



WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Perspectives:

Research Notes and News (Short Issue)

November 2007, Volume 28, Number 1
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
<http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/>

Director's Notes



Symposium on Women and HIV/AIDS in Africa, Sept. 2007

During the Fall semester, WGGP has built new collaborations across campus addressing the human security areas of biofuels sustainability and gendered impacts of the associated rising food prices on well-being and agency. We are cosponsoring a workshop here at UIUC in May and plan to have one focused on Brazil in the 2008-09 academic year. In addition, we are examining the challenges of the rapidly changing global labor market, especially in information technology service work. An interdisciplinary project addresses the under-representation of women as faculty and students in higher education in the fields that serve as pipelines for this work. The third major area of our work continues on immigration/transnational migration in preparation for the

Center for Advanced Study Initiative on Immigration that will take place next year. Prof. Doug Massey's MillerComm lecture in October stimulated much discussion on US immigration policies. Donna Gabaccia will speak here on March 6th, bringing in both historical and policy dimensions. WGGP also joined with several other units to present a conference in September on Women and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

The lack of gender balance and other forms of diversity in the faculty of some departments, especially in engineering and the sciences, has implications for education and employment in these areas globally. Initiatives on gender equity and diversity are underway at UIUC to transform the institutional environment. This is a promising intersection of local and global concerns that we support through research and other efforts.

Our GRID students and the Goodman Fellows are doing remarkable research and applications around the world. Any contribution to the Goodman fund, Due-Ferber or Yates funds goes entirely to support student research, and I hope you will consider supporting these young students through these funds in your gift decisions this year. To make a donation, contact WGGP at 217-333-1994.

May 2008 Workshop on Sustainable Biofuels and Human Security: Critical Issues of Gender, Health, Environment and Food

A multidisciplinary team will explore critical human security issues associated with the partial shift to biofuels in specific contexts around the world. These issues are best addressed at the early stages of policy and technology design and implementation. The needs of groups that are usually marginalized, such as women and the poor, will be examined with attention to costs of adjustment and creative involvement of these groups in the new processes.

Co-sponsors include WGGP, Center for Advanced Bioenergy Research (CABER), Center for Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security (ACDIS) and Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) partners at UIUC and University of California at Berkeley.

Further details will be forthcoming.

Council on Gender Equity

Chancellor Richard Herman and Provost Linda Katehi have set up a new campus-wide Council on Gender Equity. The concept for the Council comes from the work of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women over several years and the efforts of the Gender Equity Planning Team last year. The Council will join these two important groups and carry on critical work in this area, guiding implementation of new initiatives and strategies to address local equity issues that affect the campus environment and also progress outward to engage issues that influence education and well-being of women and men throughout the world. The Provost's Annual Lecture on Gender Equity is part of this initiative, and this year's lecture was given by Virginia Valian, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Hunter College, who spoke on "Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women" on Oct. 15 at Beckman Auditorium, followed by a reception. Workshops were held with the gender equity committee, members of the diversity committee, campus administrators and faculty, chairs of search committees, and EEO officers. The Council on Gender Equity is co-chaired this year by Gale Summerfield and Cris Mayo. To see the 2006-07 Report of the Gender Equity Planning Team and other information on local and global gender equity issues, go to <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/GenderEquity.shtml>

Building for the 2008-09 Center for Advanced Study Initiative on Immigration

Donna Gabaccia

Professor of History and
Director, Immigration History
Research Center,
University of Minnesota

Nations of Immigrants

Tuesday, March 6, 2008

Time and location TBA.

WGGP Annual Award Opportunities, Deadline: Feb. 15

A Full Fellowship is available to new and continuing graduate students in any program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: The RITA AND ARNOLD GOODMAN FELLOWSHIP is a full scholarship of \$13,000 plus tuition and service fee waiver to support graduate students working on such issues as literacy, reproductive rights, political participation, economic security, child welfare, and environmental protection with preference given to students whose work promises to make a significant practical contribution to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the developing world.

Grants are also available to new and continuing graduate students in any program who select the multidisciplinary graduate minor, Gender Relations in International Development (GRID), offered by WGGP [see GRID enrollment details below]*:

DUE and FERBER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH: Grants of up to \$1,000 for travel expenses related to dissertation research addressing international issues of women, gender, and development for international students from developing countries whose work promises to make significant contributions to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the developing world.

BARBARA YATES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD: Award of up to \$500 to support a graduate student focusing on policy-oriented research on socioeconomic issues related to women and gender in developing countries for study on campus, conference presentation, or research abroad.

***TO ENROLL IN THE GRID MINOR:** Submit the one-page GRID minor form available at the WGGP office, or you can download the form at <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/AWARDAPPLIC08.pdf>

TO APPLY FOR WGGP AWARDS: Submit the application form available at the WGGP Office or at <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/grantfund.html>. A student can submit a single application form to be considered for one or more awards. To apply, submit application and required materials by **February 15, 2008** to: WGGP Office, 320 International Studies Building, 910 South Fifth St., Champaign, IL 61820 (phone: 217-333-1994; fax: 217-333-6270); WGGP website: <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/>.

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NEWS FROM WGGP ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES

Paola Leon Arizmendi, PhD GRID Student, Social Work/Latin American & Caribbean Studies, presented “Postmodern Challenges to Social Work Education: Rethinking Theories and Methodologies” at the Council of Social Work Education Conf. in San Francisco, Oct. 2007. Her paper is on the advantages of integrating feminist theories into social work education.

Jocelyn Armstrong, Kinesiology/Community Health, was in New Zealand in October to update and expand case material on grandmothers who are primary caregivers of grandchildren or “grandparents raising grandchildren” as they are commonly called. The new material will support development of a paper accepted for an Ageing and the Aged panel at the 16th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Kunming, China in July 2008.

Christobel Asiedu, PhD GRID Alum, accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Department of Social Sciences, Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, LA. She is teaching Introduction to Sociology, The Family, and Social Problems and will be developing new courses on Gender and Globalization, Gender and Society, and Gender and Technology.

Ken Cuno, History, taught a new graduate course in FA 07 on “Family, Gender and Law in the Middle East and North Africa,” focusing on developments in the application and codification of family law, as they have affected women and gender relations, during the Ottoman and modern periods. On Oct. 23 he spoke on “Keeping Women at Home: The Curious History of ‘House of Obedience’ or bayt al-ta`a in Egyptian Law,” in the lecture series of the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Manisha Desai, Sociology, accepted a position as Director of Women’s Studies, University of Connecticut. Congratulations!

Nancy Hafkin, Director, Knowledge Working, has just completed with Sophia Huyer a publication titled, *Engendering the Knowledge Society: Measuring Women’s Participation*. Free pdf copies are available at www.orbicom.uqam.ca by Dec. 1.

Stephanie Hilger, Comp & World Lit/Gender & Women’s Studies, published Strategies of Response: Ellis Cornelia Knight’s Sequel to Samuel Johnson’s Rasselas in *Intertexts* 10.1 (2006): 65-86, and presented The Body Politic in the French Revolution: Christine Westphalen’s Charlotte Corday at the Thirty-First German Studies Assoc. Conf in San Diego, October 4-7, 2007.

Zakia Salim, PhD GRID Alum, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Michigan State University, published “The ‘War on Terrorism’: Appropriation and Subversion by Moroccan Women” in *Signs* Journal of Women in Culture and Society 33-1: 1:24

Isabel Scarborough, PhD GRID Student, Anthropology, has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant from the US. Dept. of Education to carry out fieldwork in Bolivia for one year with two generations of market women. Her dissertation research title is: “Market Women Mothers and Daughters: Politics and Mobility in the New Bolivia.”

Gale Summerfield, WGGP/Human and Community Development, published “Gender, Transnational Migration, and Human Security,” *Development*, Dec. 2007 and spoke to the YMCA Friday Forum about these issues. The special issue of *Feminist Economics* on China, gender and the WTO that she co-edited was published in September and is being translated into Chinese to be released as an edited volume in China. Gale went with the Academy of Entrepreneurial Leadership (AEL) to China in June and participated in a workshop on social entrepreneurship at Nanjing University as well as doing research in Beijing on gender and employment in information technology. She presented a session with Ruth Pearson at the AEL/WUN conference in Chicago in October. She looks forward to co-chairing the new Council on Gender Equity this year, drawing on experience with global labor issues to address under-representation of women at the university.

Burt Swanson, Ag and Consumer Economics, is currently developing an eLearning Course on Agricultural Extension for the World Bank where he will give emphasis to organizing groups of farm and rural women (i.e. social capital) to engage in the production and processing of high value agricultural products to increase household income. In addition, he is developing a major policy paper on Agricultural Extension for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations where he will also be emphasizing the important role of organizing women to improve rural livelihoods. He is also in discussions with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), FAO and the World Bank about a worldwide study of agricultural extension systems to assess what these institutions are doing to assist farm and rural women in increasing farm household income.

PLEASE NOTE: *We are experimenting with sending an electronic newsletter during our Fall semester and a printed newsletter for Spring semester. Both methods have advantages, but please let us know if you prefer one method over the other. If you are not already on our email list, you can sign up for our Fall 08 electronic newsletter and for occasional announcements. This form can be detached and mailed to us or you can reply by email to kcmartin@uiuc.edu. Thank you.*

Prefer Electronic Newsletter by email
 Prefer Printed Newsletter by postal mail
 No Preference

Email Address _____

Postal Address _____

Name _____



Perspectives: Research Notes & News

Perspectives: Research Notes & News is a publication of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP) program. WGGP offers a graduate minor in Gender Relations in International Development (GRID). *Perspectives* is published once each semester and distributed to WGGP associates and other individuals interested in issues of women and gender in global perspectives.

WGGP welcomes your input in the form of news and articles for our newsletter as well as financial contributions of any amount. Please contact us at address and email below:

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