

1997-98 IRW NETWORK

Letter from the Director

I am delighted to be able to report that the first year of our new, university-funded interdisciplinary feminist faculty-graduate seminar has been a resounding success. Having such a seminar is something the women's community at Rutgers has been trying to do for almost two decades--we were able to make it happen, at last, in concert with the Institute for Women's Leadership. It looks likely that we will be able to institute the seminar on a permanent basis, with financial support from the University and through our own fundraising efforts, spearheaded by IWL's Director **Mary Hartman** and Executive Officer **Lisa Hetfield**.

The inaugural topic of the seminar was "Women in the Public Sphere: Power, Practice, Agency." This group really coalesced into precisely the productive working team of feminist scholars the seminar was designed to produce. In addition to our brilliant, dynamic faculty and graduate fellows from all over Rutgers--professional schools, Newark and Camden as well as FAS-NB--the seminar was very fortunate to have as a participant the current Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies, Pomona physicist **Karen Barad**. IRW 1997-98 Visiting Scholars **Margaret Carr** and **Lynne Segal** also participated regularly and invaluable in the seminar meetings, as did Visiting Scholar **Maggie Humm** during her six-week stay. The seminar participants work in a wide range of fields, including (in addition to Physics, and in alphabetical order) Anthropology, English, Geography, History, Journalism and Mass Media, Organizational Management, Political Science, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies, Sociology, and Women's Studies.

Seminar participants, along with keynote speaker **Faye Wattleton**, performer/speaker **Robbie McCauley**, and respondents **Joan Scott** and **Ann Snitow**, presented their work at our exciting, well-attended May 1 capstone seminar conference "Gender and Global Public Cultures: Sites of Agency and Resistance." (Look for more about this year's seminar and conference on page 4.) Presentations from this conference will be published informally in a

Working Papers volume including papers by all seminar participants--you will be hearing more about this.

"Women in the Public Sphere" is a two-year topic: next year, the seminar will build on its initial focus--"Power, Practice, Agency"--with a new emphasis on "Modes of Knowledge and Action," with the continuing presence of Karen Barad, and with a new group of exemplary Rutgers scholars, again from all over the university and from professional schools as well as a wide range of FAS departments.

The theme for this year's Thinking About Women lecture series, "Gender, Agency and Change," was linked to the seminar topic. Speakers included **Norma Alarcón**, **Nancy Fraser**, **Rajeswari Sunder Rajan**, **Tricia Rose**, and our own **Cheryl Wall** and **Judy Gerson**. Our Fall '97 speakers, Norma Alarcón and Nancy Fraser, also led seminar sessions, brilliantly and productively furthering our theoretical investigations of gendered public sphere theories.

We are delighted that the new Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Center, housing the Women's Studies Program, the Institute for Women's Leadership, the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies and the Center for Women and Work, opened this January right next door to our building. The physical proximity has provided a galvanizing environment for dynamic new networks of cooperation, enhancing the collaborative work of the women's community at Rutgers.

One cause for regret: our invaluable Administrative Assistant, **Arlene Nora**, who has been a mainstay of the IRW since 1987, retired last October 1. No one knows as much about the history of the IRW as she does, or has her detailed knowledge of all the various work we do--she is greatly missed. Fortunately, we have been able to hire the wonderful **Marlene Importico** as our new Office Manager. *Au revoir* Arlene, and welcome Marlene!

(Continued on back cover.)

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Thinking About Women Lecture Series

Our 1997-98 Thinking About Women lecture series on "Gender, Agency and Change" has been exciting, dynamic, provocative, and very well attended. **Norma Alarcón** auspiciously initiated the series on October 30 with her inspiring lecture entitled "Between Past and Future: Mestiza Consciousness in the Americas." Professor Alarcón, of Ethnic/Chicano Studies and Women's Studies at UC Berkeley, developed Gloria Anzaldúa's and her own pioneering work on "borderlands" and *mestizaje* to articulate a "new mestiza consciousness": a crossroads of the self, where disparate determinations of subjectivity can collide and also have the possibility to merge in self-conscious constructions rather than history-suppressing syntheses of racial, ethnic and gender hybridity.

On November 20, **Nancy Fraser**, Professor of Political Science in the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, gave our second lecture, on "Justice as Parity of Participation: A Feminist Account." Like Norma Alarcón, Nancy Fraser does pioneering work in areas related to our seminar on Women in the Public Sphere: Power, Practice, Agency. Nancy Fraser's work has been crucial to the feminist public sphere theory in which our seminar is grounded. In this lecture, Professor Fraser proposed the integration of "equality" and "difference" claims in feminism by arguing that since gender is a hybrid category that encompasses both economic and status differentiation, combined remedies of economic redistribution and status recognition must be applied to a range of cases of injustice to women.

The third lecture of the series was given on February 12 by **Rajeswari Sunder Rajan**, Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, and Visiting Professor of English at George Washington University. Professor Rajan's lecture, titled "In India: Women, Citizenship and the Crisis of the State," addressed directly the problematics of women in the public sphere by discussing the vexed question of women's position in the masculinist postcolonial state. Professor Rajan analyzed the ways in which the 1982 negotiated surrender to the police of Phoolan Devi, the "Bandit Queen," made visible the limits as well as the extent of the state's authority and legitimacy, and of women's ability to challenge them.

In her March 5 lecture, titled "Black Women's Sexuality and the Politics of Silence," **Tricia Rose** (History and African Studies at New York University) addressed black women's "on-the-ground" experiences of their sexuality, unmediated by representation in the "allegorized" modes of cultural production, notably music and literature, that have already been widely studied. Through the ethnographic work of interviews with a wide range of black women, Professor Rose was able to displace these allegorized representations powerfully, finding

that questions of virginity and of mother-daughter sexual silence emerged as the most frequently discussed problematics of black women's constructions of sexual subjectivity. Discussion following Professor Rose's lecture was exceptionally animated and extensive.

On March 26, **Cheryl A. Wall**, Professor and Chair of English at Rutgers, presented a section of her new, AAUW-funded (Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow) project *Worrying the Line: Re-Visions of Lineage and Literary Tradition in Black Women's Writing*, where the "line" refers at once to African American genealogy, literary tradition, the crucial lines of blues music and of the literary text, as well as Du Bois' famous color line. In her lecture titled "Black Women Writers: Sifting Legacies," Professor Wall brilliantly developed the complex worrying of lines in Lucille Clifton's autobiographical *Generations*, addressing particularly the ways in which Clifton successfully takes on the challenge of the fragmentation of available evidence, using family photographs to interact obliquely and dynamically with written text to make visible the lives of black generations with buried pasts.

In the final lecture of the series, on April 30, **Judith M. Gerson**, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Rutgers, discussed her exciting, highly original new work on "Identity Practices: German Jewish Immigrants in New York City, 1933-1945," drawn from her book in progress titled *By Thanksgiving We Were Americans: German Jewish Immigrant Identities in New York City*. This project reads heretofore unstudied archival materials to reveal the full complexity of the daily practices these immigrants used both to reproduce and to repress their shifting, dynamic, contested, contingently constructed identities along multiple, intersectional axes as Jews, former Germans, Americans-to-be, family members, women and men. Using modal summaries to minimize the variability of memory, she finds these identity practices to be oriented primarily toward the German past, with anxieties over new American identities expressed by focusing on relatively rudimentary, "safe" cultural activities involving food and leisure.

These six lectures, all at the cutting edge of scholarship on interrelations of gender, agency and change, together constitute a powerful statement of the great distance feminist work has traveled toward opening up the multiplicitous complexities of gendered agential practice. Thanks to the series' generous co-sponsors, the Center for Latino Arts and Culture, the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies Program, the English and Political Science Departments and Women's Studies Program, and the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian/Gay Concerns, for helping to present this work to the Rutgers community.



Clockwise from above: Cheryl A. Wall with FAS-NB Associate Dean Barry V. Qualls; Tricia Rose; Marianne DeKoven with Judith M. Gerson

IRW's New Director

Professor **Bonnie G. Smith** (History and Women's Studies) will serve as the IRW's next director beginning July 1, 1998. Professor Smith was elected to a three-year term by the faculty, staff and graduate student affiliates of the IRW on the New Brunswick campus, and has been appointed to the position by Richard Foley, Dean, FAS-NB.

Prior to coming to Rutgers in 1990, Bonnie Smith was Professor of History and Director, Susan B. Anthony Center for the Study of Women at the University of Rochester. She received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship in 1993, has held two ACLS fellowships and has also received the University of Wisconsin Distinguished Teaching Award, a Faculty Research Fellowship from the University of Rochester, a research grant from the American Philosophical Society and a fellowship from the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University.

Her extensive publications include *Ladies of the Leisure Class: The Bourgeoises of Northern France in the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton UP, 1981); *Confessions of a Concierge: Madame Lucie's History of Twentieth Century France* (Yale UP, 1985), and *Changing Lives: Women in European History since 1700* (D.C. Heath, 1989). Three additional volumes are now in press or forthcoming: *The Gender of History: Men, Women and Historical Practice* (Harvard UP), *Imperialism* (Oxford UP) and *Women in Postwar Europe* (Bedford Books).

The IRW Network is published twice annually by the Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers University.

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Women in the Public Sphere Seminar 1997-98: Power, Practice, Agency

The highly successful 1997-98 IRW/IWL Seminar on "Women in the Public Sphere: Power, Practice, Agency" met on Thursday mornings in the second-floor library at 160 Ryders Lane. Seminar participants read and discussed many texts from a variety of disciplines relating to the seminar theme and presented their work in progress--see the list of participants and their projects below--at sessions open to the public. Brief papers by each seminar participant will be published in a forthcoming Working Papers collection to be available in the Fall.

On May 1, the IRW sponsored a dynamic, exciting and well attended daylong conference on "Gender and Global Public Cultures: Sites of Agency and Resistance," culminating the year's work of the Seminar. We were extremely fortunate to have as our keynote speaker **Faye Wattleton**, President, Center for Gender Equality and former President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Her talk, "Life on the Line: Women and Power in the Public Sphere," based on her recently published autobiography, was moving and inspiring. Performance artist **Robbie McCauley** presented her powerful, complex new work on the painful ambiguities of inhabiting a frighteningly raced and gendered set of global public spaces.

Joan Scott of the Institute for Advanced Study and **Ann Snitow** of the Eugene Lang College at the New School for Social Research served brilliantly as respondents for the morning and afternoon roundtable discussions respectively. The morning roundtable, on "Sites of Agency and Resistance," moderated by Debra Liebowitz, featured the work of Anne C. Bellows, Mary S. Hartman, Leslie McCall, dt ogilvie, Cynthia Saltzman, and Karen Zivi. The afternoon roundtable, on "Gender and Global Public Cultures," moderated by IRW Director Marianne DeKoven, featured the work of Harriet Davidson, Elin Diamond, Leela Fernandes, Louisa Schein, and Caridad Souza. The presentations were intellectually sophisticated, stimulating, and powerfully relevant to current scholarly and activist concerns, sparking lively discussions after each session. This extremely successful conference was a fitting capstone event for a great year's work in the Seminar.

1997-98 PARTICIPANTS

WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE: POWER, PRACTICE, AGENCY

Faculty Fellows

Karen Barad, Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies; *Getting Real: Power, Practice, and Agency*

Susan Carroll, Political Science; *Re-envisioning Political Representation*

Harriet Davidson, English and Women's Studies; *With Whom Do You Believe Your Lot is Cast?*

Elin Diamond, English; *Women's Performance in the Public Sphere*

Leela Fernandes, Political Science and Women's Studies; *Between the National and the Global: Gender, Commodification and the Making of a New Public Sphere in Globalizing India*

Mary Hartman, Institute for Women's Leadership and History; *Gender, Household and Power: A Subversive View of Western Civilization*

Leslie McCall, Sociology and Women's Studies; *Feminist Reconsiderations of Economic Restructuring and Inequality*

dt ogilvie, Organization Management (Newark); *African American Women as Outsiders within Research on Leadership*

Cynthia Saltzman, Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice (Camden); *You Can't Eat Prestige: Women and Unions at Yale*

Louisa Schein, Anthropology; *Gender, Culture, Mobility: Minority Women Performers in China's Maoist Era*

Caridad Souza, Puerto Rican & Hispanic Caribbean Studies; *Racing the Public Sphere: Youth, Sexuality, and Female Bodies*

Linda Steiner, Journalism and Mass Media; *Forms of Women's Transformative Media: Contemporary Examples of Feminist Communication Channels*

Graduate Student Fellows

Anne C. Bellows, Center for Russian, Central, and East European Studies; *Women Defining and Defending Urban Food Security: Power, Practice, and Agency in South-west Poland*

Kathleen Crown, English and Women's Studies; *History, Trauma, and Vision in American Poetry Since World War II*

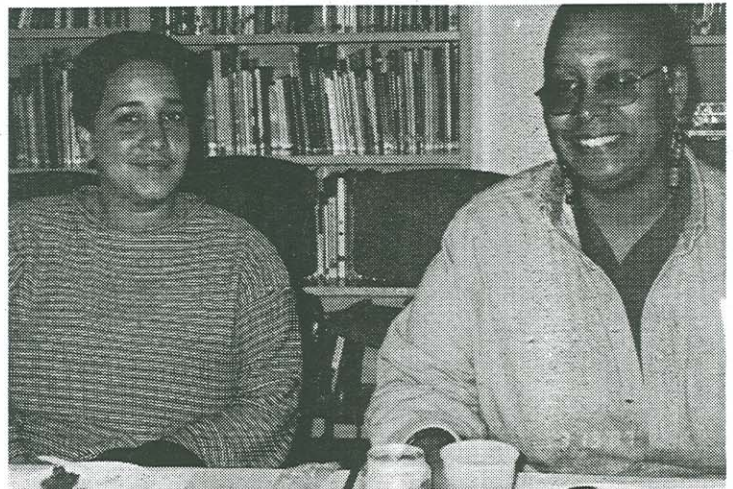
Debra Liebowitz, Political Science; *The Gendered Politics of Globalization: International Trade and Women's Organizing*

Robert Shaffer, History; *Writer In/On the 'Public Sphere': Pearl S. Buck on Asian and American Women*

Karen Zivi, Political Science; *Promises and Paradoxes: Women, AIDS, and the Limits of Liberalism*

Seminar Convener

Marianne DeKoven, Institute for Research on Women; English and Women's Studies



Above: Seminar participants Caridad Souza and dt ogilvie

Below: Seminar participants Harriet Davidson, Marianne DeKoven, Lynne Segal and Elin Diamond



IRW Awarded Rockefeller Project

We are very pleased to announce that for the second time in its twenty-year history, the Institute for Research on Women has been selected as a host site for the Rockefeller Foundation Resident Fellowships in the Humanities. Marianne DeKoven, former director of the IRW, will serve as Project Director for the four-year program. The Rockefeller Foundation's financial support will provide stipends for two to four resident fellowships per year, depending on length of stay, for the academic years 1999-2000 through 2001-2002.

The IRW's 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 structures of the local and the global. The project will 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 will participate in the range of IRW activities, including the weekly faculty-graduate student seminar, public lectures, colloquia, discussion groups and conferences.

The IRW invites applications 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. As visiting scholars of the IRW, Fellows will receive private office space, access to hardwired computer and Internet facilities, library and other faculty privileges, and modest secretarial support.

Applications should include a letter of intent specifying project title and proposed dates of visit; project description (fifteen pages maximum); curriculum vitae, telephone and fax numbers and email address; two letters of reference. Additional information about the project and application procedures is available from the IRW's web page or by request. Application deadline is January 9, 1999.

WOMEN IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE 1998-99: Modes of Knowledge and Action

The Seminar on "Women in the Public Sphere: Modes of Knowledge and Action," the interdisciplinary feminist faculty-graduate seminar at Rutgers, will meet on Thursday mornings from 10-12 in the second-floor library at 160 Ryders Lane. Information about the schedule of seminar presentations and discussions will be available in September; please call the IRW for information. Participants in the 1998-1999 seminar follow.

Faculty

Barbara Balliet, Women's Studies

City Sketches: Women Illustrators in Public

Karen Barad, Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies

Getting Real: Power, Practice, and Agency

Sheila Cosminsky, Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice and Women's Studies (Camden)

The World of Maria

Cynthia Daniels, Political Science

Gender, Citizenship and State Power

Judith M. Gerson, Sociology and Women's Studies

In Between States: German Jewish Refugees, 1933-1945

Sherry Gorelick, Sociology and Women's Studies

Feminists and the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

Radha Hegde, Communication

Talk, Text, Illusions: Dilemmas of Representation and the Production of Transnational Feminist Knowledge

Beth Hutchison, Institute for Research on Women

Asserting and Performing Identity in Lesbian and Gay Texts

Alice Kessler-Harris, History and Women's Studies

Gender and the Construction of Social Policy in the United States from 1920 to 1970

Liss Platt, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Is Your Baby Gay?

Joanna Regulska, Geography and CRCEES

The New "Other" European Woman

Kirsten Wever, School of Management & Labor Relations/Labor Studies & Employment Relations

Women as Change Agents in the World of Work: An International Comparative Perspective

Graduate Students

Karen Balcom, History

Networks and Strategies in an International Public Sphere: Female Social Welfare Professionals in Canada and the United States and the Case of the "Traffic in Babies," 1930-1960

Laura Liu, Geography

Citizenship and Chinese Immigrant Women: Community Groups, the INS, and Transnational Capital

Rupal Oza, Geography

Contentious Bodies: Gender, Globalization and the Politics of Culture in India

Jo Ann Pinto, Accounting and Information Systems

Towards Gender Equality in Accounting

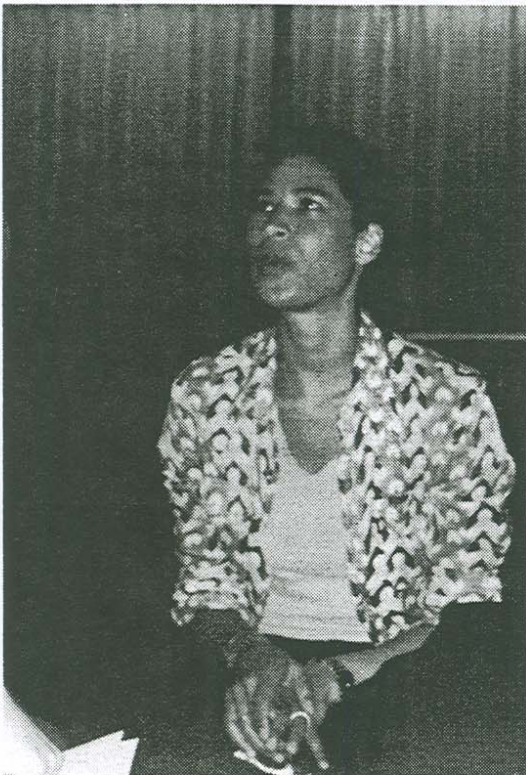
Seminar Convener

Bonnie G. Smith, Institute for Research on Women; History and Women's Studies

Photo Wrap-Up



Above (left to right): 1997 Graduate Student Conference Featured Performer Ananya with organizers Rose Corrigan, Liz Felter, Key-note Speaker Jane Flax and organizer Natalia Karieva; History Professors Deborah Gray White and Mia Bay.



Above: 1997 Women and Activism Keynote Speaker Rebecca Walker; Right top: participants in 1997-98 women in the Public Sphere Seminar; Right below: IRW Visiting Scholar Irina Tchikolova (Belarus), Marianne DeKoven, Berna Arslan, Marlene Importico, IRW Visiting Scholar Nigar Mamedova (Azerbaijan).

Graduate Student Conference

This year's IRW graduate student conference was held on April 3 at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Center, with the topic "Gender and Knowledge."

The Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference was quite a success. Graduate students from as far away as the University of Minnesota joined members of the Rutgers community at the new women's studies complex to participate in lively cross-disciplinary discussions about the connections between gender and knowledge. Over fifty people took part in the daylong event, which featured a keynote address by **Anne McClintock**, author of *Imperial Leather*, and panels dedicated to wide-ranging topics including religion and knowledge, educational policies and gender, and knowledge and the production of gender and difference.

In her keynote, Anne McClintock, Associate Professor of English at Columbia University, described the Human Mapping Project's effort to digitize two human bodies, one male, one female, and then place those images on the Internet. Linking the production of scientific knowledge with that of socialized knowledge about gender, McClintock's paper provided a provocative theoretical ending to a day devoted to the relationship between theory and practice.

Even though the conference planning began late, the graduate student committee, with the help of the IRW staff, worked together to create a wonderful event. The graduate student coordinators, **Jennifer Brier**, **Barbara Cutter**, **Jennifer Nelson** (History), **Shawna Hudson** (Sociology), and **Simone James Alexander** (Comparative Literature), did a wonderful job in putting the conference together. These students would also like to thank Beth Hutchison and **Marlene Importico** for all of their hard work on the conference, as well as Marianne DeKoven who brought us all together in the first place.



Top: Graduate Student Conference organizers Jennifer Brier, Jennifer Nelson, Barbara Cutter, Shawna Hudson and Simone James Alexander
Bottom: Keynote speaker Anne McClintock with Professors Abena Busia (English) and Carolyn Brown (History)

Announcements

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND SEX: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

January 21-23, 1999

Papers in either English or French will discuss the creation, reception, influence of DeBeauvoir's work from several perspectives, including *Origins*; *Impact of the Work*; *The Difficulties of Translation*; *The 'Second Sex' Generation*; *Radically Feminist*; *From 'Them' to 'Us'*; *Commentaries, Analyses, Critiques*; *Relevance and Timeliness of The Second Sex*.

Pre-registration info (reduced rates until September 1998):
Cinquantenaire du deuxième sexe, c/o NQF, IRESCO-CNRS,
59-61 rue Pouchet, 75849 Paris cedex 17, France.

SEXUALITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Deadline December 15, 1998

The Social Science Research Council announces the 1999 competition of the Sexuality Research Fellowship Program providing dissertation and postdoctoral support (\$28,000 and \$38,000 respectively) for social and behavioral science research on sexuality. Joint application from fellow applicant and research adviser/associate required. Applications for academic year 1999-2000 due by December 15, 1998. For more information write: Sexuality Research Fellowship Program, Social Science Research Council, 810 Seventh Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10019 or email inquiries to srfp@ssrc.org

Toward 2000

Diane Neumaier, Associate Professor of Photography at Mason Gross School of the Arts, opened this year's Toward 2000 Seminar with her thought-provoking September 24 slide show and discussion of her recent work, entitled "Between Disturbances: Feminisms, Photographies, Politics and Poetries." Professor Neumaier considers her feminist photographic practice to be profoundly influenced by a confluence of academic left-feminist studies and her 1991 trip to Russia, where she became "just an American." In her most recent work, she addresses questions of autobiography, the body and sexuality now of central concern to feminist theory and practice.

On November 11, **Radha S. Hegde**, Assistant Professor of Communication at SCILS, presented her powerful work on female infanticide in India, entitled "Setting Them Free: Other Narratives of Motherhood from a South Indian Context." ("Setting them free" is a phrase often used to describe female infanticide.) Professor Hegde discussed her frequently wrenching interviews with a range of South Indian women involved in histories of female infanticide, locating these women's narratives in relation to complex constructions of subaltern female subjectivity.

The final Toward 2000 presentation of the fall semester was given on December 3 by **Nancy Rao**, Assistant Professor of Music at Mason Gross School of the Arts, who spoke on "Distinguishing Virility and American Women Composers of 1900 to 1960." Professor Rao discussed the valorization of "virility" as national American style in early twentieth-century music, and the adverse effect of this valorization on American women composers, most notably Amy Beach, who could not be seen as a "national" composer, despite the legitimacy of her claim to that designation, because she could only be seen as a "woman" composer.

The Spring 1998 series of Toward 2000 Seminars was initiated on February 4 by **Lynne Segal**, Professor of Gender Studies, Middlesex University, England, and Visiting Scholar at IRW, with her powerful, crucially important work on "British Feminism at the Millennium: Only Contradictions in Sight." Professor Segal discussed the complex contradictions inherent in the current social conjuncture, exhibited in contradictory depictions of the present state of feminism, with welfare state retrenchment and the myriad effects of the backlash on one side, and on the other such positive signs as Beijing and the global campaign for women's rights, and the pervasive presence of feminist discourses, from the language of female autonomy in discussions of paternal responsibility to the feminist language of emotional disclosure and sharing pain surrounding the death of Princess Diana.

On February 25, **Samira Kawash**, Assistant Professor of English, presented her highly suggestive new work on "Domestic Fortress: Security, Gender, and the Architectural Body," based on her paper "Safe House." This fascinating project uses Todd Haynes' 1995 feature film *Safe* in the service of a powerful analysis of the complex interrelations in contemporary American

culture among highly gender-inflected tropisms toward gated communities, the new, prison-oriented maximum-security state, the private home as safe haven or "safe house," and fantasmatic cultural notions of bodily integrity.

Associate Professor of English **Marcia Ian** presented her brilliant, original new work on "The Primitive Subject of Female Bodybuilding: Transgression and Other Post-Modern Myths" on April 1. Through careful analysis of gendered bodybuilding discourses, including those articulated on the Internet discussion group "Femuscle" and those she has encountered in her own experience in competitions, Professor Ian demonstrated persuasively that female bodybuilding is too enmeshed in and controlled by powerful conservative gender stereotypes to be "transgressive" of those stereotypes in the ways some of its proponents claim.



Top: Marcia Ian with Marianne DeKoven;
Bottom: Margaret Carr with Kathleen Crown

Along with Lynne Segal and **Margaret Carr**, psychotherapist and Visiting Scholar at IRW, Marcia Ian also participated in the stimulating April 15 panel titled "Why Psychoanalysis: Do Feminists Need Freud?" While psychoanalysis is crucial to the feminist thought and practice of all three panelists, they differed on which theorizations are most useful and how they should be deployed. Lynne Segal discussed the history of fraught relations between feminism and psychoanalysis, questioning the extensive use of Lacan by feminists given the ubiquity of phallic discourses in his oeuvre. Marcia Ian argued for the importance for feminism of Freud's deconstruction of gender difference, particularly in his theorizations of sexual subjectivity as a chain of unfixed positionalities that challenges the reductive, fixed typology of gender, and arguing as well that phallic discourse in Lacan is not inevitably masculinist. Margaret Carr argued for a flexible, "opportunistic" use of both Freud and Lacan, as well as of other psychoanalytic models such as object relations theory, acknowledging the limitations and contradictions within and among these theorizations and working against the ways in which they become closed, reified systems.

Celebration of Our Work

The topic for this year's highly successful, well attended (mobbed!), diverse, rich and exciting Celebration of Our Work Conference, held on May 18 at the Douglass College Center, was "Women and the Arts." This theme was among the most successful in the recent history of the "COW" Conference.

The high standard for the daylong conference was brilliantly set by **Rona Goffen**, Distinguished Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, and author of eight books including the highly acclaimed 1997 *Titian's Women*. Professor Goffen discussed key representations of Lucretia in Renaissance Italian painting in her keynote address entitled "'The fault is thine': The Rape and Suicide of Lucretia." In her heroic virtuousness, Professor Goffen argued, Lucretia was represented, particularly by Lorenzo Lotto, as the model of a valor that superseded rigidly defined patriarchal constructions of gender difference, paving the way for modernity's feminist challenge to gender hierarchy.

A remarkable thirty-five panels amply filled the day's three sessions, and necessitated the use of meeting rooms in the Mabel Smith Douglass Library as well as in the Douglass Student Center. Many thanks to the staff of both facilities for assisting us so ably in hosting this major event, and to Media Services and the Office of Television and Radio for helping us to meet the presenters' extensive audiovisual needs.

The Women and the Arts conference featured a very wide variety of presentations by over a hundred presenters from all around the tri-state area and from as far away as Arizona and New Mexico. Panel topics included a range of topics including women of color in the arts; arts law; women curators and other arts professionals; international feminist artists and theories; arts and women's activism; women and new media, academic performance, costume and clothing; arts in the women's studies classroom; women artists with disabilities; the body in representation. These sessions generated lively participation and discussion, and responses to the conference were overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

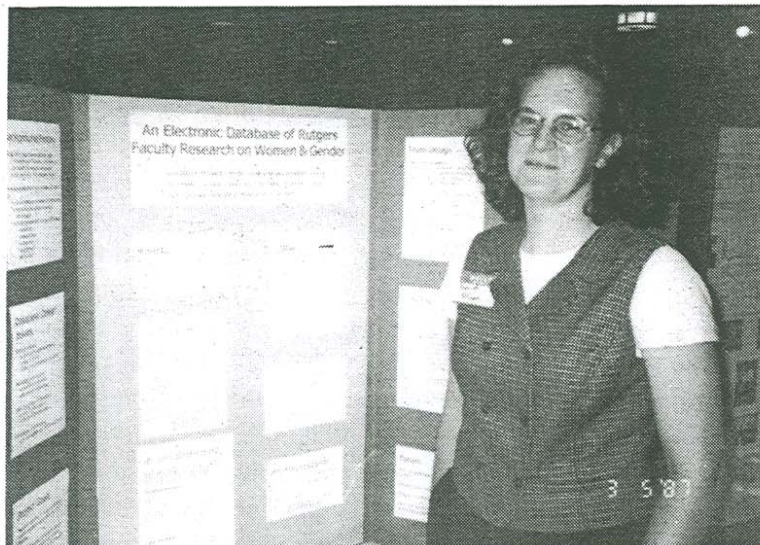
IRW Database of Faculty Research on Women and Gender

On April 22, **Nurit Bloom** and Beth Hutchison attended the poster session and reception showcasing Rutgers undergraduate research projects supported by the Office of the Vice President for Undergraduate Education.

Our \$1,500 grant allowed Nurit Bloom, our Rutgers Undergraduate Research Fellow, to work with Beth Hutchison and **José Perez-Carballo** (Library and Information Studies) to create and test a pilot database of Rutgers faculty research on women and gender. When completed, this database will update and make broadly available information last collected in the IRW's September 1989 publication "Women and Gender: A Directory of Scholars at Rutgers University."

At the poster session featuring projects by Rutgers undergraduates and faculty teams, Nurit Bloom described the process of planning, information-gathering, and database design to Rutgers faculty and guests from the community.

We are currently redesigning the database, using information and experiences provided by pilot participants to refine the system for ease of use. We anticipate inviting the general faculty affiliate population to participate in the database next school year.



Right: Nurit Bloom at the poster session

Special Events

On December 4, IRW cosponsored with English, Women's Studies, and the Office of Diverse Community Affairs and Lesbian/Gay Concerns a reading by the writer and critic **Emma Donoghue**, entitled "Rewriting Women." She read from her 1997 anthology *Poems Between Women: Four Centuries of Love, Romantic Friendship, and Desire*, discussing, most wittily and engagingly, her criteria for selecting poems and the nature of her own relation to each poem she read. She also read from her brilliantly original 1997 sequence of fiercely imagined fairy tales *Kissing the Witch*. Emma Donoghue is also the author of two novels, three plays, and the important historical study *Pas­sions Between Women: British Lesbian Culture 1668-1801*.



Above: Renate Howe with 1996-1997 IRW Visiting Scholar Francisca deHaan (IIAV, The Netherlands)

On January 21, IRW Visiting Scholar **Renate Howe**, Associate Professor, Australian Studies, Deakin University, presented along with her co-author **Shurlee Swain**, Lecturer in History, University of Melbourne/Australian Catholic University, a discussion of their just-released Cambridge University Press book *Single Mothers and Their Children*. Renate Howe and Shurlee Swain discussed the background of their research for this book, which details the history of single mothers and their children in Australia up to 1975, and also their findings that while this group is deeply stigmatized, associated with infanticide, immorality, sex crimes, and at best inevitable welfare dependency, in fact the overwhelming majority of single mothers and their children fared quite well.

IRW was happy to cosponsor, with East Asian Languages and Cultures, Women's Studies, and the Center for Women's Global Leadership, a video presentation and discussion on February 9 by **Mayfair Yang**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UC Santa Barbara, entitled "Through Chinese Women's Eyes."

This fascinating video and accompanying lecture examined the contrasting situations of women in the Maoist revolutionary era of "state feminism," which elided gender and assimilated women to a masculine norm, and the current moment of consumerist commodification, where women are reified as sex objects but at the same time are given an opportunity to develop a feminism based on recognition of gender identity and sexual difference.

On April 7, IRW was again happy to cosponsor, this time with the Center for Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies, a talk by **Eva Kaufmann** on "Women's Literature and Society in East Germany Before and After 1989." Professor Kaufmann, a noted expert on East German literature by women specializing particularly in the work of Christa Wolf, argued that literature by women before 1989 contributed significantly to forging a critical stance in relation to the GDR, and to creating a sense of entitlement and an alternative set of values. Since 1989, literature no longer plays this crucial social role, but both older and younger generations of (formerly) East German women writers continue, despite a muting or marginalization of explicit feminist themes, to write fiction informed by a strong feminist analysis and critique of contemporary German capitalist culture.



Above: Maggie Humm with Donald Gibson (English)

Spring semester IRW Visiting Scholar **Maggie Humm**, Professor of Women's Studies at the University of East London, presented on April 21 her fascinating new work on "Mothers, the Maternal, the Matrixial: The Photographs of Virginia Woolf." Using her archival studies of Virginia Woolf's photographs housed primarily at Houghton Library, Harvard, and showing a number of these wonderful photographs during her presentation, Maggie Humm argued that a 1895 photograph of Woolf's parents, Leslie and Julia Stephen, served as a primal psychic-photographic scene for Woolf, determining, in its crucial evocation of the matrix of the spectral mother, how she took pictures for the rest of her life.

Toward 2000 Graduate/Faculty Seminar on the Future of Feminism

Our graduate/faculty seminar on the Future of Feminism, now in its fourth very successful year, met six times in 1996-97, with Rutgers faculty members presenting papers and introducing discussions on a wide range of topics.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Geography and Women's Studies, presented her work on "Structural Adjustments: New Geographies of Accumulation, Old Histories of Differentiation, and Some Futures for Collective Action" to a packed seminar meeting, inspiring one of the most lively and useful discussions of the current and future state of work on women and gender that we have ever had in the seminar.

Belinda Davis, History, spoke on "State Constructions of 'Woman' in World War I Germany: Implications for Contemporary Questions of Welfare, Maternity, Production/Consumption, Activism," making instructive connections to contemporary welfare politics of the maternal.

Adela Pinch, English, led a very useful discussion of the vexed question of the universal, inspiring significant interdisciplinary intellectual linkages. **Susana T. Fried** and **Claudia Hinojosa** of the Center for Women's Global Leadership presented their important work on problems of translation in "Organizing Across Languages and Cultures: Translating Feminism and Human Rights."

In "Coming of Age Differently: A Note on Adolescence, Sexuality, and Female Bodies," **Caridad Souza**, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies and Anthropology, led an enlightening discussion of the generation gap in understanding young Latinas' sexual self-constructions. **Carmen Whalen**, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies and History, presented an original, alternative view of Puerto Rican women in the US as labor migrants in "Labor Migrants or 'Submissive Wives': Narrating Puerto Rican Women in the Postwar Era."



Thinking About Women Lecture Series

"Feminisms Beyond the Binary: Local/Global, Theory/Practice," IRW's annual lecture series for 1996-97, was premised on the assumption that binary intellectual structures, with their neat pairings of opposite, mutually exclusive terms, are not relevant to contemporary scholarship on women and gender or to related practice. The series focused attention on the way the crucial pairs of terms "local/global" and "theory/practice" must be revised by relational, intersectional ways of thinking, informed by categories of difference such as gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, and region. As in previous years, both Rutgers faculty members and invited outside speakers participated in this series.

Complex postcolonial transformations, including the impact of and resistance to global capitalism, informed the work of three of our speakers. Incorporating film clips and slides into her lecture, **Coco Fusco** (Assistant Professor, Painting and Sculpture, Tyler School of Art, Temple University,) analyzed the ways in which the new global sex tourism empowers as well as exploits young Cuban sex workers. **Cindy Patton** (Assistant Professor, The Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts, Emory University) discussed the relation of uneven developments in the politics of gender and sexuality to the extremely rapid recent transformation of Taiwan by the new global economy. With the theme "women's rights are human rights," **Charlotte Bunch** (Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Professor, Urban Studies and Community Health, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers) engaged in re-configuring the local/global and theory/practice binaries in the context of women's global rights activism.

Three of our speakers discussed new interrelations of gender theory with cultural and political practice. **Catharine R. Stimpson**, then University Professor of English at Rutgers and Director, Fellows Program, MacArthur Foundation, disputed the claim that the avant-garde is dead, finding it vitally alive in contemporary lesbian theory, and providing a comprehensive overview of the history of the relationship of lesbian theory to scholarship on women and gender. In the novels *The Story of O* and *Dessa Rose*, **Mae G. Henderson**, Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, analyzed at once interpenetrating and diverging narratives of complicity and resistance. **Cheryl Johnson-Odim**, Professor and Chair of History, Loyola University, made a strong case for the role of theory in activism on issues involving women and gender, particularly in the context of the disparate multiplicity of women's identities.

Left: Cheryl Johnson-Odim

Even a year later, we are basking in the afterglow of last May's twentieth anniversary celebration. Those of you who couldn't make it missed the funniest video ever produced--the epic history of the IRW as conceived (also written and directed) by **Jan Lambertz**, one of this year's IRW Rutgers Scholars, in which the founding director, brilliantly played by **Cheryl Clarke**, has a vision and makes a pact with the devil, bringing us both our wonderful building, and also our sometimes troubling, now blissfully updated, university computer system.

Thank you again, Jan, and thanks as well to the video's talented cast of thousands, to Mary Hartman and **Carol Smith**, who spoke so movingly and entertainingly about their directorships and the history of the IRW, to **Cora Kaplan**, horribly stuck on the stopped train from New York, who would have spoken movingly and entertainingly had she been able to get there, and to **Catharine Stimpson**, who sent us her video blessing. Thanks to all the former directors, acting directors, and the crucial staff of the IRW, and thank you again to all of you who came to the party or were there in spirit: the community that is the sine qua non of all we do.

The end of another, exceptionally full year of events and outreach, including Thinking About Women, Seminar: Toward 2000, the Visiting Scholars Program (now also including the new Rutgers Scholars Program), the annual graduate student and

Celebration of Our Work conferences and the many other programs we have run and co-sponsored this year, also brings the end of my term as Director of IRW. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience, particularly in the opportunity it has given me to collaborate with the most exemplary co-workers imaginable, Associate Director **Beth Hutchison**, former Administrative Assistant **Arlene Nora**, and current Office Manager **Marlene Importico**. I quite literally could have done nothing whatsoever without them, and will miss them enormously.

This happy collaboration has been part of the joy of working within the larger women's community at Rutgers, which, as I have said so often, is unique and nearly utopian in its extent, diversity, brilliance, creativity and commitment. Being part of this extraordinary community has been a high point of my life, and I am intensely grateful for the myriad and innumerable forms of help and involvement its members have provided over the past three years. We are extremely fortunate that a mainstay and star of this community, historian **Bonnie Smith**, will be the next Director of IRW, for a three-year term beginning July 1, 1998. I am thrilled that Bonnie will be there for IRW, and for all of us; I cannot imagine a better Director.

Thank you all. It's really been fun.

--*Marianne DeKoven*

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