NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our main event for Women's History Month this year will be a visit by Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Associate Professor of Women's Studies, Hamilton College, on March 27. At 3:30 p.m. in 501 Cathedral of Learning, she will talk on "Stories of Decolonization: Multiculturalism and the Challenge of Feminist, Anti-racist Education." Professor Mohanty is the co-editor of the influential anthology Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism (Indiana University Press, 1991), is writing a book analyzing the politics of feminist social science and cultural discourse, currently titled Gender, Race and Cross-Cultural Analysis; Revising Feminist Theory, and is co-editing Movements, Histories, Identities, Genealogies of Third World Feminism, forthcoming from Routledge. Her articles include "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" and "Feminist Politics: What's Home Got to Do With It?" (co-authored with Biddy Martin). In some recent writing, she is concerned with making a critical analysis of classroom pedagogies of gender and race--and asking how we can avoid an apolitical simplification of difference issues.

She is also interested in international development and postcolonial studies, and serves on the boards of Awareness, an activist organization working to empower the rural poor in Orissa, India, and of the Grassroots Leadership Project of Charlotte, North Carolina, a multiracial team of organizers working with Southern communities to build organizations which take direct actions against the oppression of poor and working people.

This visit is part of Women's Studies' celebration of the hundredth anniversary first full-time women students at the University of Pittsburgh. The visit by the Sadkers, also originally planned for March, has had to be postponed because of illness--it will occur on September 21.

WOMNST Donations

A special thank-you to the following contributors:

Friend: Anne Feeney
Kimberly Honath
SUMMER TERM COURSE OFFERINGS 1994-95 (95-3)
For a complete listing of descriptions and times, stop by Program office

TERM: May 8, 1995 - August 12, 1995
SESSION 1: May 8, 1995 - June 24, 1995
SESSION 2: June 26, 1995 - August 12, 1995

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS:

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<td>AFRCNA</td>
<td>0011</td>
<td>Introduction to the African American Family</td>
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<td>ENGLIT</td>
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GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS:

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<td>3089</td>
<td>Sp Tpcs: Gender Issues in Education Practice &amp; Theory</td>
<td>J. Margolis</td>
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<td>HSADM</td>
<td>2599</td>
<td>Public Health Approaches to Women's Health</td>
<td>C. Pistella/K. Peterson</td>
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<td>Women as Professionals &amp; Clients</td>
<td>J. Brengarth</td>
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<td>Role of Women in Social Movement</td>
<td>E. Beck</td>
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<td>2902</td>
<td>Directed Study</td>
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New Graduate Course on Gender and Education. (School of Education--Special Topics 3089 - Summer Session 1). Topic: Gender Issues in Education Practice and Policy. Instructor: Jane Margolis. This class will cover a range of themes: differences in the educational experiences of females and males; administrative policy guidelines to create equitable learning environments; how race, culture, and social class intersect with gender to affect students learning experiences; philosophical and historical traditions of women's education. The discussions will address the questions of those who have been previously unacquainted with the literature, as well as those who are already on this path of inquiry. For more information about the course, E-Mail: JAM12.

New Graduate Course on Role of Women in Social Movements. (School of Social Work SWCORP 2311 - Summer Session). Instructor: Elizabeth Beck - 624-1838. This class will explore social movements past and present, in which women have played a significant and often undervalued role. This class will have both historical and analytical components. The analysis will examine the strategies and tactics used by women, motivation for women's participation, and barriers. A continuing theme in the class will be an examination of the relationship between women of color and women of European descent. Contact Program office for more information.

The Tenth Annual Tri-State Teaching Women's Studies Conference and Women's Fair. "Drawing from the Academy and the Community." Saturday, March 11. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hadley Union Bldg. Indiana University of PA. Call Women's Studies at IUP (412) 357-4753. A
number of Pitt faculty, staff, and students will be attending this conference. If you are interested in joining a car pool, please contact our office.

Chandra Mohanty Lecture, "Stories of Decolonization: Multiculturalism and the Challenge of Feminist, Anti-racist Education." March 27, 3:30 pm, Cathedral of Learning, Rm. 501.

INTERVIEW WITH LISA BRUSH
by Jane Margolis

After spending an hour talking to newly hired Assistant Professor of Sociology Lisa Brush, I could easily see her sequestered in a dark oak library, surrounded by manuscripts and texts, fervently reading and pondering every nuanced phrase, then emerging to deliver an impassioned Talmudic reading on the moral world and deed, only to then reenter the sequestered dark oak study to begin again. For me, Lisa embodies that intensity about learning, knowledge, intellect in the service of the public good found in the best of the socially conscious Rabbinical scholars. Lisa diligently works to put her passion for wide-ranging intellect in the service of a moral society.

Lisa's teaching and research is about women and the state. She explores how social policies designed to regulate the relationship between earning and caring affect the balance of power in domestic situations. In one way or another, she has been working on this issue for the last twelve years, and sees these questions connected to the larger question of creating a society in which all persons can have meaningful lives.

Lisa's current focus of scholarship is welfare. She makes a feminist critique of the liberal/conservative consensus that working life is what gives people meaning. Lisa takes umbrage with the view of sociologist William Julius Wilson that employment is the most important organizing principle for all communities. Wilson maintains that employment is the best arena for teaching discipline and providing an important stabilizing routine. Lisa contends that work is not the only place where people can cultivate the discipline of social life. She says that Wilson's view ignores the lived experiences of women. For instance, the work of unpaid caregiving, done principally by women, certainly provides the same disciplines. Her political vision is that wage work is not the only way to be a citizen.

Lisa defines her study as a "moral project." She says, "I work with a vision of the world as it should be, and try to find the places where vision and reality don't match. I work toward creating a feminist world where I'd feel comfortable being a moral, social being. For this I examine the meaning of earning and caring, and how can the politics of women combine these things. What can we do to create a world where it is easier to be good?"

Besides working academically around the larger question of how more people can have meaning in their lives, Lisa takes the question to heart for herself. She asks herself: "What are the obligations of the relatively intact, the privileged, the healthy? I feel a sense of obligation to make sure that what came to me as blossom becomes fruit, to add value to the world extra-economically, create institutions where we don't have to truncate ourselves to fit in and where diversity can happen for more and more of us."

Lisa describes herself as a socialist feminist and her intellectual life has consistently traveled back and forth between Marxism and feminism. Ever since her earliest years, as a self-described "precocious feminist," she has been fighting biased gender roles. For much of her schooling she believed that the political direction of feminism, as in NOW, "did not reach far enough into the world." Marxism intellectually satisfied her desire for explanation of what is
behind the world's inequality, and then what to do about it. And as can be seen in all her early projects, she has held to a materialist explanation of the world order. Her undergraduate thesis was on the limits and possibilities of feminist organizing, using as an example the London borough of Camden, and her dissertation at the University of Wisconsin was on the "Professional Portrayals of the problems and needs of single mothers from 1900 to the Family Support Act of 1988." She investigated the ways that social workers, economists, demographers and other professionals describe the needs of single mothers in order to build the welfare state.

Thinking about her girlhood, Lisa remembers from as early as the second grade her indignation at gender power imbalance. Throughout her schooling she was the "smart girl," and her normality was continuously questioned because of her intelligence. She also describes how her ideas about gender equity were a lightning rod for homophobia. In her Freshman year in college, she came out as a lesbian and immediately plunged into gay and lesbian organizations.

Travel has been transformative in Lisa's life. She spent her eighth grade in Australia, and during the late 70's she and her family traveled extensively to Manila, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Japan. She said, "As a kid, it was an incredible experience to live in countries under martial law, live in Asian cultures, be some of the first American tourists in China and visit communist countries." This was also a period in Australia of intense anti-nuclear and Green political activity. It was during her travels that Lisa was first introduced to a social and political critical analysis of governments. As she says: "Many seeds were planted on this trip."

In everything Lisa does, there is a larger sense of purpose. Lisa is a black belt in traditional Japanese Karate, the teacher of self-defense for women, lesbians and gay men. She sees herself as applying the same drive for perfection in intellectual scholarship as she does in athletics. She describes herself as a "scholar-athlete," modeling herself on the Eastern model of cultivating mind-body and spirit, "working on living the good life."

This year Lisa will be teaching Sociology of Gender and a graduate seminar Gender, Social Politics in Cross-National Perspectives. In the fall she will be teaching an undergraduate course on Working Women. Besides her appointment in the Sociology Department Lisa holds a joint appointment in the Women's Studies program.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Ellis School Symposium. Keynote Speaker: Anna Quindlen March 2, 6:30 pm, Hyatt Regency Ballroom, cost: $20; for information, call 661-5946. Symposium, March 4 on "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow: Young Women on the Brink of a New Millennium."

Free Community-Wide Education Forum, "Let's Talk about Breast Cancer-Each One...Reach One." Speaker: Zora Brown. March 7, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Healthplace, Fifth Avenue Place, Stanwix St. Downtown, Pgh. For information call 521-CURE (2873).

Pittsburgh/Beijing '95 and Beyond. For information on other events, call 648-1169. Benefit performance: Spunk by Zora Neale Hurston, City Theatre, March 8, 8:00 pm. Tickets: $25.

Rally/Memorial - Stop Violence Against Women on Wednesday, March 15 from 5:00 - 6:30pm at the City-County Building, Grant Street, Downtown Pgh. Honoring and remembering women victims of rape and domestic violence.
Special guest speakers: Cheryl Curtician - brave survivor of domestic violence; Commander Gwen Elliott - Domestic Violence Task Force, City of Pittsburgh; Janet Scott - Women's Center and Shelter. For information call 362-1438.

Art and Ideas Lecture Series. Mary de Garrard will be speaking on "Artemisia Gentileschi: A Major Woman Artist of the Italian Baroque," at the Frick Art and Historical Center in Point Breeze, March 22 at 7:15pm. Individual tickets: $12; for information: 371-0606.

Women and Mental Health Issues - Thursday, April 27 from 10:00am - 4:00pm in Greensburg, PA (Doran Hall, near Seton Hill College; call 837-8645 for directions). This program will draw on theory from feminine physiology and knowledge about psychiatric disorders that are particularly relevant to women. In addition, issues in effective delivery of mental health services that are unique to women will be overviewed. Being offered in conjunction with "Take Your Daughter To Work Day" and you are invited to bring your teenage daughter with you to this program. Please pre-register - OERP 647-8079.

OTHER EVENTS

Rally for Women's Lives. We Won't Go Back! April 9, Washington, DC. To volunteer or for more information, call 202-331-0066.

NOW Young Feminist Summit, April 7-9. For conference registration and information, call the NOW Action center at (202) 331-0066.

Take Our Daughters to Work is a public education program sponsored by the Ms.

Foundation for Women. It will take place on Thursday, April 27; this year's theme, A Girl is Watching. What is She Learning? For more information or to order their 1995 literature and merchandise, call Ms. toll-free at 800-676-7780.

CONFERENCES, CALLS FOR PAPERS

"The Negro Problem" Graduate Student Conference at Princeton University, March 3-4 at Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton, NJ. For more information, contact Judith Jackson Fossett (609) 258-1065; email bgc@phoenix.princeton.edu.

Transformation: The Changers and the Changed the 1995 conference of the National Association for Women in Education, March 8-11 in Orlando, FL. Contact 202-659-9330 for information.

Third Annual Women in Development Conference, "Towards Equity and Sustainability," March 17-19. Forbes Quadrangle, University of Pgh. This years' conference will focus on the empowerment of women throughout the world through the adoption of sustainable practices with regard to economic reform, health, population, education, and development methods and implementation. Sponsored by GSPIA. For information or pre-registration materials, call 681-9299.

Gender Issues in Higher Education. Presented by the University of Vermont. October 15-17. Call for Program Presentations that highlight research and practice that supports innovative change, model programs and inclusionary practices in the classroom, curriculum,
and administration. For guidelines, call 800-639-3188.

SUPPORT GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS; COURSES

YWCA Women's Counseling Services at the Downtown YWCA, 305 Wood St. Rm. 206.

Women and Recovery Support Group. A six-week group for female substance abusers, a group designed to provide a safe context for women to explore the process of recovery. Mondays, April 3-May 8 from 6 to 7 pm. $40; call 391-5100 ext. 1436.

Healing the Loss of Relationship: A Support Group for Lesbian Women. This group offers a place for lesbians to deal with complex emotions that arise from the loss of an intimate relationship. Thursdays, April 6 to May 25 from 6:30 to 8 pm. $50; call 391-5100 ext. 1430.

Women and Depression. This support group will focus on providing an understanding of depression and specific tools for helping women with this problem. Wednesdays, May 31-June 21 from 6 to 7:30 pm. $30; call 391-5100 ext. 1436.

The Carnegie Museum of Art - Women in Art (March 2 through 30) taught by Vicky Clark, curator of the 1996 Museum of Art exhibition, International Encounters. Discuss how images of women in contemporary popular culture, media, and art reflect society's views of women. What strategies are women using to alter prevailing stereotypes? What is the future of feminism in the arts? There will be a series of slide lectures and discussion; recommended readings will be provided upon registration. Members: $67; Nonmembers: $84. Call 622-3288 for more information.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES, RESEARCH GRANTS

Vice Provost for Women's Concerns. The office of the Provost invites applications and nominations from within the University for this position. The anticipated starting date is May 1, 1995. This full-time position will be occupied by a tenured member of the University of Pittsburgh faculty for three to five years. As a member of the Provost's Senior Staff, the Vice Provost for Women's Concerns will provide leadership for programs that encourage the recruitment, retention, and development of women. Further information on qualifications and responsibilities is available at the Women's Studies office. Applications and nominations should be sent to Vice Provost Jack L. Daniel, Office of the Provost, 801 Cathedral of Learning, by March 1.

Visiting Scholars Program at Radcliffe College. The Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award Program offers a grant of $2,500 to a woman doctoral student. Proposals should focus on sex and gender differences or some developmental concern to girls and women. Application deadline: April 1. For complete program descriptions and application guides, write to the Grants Administrator, Henry A. Murray Research Center, Ten Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-495-8140.

Managing Editor. Signs; Journal of Women in Culture and Society. Position available immediately at the University of Seattle office for a editor of scholarly publications and management of journal operations. For further information, contact Julie Steffen; 312-702-7303.

Research Associate in Women's Studies. The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the continuation of its Research Associate Program for the 1995-96 academic year. This is an
unfunded position without salary intended for scholars interested in research related to women or gender who do not have a formal full-time affiliation with the University. The application deadline is April 14, 1995. Contact WSP for application information.

Field Interviewers for survey research project. The University Center for Social and Urban Research in collaboration with the Graduate School of Public Health is recruiting field interviewers for a project which examines variations in access to health care for older African-Americans and whites. Full and part-time positions available. Interested candidates should contact Joycelyn Slater, UCSUR, 121 University Place, 624-0996.

WSP SALUTES WPIC PUBLICATIONS:

Fabrega, H. Jr. (Psychiatry); Ulrich, R. (Psychiatry); Keshavan, M. (Psychiatry) "Gender differences in how medical students learn to rate psychopathology." Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. 1994 Aug. 182 (8) 471-475.


INTERNET RESOURCES OF INTEREST: (partial listing) [appeared in ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter, October 1994 (Vol. 9, No. 2). Editor: Jill Morrissey; Assistant Editor: Daren Callahan]. Thanks to Ann Ronchetti for sending it to our office.

The University of Maryland's gopher is a clearinghouse for general women's studies information:

  gopher to inform.umd.edu
  choose Educational Resources
  choose Academic Resources by Topic
  choose Women's Studies

The University of Wisconsin System Office of the Women's Studies Librarian offers many publications and other resources through the Internet:

  gopher to wiscinfo.wisc.edu
  choose Library Catalogs and Services
  Selected UW-Madison Libraries
  UW System Women's Studies Librarian's Office

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) based at the University of Arizona coordinates research on 28 campuses in AZ, NM, UT, CO, and TX.

  gopher to miles.library.arizona.edu/Resources by Subject Discipline/Women's Studies/SIROW

Phyllis Holman Weisbard's article "More Gophering Around in Women's Studies" is a helpful overview of gopher sites and information. It was published in Feminist Collections, Spring 1994.

There are two comprehensive guides to women's studies information on the Internet:

  gopher to inform.umd.edu
  choose Educational Resources
  choose Academic Resources by Topic
  choose Women's Studies
  choose Computing
  choose guides (guide by Turek & Hudson; guide by Hunt)
Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 11. Tenth Annual Tri-State Teaching Women’s Studies Conference and Women’s Fair. Drawing from the Academy and the Community. Indiana University of Pennsylvania. 9:00am - 4:00pm. See page 2.


Women’s Studies Program
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