to demonstrate her longterm commitment to Women's Studies as a field. She was recently asked to write two encyclopedia entries about Women's Studies, which she said she enjoyed for three reasons. "First, it is

thrilling to realize that the women's studies movement has gained legitimacy and merits a reference article. Second, I enjoyed the opportunity to take the long view, to think about origins, developments, and futures. It helped me think more comprehensively about the field. And finally, when I was a student, I always imagined that only great and august figures wrote the entries. So to be asked to do these two was humbling!"

In addition to directing the FOCUS program at Duke, Dr. O'Barr will teach three courses this Fall: Social Movements: An Overview; Gender, Politics and Higher Education; and Gender and Organizations. About her nearly forty years of experience in teaching, she says, "There is one constant in all good teaching: the teacher remains a learner, open as a person and a scholar. New understandings, new information, and new strategies flood every class I offer. The primary change I see is in the university. It has become a more complex and hierarchical institution and less of a community."

In spring 2004, Dr. O'Barr will take time off to visit a number of European Women's Studies centers and continue work on a book of essays about trends in the field.

Kathy Rudy, Associate Professor, Women's Studies, gave the keynote talk, "The Ethics of Orphans: The Impact of System Failure on the Duke Community," for Parent's Weekend on Friday, October 25, in the Bryan Center. Dr. Rudy recently received a grant to teach a course on the ways medicine and the state configure the rights and duties of the pregnant woman. The course will take a feminist perspective on ethical issues connected with the relationship between mothers and fetuses and the effects of technology on women's lives.

(Interview with KATHI WEEKS continued from page 1)

New Women's Studies Faculty

Kathi Weeks arrived at Duke University last fall from Fairfield University, where she was Associate Professor of Politics from 1992–2002. Dr. Weeks is the author of *Constituting Feminist Subjects* and co editor, with Michael Hardt, of *The Jameson Reader*. Her current work in progress is *A Feminist Critique of Work*. She taught the introductory course, "Gender and Everyday Life", this past spring and will teach "Money, Sex and Power" and "Foundations of Women's Studies" next fall. During the April 2003 Duke Reunion, she met with alumnae to discuss Women's Studies.

privilege work as an essential source of self-worth and social status—continued to be affirmed in public discourse, management discourses, and public policies. What are the consequences of women's rapid integration into waged labor? How should we understand the value of work? How can we generate more critical thinking about the role and effects of work in our lives? I argue that feminism needs to reassess its commitment to these work values, not because work is not a necessary and valuable practice but because in its current form and with its present status it tends to preclude the opportunities for and obscure the value of other nonwork activities and relationships. I'm trying to explore the possible configurations of an alternative social form in which work values are no longer so central and in which work no longer figures as the primary site of social, political, and economic organization.

This current research takes up many of the themes I pursued in my earlier work. Certainly the new project continues my long-standing interest in socialist (and Marxist) feminist theory. In my first book, *Constituting Feminist Subjects*, I began with a specific tradition of socialist feminist theory known as standpoint theory and attempted to reconfigure some of its basic themes. I find myself again drawn to feminist theory from the 1970s. My new project finds both political inspiration and conceptual resources in another tradition of socialist feminist analysis known as the domestic labor debates and specifically the approach that was linked to the wages for housework movement. These theorists were asking the kinds of questions about work that I think we should be asking today. A point of consistency between the two books is my effort to rework these socialist feminist concepts and agendas according to certain specifications drawn from more contemporary theoretical traditions like poststructuralism.

JK: Could you describe one of the ways in which you've reconfigured or reworked some socialist feminist concepts by using elements of poststructuralism? Or, could you describe how poststructuralism enables you to think about these debates differently?

KW: I reject the notion that modernist—in this case Marxist—and poststructuralist feminist theories are necessarily at odds, that they represent mutually exclusive theoretical orientations. It seems to me that there are a number of productive points of intersection between these traditions. There are also points at which the conceptual and methodological innovations of one approach could benefit the other. In the previous book I used some specific poststructuralist critiques of systematic or totalizing models of society to help me root out elements of functionalism and determinism in socialist feminist theories and try to craft instead a model that can recognize a multiplicity of social actors with the potential for agency and opposition. In the current project I'm drawing on another strand of

poststructuralist theory to help me identify and think about alternatives to "productivist" tendencies in socialist feminism, that is, tendencies to glorify women's work as more natural, essential or valued than other forms of activity or modes of experience.

JK: I'm also interested in some of the so-called old debates about domestic labor. How would you characterize the response in critical theory to some of the arguments in favor of wages for housework (put forth by Dalla Costa, etc.)?

KW: I would characterize the general response as dismissive. There are, I think, some good reasons to be critical. I agree, for example, with those who argue that wages for housework would further entrench rather than contest the gender division of labor in both the household and the waged labor economy. But what interests me about the wages for housework literature is not so much the specific demand as it is the larger theoretical perspective of which the demand was only a part. The critique of work—its conditions, its schedules, and the cultural values that sustain it—is central to their whole approach. The demand for wages was seen as a way to value unwaged household work (as equally "work") but not to celebrate it as such. Given the ways that work today is mythologized and moralized, I think this kind of critical analysis is important.

JK: Listening to you describe the project gets me thinking about corporate culture—are you interested in thinking about Organizational Behavior? I'm always amazed by the emphasis that the field of management science has placed on structuring "culture" in the corporate environment with the explicit goals of maximizing work output, structuring a particular ethos of work. Are you looking at similar projects of creating specific work-cultures or cultures of work?

KW: Yes, it's an intriguing phenomenon. Another aspect of this that is particularly interesting from a feminist perspective is the way that the notion of the workplace as family, used sometimes to promote loyalty and productivity, can serve to reinscribe traditional gender hierarchies in the workplace at the same time that it reinforces the traditional family model. But beyond the construction of a specific corporate work culture or ethos, I'm interested in the growing interest among employers in hiring workers who already demonstrate strong work ethics. To the extent that we accept without question these traditional work values and are willing to subordinate life to work employers will have a lot of resources to draw upon.

JK: I think your project is extremely exciting in that it aims to reorient the way we think about work—moving it from being the placeholder whose position marks the value of other pursuits, to thinking of it as something other than an organizing principle. Your research seems to work on two registers: using

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What are the consequences of women's rapid integration into waged labor?

How should we understand the value of work?

How can we generate more critical thinking about the role and effects of work in our lives?

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broad theoretical perspectives along with empirical case studies and data. Given this, would you describe your own work as interdisciplinary, and if so, what kind of strategies have you used to try to make your work legible across disciplines?

KW: This is something I've been thinking about a lot lately with my recent move from a political science department to women's studies. Rather than describe my work as interdisciplinary, it's probably more accurate to say that it's something to which I aspire. I've really come to appreciate the rigors of interdisciplinarity, how it requires both substantial knowledge of the disciplines and creativity in determining how best to bring them to bear on a particular subject of inquiry. Over the years I've participated in a number of interdisciplinary projects that have informed and shaped my work. As a theorist in a social science field I was required as part of my disciplinary training to develop a capacity to move between empirical and philosophical modes of inquiry. Although it was and still is difficult to negotiate that relationship between political theory and political science more broadly, I appreciate my social science training and value the ways it has helped to define me as theorist. As a feminist theorist I am of course routinely directed into other disciplinary sites where feminist theory and gender studies are housed. My interest in the topic of work leads me frequently to materials produced in other social science disciplines, particularly sociology. My interest in Marxist theory provides another path through various disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, as does my more recent engagement with the interdisciplinary field of utopian studies. So as a consequence of my various areas of interest I've had quite a few opportunities both to expand my disciplinary horizons and competencies and to struggle with that difficult work of translating between different disciplinary languages and concerns. But is my work interdisciplinary? Let's just say I'm working on it!

In order to communicate more effectively across disciplinary boundaries I think it's not only important to expand one's knowledge of other disciplines, it's also important to recognize the advantages and limitations of one's own disciplinary reflexes and to see more clearly their specificity. I've spent a lot of time recently grappling in this way with my identity as a feminist theorist with a social science background.

As a way to try to make my work more legible across disciplines I spend a lot of time on my writing. My goal (or rather my ideal) is to make my writing as clear and accessible as I can, without sacrificing complexity and originality. Again, it's a struggle, but I think it's one that can help to make me a better feminist theorist.

Jaya Kasibhatla is a doctoral candidate in English, a 2003 Ernestine Friedl Award winner, and a member of Duke Women's Studies Graduate Scholars.

2003 Fellowship Awards

Congratulations to **Brian E. Carr** and **Cybelle McFadden Wilkens**, recipients of this year's Women's Studies Graduate Fellowship Awards. The intent of these awards, which carry a \$14,500 stipend from the Graduate School, is to "buy time" for doctoral candidates who are past course work and engaged in the early stages of dissertation research. Fellowship recipients will also have an opportunity to devote the year to deepening their knowledge of feminist theory and methods, and exploring interdisciplinary angles on their dissertation topics.

Brian Carr's dissertation project, tentatively entitled "Racial Reproduction: A Theory of Sexuality in the Wake of U.S. Slavery," situates the study of racialization, kinship, sexuality, and interpretation within the field of sexuality studies. Brian is a fifth year doctoral candidate in the Literature Program and this year will receive his Women's Studies Certificate.

The research interests of Cybelle McFadden Wilkens, a fifth year doctoral candidate in Romance Studies, embrace 20th century and contemporary French women's literature, film, feminist theory and film theory. Her dissertation, "Women's Artistic Expression: Reflexivity, Daily Life, and Self-Representation in Contemporary France," examines self-representation and reflexivity in works of a selection of contemporary French women artists (from the 1980s to the present).

PEOPLE

Judy Chicago, prominent feminist artist and author, received an honorary doctorate from Duke University at the May 2003 commencement. Chicago, creator of "The Dinner Party" and other feminist art works, is seen by many as the founder of the feminist art movement in the U.S. Her work also focuses on the Holocaust. She was a Visiting Professor in the Duke Art Department in 2000-2001. Women's Studies, along with the Art and Art History Department, hosted a luncheon to celebrate Chicago's achievements.



Clare Hemmings, Lecturer in Gender Studies and Gender Theory at the Gender Institute, London School of Economics, is a visiting scholar in Women's Studies this spring. As part of Women's Studies Feminist Studies Across the Disciplines lecture series, Professor Hemmings spoke in April on "What Difference Does Feminist Historiography Make?"



Robin Morgan, a leader of the modern feminist movement, former Editor in Chief of Ms. Magazine, award-winning poet, essayist, political theorist, and activist, spoke at Duke's Richard White Auditorium on March 5. Laura Micham, Director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, coordinated the event, which was co sponsored by Women's Studies.

Campus Events

"Reel Evil"

Negar Mottahedeh and Miriam Cooke conceived of the film series "Reel Evil: Films from the Axis of Evil" early in 2002, with plans to base it on their research on questions of representation, gender and Islamic cultures. Mottahedeh focused on contemporary Iranian films that would show the ways in which the veiled female body dictated the cinematic grammar of Iranian films after the Islamic revolution of 1979. But, she says, when the Bush administration expanded the definition of 'an axis' from three to six" they decided to feature films from all the 'Axis' countries: Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, Libya, and Cuba, all of which have thriving film industries and diverse output.

They chose not to screen documentaries, but focused on fiction films to emphasize that all cinematic images are mediated. Though the global media may never offer an authentic representation of any culture, especially in wartime, through "Reel Evil" Mottahedeh attempted to give viewers a rare form of self-representation by its films' directors, so that students might draw their own personal conclusions.

Despite her insistence that the series was not a spur to student revolt, propaganda or support for any world leader, the series proved very controversial. Media from around the world responded to the start of the series in February, with press coverage in France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Britain, Korea, the Caribbean, India, Brazil, Panama, Japan, Slovenia, Norway, the Middle East and the US. It was featured on NPR's "All Things Considered", on CNN, MSNBC, the BBC, el Pais, Le Monde, The Financial Times, New York Post, and the Education Channel.

The film series ended with the film 11'09'01, which is a French produced collection of short films by eleven world renowned directors who reflect on the events of September 11th, 2001 in 11 minutes, 9 seconds and one frame. Women's Studies was one of the series' co sponsors.

The series was coordinated by Negar Mottahedeh, Assistant Professor in The Program in Literature and Affiliate Faculty in Women's Studies at Duke, who teaches and writes on world cinemas and film theory; Miriam Cooke, director of the Asian and African Languages and Literatures Department at Duke and Professor of Arabic Literature and Affiliate Faculty in Women's Studies; and Hank Okazaki, Exhibitions Programmer at Duke University's Film/Video/Digital Program.

THE COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Joanne Mazurki

As volunteers for Duke, we are often asked why we chose to join the Council on Women's Studies, especially since most of our members graduated from Duke before the Women's Studies Programs was created in 1983.



Joanne Mazurki '74, Chair of the Council on Women's Studies and her predecessor, Sarah Rosen '84.

We share a commitment to give back to Duke and to provide resources—both human and financial—to make it a better and better institution as each new class arrives on campus. To accomplish that, we believe the Women's Studies Program plays an important role in intellectual life at Duke. We also believe that role can and should be expanded as Duke strives to deliver a world-class education to all its students.

Earlier this year, during the First Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies, "Race and Gender in Global Perspective", Anna Deavere Smith, nationally renowned playwright and actor, delivered a lecture, "Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change", presenting characters from her plays. Ms. Smith shared insights into the attitudes and perceptions of ordinary people on race, class, and gender.

Discussing ways that our nation should examine these issues, she expressed concern that students today are forfeiting the privilege of experiencing college as a place to ask questions. Ms. Smith fears that they instead use their college experience to seek quick and easy answers in a world that is anything but those things.

During the symposium weekend, President Keohane discussed some of the student focus group results being compiled and analyzed by the steering committee of the women's initiative. She shared her alarm that many undergraduate women state they are burdened with enormous pressure to achieve "effortless perfection"—academically, physically, and socially.

Comparing our reactions to Ms. Smith's observations and President Keohane's remarks, the Council renewed our resolution to help the Women's Studies Program thrive and grow. That means institutionalizing a program that involves many more students and members of the Duke community—both women and men—and provides a welcoming and safe place to ask questions, through the diverse lenses of Women's Studies scholarship, about gender as it is linked to race, sexuality, class, and nation.

Through service on the Council, we choose that program as the contribution we give to Duke.

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles written by members of the Council on Women's Studies. Future articles will be written by members of the committees on Communications, Development, Diversity, Executive, and University Relations. For more than 15 years, this volunteer board has worked toward the development of resources and greater visibility for Women's Studies, both on campus and nationally.

COUNCIL NEWS



Stephanie Kuhling '55

Many thanks go to the sponsors of the February 2003 Jean Fox O'Barr symposium in Women's Studies, which included the following Council members: Laura Ellen Muglia through the Laura Ellen and Robert Muglia Family Foundation and Stacey Gray, Lisa Lee, Stephanie Kuhling, Joanne Mazurki, Amy Smith O'Connor, Kimberly Reed, Sarah Rosen, and Deborah Turton.

Nine new members were welcomed to the Council in January 2003. They are Cynthia Baker, Judith Maynes, Kara Rubin, Jennifer Shore, Tiffany Speaks, Michelle Swenson, Kathy Zeno and student representatives Kelly Sanchez and Colleen Owen. Departing members who provided valued service to the Council were Wendy Marantz and Pamela Stone Scheerer, Co Chairs of the First Jean Fox O'Barr Symposium in Women's Studies, and Lisa Colby-Jones, Charlene Laughlin, Mary Wendy Robinson, Penny Rue, Mary Lou Salvati, Anne Fielding Simpson, Jane Williams, and student members, Kelly Coogan, and Blair Murphy Kelley.

The Council's Executive Committee will meet May 31 in New Jersey. The next full Council business meeting is scheduled for Nov 14-16 at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham, N.C.



Council Members, Laura Ellen Muglia '76 and Michelle Swenson '77.