

Winter 1999 **IRW**  
**Network**

## NEH Summer Institute at IRW

IRW director **Bonnie Smith** has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to direct a six-week summer institute for high school teachers, "Women's and Gender History in Global Perspective." From June 26 to August 4, Rutgers historians of women and gender and scholars from other institutions will lead workshops for 25 high school teachers from across the country. The Summer Institute is designed around the American Historical Association pamphlet series on gendered global history that Bonnie Smith edits.

Among the guest faculty will be Rutgers historian **Deborah Gray White**, whose work on African American women's history has been featured in recent television documentaries. Professor White's co-directorship of the two-year "Women and the Black Atlantic" project at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis will inform her conversations with Institute participants.

All of the Summer Institute faculty are doing exciting new work in the study of gender and women that breaks traditional geographic boundaries and looks beyond the "western experience." After presenting their research, they will discuss with institute members how this work can be brought into high school classrooms. We want to help teachers reinvigorate high school history curricula in ways that place women's and gender history at the heart of newly globalized courses.

All sessions will take place at the Women's Scholarship and Leadership Complex on the Douglass campus, and we have reserved on-campus housing for out-of-town attendees. Participants will receive a stipend to cover their housing and additional expenses.

Please help us spread the word to all the high school teachers you know. A complete description of the Summer Institute, along with application materials, is available through the IRW's webpage (<http://irw.rutgers.edu/programs/neh>) or on request. Questions can be addressed to **Todd Shepard**, NEH Summer Institute Coordinator at the IRW.

## Research Action Clusters Receive Funding

The IRW's Research Action Cluster initiative has received a Reinvest in Rutgers Phase III Program grant. The Research Action Clusters (RACs) promote collaborative interdisciplinary research on women and gender among Rutgers faculty and students. Through the Reinvest in Rutgers award, RACs can apply for support from \$250 to \$2500 to underwrite external speakers and consultants, acquire study materials, and produce RAC publications.

The IRW seeks applications from groups wishing to pursue shared research and teaching interests on women and gender. Already, the South Asia RAC has sponsored an exciting film/discussion series and is actively seeking external funding for a summer institute for New Jersey high school teachers. We anticipate funding new RACs on such diverse topics as democratization, feminist research methodologies, and Hispanic and Latina feminist theorists.

We encourage those interested in collaborative research to form clusters with like-minded colleagues to pursue specialized interests and questions related to research and teaching about women and gender. Grassroots initiatives like these will keep interdisciplinary research on women and gender a vital part of Rutgers.

Visit our webpage for digital photos documenting our events, details about many of our programs, and more:

<http://irw.rutgers.edu>

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## Korean Women Studies in the 1990's

by Jung-Soon Shim, IRW Visiting Scholar

The first women's studies department in Korea was established in the late 1970's at Ewha Women's University in Seoul. During the subsequent two decades, Korean women studies scholars worked to establish an interdisciplinary research system modeled after the Western paradigm, including women's studies courses in almost every university's curriculum by the end of the 90's and incorporating feminist ideas in various disciplines. So many academic groups now study feminist ideas in their respective fields that feminism and women's studies have been accepted as or integral parts of scholarship.

If the first twenty years of Korean women's studies can be characterized as imbibing of Western knowledge and influence, the late 90's can be fairly described as emphasizing the search for identity for Korean women's studies and feminism. Academic associations on women and psychology, women and philosophy, women and literature, women and history organize study meetings and conferences on a regular basis. More universities across the country are establishing women's studies centers.

The recently published collection *General History of Korean Women* represents a collective initiative on the part of the latest generation of women's studies scholars. Presentations at recent women's studies conferences increasingly reflect the new focus on Korean culture and history but also re-examine Western women's studies methodologies to incorporate culturally appropriate approaches, with titles such as: "Yin/Yang Ontology and Its Implication for Feminist Epistemology," "Korean Reception of Ecological Feminism and Korea's Environment Policy," "Research on Employment Security of Korean Women Laborers," "Critical Analysis of the Confucian Value System," and "Discrimination of Disabled Women in Patriarchal Marriage."

## Celebration of Our Work: Feminist Futures

Rutgers faculty and students, high school students and teachers, and community members attended the Feminist Futures conference in May 1999. Keynote speaker and noted analyst of technology **N. Katherine Hayles** presented an exciting overview of her work on our contemporary relationship to machines which provoked a lively discussion. In particular she pointed to an interactive, hypertext revision of "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" in which visitors' choices retell and gender the story.

Speakers from Rutgers and the wider community provided stimulating panels on such topics as women's economic future and women's rights in the twenty-first century. Panels on women's leadership programs at Rutgers outlined replication strategies by focusing on the experience of those leading and those participating in developing young women's leadership. A panel on feminist teaching methodologies provided challenges for both experienced and new teachers, while Women's Studies M.A. candidates presented an exciting overview of their

projects—ranging from a video that problematized the "Asian" woman to a view of UNIFEM.

## Fall Semester Events

The IRW's 4:30 lecture series had a wonderful kickoff on September 30 when **Mary S. Hartman** (University Professor and Director, Institute for Women's Leadership) described her philosophy and experiences "Talking Leadership at Rutgers and in the World" to a rapt gathering of faculty, staff and undergraduate and graduate students.

**Amrita Basu**, professor of Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College, presented a talk entitled "Mapping Transnational Women's Activism: Globalizing the Local, Localizing the Global" at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building. Her talk inspired a large audience, including students from Drew University as well as large contingents from Women's Studies and Political Science.

On November 17 **Beatriz Colomina** (History and Theory of Architecture, Princeton) used images from experimental x-ray motion pictures, architect's renderings, blueprints and photos of finished buildings in "X-Ray Architecture: Illness as Metaphor in the Modern House," a fascinating thesis about the role of understandings of health and illness in shaping the built environment.

The IRW's South Asia Research Action Cluster presented a series of documentary and feature films (along with discussants and guest filmmakers) to packed audiences. Spearheaded by IRW Visiting Scholar **Kathryn Hansen** with Rockefeller Fellow **Bishnupriya Ghosh** and aided by sponsoring groups and departments, the series brought many people to the Women's Scholarship and Leadership Complex for the first time. Screenings continue this semester, concluding with a special colloquium and screening in March; see back page for details about those and our other Spring Semester events.

## Autumn Seminar Wrap-Up

**Saskia Sassen** of the University of Chicago led members of the 1999-2000 IWL-IRW seminar in a discussion of her work on global cities. Professor Sassen surveyed many of the interesting themes of her research including questions of denationalization, migration, and information loops. She fielded a host of questions, many concerning resistance to globalization and the workings of the globalized climate.

Presentations in the fall semester featured an argument for considering women as the norm in studying environmental issues in urban health, an analysis of New York as a gendered, moral arena in Harriet Beecher Stowe's work, a comparison between Puritan Boston and contemporary New York, and a stimulating call for rethinking borders of the self and thus communities. **Jung-Soon Shim**, theater critic and professor of literature from South Korea, compared some of the subversive strategies in Korean theater with those of the U.S., while IRW research professor **Deborah Gray White** analyzed the Million Woman March.

## Seminar Fellows' Publications

**Anne C. Bellows** has several recent and forthcoming publications, including "Urban Food, Health, and the Environments: The Case of Upper Silesia, Poland" in Koc, MacRae, Mougeot, Welsh (eds.) *For Hunger-Proof Cities: Sustainable Urban Food Systems*. Toronto: International Development Research Centre & The Centre for Studies in Food Security, Ryerson Polytechnic University. 1999.

"Exposing Violences: Reconceptualizing Food Rights within Women's Human Rights Theory" in Deborah Rosenfelt and Jan Monk (eds.) *Internationalizing the Curriculum*. New York: The Feminist Press, 1999.

"Defining and Claiming Food and Environmental Rights in Multiple Spaces: Women, Feminists, and Bridges" in Joanna Regulska and Nancy Stepan (eds.) *Gender and Citizenship: Contentions and Controversies in East-West Debates*. Budapest: Central European Univ P, forthcoming.

**Leslie Fishbein's** article "Washington Square: A Novella for All Seasons," has been accepted by *Prospects: An Annual Journal of American Cultural Studies*, 25 (2000).

**Belinda Edmondson's** book *Making Men: Gender, Literary Authority, and Women's Writing in Caribbean Narrative* (Duke Univ. Press 1999) is about questions of gender and canon formation in anglophone Caribbean literature, with special reference to how the model of the Victorian "gentleman of

letters" constructs literary authority in that field. She also edited and contributed an essay to *Caribbean Romances: The Politics of Regional Representation* (Univ Press of Virginia, 1999), a collection of essays about popular culture in the Caribbean, and recently published "Jamaica Kincaid and the Genealogy of Exile" in *SMALL AXE*.

**Theresa Napson-Williams** has been awarded a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Dissertation Grant for her dissertation, "Violating the Black Body: Black Women, White Men, and Sexual Violence."

**Lisa Servon's** *Bootstrap Capital: Microenterprises and the American Poor* was published by Bookings Institution Press in September 1999. This book examines the US microenterprise strategy and the people who use it, illuminating the complex process of attempting to achieve self-sufficiency through self-employment.

In November 1999 Professor Servon received an Individual Project Fellowship from the Open Society Institute for her project, "Confronting the Digital Divide: An Examination of Youth-Oriented Community Technology Centers."

IRW Rockefeller Fellow **Ara Wilson** (Women's Studies, Ohio State) recently published "The Empire of Direct Sales and the Making of Thai Entrepreneurs," *Critique of Anthropology* 19(4): 401-422.

## Spring Semester Schedule: Urbanisms/Cityscapes/Environments

The IRW/IWL Faculty-Graduate Seminar meets weekly at the IRW library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 160 Ryders Lane, Douglass) to discuss work-in-progress on Urbanisms/Cityscapes/Environments. Papers are available one week in advance and the seminar is open to interested members of the community.

- Jan. 21 **Samira Kawash** (English, Rutgers-NB), "Palestinian Placelessness: Geography, Postcoloniality, Nation, and Body"
- Jan. 28 **Leslie Fishbein** (American Studies, Rutgers-NB), "Good Girls/Bad Girls: From Silence to Cacophony: Feminists, Prostitutes, and Identity Formation in Urban Anti-Vice Crusades"
- Feb. 3 **Bishnupriya Ghosh** (Rockefeller Fellow), "In Her Own Image: Hindu, Muslim, Mormon Women and the Religious Right, 1990-1999"
- Feb. 10 **Regina E. Brisgone** (Criminal Justice, Rutgers-Newark), "African-American Women, Cooperative Supervision, and Crime in the Inner City"
- Feb. 17 **Belinda Edmondson** (English, Rutgers-Newark), "Carnival and Intra-Regional Race Discourse in the Caribbean"
- Feb. 24 **Ara Wilson** (Rockefeller Fellow), "Intimate Economies: Markets, Sex and Gender in Bangkok"
- Mar. 2 **Lisa J. Servon** (Urban Planning & Policy Development, Rutgers-NB), "Information Technology & Poor Urban Women: Examining the Question of Access through a Gendered Lens"
- Mar. 9 **Anne C. Bellows** (Nutrition, Rutgers-NB & NJ Land Grant System), "Local Food Systems: Developing a Framework for Analysis"
- Mar. 23 **Theresa Napson-Williams** (History, Rutgers-NB), "Violating the Black Body: Black Women, White Men and Sexual Violence, 1920-1950"
- Mar. 30 **Jennifer Jones** (History, Rutgers-NB), "Térèse's Enlightenment: Women in the Shadows of the Parisian Public Sphere"
- Apr. 6 **Susan Fainstein** (Urban Planning & Policy Development, Rutgers-NB), "Women and Planning"
- Apr. 13 **Heather Fenyk** (City & Regional Planning, Rutgers-NB), "Gender Roles, City Streets and Transportation Systems: Ritual, Ideology and Negotiation"
- Apr. 20 **Urbanisms Conference** (contact the IRW or check our webpage for updates)

# IRW Spring Semester Events

**Thursday, January 27:** Marianne DeKoven (English, Rutgers). "Personal and Political: Modern to Postmodern in the Second Wave." Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building; Lecture at 4:30, reception at 4:00.

**Thursday, February 10:** *When Mother Comes Home for Christmas* (a documentary by Nilita Vachani, 1996). 302 Murray Hall, 4:30 p.m.; discussion with the director follows. Presented by South Asia RAC.

**Tuesday, February 22:** Barbara Browning (Performance Studies, New York University). "Breast Milk Is Sweet and Salty (a Choreography of Healing)." Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building; Lecture at 4:30, reception at 4:00.

**Thursday, March 23:** Davina Cooper (Law, Keele University, England). "Embedding Change along New Pathways: Reproducing Radicalism In Preefigurative and Governmental Spaces." Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building; Lecture at 4:30, reception at 4:00.

**Thursday, March 23:** *Bhaji on the Beach* (film by Gurinder Chadha, 1993). 302 Murray Hall, 7:30 p.m. Post-screening discussion with Kathryn Hansen. Presented by South Asia RAC.

**Thursday, March 30:** *Hot Zones: Eroticism, Sexuality and Visual Media in India* (a colloquium featuring Rachel Dwyer, Bishnupriya Ghosh, Kathryn Hansen and Riyad Vinci Wadia). Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 4:00 p.m. Presented by South Asia RAC.

**Thursday, March 30:** *Fearless: The Hunterwali Story* (a film by Riyad Vinci Wadia, 1993). Post-screening discussion with the director. Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 7:30 p.m. Presented by South Asia RAC.

**April 20:** Urbanisms Conference

## Additional Events of Interest

**Janet Theophano** (Department of Folklore and Folklife and Associate Director, College of General Studies, University of Pennsylvania) will discuss her archival study of cookbooks to document women's changing roles and values in "Eat My Words: Reading Women's Lives through the Cookbooks They Wrote" on **Monday, February 28**, 4:30 p.m. at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building (160 Ryders Lane, Douglass). A reception will precede the talk at 4:00 p.m. Contact the Women's Studies Department for more information: 732/932-9331.

As part of the yearlong celebration marking the Department of Geography's fiftieth anniversary, **Linda McDowell** of the London School of Economics will present a talk entitled "Gender, Identity and Place: Understanding Feminist Geographies" on **Monday, March 20** at the Graduate Student Lounge on College Avenue (reception at 4:00, talk at 4:30 p.m.). For further information, check the Geography Department's webpage: <http://geography.rutgers.edu>.

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