

IRW NETWORK

SPRING 1994

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

IRW has had a remarkable year. Despite the weather and the scheduling/rescheduling hassles, the Thinking About Women Lecture Series had exceptional turnouts for Susan Gal, Wahneema Lubiano, Cheryl Wall, Brackette F. Williams, and Luise White. (Chandra Talpade Mohanty, who was unable to come this year, will lead off next year's series with a talk in early Fall.) Our first annual graduate student conference, "Diasporas Old and New: Women in a Transitional World," co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, featured keynote speaker, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Panelists from Rutgers, Villanova, UPenn and Columbia discussed "Spectacles of the Invisible," "War, Work, Women and the State," and "Identity Elsewhere: Voices from the African Diaspora," among other topics. We would like to thank the organizing committee, Carol Allen, Mary Dougherty, Eve Oishi, Lisa Marcus, Jaime Hovey, Verner Mitchell, and Virginia Warfield for all their work. The Graduate Student Conference will now be an annual event at IRW.

Other successful new projects this year we would like to highlight are Towards 2000, the Women's Survival Series, and the internship program. IRW also co-sponsored lectures by Mandy Merck, Jacklyn Cock, Valerie Smith, Jane Gallop, Alex Owen, and Lani Guinier as well as a forum, "Post Cold War: Cultural Production and Change" with English, History, Women's Studies, CCACC, Center for Historical Analysis, AAUP, and the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

Svetlana Slapsak, Seventh Laurie NJ Chair

Sveltana Slapsak is this year's occupant of the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College. She holds a Ph.D. in Classical Studies, teaches in the Department of Sociology and Culture at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia,

and received the 1993 American PEN Freedom to Write Award. An award-winning essayist, Svetlana has written widely on classical literature, philosophy and feminism. As a life-long activist, she was one of the organizers in 1991 of the women's group, *Silence Kills, Let Us Speak Up For Peace*, which supports refugees and victims of war. She is currently working on a collection of essays on war, the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the responsibility of intellectuals; and another work on women, war and antiwar activities.

Svetlana will be the plenary speaker at the Celebration of Our Work conference on May 17. Her title is "Women's Writing Lost and Found: The Example of Former Yugoslav Literatures."

Ferris Olin Returns to Faculty

Ferris Olin, Executive Officer since 1985 for both IRW and the Blanche, Edith and Irving Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Douglass College, has decided to return to the faculty. Among the numerous projects which Ferris helped to administer were the highly successful New Jersey Project, for which she won the Rhoda Freeman Recognition Award from the New Jersey College and University Coalition on Women's Education, the Rockefeller Humanist-in-Residence Fellowship Program, and the Reproductive Laws in the 1990's Project. She was also responsible for assisting in the planning for the annual Celebration of Our Work Conference, the Visiting Scholars Program, and the Laurie NJ Chair Seminars. In addition to her executive duties, Ferris has been pursuing her PhD in Art History. Much as we will miss her, we look forward to reading her completed dissertation, currently titled "Consuming Passions: Twentieth Century American Women Art Collectors."

A reception for Ferris will be held on Thursday, April 21 from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Center for Women's Programs, 27 Clifton Avenue.

IRW Receives ACLS Grant

This spring, the Institute for Research on Women in conjunction with the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton was awarded a grant from the Joint Committee on Eastern Europe of the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Social Science Research Council. The grant will be used to fund "Transitions, Environments, Translations: The Meanings of Feminism in Contemporary Politics," a conference to be held on April 28-30, 1995. The conference will explore in depth the varied meanings of feminism in different political, cultural and historical contexts.

Visiting Scholars

Update on Current Scholars

Ilene DeVault came to Rutgers in the Fall of 1993 from Cornell University, where she is an Assistant Professor in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. In her time here, she has continued work on her project, "United Apart: Sex, Gender, and the Rise of Craft Unionism, 1887-1909." The period of 1887 to 1909 is considered the predominant model of unionism in which workers were organized by their skills. Since most women were considered unskilled, a primary question of Ilene's research is where did this system leave women workers? Her analysis of strikes around the country shows patterns of cooperation among men and women within unionization efforts. Her conclusions at this point suggest that although there was more cooperation than initially thought, it was informal, difficult to sustain, and had to be

reinvented with each new strike. Of her experience as a visiting scholar at IRW, Ilene says it has been "really great" to be affiliated with the Rutgers libraries and resources and to get to know and work with the people here. She is scheduled to present her research in the Sociology Department (Lucy Stone Hall, Room A256) on April 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Barbara Hanson came to Rutgers in the fall from Atkinson College of York University, where she is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. As a visiting scholar both at Rutgers and at Princeton University, she is completing the first draft of her book critiquing "facticity," or the classical and contemporary ways and means of establishing facts. In the spring, her article "Two Minds, Two Hearts: Exploring Inter-rater Agreement Using Emotional Data on Serial Dementia" was accepted in the *Journal of Aging Studies*, and she spoke at Harvard on the myths of the biological time clock. Of her affiliation at Rutgers, she says, "I consider myself lucky to have had time there. It was a great experience and a terrific facility."

Michiko Hase came to Rutgers in January from the University of Minnesota where she was recently awarded a PhD in American Studies. In between battling snow storms, she has continued her research on the Japanese V.I. Warshawski fan club devoted to the novels of American mystery writer Sara Paretsky. The novels feature a single, strong, tough, independent career woman and have an obvious feminist message and appeal. The tremendous popularity of the novels in Japan has challenged Michiko to analyze such things as: the intercultural appeal, how the text is transformed through translation, and the marketing strategies of the Japanese publishers. Eventually Michiko plans to situate this research within an analysis of the many feminisms in the United States and Japan. From Rutgers, Michiko will move to a position as Assistant Professor at San Jose State in San Jose, California.

Francine Moccio took leave as the director of the Institute on Women and Work at Cornell University to come to Rutgers and the Y.W.C.A.'s Institute for Women's Public Leadership to work on a national research and advocacy program. The goals of this project are to survey how **women legislators progress as effective advocates for women's policy issues**, to

provide political skills training for women interested in running for public office, as well as to develop a political campaign sourcebook and curriculum. She describes her experience as a visiting scholar at the IRW as "very useful," citing how important the interaction with students and the exchange of ideas has been for her and her research. On May 17, 1994, she will be participating in the Celebration of Our Work Conference, as the moderator for the Women and Leadership panel.

Visiting Scholars for 1994-95

Ruth Busch is a senior lecturer at the University of Waikato School of Law in Hamilton, New Zealand. She will be visiting with the IRW sporadically throughout the academic year. During this time she will continue her work, "Custody and Access Arrangements in Relationships characterized by Domestic Violence: An Evaluation of the (New Zealand) Justice System's Response."

Nancy Cervetti will be a visiting scholar in the summer of 1994. Nancy is an assistant professor of English at Avila College. She received her PhD in English from the University of Iowa, where her areas of concentration were nineteenth century British Literature and Feminist Theory. She is the author of "The Resurrection of Milly Barton: At the Nexus of Production, Text, and Reproduction" (*Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*). During the summer, she will be transforming her dissertation, "Scenes of Reading and Writing: Subversive Repetitions in Bronte, Eliot, and Woolf" into a book-length manuscript.

Barbara Cooper is an assistant professor of History at the University of Florida, where she teaches West African History. She is currently a fellow at both the Center for Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture and the Center for Historical Analysis. Next year at IRW, she plans to continue her work entitled, "Marriage in Maradi, 1900-1989: Contestations and Contradictions."

Svetlana Kupryashkina, the director of the Ukrainian Centre for Women's Studies and a PhD in Linguistics, will be returning to the IRW in the Spring of 1995 on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Janice Monk is the executive director of the Southwest Institute for Research on Women and an adjunct professor of Geography at the

University of Arizona. She will be a visiting scholar for the fall semester and will pursue her research on twentieth century women geographers in the United States.

Anastasia Posadskaya is the founder and director of the Moscow Centre for Gender Studies at the Academy of Sciences of Russia and will be at the IRW for the academic year.

Catherine Sandbach-Dahlstrom is an associate professor in English Literature at the University of Stockholm. During her year at IRW, Catherine will continue work on her project entitled, "Resistance and Appropriation: Women's Polemical Writing as a Contribution to the Feminist/Anti-Feminist Debate in Britain and the United States, 1840-1940."

IRW Internship Program

The 1993-94 school year marks the creation of an internship program at the Institute for Research on Women, with the assistance of the Office of the Provost and the Women's Studies Department. Three undergraduate interns have contributed to the programs, presentations and publications of the IRW and have been given the opportunity to meet and work with distinguished scholars.

Aliza Best is a senior at Douglass College majoring in Women's Studies. She is currently interning at the IRW where she is editing *IRW Network* and helping to coordinate the numerous lecture series that the IRW sponsors. Additionally, this year she has been working on a group research project called PUSH: NJ Schools (Project to Uncover Sexual Harassment in New Jersey's Schools), funded by the Institute for Women's Leadership. Next year, she will be working in the field of athletic training where she will be coordinating soccer programs as well as creating soccer clinics and strength training programs for young women.

Tania Levey, a senior majoring in Women's Studies and Philosophy and minoring in Sociology, was an intern at the Institute in the Fall. She helped to organize the graduate student conference "Diasporas Old and New: Women in a Transnational World" and assisted Svetlana Kupryashkina with her research. She says, "It was a great experience because of the people I worked with. My feminism before had been about American experience, but

after talking with Svetlana, I realized how women's different economic and social situations have a profound impact on feminist goals. I now stress global feminism which gives women from all over a voice."

Emily Carol Miller is a January graduate of Douglass, where she studied Women's Studies and Political Science. As an intern at IRW, she is editing *IRW Network*, coordinating the Women and Gender Directory, and assisting in preparations for the lecture series and conferences. In addition to her internship, Emily Carol serves as a Counselor and Weekend Supervisor at a halfway house for addicted women.

Towards 2000

In keeping with IRW's two-year theme, "Gender and Feminism in a Transnational Future", the Towards 2000 seminars focused on women's participation in civil society in a period of global transition.

One of the main topics for this year's meetings was the transitional experiences of Eastern European women. Featured speakers, Snezana Zareva (Sofia University, Bulgaria) and Svetlana Kupryashkina (the Ukraine Center for Research on Women and IRW Visiting Scholar), discussed building an infrastructure for feminist research and practice in the Post-communist world. At our last meeting, Rada Ivekovic (University of Paris) and Svetlana Slapsak (University of Ljubljana and Laurie NJ Chair) discussed politics and the future for Eastern European women.

Other meetings featured Judith Squires (University of Bristol) discussing issues of gender and citizenship, Brackette Williams (African-American Studies, University of Arizona) on "The Hierarchization of Ethnic Suffering in the Moral Order: The Construction of American Citizenship," and Dalia Sachs (University of Haifa) and Hannah Safran, (Haifa Feminist Center) addressing women's roles in a peace movement during this transitional period of Israeli and Palestinian relations.

Towards 2000 has proved so popular and successful at bringing together our diverse interdisciplinary community of scholars that we intend to continue the seminars next year. Look for more information on dates and topics in the Fall.

Celebration of Our Work XII

"Transformations of Women and Gender is the theme of the 12th annual Celebration of Our Work Conference, to be held Tuesday, May 17th, 1994 at Hickman Hall on the Douglass campus.

Among the panels included in this year's conference are four panels which address issues surrounding sexual harassment in educational environments. "Sexual Harassment I: Prevention, Education, and Policy Implementation" will focus on a model of statewide institutional cooperation to create programming to combat sexual harassment.

"Sexual Harassment II: State and National Issues in American Schools" will present research from the AAUW's *Hostile Hallways* as well as new research out of the Women's Studies program at Rutgers University.

Two other panels will discuss curriculum relating to the idea of sexual harassment as one of the root problems that spawns larger societal problems. "In the Field: Sowing SEEDS of Change" will present innovative educational equity programming for New Jersey's school systems. This programming reacts to inequities brought on by gender/race stereotyping and sexual harassment. "Project RAP: Relationship and Power" will look at a program that regards violence against women as a continuum beginning with gender stereotypes and the influence of society through the media and ending with child abuse, sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual assault. This collection of panels will provide a comprehensive discussion of a problem that is being increasingly understood as widely prevalent and deeply corrosive to society.

Other panels will address Women and Aging, Leadership Perspectives of Women of Color, The Politics of Welfare Reform, Gender, Race and Literature, and Women's Rights as Human Rights, among other topics.

Women's Survival Series Addresses Graduate Concerns

It provides a forum for the kinds of conversations about women's graduate experience that are sometimes hard to have in other environments. (Kristin

Blumel, English graduate student and one of the series coordinators)

The Women's Survival Series, which is new for this year, was created by the Institute for Research on Women in conjunction with a core group of graduate students. The goal of the series of brown bag lunches is to address personal, political, and professional issues relating to graduate student life.

The first meeting, which focused on professional issues, such as negotiating the academy as a returning student and packaging oneself for the academy, featured presentations by Flavia Rando, (Art History and Women's Studies), Cynthia Daniels (Political Science), Muriel Grimmett (McNair Program) and Thea Hoekzema (Provost's Office). The second meeting explored ways in which to reconcile scholarship and practical/activist feminism and included presentations by Cora Kaplan (IRW and English), Mallika Dutt (Center for Women's Global Leadership) and Carol Williams (History).

The third meeting addressed physical and emotional strategies for dealing with the stress of graduate school. Speakers included Karen Mittleman (Exercise Science and Sports Studies), Mary Ann Jensen (Douglass Psychological Services), Dawn Skorczewski (Writing Program), and Susana Fried (Center for Women's Global Leadership). The fourth session, which focused on methods of juggling the personal, political, and professional aspects of the graduate experience, featured speakers Marcia Ian (English), Mary Trigg (Women's Studies), Anne Herzog (West Chester University), Barbara Callaway (Provost's Office), and Suzanne Hall (Office of the Dean of FAS).

The series was organized by Kristin Blumel, Elizabeth Dwyer, Stephanie Girard and Christy Jespersen with the help of Ferris Olin.

The Women's Survival Series has been so successful that IRW will sponsor a series again next year. Both topics and volunteer organizers are welcome.

Beyond Survival: The Search for New Life

Beyond Survival, a multi-arts conference designed to extend discussions begun at the 20th anniversary conference of the African

Literature Association, featured roundtables on "Tasting/Toasting Myth, Sampling Mythologies: New Directions in Black Cultural Criticism," "Cultural Production and the Industry of Art," "Pedagogical Issues: Teaching Diasporic Literature," and related topics. In conjunction with the conference, IRW sponsored "A Conversation with Diaspora Women Writers: Abena Busia, Grace Nichols, and Efua Sutherland." The conference, held April 14-17 at the Continuing Education Center, also featured readings and performances by Diasporan writers. The conference was co-sponsored by IRW, CCACC and ALA and other Rutgers units.

Report from the Women's Archives

We are including the following report on recent acquisitions by the Women's Archives as a service to our affiliates.

Special Collections and University Archives recently acquired two women's collections: the papers of the poet and Rutgers University English professor Rachel Hadas and those of New Jersey community activist Jessamine Merrill. Another important women's history collection, the

National Women's Education Fund records have now been processed and are ready for use by researchers.

Rachel Hadas is the author of eight collections of poems and essays, as well as translations of poetry from Greek, Latin, and French. Her papers include correspondence, manuscripts of her poems, translations, and prose works, and material related to the Gay Men's Health Crisis Workshop.

The other new addition, Jessamine Merrill, was Executive Director of the New Jersey Welfare Council, a private agency which monitored other social work organizations in the state, the archives of which are also held by the Special Collections Department. Merrill was extremely active in state and community organizations, serving as President of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey from 1951 to 1955, as President of the League in her home of Ewing Township, New Jersey in 1962, and as a member of the Inter-League Council on the Delaware River. Her papers include the records of her work in these and many other organizations.

Meanwhile, the National Women's Education Fund records, acquired

several years ago, are now processed. The National Women's Education Fund was an organization founded in 1972 with the express purpose of increasing the number and influence of women in public life. NWEF's papers include over sixty cartons of records, spanning the period from 1972 to the Fund's demise in 1987, which include correspondence, material used in preparing studies, and data from the Women's Election Central as well as audio-visual materials used in training and ephemera from women's election campaigns.

For more information on these papers or other collections in the archives, contact Fernanda Perrone x7006.

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