



# 1998-99 IRW NETWORK

## Ghosh and Wilson to be Rockefeller Resident Fellows

The IRW will be hosting its first two Rockefeller Resident Fellows in the Humanities during the 1999-2000 academic year. A distinguished advisory board of Rutgers professors whose research and teaching spans a range of disciplines, periods and geographic regions had the task of selecting the two fellows from a very strong group of interesting and potentially ground-breaking proposals.

**Bishnupriya Ghosh** (Assistant Professor of English, Utah State University) will be researching and writing parts of her comparative project "In Her Own Image: Hindu, Muslim, Mormon Women and the Religious Right, 1990-1999." Professor Ghosh received her Ph.D. in 1994 from Northwestern University and works in postcolonial theory and film, feminist theory and gender studies. She is currently revising her book *Postmodern Palimpsests: The New Indian Novel in English* for SUNY Press and is co-editor with Brinda Bose of *Interventions: Feminist Dialogues on Third World Women's Literature and Film* for the Garland series on gender, culture and global politics edited by Chandra Mohanty.

**Ara Wilson** (Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Ohio State University) will be completing her manuscript *Intimate Economies: Markets, Sex and Gender in Bangkok* about the impact of globalization on sexuality and gender in Thailand. Professor Wilson completed her doctorate in anthropology at CUNY in 1997 and works in gender and sexuality, globalization and transnational capitalism and feminist theory. Her published papers include work on Thai entrepreneurs, "Northern Thai Male Culture and the Assessment of HIV Risk" (*Crossroads* 12), "Lesbian Visibility and Sexual Rights at Beijing" (*Signs*); she has also produced numerous video segments (on a transgendered mother in Argentina, organizing Thai sex workers, sexual rights at the United Nations, among others) for a national cable television show and the PBS series *In the Life*.

We plan to welcome the Rockefeller Fellows to campus with a reception in September and hope that many friends and affiliates of the IRW will join us at that time. The Fellows will participate in the IWL/IRW seminar on Urbanisms, Cityscapes, Environments, where they will have the opportunity to interact with Rutgers faculty and graduate students on an ongoing basis.

## Deborah Gray White First IRW Research Professor

**Deborah Gray White**, professor of history and co-director of the Black Atlantic project at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (1997-1999), will be the first IRW Research Professor during the academic year 1999-2000. In that capacity Professor White will work on editing an anthology from the Black Atlantic seminars and on her memoirs of growing up in New York City.

A distinguished teacher, Professor White is author most recently of *Too Heavy A Load: Black Women in Defense of Themselves, 1894-1994* (Norton: 1998). This meticulously researched study pieces together the activism of African-American women and analyzes its paradoxes. A century of club, church, and political party involvement comes alive in this "eloquent and compelling," detailed, and richly illustrated work.

"*Ar'n't I A Woman?*" *Female Slaves in the Plantation South*, another of Professor White's studies of African-American women has just appeared in its second edition. Widely influential, "*Ar'n't I A Woman?*" has been called "one of those rare books that quickly became the standard in its field."

"Deborah White's work has altered the ways we think about slavery and the positions of women in a slave society that has so shaped the problems and debates of the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century," said FAS-NB Associate Dean **Barry Qualls**. "Her presence at the IRW in 1999-2000 gives its faculty, graduate students, and visitors an unparalleled opportunity for discussion and renewed thinking about slavery and American history."

Author of other books and articles, Professor White has lectured widely in the United States and abroad and served as one of the on-camera historians for the PBS series "Africans in the Americas."

As research professor, Professor White will participate in the IWL-IRW seminar on "Urbanisms, Cityscapes, and Environments," and will consult with Rockefeller fellows and IRW visiting scholars to advance their research and professional development.



## New and Forthcoming IRW Publications

Over the next two years, the Institute will be making available papers originally presented by guest speakers at IRW colloquia and lectures along with new work by Rutgers faculty and graduate students in a number of publications.

*Power, Practice, Agency: Working Papers from the Women in the Public Sphere Seminar, 1997-1998*, newly available from the printer, collects abridged versions of papers presented during the first year of the IWL/IRW seminar with an introduction by former IRW director **Marianne DeKoven**.

The second volume of our seminar working papers series will be available in the fall and will include excerpts from papers by 1998-1999 seminar participants Karen Balcolm, Barbara Balliet, Sheila Cosminsky, Cynthia Daniels, Kathie Friedman-Kasaba, Judith Gerson, Sherry Gorelick, Kathryn Hansen, Radha Hegde, Beth Hutchison, Laura Liu, Rupal Oza, Joann Pinto, Liss Platt, Joanna Regulska and Leah Vosko.

*Feminist Locations: Global/Local/Theory/Practice in the Twenty-First Century* (Rutgers University Press), edited by Marianne DeKoven, will collect work presented at the Institute for Research on Women in our lecture series or as part of the seminar on women in the public sphere during her tenure as director.

IRW director **Bonnie Smith** will edit revised and expanded versions of this year's seminar papers and work presented by the Institute in the "Thinking About Women" and "Toward 2000" series for publication under the working title *Public Accounts: Global Knowledge, Gendered Action*.

## Research Groups—Call for Themes

The IRW is initiating the formation of interdisciplinary research groups in women's and gender studies. By offering a meeting place, xeroxing, listserv facilities, initial coordination of participants and some funding to support group activities/guest speakers, the Institute hopes to further advanced research among graduate students, faculty, and staff at Rutgers. A research group on sexuality currently meets at the IRW.

Such research groups flourish at a number of centers nationwide, notably at University of Oregon (Center for the Study of Women in Society), University of Minnesota (Center for Advanced Feminist Studies), and UC Berkeley (Doreen B. Townsend Center for the Humanities).

If you would be interested in participating in or leading a research interest group on a specific topic relevant to women's and gender studies, please email us ([irw@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:irw@rci.rutgers.edu)) for more information. IRW will coordinate an initial meeting at the beginning of the next semester.

## Call for Applications – IRW Visiting Research Professor, 2000-2001

The IRW is pleased to announce a call for proposals for the IRW Visiting Professorship for the academic year 2000-2001. Supported by funds from the FAS-New Brunswick Dean's Office, the IRW visiting research professorship allows a Rutgers faculty member leave from departmental teaching to develop a research project during a full academic year. The professorship entails a yearlong residency at the IRW and participation in the full range of IRW events. In addition to working on a research project and conferring with fellows and visiting scholars, the research professor will offer a course in the women's studies or Douglass honors program on her or his research.

To apply for this professorship, applicants should provide a project statement of five pages, a current vita, and a letter of support from their department chair. The deadline for applications is November 1, 1999. An IRW selection committee will screen the applications and notify applicants of its decision.

## Seminar Working Papers

*Power, Practice, Agency: Working Papers from the Women in the Public Sphere Seminar, 1997-1998*, fresh from the printer, presents abridged versions of work in progress by the first year of IWL/IRW seminar participants. Topics treated in this volume run the gamut from soccer moms to Pearl S. Buck and offer "a subversive view of Western history," discuss the impact of globalization on gender in India, and analyze the rhetoric of the "Contract with America" in light of the lives of young Puerto Rican mothers, to indicate just a few of the seventeen projects presented in the collection.

The seminar is a joint project of the Institute for Research on Women and the Institute for Women's Leadership, a consortium at Douglass College, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey comprising the Center for the American Woman and Politics, Center for Women and Work, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Douglass College, the Institute for Research on Women and the Women's Studies Program.

The IRW/IWL seminar is supported in part by the Offices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a gift from the J. Seward Johnson, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust. For more information about the seminar working papers or to request a copy, please contact the IRW.

The IRW Network is published twice annually by the Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University.  
<http://irw.rutgers.edu>

### Staff:

Bonnie G. Smith, Director

Beth Hutchison, Associate Director

Marlene Importico, Office Manager

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(clockwise from top left) **Guadalupe Hernandez-Guerrero** with **Dorothy Q. Thomas**; **Peggy Furth** and **Carolyn Williams** (English); **Deborah Gray White** and **Mia Bay** (both History and RCHA); **Larissa Novikova** (IRW Visiting Scholar) and **Joanna Regulska** (Geography and CRCEES); **Gerald Kernerman** (Canada-U.S. Fulbright Fellow, Walt Whitman Center), **Joan Scott** and **Leah Vosko** (Canada-U.S. Fulbright Fellow, IRW Visiting Scholar)

## Speakers Address Action and Knowledge in the Public Sphere

Addressing the public sphere theme of modes of action and knowledge, MacArthur Fellow and former Human Rights Watch activist **Dorothy Q. Thomas** gave a moving description of the empowerment derived from the concept of human rights in her April talk at the IRW. Unlike legalistic definitions of rights that involve lawyers, the courts, and other bureaucratic mechanisms, human rights recall to people their basic rights to food, shelter, and personal security. Human rights concepts—equally applicable and necessary in the United States as in the rest of the world—prompt a more widespread and grass roots political activism and thereby revitalize democratic politics.

As part of the same "Thinking About Women" lecture series, **Mary Hawkesworth**, Director of the Center of the American Woman and Politics and Professor of Political Science at Rutgers, surveyed the "democratization" scene in global politics. Her assessment was far from optimistic when it came to measuring the progress of women's rights. Instead of finding progress, she agreed with other commentators who have judged that for the most part "democratization" has meant enhancing the political power of men and diminishing that of women.

**Joan Scott**, in the same mode of surveying the political horizon, looked at a century of feminist aspirations. Using a Lacanian model, Scott, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study, talked about feminist articulations of unity across classes, races, and nations as part of a fantasy. Scott, like Jacqueline Rose and Slavoj Žižek, understands fantasy as an enabling narrative, although she also pointed out that feminists need to see the disadvantages, drawbacks, and indeed destructive impulses expressed in the fantasy of a "unified" womanhood.

Uncovering the performative elements of Ronald Reagan's presidency via his links with movie stardom and the western, his quips in the radio studio ("We begin bombing [Russia] in five minutes") and hospital after the assassination attempt, as well as his wife's repeated enactment of specularized ideal listener, **Peggy Phelan** (Performance Studies, NYU) illustrated how performance infuses contemporary understandings of culture, identity and politics. Peggy Noonan's book *What I Saw at the Revolution* provides key examples of female audience reactions to the Reagan performance: even though Noonan literally wrote the script, she was captivated by the act. In her talk, "Ronald Reagan: Performance and Death," Phelan described how her research at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential Library and Museum was influenced by the specter of Reagan the person with Alzheimer's, still available for posed photographs but poignantly reminiscent of the title of his 1965 campaign autobiography *Where's the Rest of Me?*

**Mia Bay**, assistant professor of history at Rutgers and co-director of the RCHA Black Atlantic project, asked why black women intellectuals had failed to participate in the racial thought debates that were so prominent among black and white male thinkers in the mid-nineteenth century. For Bay women's silence around this area of knowledge provokes a range of speculation.

Chinese medical knowledge, articulated and practiced by both male and female healers in seventeenth-century China, formed the basis of **Charlotte Furth's** talk "Language, Gender and the Body in Chinese Medical Tradition." Furth, a professor of history at the University of Southern California, cited contemporaneously published case studies in her discussion of the interplay of gender, class and kinship in clinical encounters and the centrality of linguistic concepts (yin and yang, blood and qi) to constructions of the medical body and relationships between patients' bodies and the gender system.



## Women in the Public Sphere: Modes of Action and Knowledge

Faculty, graduate students, and IRW scholars in the 1998-1999 Women in the Public Sphere seminar have finished a full year considering "Modes of Action and Knowledge" in the context of a gendered public sphere. The year opened with common reading about women's relationship to systems of knowledge and about their public activities and activism. In the fall, **Joanna Regulska** of Geography presented work on the relationship of women to culture in the countries of the former Soviet empire and in the European Union. Regulska argued that because the EU and other agencies measuring inequity look at economic and political data rather than cultural factors, the full picture of women's public roles fails to come into view. From a different perspective, visiting scholar **Kathryn Hansen** explored the public and private workings of gendered identity in Parsi theater at the end of the nineteenth century. Hansen, an expert in South Asian studies, explained that Indian women of the time gained knowledge of female identity from, and eagerly imitated, male actors performing female roles.

Seminar fellows presented a rich array of work, including papers on reproductive practices in Latin America (**Sheila Cosminsky**, Anthropology-Camden), postcolonial knowledge and representations of female infanticide in India (**Radha Hegde**, Journalism, SCILS-NB), feminist engagements with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict (**Sherry Gorelick**, Sociology-NB), sexual harassment disclosures in corporate annual reports (**Joanne Pinto**, Management-Newark) and the feminization of employment in Canada (**Leah Vosko**, Fulbright scholar and IRW visiting scholar from McMaster University, Canada).

Abbreviated versions of these and papers by the rest of the seminar participants will appear in the IWL-IRW working paper series, while revised papers are to be published in a volume tentatively entitled *Public Accounts: Global Knowledge, Gendered Action*.



(left to right) **Mary Trigg** (IWL and Center for Women and Work) with **Barbara Balliet** (Women's Studies) and **elmira Nazombe** (Center for Women's Global Leadership)

## We Want to Hear from You

We've emerged from our period of incubation and are overflowing with ideas about the future, but we want to hear from you as we plan for the future, both next year's programs and the post-millennium. We'd like to involve everyone in discovering new ways of having conversations about and new ways of advancing and honoring women's research.

Your thoughts on any number of issues, including current research trends, citations of articles that have influenced your thinking (or that you've written), ideas about the conflicting yet mutual states of research versus action, roles of women at a university, the ghettoization of women's research and research on women, dynamic speakers and underscrutinized topics are valuable to us.

Phone us, fax us, email us--or come into the office and tell us to our faces. Everyone who contacts us with a thought about how we can better address your interests and needs as we fulfill our mission will be entered in a random drawing for a gift certificate at Recto Verso Books in New Brunswick.

For those who believe in making their own luck: a gift certificate will also be awarded to the first person who submits a brief article usable in the Fall 1999 issue of the IRW Network.



(left to right) IRW Visiting Scholars **Hilary Robinson**, **Neloufer de Mel** and **Kathryn Hansen**

## Feminist Futures Conference, May 5

Women's economic futures, women's bodies and cultures and the future of international women's rights were among the topics explored at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Our Work Conference at Douglass Campus Center on Wednesday, May 5. The all-day conference opened with a 9:00 a.m. keynote address by **N. Katherine Hayles**, professor of English at the University of California at Los Angeles, on "How We Became Posthuman: The Challenge of Embodiment." Professor Hayles is nationally recognized for her work on hypertext and uses of the Internet for humanities teaching.

Panelists included students in the IWL Leadership Scholars Program for Women's Leadership and Social Change, women's studies honors and MA students, and students active in other leadership and activist program on campus. For more information about the conference, please contact the IRW.



## IWL/IRW Seminar Fellows Selected: Urbanisms/Cityscapes/Environments

The directors of the Institute for Women's Leadership and the IRW are pleased to announce the fellows for next year's seminar on "Urbanisms, Cityscapes, Environments." Eight faculty and five graduate student fellows from across Rutgers campuses and schools will be joined by IRW Rockefeller fellows, IRW visiting scholars, and IRW Research Professor Deborah Gray White for weekly presentations on the seminar theme.

Faculty fellows receive a one or two course release for the year; graduate student fellows receive a stipend. An announcement of the theme and application procedure for 2000-2001 will be distributed to faculty and graduate students on the Rutgers New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden campuses next November.

The seminar will meet on Thursday mornings from 10:30-12:30 and is open to the public; a schedule of discussion topics and presentations will be distributed in September. Everyone is invited to contact us for advance copies of the readings, attend seminar discussions, and stay for lunch.

### Faculty Fellows

**Ed Cohen**, English, Rutgers-NB

*Common Immunities/Immune Communities*

**Belinda Edmondson**, English, Rutgers-Newark

*Carnival and Intra-Regional Race Discourse in the Caribbean*

**Leslie Fishbein**, American Studies, Rutgers-NB

*Good Girls/Bad Girls: From Silence to Cacophony: Feminists, Prostitutes, and Identity Formation in Urban Anti-Vice Crusades*

**Jennifer Jones**, History, Rutgers-NB

*Terèse's Enlightenment: Women in the Shadows of the Parisian Public Sphere*

**Samira Kawash**, English, Rutgers-NB

*Palestinian Placelessness: Geography, Postcoloniality, Nation and Body*

**Leslie McCall**, Sociology & Women's Studies, Rutgers-NB

*New Directions in the Study of Regional Inequality*

**Lisa J. Servon**, Urban Planning & Policy, Rutgers-NB

*Information Technology and Poor Urban Women: Examining the Question of Access through a Gendered Lens*

**Zdravko Vassilev**, Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Rutgers-NB

*Inequitable Distribution of Hazardous Air Pollutants Across Urban and Rural Communities: Implications for the Reproductive Outcomes of Women*

### Graduate Student Fellows

**Regina E. Brisgone**, Criminal Justice, Rutgers-Newark

*African-American Women, Cooperative Supervision, and Crime in the Inner City*

**Kara Donaldson**, English, Rutgers-NB

*Sexuality, Spectacle, and the Public(izing) Woman: Harriet Beecher Stowe and New York City 1870-1874*

**Anne Manuel**, Political Science, Rutgers-NB

*Founding the Moral American City: Work Requirements, Race, and Gender in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Boston and 20<sup>th</sup> Century New York*

**Theresa Napson-Williams**, History, Rutgers-NB

*Violating the Black Body: Black Women, White Men and Sexual Violence, 1920-1950*

**Rebecca Tiger**, Urban Planning & Policy, Rutgers-NB

*Women, HIV/AIDS and the City: Local Level Planning Responses to the Feminization of an Epidemic*

### Seminar Convener

**Bonnie G. Smith**, History and Women's Studies, Rutgers-NB; Director, Institute for Research on Women

## Rockefeller Resident Fellows in the Humanities

The IRW's Rockefeller Resident Fellows in the Humanities project, "Gender-Race-Ethnicity: Rearticulating the Local and the Global," focuses on the intersectionality of gender, race, and ethnicity in relation to modern and postmodern structurings of the local and the global. The project is designed to bring together relevant areas of study that have not yet sufficiently been put into conversation with one another, for example: the study of gender, race and ethnicity in the Americas, particularly by African American and Latina feminist scholars; third-world feminism and trans-national studies of women of color; feminist area studies; diaspora and postcolonial studies; postmodern and poststructuralist feminist theorizations of the interrelations of the particular and the universal; political and economic analyses and theorizations of local/global configurations.

In addition to pursuing their own research relevant to the project's theme, Fellows are invited to participate in the range of IRW activities, including the weekly faculty-graduate student seminar, public lectures, colloquia, discussion groups and conferences.

As visiting scholars of the IRW, Fellows receive private office space, access to hardwired computer and Internet facilities, library and other faculty privileges, and modest secretarial support. In addition, the Rockefeller fellowships provide a stipend and health insurance.

The next call for applicants will be distributed through a variety of outlets, including direct mail, Internet listservs and print publications. Suggestions about how to publicize the program and solicit applications representing the widest possible range of institutions and disciplines are welcome.

The IRW welcomes proposals related to the project theme from postdoctoral scholars in any field who are open to interdisciplinary perspectives, as well as from scholars in specifically interdisciplinary fields such as Women's Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Area Studies.

Additional information about the project and application procedures is available from the IRW's web page or on request. Updated application information will be posted to the web page this summer. The application deadline for 2000-2001 will be early January 2000.



## IRW Visiting Scholars Program

The Institute welcomes faculty from other universities in the United States and abroad as visiting scholars. We provide private offices, computer accounts and office support to visiting scholars who spend a semester or an academic year pursuing their research, participating in the Institute's programs, and exchanging ideas with Rutgers graduate students and faculty.

We hosted a total of nine scholars from around the globe this year and are looking forward to hosting several visiting scholars next year in addition to the Rockefeller Fellows and IRW Research Professor.

### VISITING SCHOLARS 1998-1999

**Isabella Bakker** (Political Science and Public Policy, York University, Canada)

*Globalization, Human Development and Gender Inequality*

**Neloufer de Mel** (English, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

*Gender, Nationalism and Questions of Agency*

**Elizabeth Faue** (History, Wayne State University)

*Revolutionary Desire: Redefining the Politics of Sexuality of*

*American Radicals and Writing the Wrong: Eva McDonald Valesh and the Political Culture of American Labor Reform*

**Kathie Friedman-Kasaba** (Sociology, University of Washington, Tacoma)

*Identities in Motion: A Comparative Study of Immigrants/Refugees from the Former Soviet Union and Their Children on Two Coasts*

**Kathryn Hansen** (Independent Scholar)

*Parsi Theater and Popular Performance in India*

**Larissa Novikova** (Toraigrov's Pavlodar State University, Kazakhstan)

*Women's Rights and the Struggle for Human Dignity*

**Hilary Robinson** (Fine and Applied Arts, University of Ulster at Belfast, Northern Ireland)

*Feminist Art Theory*

**Ujjwala Samant** (Education, Rutgers-NB)

*Gender, Literacy and Social Change*

**Leah Vosko** (Political Science and Labour Studies, McMaster University, Canada; Fulbright Scholar)

*Gender, Non-Standard Employment and Economic Restructuring*

### VISITING SCHOLARS (INVITED) 1999-2000

**Jung-Soon Shim** (English, Soongsil University, Korea)

*U.S. Feminist Theater, Criticism and Theory*

**Meyda Yegenoglu** (Sociology, Middle East Technical University, Turkey)

*Figures of Home: Middle Eastern Migrants and Female Postcolonial Space*

**Lenore Kuo** (Philosophy, University of Nebraska)

*Prostitution Policy: A Feminist Analysis*

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