

From the Director: My Goodbye Message



With my term of office ending on June 30, this will be my last Director's column. It has been a whirlwind 4½ years, with significant challenges on the way, and I

am looking forward to a year's sabbatical. After this I will go back to full-time teaching and researching at my job in the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies, at OISE/UT.

I am leaving the IWSGS on a high. Firstly, the search committee has selected a wonderful person to take over as director, and I am hopeful that she will commence in this position on July 1. (As we go to press, negotiations are still in progress, so it would be inappropriate to name her at this time). Moreover, the IWSGS is a long way down the road toward securing an opportunity appointment of an eminent feminist scholar (same proviso as above). This appointment would add to one of the main achievements of this stage of building the Institute – the consolidation of Institute faculty. On January 1, 1999, the baby institute was 1 day old and had the equivalent of 2.6 tenured or tenure-stream FTEs (full-time equivalent) divided between 6 people (one of whom told me the first day that she

wanted to switch out of Women's Studies and has since done so). Today, at the ripe old age of 4 1/2 years, the institute has 5.63 tenured or tenure-stream positions divided between 13 people. If we are able successfully to negotiate the hoped-for opportunity appointment, there will be just over 6 tenured/tenure-stream FTEs divided among 14 people.

This means that the Institute can now engage in meaningful long-term planning in a way that is just not possible when the majority of courses are taught by stipendiary instructors. The first highly visible result of the new energy brought by the young, more recently-appointed faculty was our highly successful series on Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship - we filled Convocation Hall with Angela Davis' address, part of this series!

Just as important as the teaching faculty is the support staff. We now have two superb permanent staff members - a Program Secretary (Marian Reed) and an Administrative Assistant (Angela Fleury), and we hope that we will be able to retain (and put on a permanent basis) the wonderful person who has served as my 60% secretary (Laura Cunningham).

What is my major disappointment? I will not see a free-standing MA in Women's Studies make its way through the bureaucratic structures by the time I leave, although I continue to be hopeful that this will happen under my successor's aegis.

What will I miss? The excitement of this job and my interactions with the staff, faculty and students of IWSGS as

well as with the personnel at New College, especially with Principal David Clandfield. I learned from David Clandfield how to interact with the "powers that be" at the University of Toronto. Coming from OISE/UT which, at that point, had been formally part of the U of T for a scant 3 years, had not prepared me for dealing with the power labyrinth of this large university. I shall also miss having a secretary to whom I was able to hand over any number of tasks that would otherwise have been problems. And I shall certainly miss the laughter and constant support we shared in our administrative

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Editor: Linzi Manicom
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meetings.

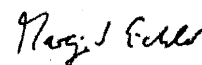
What have I learned? How much of an Institute's standing is based on intangible factors: the effectiveness of the informal information flow, the respect in which specific persons are held, the quality of personal relations that are established with significant players, the importance of having allies above, at parallel levels and below (mirroring the fact that there is a hierarchy within which one must survive). Those allies can only be won through mutual support - meaning that those who seek allies for their own cause(s) must serve as

allies in other causes.

The mission of IWSGS is greater than simply running the undergraduate and graduate collaborative programs - we are also supposed to serve the wider university and community, particularly the feminist and women's and gender studies communities. We are doing this in a number of ways: Our Advisory Board includes the heads of associated programs and centers, and allows for an exchange of information on activities and concerns; we have a listserv with over 600 participants that spreads relevant information on women's/gender studies-related issues; our events draw

people from across the U of T, other universities and the community at large; and our social events are always well attended and serve as a means of integrating newcomers (as well as of course, the oldtimers).

I believe that IWSGS has a solid basis on which to build exciting new endeavours. I am looking forward to learning what they will be and to participating in the life of the Institute as a regular member.



Updates from IWSGS Partners

EQUITY STUDIES PROGRAM, NEW COLLEGE

To celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, March 21, the Program invited **Linda Tuhiwai Smith** as guest speaker in the *Introduction to Equity Studies* course. She is Director of the International Research Institute for Maori and Indigenous Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand and author of *Decolonising Methodologies*. Drawing on her own experiences of anti-racist organizing, Professor Tuhiwai Smith spoke about activism and strategies to avoid burn out. **Jasmine Zine**, anti-racist educator and instructor in Women's Studies gave students a version of the anti-Islamophobic workshops she conducts in schools.

Once again this year, a number of Equity Studies students conducted interviews for the Daily Bread Food Bank as part of their community service requirement. The link between Equity Studies and Daily Bread has generated interest in issues related to local and global food security. Students in the senior research practicum on food security are currently completing a project on food programs in schools.

In March, a number of students attended the Equity Studies Career Workshop for a session on developing resumes and covering letters, preparing applications for graduate school and applying for jobs in equity-related fields. **Ruth Chun**, one of our first equity studies graduates, spoke about her experience as a graduate student in Sociology and Equity Studies, OISE/UT. Fourth year undergraduate student, **Doris Osei-Bonsu**, gave an encouraging presentation on the ways her equity studies background has been useful on the job market.

The Equity Studies Student Union (ESSU) has been active in a number of activities throughout the year including the Active Youth Conference and the Women, Peace and War lecture series at U of T. ESSU is also making links with community groups and participated in a sock/underwear drive for Street Outreach Services (SOS).

THE SEXUAL DIVERSITY STUDIES PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

The Sexual Diversity Studies Program, which offers a minor to students in Arts and Sciences, is growing by leaps and bounds. The number of students in the program has "leapt" from 50 in 2001-2002 to 79 this past academic year; many of our students are doing a major in Women's Studies or Equity Studies so we feel a strong affiliation with the Institute of Women's Studies and Gender Studies.

This year we offered two new half courses. *Law and Sexuality*, taught by **Pam Shime**, was offered previously as a special topics course and has now been instituted as UNI365H. The fourth year, special topics course was titled *Comic Responses to the AIDS Epidemic*. It was taught this spring by **Scott Rayter**, one of the two instructors in the introductory course. Next spring this special topics course will be on *Representations of AIDS in Film and Literature*. Both Law and Sexuality and the fourth year special topics course are made possible by an endowment from the Mark S. Bonham Foundation. In addition, a third year special topics course, *Histories of Sexuality and Rebellion*, was taught by **Val Marie Johnson**.

SDS kicked off a hectic year of events by co-sponsoring a talk by **Viviane Namast** on *Female Transsexual Artists* which was part of the Counting Past Two Festival. Ten other co-sponsored events included lectures, talks, films, book launches and readings. We co-sponsored two lectures with the Center for the Study of the United States, and two events with the Political Science Department. We helped, with The Women's Bookstore and Glad Day Books, to launch two Arsenal Pulp Press books and co-sponsored film showings with InsideOut, the Lesbian and Gay Archives, the LGBT Parenting Network and the 519 Community Centre. In addition, in March, we organized a very successful one-day conference "*Hearts and Minds: Sexuality and Education*". The keynote speakers were **Kevin Jennings**, of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, USA and **Didi Khayatt** of the Faculty of Education, York University.

Updates from IWSGS Partners (Continued)

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES IN EDUCATION at OISE/UT

We are pleased to announce that **Alda Facio Montejo** from Costa Rica will be in residence from August - December 2003 at CWSE as the 7th holder of the Dame Nita Barrow Distinguished Visitorship in Women and Development and Community Transformation. Alda is a feminist lawyer, scholar and activist, with decades of experience in both movement and more formal legal and U.N. contexts. She is a founder and first Director of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court and is currently Director of the Women, Gender and Justice Program at the United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention. Alda will be offering a course, *"Women's Human Rights and Peace-making, Feminist Theory and Practice in Latin America and Around the World,"* as part of OISE/UT's Adult Education and Community Development's graduate program in the fall 2003 term. She will also present the 7th Annual Dame Nita Barrow University-wide Lecture in November (date to be confirmed later.)

Veronica Lotkowski (Ph.D. Toronto) is the new Visiting Scholar in residence January 2003-January 2004. Her research focuses on how social capital builds resiliency for students at risk, particularly young women. **Nora Gold**, Visiting Scholar, has recently received a 3 year SSHRC grant for her study *"Growing up Jewish, Female and Canadian: A Longitudinal Study of Girls Aged 10-18."*

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

Under the leadership of **Heather Maclean**, Director of CRWH, all of the staff and researchers at CRWH have had a tremendously busy year forging new research partnerships and continuing to build a strong infrastructure to facilitate and promote research relevant to women's lives.

Some of our major studies came to a close this year, exposing important findings. The Term Breech Trial (led by **Mary Hannah**, Director of the Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit at CRWH) found that caesarean sections, in cases of breech (buttocks first) birth, have immediate and long term benefits for both mother and child as compared to planned vaginal births.



IWSGS Visiting Scholars 2002-03: Rosonna Tite, Ayisha Mohamed Sayidina, Lesley Biggs Missing: Sarita Srivastava.

IWSGS Administrative team: Margrit Eichler, June Larkin, Angela Fleury, Marian Reed and Laura Cunningham
Missing: Tara Goldstein



Another important research trial (on genetic predisposition of certain women to breast cancer) involved the participation of health care and research organisations from all over the world. It was led by **Steven Narod**, Director of the Familial Breast Cancer Unit at CRWH, whose contributions to research were recognised this year with a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Breast Cancer.

CRWH has also forged new partnerships this year. For example, the CRWH is collaborating with the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, the World Health Organization, Harvard University, Yale University, the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research, the Fogarty International Centre, and the Office of Research in Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, in exploring the gendered impacts of globalization on health.

CRWH has also partnered with the Ontario Network of Sexual Assault Care and Treatment Centres to undertake a study to determine the best strategy for offering HIV post-exposure prophylactic treatment to sexual assault victims.

The Ontario Breast Cancer Community Research Initiative at CRWH has had an extremely successful year developing new projects and partnerships. One of these is *The Dragon Boat Study*, directed by **Terry Mitchell**, explored the psychological, physical health, and quality of life impact of dragon boating on breast cancer survivors. Another is the *Lesbian and Breast Cancer* participatory research project, led by **Chris Sinding**.

In other news, **Marsha Cohen**, **Janice Du Mont**, **Sarah Romans**, and **Ilene Hyman** (all researchers at CRWH) have received a substantial Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) grant for their project entitled: *Addressing the gaps: Increasing our understanding of abuse against women in Canada*. This project is just one of the exciting alliances forged by **Sarah Romans**, who began her ten-year term as the **Shirley Brown Memorial Chair in Women's Mental Health Research** in April 2002. She has been extremely busy this year developing interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships locally and nationally.

All of the projects featured here can be found on the CRWH website: www.crwh.org. The new CRWH website has received a great deal of attention since its official launch at the end of January 2003 with a high volume of hits from many different countries. What this reveals is a real need for more information on women's health research around the world.

Undergraduate Women's Studies at U of T

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT ST. GEORGE CAMPUS

The spring term has been busy with student activities. On Saturday, March 8, a number of women's studies students were involved in the production of *The Vagina Monologues* which played to a sold-out audience in all three shows.

Students who attended the "What to Do with a Women's Studies Degree?" workshop on March 19 participated in a session on developing resumes and covering letters and met with former women's studies graduates who spoke about the ways their women's studies background has been useful to their careers.

The undergraduate student colloquium was held on Friday, March 28. Students in *NEW460Y: The Advanced Research Seminar*, gave inspired presentations on the various independent research projects they have conducted over the academic year (See page 5). Presentations were followed by a lively discussion with the audience of faculty, students, family and friends. At the end of the day, students were presented with flowers as a small token of appreciation for the hard work they put into creating such an intellectually stimulating event.

The annual International Women's Day lecture, which is co-sponsored by the Status of Women Office and integrated into the Introduction course, was given this year by **NourbeSe Philip**. Philip, who is a poet, essayist, novelist and playwright, and who previously taught in the women's studies program, spoke on *Memory, Resistance and Imagination*.

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT UTS, SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS

Enrolments in core Women's Studies courses continued to grow this term; our overall FTE's for 2002/03 now stand at 333.5, as compared to 290.5 in 2001/02. Enrolments in the Major and Minor programs have also gone up from 50 last year to 85 this year. **Cynthia Wright** joined us this term to teach *Current Research in Women's Issues*, and **Lisa Barnoff** joined us to teach *Women: Issues of Violence and Safety*.

In recent months we have been holding discussions with the Chairs of the Departments of Humanities and Social Sciences about improving our staffing situation over the next two years, and we are encouraged by their support. Considerable work this year also went into planning changes in the Women's Studies program to take effect in 2003-04. These include changes required to accommodate Scarborough's move to a trimester system (in particular, year-long courses have been eliminated), and changes designed to emphasize a focus in our program on women as members of communities. These changes include, for example, the creation of a course *Women, Community, and Policy Change*, to be taught in fall 2003.

WOMEN'S/GENDER STUDIES AT UTM, ERINDALE CAMPUS

The Women's/Gender Studies Program at Mississauga had an exciting year, filled with events and activities. Perhaps the most notable was the stellar panel of speakers — **Ursula Franklin**, **Judy Rebick** and **Amina Sherazee** — organized for the 2003 *Women's Centenary Lecture* on March 17. Entitled *Passion, Politics and Peace: Three generations of women talk about feminism, war and anti-racism*, the event was billed by Women's/Gender Studies coordinator, **Sarita Srivastava**, as "an opportunity to bring a feminist perspective to transnational dialogues on peace and anti-racism," and was said to be one of the first to bring together feminists to talk about activism across three generations. Falling on the eve of the impending war in Iraq, the event had a huge turnout of over 200 students, faculty and community members from the entire greater Toronto area, and received prominent local news coverage. In November 2002, historian **Dr. Afua Cooper** also spoke as part of the Centenary Lecture series, at a well-attended lecture about abolitionist and publisher Mary Bibb.

Also successful was the UTM International Women's Day Fair, organized by the students of ERI200, *Introduction to Women's Studies*. W/GS program coordinator, Sarita Srivastava. **Margaret Toye**, who taught the fourth year *Feminisms* course this year, also organized a women's studies film club and **Edna Toth**, last year's winner of the Women's/Gender Studies Award, continued to work hard to bring a student perspective to the women's studies program. The energetic work of **Dianne Robertson**, WGS program secretary, was crucial in publicizing WGS events.

Finally, the Women's/Gender Studies Awards in 2003 were shared by four exceptional students, all of whom are recognised for their scholarship and involvement in feminist issues on campus or in the community. At the introductory level, the award was shared by **Rose Floyd** and **Christine Rooks**. The advanced level award went jointly to **Cassandra Guignon** and **Johanna Kristolaitis**.



Centenary Lecture Participants: Judy Rebick (left) and Amina Sherazee (right) with Sarita Srivastava (UTM Women's Studies Coordinator). Missing: Ursula Franklin.

Undergraduate Women's Studies at U of T

ST. GEORGE CAMPUS STUDENT COLLOQUIUM FRIDAY, MARCH 28, IWSGS LOUNGE

On March 28, 2003 Women's Studies Specialist Students made presentations on their major research projects, to an audience of friends, family and faculty, gathered in the IWSGS Lounge.



Undergraduate Colloquium Panelists (from left to right): Janet Alexander, Chiara Sorbera, Cian Knights, Carrie Moody, Eva Portillo, Julia Stonkus and Natalie Higashi

Morning Panel: ***Here, There, Everywhere: Bridges Across Bodies, Cultures, and Spirituality***

Chiara Sorbera: *Western Feminist Theory and the "Other": Violence Against Women in Pakistan*

Julia Stonkus: *Handmaids of the Lord: Women in Medieval and Modern Religious Communities*

Cian Knights: *It's Not Only a White Girl Problem: How Black Women Relate to and with Their Bodies*

Natalie Higashi: *Blanket of Denial: Feminist Perspectives on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in China*

Afternoon Panel: ***Putting the Pieces Together: Hearing Gendered International Voices***

Carrie Moody: *Surviving Protection: Critiquing the Sexual Exploitation of Women in Refugee Camps*

Eva Portillo: *¿Que se puede saber?' Centering gender, race and space in the El Salvadoran civil war*

Janet Alexander: *The Invisible Category: The Effects of Canadian Immigration Laws and Policies on Refugee Women*

THE WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT'S UNION REPORT , ST.GEORGE CAMPUS

Natalie Higashi, Jessica Chislett, and Cian Knights served as the WSSU's core leadership this academic year. On December 6, 2003, WSSU commemorated the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women by presenting a documentary film entitled *War Zone* by Maggie Hadleigh-West addressing the dynamics of sex, power, and what happens when men threaten a woman's right to walk undisturbed on the streets.

The 2003 spring session was a busy time for the WSSU. Continuing with the theme of anti-violence, the Union worked tirelessly to mount the college campaign production of Eve Ensler's, *The Vagina Monologues*. With a cast and crew of over twenty-five students across campus, this collaborative effort culminated in a three-show day on March 8, 2003, coinciding with International Women's Day. After many hours of rehearsals and sorting through contentious political issues, we managed to fill the house for all three shows and raise a grand total of \$5,000 for community organizations in support of anti-violence programs for women. Our beneficiaries included The DisAble Women's Network, The Anduhyaun Shelter for Native Women and Maggie's and the Prostitutes Safe Sex Project. All of these organizations have since informed us that our contribution has helped in various ways, from purchasing software for online legal workshops for women to the everyday necessities of household goods.

A challenging and emotional pursuit, the executive members managed to persevere in developing lasting community relationships whilst maintaining our heads afloat with final exams and assignments. In early April, the WSSU ended the year by organizing an event in collaboration with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Sigma Iota (the Black fraternity at the University of Toronto) entitled *A Black and Gold Tribute to the Black Woman*. Merging the recognitions of African Heritage and Women's history month, this event acknowledged and honored the achievements of black women in Toronto, on and off campus. Some of those honored included U of T faculty members Njoki Nathani Wane (OISE/UT) and Melanie Newton (History). Many students attended this successful and memorable event. Much thanks to faculty support and student interest, the WSSU had a great year. Congratulations to all graduating members and best of luck with future endeavors!

Report from the Graduate Collaborative Women's Studies Program (GCWS)

By Tara Goldstein, GCWS Coordinator

Doctoral students enrolled in the GCWS Research Methodology course, organized a one-day symposium, *Women and Feminisms in the New Millennium*, on December 4, 2003. The event was opened with presentations by new IWSGS faculty, **Michelle Murphy**, **Judith Taylor** and **Alissa Trotz**, who spoke about their current research projects and intellectual interests. Student presentations were organized into four themes:

- RACIALIZATION, GLOBALIZATION AND DIASPORA

Beverly-Jean Daniels (Department of Sociology and Equity Studies in Education (SESE) at OISE/UT):

Challenging White Feminist Discourses: Searching for Home

Temitope Adefarakan (SESE, OISE/UT): *Re-thinking (Popular) Definitions of Violence: An Attempt to Trace the Spiritual and Linguistic Aspects of Re/Colonization Historically and Contemporarily*

HiJin Park (SESE, OISE/UT):

Theorizing Race, Gender and Citizenship in Processes of Nation Building

- CULTURAL CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY CONTEXTS

Louise Bak (Dept. of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, OISE/UT): *Ethically Reading "Erotic Community" in Canadian Feminist Performance Art.*

Laurel Zwissler (Centre for the Study of Religion): *Feminist Religion and Series Fiction: Neo-Paganism in Books for Young Women*

- WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

Agnieszka Kosny (Department of Public Health Science): *Gender, work and health in small non-profit organizations: Literature review and research considerations*

Bianca Seaton (Department of Public Health Science): *Feminisms and New Reproductive Technologies: A Theoretical Exploration of the Controversy*

- RETHINKING IDENTITIES

Chin-Yen Anne Wu (Department of Geography): *The Negotiation of Social Identity among Taiwanese Immigrant Women through Practice of Everyday Spaces: A Theoretical Perspective*

Susan Sturman (Department of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning at OISE/UT): *Feminisms and Cyborgs: Identity, Agency and Feminist Values in the Global Integrated Circuit*

Our thanks and appreciation go out to **Angela Fleury**, **Marian Reed**, and the Symposium Work-Study Student Team for their administrative support of this terrific event.



Tara Goldstein, GCWS Coordinator

REPORT FROM THE GRADUATE COLLABORATIVE WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION (GWSA)

Greetings from the GWSA! Second semester has been a busy and productive time for us all. We toasted the New Year with a pub night in mid-February - thanks to all the students who attended and made the evening so enjoyable. Similarly, GWSA students, staff, faculty, and friends joined us for the end-of-year-pub night extravaganza held in May at the Madison Pub. We had a great time and are looking forward to seeing you all again in September!

Once again, your GWSA Reps (**Bianca Seaton** and **Nikki Kumar**) along with 3 undergraduate students hosted "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at the IWSGS. Twelve girls participated in the event that took place on May 6 from 3-4 pm in the IWSGS Lounge. As the main activity, we had the girls explore and critically analyze media images. The girls had a lot of fun creating and presenting artwork to one another based on how these images misrepresented themselves.

On the administrative side of things, both Bianca and Nikki sat on the Advisory Board for the Institute as GWSA student representatives. Nikki also sat on the Search Committee for the new director as the GWSA student representative. She kept the GWSA students connected to this process by sending out email requests for their comments and concerns as well as providing updates of the search process. Please contact Nikki by e-mail (nikki.kumar@utoronto.ca) if you would like more information about the Advisory Board or Search Committee meetings.



Seydegart Award Winners:

Amina Mire and Nikki Kumar with Janka Seydegart (middle)

Transnationality and Gender — The Graduate Seminar

The graduate seminar on Theorizing Transnationality and Gender, organized to take advantage of the guest speakers in the series, was a challenging and rewarding experience for students and faculty alike. Participants came from a wide range of disciplines, which at times stretched our capacities to translate between the diverse framing questions. On the other hand, our discussions were enriched by the students' range of interests and expertise and by the fact that each participant brought to the course a specific engagement with transnational feminist analytics. Having the visiting scholars participate in the seminar was a unique opportunity for all of us, one which also allowed us to witness and learn from the different pedagogical styles of the visiting scholars. The visitors spoke, amongst other things, about how they had come to the current moments in their work, revealing the different ways in which personal trajectories and professional (non-academic) experience catalyze political and conceptual preoccupations in relation to aspects of 'transnationality'.

As the faculty involved in this seminar, we come away, at the end of the year, with a better map of the strengths and gaps in this emerging field of inquiry. We share, with the students, the sense of there being a lot left unsaid, of many questions remaining (productively) unanswered, and regret that there wasn't time to learn more from each participant's respective research. Students' reflections on the course and its process, just a few examples of which are captured below, provided us with valuable points to ponder and confirmed for us the importance of pursuing this type of course within and beyond women's studies in the future.

Course directors, Michelle Murphy and Alissa Trotz, and faculty participant, Linzi Manicom



Linzi Manicom

Student Comments on the Graduate Seminar

The reasons for working with a transnational context are well-founded in my mind, but articulating the space of the transnational intersects with a lot of other potential terms. How do we figure the "trans" in transnational? In a politics of transversal, sure, but how does this prefix bump up against others like "inter" or, as some theorists might have put it (well, probably less so of late), "post"? And what about the "national"? There are plenty of ways to trouble this reliance upon the nation state and the implicit nation, but an awareness of their roles remain important, I think. The course has certainly raised a number of crucial questions and distinctions for me and utterly transformed the awareness that I bring to cultural analyses.

Kit Dobson

I think some of the writing/thinking I do operates through a mode of inquiry that is over-determined by the boundaries of the nation-state - and this course has motivated me to think more acutely about how thinking about the nation should necessarily be cognizant of transnational considerations that often propel practices at the local/national level. ...I also think that when we talk about the transnational, we're always linking back to the nation as a specific rubric in which people recognize themselves (or are not recognized) as (non) citizen subjects.

Carmela Murdocca

I enjoyed the (very post-modern?) style of this course, which was kind of fragmentary, discursive and somewhat blurring in terms of discipline boundaries. The comings and goings of these authors/speakers made it hard for me to produce a dominant or uniform or fixed way of listening, thinking and responding. In other words, the very format of the course made it easier for me to get used to "differences" and "complexity", which were also conveyed by our students' diversity in backgrounds, research interests, etc. Diversity, it seems, is integral to transnationality.

Rachel (Yanqiu) Zhou

Something I found extremely interesting in a number of the readings was the rhetoric employed by the writers in discussing their individual theoretical viewpoints. Words like "map" "explore" and "territory" frequently recurred and, given the colonial context out of which these words took their more consolidated meanings, I thought this was a significant pattern. Military rhetoric was also something that found its way into different articles (or which was consciously employed). Some day I would like to do a paper on these kinds of texts as literature. The course has also really made me think about complicity and therefore about my own role in larger global processes. The course will stay with me for a long time as I try to work with and be aware of the ways in which what I do as an individual impacts on the world around me.

Jan Purnis

Theorizing Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship — Public Lecture Series

This second term of this highly successful series was inaugurated by **Nahla Abdo** (Carleton University) who drew on her academic and political work in the Middle East – and specifically Palestine – to raise questions about how we might evaluate forms of nationalism and women's involvements in projects of liberation. **Kamala Kempadoo** (York University) made a substantive and provocative presentation that probed the unacknowledged links between anti-trafficking and anti-immigration legislation in the West; the ways in which these converge to put the bodies of migrant sex workers on trial; and the complicity of some forms of feminist activism in recapitulating discourses that end up criminalizing marginalized transnational labour forces. **Sonia Alvarez** (University of California) gave a dynamic talk that looked at Latin American



Transnationality Speaker
Kamala Kempadoo

feminist NGOs up to the present, suggesting that we are 'beyond the boom' and that the optimism attached to NGOs in the revitalization of civil society is being much more carefully and critically assessed by those in the 'feminist movement.' **Leslye Obiora's** (University of Arizona) visit resulted in a unique opportunity for the *Transnationality and Gender* graduate class to participate in the *Feminisms and the Law Workshop*, run by the Law Faculty, where we had a very lively discussion of the challenges posed by 'translating' international human rights into local –and specifically African – contexts. (Thanks to **Kerry Rittich** for organizing this joint event). And **Avtar Brah** (University of London) talked about the concept of diaspora space and asked us to critically rethink the various ways in which the 'native' gets constructed across different contexts.

Anne McClintock, who had initially been scheduled to open the series and then re-scheduled for early December, unfortunately had to cancel, for health reasons. **Cynthia Enloe** came in late April, and, in one of the few public university events that was *not* cancelled due to concern over SARS, spoke on *How to demilitarize citizenship: international feminist caveats*. This final lecture was a treat.

Using chalk and a blackboard as her props, Cynthia roved over the stage and into the audience for the better part of an hour and a half, bearing no written notes, drawing on her extensive knowledge of various aspects of militarization across many places and time periods. Representing the best of feminist intellectual practice, throughout her talk, Cynthia named her explicit indebtedness to other scholars, particularly Canadian-based ones. She thus built up a picture of the collective and mutual production of knowledge in this field, and of her-

self, less as expert than as perpetual learner who owes the quality of her work to what she has learned through conversations with and observations of women in different locales.

The final section of Cynthia's presentation brought some members of the audience (literally) to their feet, when she asked us all to participate with her in the illustration of gendered narratives of militarization. Members of the audience stood up and characterized their assumed personas (ranging from a small bar owner outside the military base in Petawawa who 'does what a girl has to do to survive', to a garment factory owner in Thailand who has a contract to supply military uniforms to the US army, to a construction worker in rural Maine who does work on army base houses, to Margaret Thatcher). With over a dozen 'representative' individuals standing, Cynthia asked us all to look around the room, to consider how, as women, we were all variously positioned in relation to processes of militarization, to reflect on how the masking of such processes depended on our ignorance of, indifference to, or various investments in our unequal and differential relationships to each other. It involved us all by posing the question of our ethical and political relationships to feminism as a project of social justice in a rapidly changing global environment. And it was a wonderful example of engaged pedagogy that challenged boundaries between the local, national and global, between the speaker and the audience, between theory and activism. A great note to end the series and a heartfelt thanks to Cynthia for her example!



Transnationality Speaker Nahla Abdo (centre)
with Alissa Trota and Michlle Murphy

The series has had the desired effect at the local level of bringing together Toronto-area scholars and helping to make IWSGS a forum for research around these questions. We have been hugely encouraged by the positive response of the community (academic and non-academic, University of Toronto and beyond), in person and on-line (and within and beyond Canada). The success of and interest generated by this year's series has given us a mandate to pursue the invitation of at least two more transnational feminist speakers in the coming academic year and we look forward to seeing you on these occasions.

Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship: Angela Davis on *Punishment & Democracy*

The most publicized and well-attended event in the IWSGS's Theorizing Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship series was the talk given by **Angela Davis** at Convocation Hall on April 11, before a packed and responsive audience. Angela Davis is Professor of History of Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz AND University of California Presidential Chair in African American and Feminist Studies. The event was sponsored widely across campus, and with particular support from the Centre for the Study of the United States and New College, one of the first and largest sponsors of the series - many thanks to the principal, **David Clandfield** for his steadfast support.

A thread through over 30 years of Angela Davis's political and intellectual work is her interrogation of regimes of incarceration as sites of racialization, capital and state power. Davis' talk, based on her forthcoming book of the same title, presented her case for



Keynote Speaker: Angela Davis

prison abolitionism (as opposed to prison reform, or freeing of the wrongfully imprisoned), a controversial political project that demands us to examine our investment in imprisonment and ask ourselves why abolitionism as a demand for social justice should appear at first take to be unimaginable and idealistic. Her talk sought to demonstrate the links between the growth of what she calls the prison-industrial complex and the rise of global capitalism.

In this era of growing and extreme economic and social gaps, Davis asked us to be more attuned to the various ways in which seemingly disconnected aspects of our lives are in fact intimately linked together. In this moment, when state violence is too often represented as a project of liberation and protection, as a dizzying proliferation of new laws bring into being entities, like the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the category "enemy combatants," and as the treatment of detainees is revealing the fragility of civil liberties and claims to citizenship in the US, here in Canada, and elsewhere, the critical examination of prisons at home and their connection to transnational regulation of movement, citizenship and containment at the borders of nation-states is surely a pressing project for transnational feminism.

Angela Davis' talk was taped by TVO, CKLN and CIUT and has since been rebroadcast over the community radio airwaves. TVO has scheduled the talk to be broadcast on June 1, at 1pm.

Report by Alissa Trotz
& Michelle Murphy



Angela Davis with the crowd after her lecture

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

November 1-2, 2002: **Bent on Change II: Beyond Tolerance: Rethinking Queer Issues on Campus and in Communities**, Ryerson University Campus and Jarvis Collegiate

February 6, 2003: **Nira Yuval-Davis**, *Imagined Borders and Boundaries: A Gendered Politics of Belonging*, Bennett Lecture Hall, Faculty of Law.

February 7-14, 2003: **Women and War: Race, Resistance, Survival**, a conference organized by students from Women's Studies and other UT Departments.

March 14, 2003: **Joyce Gelb**, *Women's Movements, Rights and Politics in Japan*, Munk Centre.

March 31, 2003: **Coalition for Peace: Women Take Action**, in honour of the 10th anniversary of The Linden School., OISE Aud.

April 5, 2003: Workshop on **Gender & National Academic Cultures in International & Interdisciplinary Comparison**, Munk Centre

Research Profile: Kerry Rittich

Kerry Rittich is Assistant Professor, cross-appointed to the Faculty of Law and the IWSGS since January 1998. She teaches in the areas of labour law, critical race theory, feminist theory, globalization and social justice. She received her S.J.D. (Doctorate in Juridical Science) from Harvard Law School in 1998, and has recently published a book with Kluwer Law International, *Re-characterizing Restructuring: Gender and Distribution in the Legal Structure of Market Reform*. Kerry has been commissioned by the Law Commission of Canada to write up a report on labour regulation trends and their effects on vulnerable workers. She is also currently working on a book project with Joanne Conaghan, Professor of Law at the University of Kent, on the legal regulation of the work/family divide.



CORE LABOUR RIGHTS AND DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

Kerry Rittich's current, SSHRC-funded research evaluates fundamental or 'core labour rights' (CLR), exploring their promise and viability as a route to greater social justice for workers in today's globally integrated economy.

More traditional forms of labour regulation based on collective bargaining and confined within the boundaries of the Keynesian state are no longer appropriate to the contingent labour markets of the new economy. The pressure for labour market flexibility has led both to de facto 'deregulation' and the undermining of state-based distributive strategies, such as social-safety networks. But for a variety of reasons, there remains resistance to including international labour standards and 'social clauses' within international trade and investment regimes. Identifying mechanisms for the regulation of labour markets in the new economy is proving, in Kerry's words, "an intractable dilemma", one that is provoking intense debate on the part of scholars, labour activists and policy makers within the field of transnational labour market regulation. It is in this context that the notion of CLR has emerged as a major regulatory proposal. Core labour rights – such as the abolition of forced or child labour, freedom of association and from discrimination – are currently being touted as a means to breaking the impasse between what appear as opposing ideals in the regulation of labour markets: 'efficiency' and 'fairness'.

Given the 'feminization' of labour, referring both to the dramatic rise in the number of women in paid employment and the increasing normalization of contingent, precarious, atypical work, those forms traditionally associated with women, and the feminization of poverty globally, which predisposes women to take on work under vulnerable and exploitative conditions, the proposal for the universal recognition of CLR is one that warrants consideration by those seeking *gender* justice. However, as a strategic response to the challenges of regulating the contingent labour market, the recognition of CLR cannot be embraced uncritically or without rigorous assessment of the different interpretations and implications and the possible gendered

effects of such rights. And it is precisely this careful and contextualised investigation of CLR that Kerry's research is undertaking.

Kerry examines CLR through three different optics. The first part of the study looks at the ways that CLR are 'imagined and incorporated into the policies and programs of the international institutions' such as the World Bank, the ILO, the IMF and UNDP. The research will make clearer the variety of analytic, normative and institutional frameworks in which CLR are considered in these different institutions, and how these shape the extent to which CLR might actually address labour market justice.

The second part of the project considers CLR within the context of the broader trend of "rights based" development that is being taken up within international financial institutions. The question here is whether these rights-based approaches aim to further the collective power of workers or are merely arming them with individual rights, enhancing the emergent ideal of the entrepreneurial worker, unencumbered by domestic obligations. Rittich's earlier research showed that while a range of human rights have been recognized and elaborated by the UN and ILO, a narrower, more 'market-friendly' concept of human rights operates in development institutions.

The final section of the study focuses on CLR's potential to secure gender justice through labour market regulation, and to respond to the specific implications of women's unpaid labour and family obligations in the context of an increasingly feminized labour force.

Each of these sections of the study promises to generate a more complex and integrated picture upon which to assess the scope and limitations of CLR in relation to distributive justice, and upon which to base strategic interventions in the different sites in which CLR are being implemented. A concern that is evidenced in all Kerry's work on labour market regulation is to render legible and loud, the gendered organization of work and production which still, all too consistently, gets shaded out of debates.

Prepared by Linzi Manicom

Tributes to Margrit Eichler, Director of IWSGS, January 1999-July 2003

From David Clandfield, Principal of New College

Margrit Eichler should always be introduced to people who have allowed a disagreeable stereotype of either academic administrators or of career-long feminists to affect their perception and judgement. Within a short time, all but the perversely blind and the prejudiced among us are compelled to open up to her sense of fun, **her** openness to reasoned argument, her clear-sighted analysis, her dogged pursuit of reachable objectives, and her selfless devotion to duty and the welfare of all others. She has shaped the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies so well that I pity any university decision-maker who thinks that the Institute will lose its strength with her departure. We have all been *Eichlerized* and we are the better for it.



June Larkin and Margrit Eichler

From June Larkin, Coordinator of Undergraduate Women's Studies,

IWSGS came into existence in January 1999 with Margrit's appointment as the first Director. With the five year planning process in full swing, we were off to a running start with Margrit moving quickly into the lead. When I reflect on Margrit's directorship I'm reminded of my marathon running days. The qualities Margrit brought to the position of Director are not unlike those of an elite long distance runner: stamina, determination and a commitment to getting the job done. It's been a long haul Margrit but the finish line is now in sight. In going the distance you have taken IWSGS from obscurity to a leader in the field of Women's Studies. It has been an honour to be part of your support crew.

From Sheila Neysmith, former Coordinator of the Graduate Collaborative Program

The memory of Margrit that will remain with me might be titled "A Feminist Scholar meets Central Administration". University folklore assumes that faculty move effortlessly from research and publication to resource management and pushing agendas. Those who have done it know better; administrators frequently seem to live on another planet. Thus it was really no surprise that a few months into the Director's job Margrit should put together an international conference called *Feminist Utopias--Re-designing Our Projects*. Some might even say the theme was the logical consequence of dealing with the central administration of Canada's largest university! Later, when working on a book based on conference proceedings, June Larkin and I discovered that Margrit was also an authority on science fiction - something I, for one, never suspected when reading her books on non-sexist research and family policy. The above experiences taught me that being Director of the Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Studies entails: holding a Utopian vision but appreciating the fact that Utopia means 'no place'; having a framework for deciphering university agendas and science fiction is a good place to start; and developing a survival strategy grounded in loud laughter with supportive colleagues.

From Tara Goldstein, current Coordinator of the Graduate Collaborative Program

Working with Margrit Eichler has been a privilege. There has been a lot I have learned from her about tenacity, staying positive, and not taking 'no!' for an answer. A quite different quality that Margrit brings to the administration of IWSGS, however, is her love for celebration and the arts. Until joining IWSGS, I have never been to an academic New Year's party that featured writing, music, and artwork by faculty and staff. To honour Margrit's love for celebration and the arts, I offer this excerpt from **Audre Lorde's** essay "Poetry is Not a Luxury" first published in 1977 and reprinted in the collection *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*.

"For women, then, poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of daily lives.

As they become known to and accepted by us, our feelings and the honest exploration of them become sanctuaries and spawning grounds for the most radical and daring of ideas..."



Margrit Eichler and Sheila Neysmith

Social Endnotes

The annual **New Faculty Party** took place on November 27, 2002, to welcome newly hired faculty across the UT campuses who are interested in becoming associated with IWSGS. This event was combined with **Awards and Prizes Celebration**, the public honoring of all those students who had been awarded prizes and scholarships this past year. Joining us this year was IWSGS benefactor, **Janka Seydegart** and members of her family. Janka personally awarded the Janka Seydegart Scholarship in Feminist Studies to co-awardees, **Amina Mire** and **Nikki Kumar**.

On January 29, 2003, the IWSGS held its annual **New Year's Party** with entertainers drawn from the ranks of the Institute. Mary Nyquist (core faculty) read a few of her poems, **Dorothy Goldin-Rosenberg** showed a clip from a video on breast cancer, graduates student **Sandra Tam** read a section from a memoir, *The Truth of my Grandmother's Winters*, **Amina Mire** (graduate student) told stories of her native Somalia, in word and song, and **Honor Ford Smith** (Sessional Faculty) brought the house down with her rap on *Pills for your Ills: Advise to my fren a cancer victim, on dealing with illness, crisis and cancer*

The launch of **Tara Goldstein's** book, *Teaching and Learning in a Multilingual School: Choices, Risks and Dilemmas* was celebrated by faculty, staff, students and friends in the IWSGS lounge on February 11. Saskatchewan poet and social justice activist, **Bernadette Wagner** celebrated the launch of her chapbook, *What Women Learn* with IWSGS on May 26, 2003.

New Years Party Talent: Amina Mire, June Larkin, Honor Ford Smith, Dorothy Goldin-Rosenberg, Sandra Tam



Two exhibitions were mounted on the walls of the Institute this term, attracting new people into our section of New College. In March 2003, IWSGS hosted the exhibit **Stamps of Canadian Women**, curated by **Shirley Farlinger** and **Derek Paul**. This is a collection of (most of) those famous Canadian women whose portraits or works (viz. Emily Carr) have been the subject of Canadian postal issues. Accompanying the stamps were short write-ups on each woman. Between April 11 and 18, IWSGS hosted **Women in Art: An Exhibition of Paintings** by **Paresh Hazra** and **Syed Iqbal**. This exhibition was co-sponsored with South Asian Studies and New College.



IWSGS Faculty—Back Row: Michelle Murphy, Margrit Eichler, Jennifer Nedelsky, Kerry Rittich, Laura Cunningham, Alissa Trotz, Kay Armatage, Mary Nyquist; Front Row: Judy Taylor and June Larkin