

IRW NETWORK

FALL 1993

Rutgers Institute for Research on Women 27 Clifton Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (908) 932-9072

GENDER AND FEMINISMS IN TRANSNATIONAL FUTURES

As we approach the millenium, IRW will begin a new focus and initiate new programs which will explore in new contexts and juxtapositions the past and future of scholarship on women and gender in an explicitly international and transnational framework. In 1993-94 and 1994-95 we will be scheduling a range of events which will bring scholars and students together to investigate the links and the discontinuities which mark issues of women and of gender in post-colonial, post-socialist and post-industrial societies. In the following two years (95-97), our topic will be the rewriting of histories of feminisms, emphasizing their post-war manifestations and their global emergence. IRW plans to work closely on these themes with the other humanities centers at Rutgers, and with the Center for the American Woman and Politics, the Center for Women and Work, the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Women's Studies Program, Douglass College and the Institute for Women's Leadership, co-sponsoring speakers and events.

TOWARDS 2000

This year IRW will establish a regular graduate/faculty seminar to be called *Towards 2000* which will meet monthly during the academic year, usually on Thursday afternoons at 4:30. Each seminar will take up a topic related to our general theme, which will be informally introduced by one or more participant. Our format will vary to include pre-circulated papers, work-in progress and shorter interrelated presentations. Watch for the autumn schedule of meetings which will be circulated in the near future. We hope to make this seminar the "core" of IRW's annual activities, one which attracts New Brunswick faculty and graduates and involves our visiting scholars, as well as drawing more widely on resources and personnel from other institutions in the area, offering an occasion to develop new agendas for feminist work.

THINKING ABOUT WOMEN

The theme of our annual lecture series will be **Nation/Culture/Gender: Revisions and Reactions**. The talks will take place in our newly named Mairon Conference Room at 27 Clifton Avenue at 4:30, preceded by a reception at 4:00 and followed by a discussion.

Scheduled speakers include:

Susan Gal, Anthropology, Rutgers 9/21/93: "Gender in the Post Socialist Transition: The Abortion Debate"

Wahneema Lubiano, English, Princeton, 10/21/93: "Black Feminist Subjectivities and Remaking Histories"

Cheryl Wall, English, Rutgers, 11/30/93: "On Freedom and the Will to Adorn: Debating Aesthetics And/As Ideology in African American Literature"

Brackette F. Williams, African American Studies and Anthropology, University of Arizona, 1/27/94: "Behind the Veil of Sub-nationalist Gender: Revising 'Woman' is to Nature as Man is to Culture"

Forum on Sex Workers, 2/24/94: Chair, **Sue Cobble**, Center for Women and Work, Rutgers

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Women's Studies, Hamilton College, 3/24/94: "Disciplining Masculinity: The Postcolonial State, Religious Fundamentalism and Feminist Praxis in India"

IRW VISITING SCHOLARS

Our Visiting Scholars Program provides an opportunity for post-doctoral scholars to take advantage of Rutgers' unique resources in the study of women and gender. We provide offices and amenities, and participation in all our programs at Clifton Avenue for funded scholars from the U.S. and abroad, and we not only invite applications for 1994-95, but would be pleased to receive inquiries about future years.

1993-94 VISITING SCHOLARS:

Ileen DeVault

Ileen DeVault is an Associate Professor of Labor at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University. She is the author of *Sons and Daughters of Labor: Class and Clerical Work in Turn-of-the-Century Pittsburgh*, (Cornell Univ. Press, 1990), as well as several recent articles on labor at the turn of the century. She is co-editor of the *Literature of American Labor Reprint Series*, (ILR Press). Her project, "United Apart: Sex, Gender, and the Rise of Craft Unionism, 1887-1909" questions how unions constructed gender, exploring the implications of those constructions for both men and women within the union, and the specific concerns of women workers that result from those gender demarcations. Ileen will be at IRW for the full academic year.

Barbara Hanson

Barbara Hanson is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Atkinson College, York University. She has published numerous articles about Senile Dementia and conceptualizing emotion. She will be affiliated both with the IRW and the Princeton University Sociology Department for the 1993-94 academic year. Her present work is on feminist epistemology and issues of gender and race in health. During her year in New Jersey, Barbara will work on a book project that interrogates the classical and contemporary ways and means of establishing facts, which she has called "facticity".

Michiko Hase

Michiko Hase is a recent Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota where she completed a dissertation on W. Gertrude Brown, an African-American social worker who directed the Phyllis Wheatley Settlement house established in 1924. Michiko will be a visiting scholar in Spring, 1994 and will begin research on the Japan-based V.I. Warshawski fan club, devoted to the detective novels by American feminist

writer Sara Paretsky. Michiko's work investigates Paretsky's popularity amongst Japanese women and the implications of a cultural product which crosses national boundaries. Her project will also probe the process of translation, as the Paretsky novels are considerably modified before they are redistributed in Japan.

Svetlana Kupryashkina

Svetlana Kupryashkina is the director of the Ukrainian Centre for Research on Women, Kiev. She will be a visiting scholar for the Fall of 1993. Svetlana's academic background is in Linguistics; however, she is currently organizing a Center for Women's Studies in the Ukraine. She has been involved in establishing women's studies lectures and seminars in Russia and she will use that experience to create a curricula for the Ukrainian Center. While at Rutgers, Svetlana also plans to meet with area scholars and administrators to discuss the breakdown of the Soviet Union and its impact on women's issues.

Francine Moccio

Francine Moccio is the director of Cornell University's Institute on Women and Work. She is currently on leave from Cornell to direct a national research and advocacy program for the YWCA. This project, which she will continue at IRW, establishes the research component for the YWCA's Institute on Women's Public Leadership. The project entails expanding the YWCA's public leadership programming to grass-roots communities throughout the U.S. During her year with us, Francine will also work on a paper about the historical enhancements and impediments to women's rise in public leadership. This paper addressed to scholars will stand as an information base for the newly forming Institute for Women's Public Leadership.

DIASPORAS OLD AND NEW: WOMEN IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD

As part of our effort to involve graduate students more actively in every aspect of our planning and programs, IRW has set up a graduate student group. Our first graduate student conference is set for Saturday, Feb. 12, 1994 at the Labor Education Center on the Douglass College Campus. The conference aims to bring together scholars from various disciplines across the tri-state area, and it will concentrate on questions of women's transitions in a post-colonial world. Panel topics will range from the roles of women in the new governments of Eastern Europe to the traditions of women's movements in the Caribbean. In addition to several panels, the conference

will provide a forum in which graduate students may discuss the issues most germane to their programs and interests. A Call-for-Papers will be distributed in early October.

BEYOND SURVIVAL: AFRICAN LITERATURE AND THE SEARCH FOR NEW LIFE

The 20th anniversary conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) will be held in Accra, Ghana from April 1-7, 1994; an "After Accra" conference at Rutgers will follow. The tentative dates for the Rutgers event will be April 15-17, 1994. Call For Papers can be obtained from the conference coordinator, Abena Busia, c/o CCACC, 8 Bishop Place, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903. The weekend at Rutgers will be an exciting multi-arts event co-sponsored by the ALA, CCACC, IRW, and other Rutgers units.

BY-LAWS AVAILABLE

The IRW is unique among the centers and institutes at Rutgers. It is the only one which elects its Director and one of the few that maintains a written set of by-laws. The IRW by-laws were last revised in 1984. Since a great deal has changed in the past ten years, IRW has updated its by-laws to reflect current practice. They have been approved on behalf of the affiliates by the IRW Advisory Board and Executive Committee and are available to affiliates of the IRW upon request.

IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE 1993

The eleventh annual Celebration of Our Work Conference (COW) organized by the IRW and co-sponsored by many university and statewide groups was held on May 25 and focused on the theme "In the Public Sphere." More than 250 students, scholars and practitioners attended the day-long meeting and heard keynote talks by Nigerian literary critic Molar Ogunjipe-Leslie, sixth occupant of the Laurie NJ Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College, who spoke on "New Voices, New Feminisms: Global Agendas in the 90s," and Associate Director of the Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy, Linda Zerilli (Rutgers' Political Science Department) who discussed "Regendering/Regenerating the Public Sphere."

In addition, conference participants could select from among 27 panel topics as diverse as "Crises and Opportunity: Women in Eastern Europe," "Out There: Gays and Lesbians in Public," "The

Female Consumer and the Public Sphere," and "The Construction of Memory: Testimonials by Victims of State Repression."

CONFERENCES 1994

Celebration of Our Work XII has been scheduled for May 24, 1994 at Hickman Hall on the Douglass Campus. While no specific title has been chosen as yet, the conference theme will coincide with this year's focus on gender and feminism in transnational futures.

Space Matters is the theme of the Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Conference for Graduate Scholarship sponsored by the Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture. The conference will be held on November 12; the deadline for paper submissions is October 1. For more information, contact Lisa La Course, CCACC, 8 Bishop Place, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. (908) 932-8678.

Peace and War Issues: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity, a conference co-sponsored by the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis and the Council on Peace Research in History, will be held at Rutgers November 11-12, 1994. The deadline for paper or session proposals is January 1, 1994. For more information, contact Harriet Hyman Alonso and John Whiteclay Chambers II, conference co-chairs, c/o Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. (908) 932-8701; fax (908) 932-8708.

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