



# Autumn 2000 IRW NETWORK

## Joint Reception September 14

On Thursday, September 14 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, the IRW, Center for American Women and Politics, and Women's Studies will host a joint reception to welcome and introduce members of the community. We're looking forward to reaffirming our community and hope many of you will join us then.

In addition to new Women's Studies faculty and graduate students and visiting scholars and affiliated faculty of the Center for American Women and Politics, the IRW is pleased to welcome several scholars who will be in residence this year in addition to our graduate and faculty seminar members. (This year's seminar theme and fellows are featured in a separate article in this issue.)

## IRW Fellows and Scholars

Professors **Ana Mariella Bacigalupo** (Anthropology, SUNY-Buffalo) and **Robin Greeley** (Art History, University of Connecticut) are our Rockefeller Resident Fellows in the Humanities for 2000-2001. Professor Bacigalupo's research is on understandings of gender and healing among Chilean Mapuche shamans. Professor Greeley's project, titled "The Gendering of Mexican Cultural Nationalism, 1920-1946-1970" focuses in particular on the Mexican muralists.

Our visiting scholars this year include **Dr. Susan Oommen** (English, Stella Maris College) and **Vasanthi Vijayakumar** (Dean of Women Students, Madras Christian College). Under the auspices of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, Professor Oommen and Dean Vijayakumar will be pursuing projects in women's studies curriculum development. **Dr. Jin-sook Doo** of the Research Institute of Asian Women at Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, will also be in residence at the IRW this year, along with **Dr. Shuchi Kapila**, an English professor from Denison University.

We're honored to host this distinguished group of scholars and look forward to introducing them to the Rutgers community.

Visit our webpage for digital photos documenting our events, details about many of our programs, and more:

<http://irw.rutgers.edu>

## Brodsky and Blackwell Lead IRW's 2000-2001 Lecture Series

On Wednesday, September 27, **Judith Brodsky**, Professor of Visual Arts and Director of Rutgers' Center for Innovative Print and Paper, will give the first lecture in our annual Thinking About Women series.

The IRW welcomes **Angela Glover Blackwell**, President and CEO of PolicyLink, a non-profit organization in Oakland, California advancing policies and practices that improve the lives of low-income people and build strong communities, on Wednesday, November 8.

Other visitors this year are expected to include feminist philosopher **Uma Narayan** (Vassar College), law professor **Suzanne Goldberg** (Rutgers Law School, Newark), **Paula Treichler** (Medical Sciences, Communications Research, and Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), who has published noteworthy discussions of the cultural significations of HIV/AIDS, and distinguished scientist **Candace Pert** (Physiology and Biophysics, Georgetown University). These scholars will either present Thinking About Women lectures or join the IRW's Thursday morning seminar discussions of Advocacy: Decisions, Data, Discourse; watch for our updates and advance publicity.

All IRW events are free and open to the public. Thinking About Women lectures are held at the Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building (162 Ryders Lane, Douglass Campus) at 4:30 p.m. (receptions at 4:00 p.m.) Parking is available next to the Women's Scholarship and Leadership Complex where the IRW and the Crockett Building are located.

**Institute for Research on Women • Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**  
**160 Ryders Lane • New Brunswick • New Jersey • 08901-8555**  
**732/932-9072 • FAX: 732/932-0861 • [irw@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:irw@rci.rutgers.edu)**

# NEH Summer Institute at IRW

Experimenting with subject matter and classroom practices, twenty-one teachers from across the country participated in a six-week intensive seminar on "Women's and Gender History in Global Perspective" at the Institute for Research on Women. The National Endowment for the Humanities supported the Institute with a \$153,000 grant and a Dodge Foundation supplement provided additional grants to New Jersey teachers. Additional funding came from the Institute for Research on Women.

Distinguished faculty from many institutions as well as **Michael Adas**, **Barbara Cooper**, **Dorothy Ko**, **Dina LeGall**, and **Deborah Gray White** from Rutgers provided a range of insights into making high school humanities courses more global in scope. IRW director **Bonnie G. Smith** directed the daily meetings.

"What a fantastic experience the institute was," one teacher wrote. "So many doors have been opening." Teachers shared primary documents and classroom exercises, organized a film series, and consulted with representatives from Educational Testing Services on the new world history Advanced Placement program, with **Nancy Toff**, Vice President of Oxford University Press-USA on the development of a world history publication series, and with delegates from the People's Republic of China on the status of women's and gender pedagogy.

Original plays, syllabi, and photos from the Institute can be found on the IRW website (<http://irw.rutgers.edu/programs/neh>). Soon a curriculum booklet on women and gender teaching in the humanities will be available on the website as well. The IRW hopes to conduct further institutes in the future.

*Graduate Students* interested in working together on a conference should contact the IRW. We'll help connect you, publicize meetings, and help secure funds for a conference designed, hosted and moderated by graduate students from any discipline who want to consider how issues related to women and gender impact their research.

## IRW Conference March 2001 Gender and Disabilities

On March 2-3, 2001 the IRW will host an international conference on disability studies, one of the most innovative fields emerging in the academy today.

Featured speakers will include **Rosemarie Garland Thomson** of Howard University, **Adrienne Asch** of Wellesley College, and other researchers in the field. Panel presentations will cover scholarship in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

As leaders in the field of disability studies suggest, disability is an analytical category that can illuminate and inform a wide variety of discussions, among them gender, sexuality, and race. In the humanities, scholars like Thomson have shown the ways in which fiction uses figures of disability to direct social action or has portrayed the disabled in ways that eroticize particular stories. Issues of disability are also at the center of ethical and other philosophical debates, and scholars like Asch, long an investigator of the conditions of women's disability, are currently engaged in critical discussion of these issues.

The IRW welcomes one-page proposals for individual papers and panels from scholars at Rutgers and across the nation. Deadline for receipt of proposal and one-page cv is December 1, 2000.

## Report on Research Action Clusters

With funding provided through a Reinvest in Rutgers Phase III grant, the IRW provided financial and logistical support to innovative curriculum development and interdisciplinary research initiatives during the first six months of 2000.

Faculty-led Research Action Clusters advanced ongoing research on Latina cultural theories, women and gender in South Asian film and video, feminist interdisciplinarity and methodologies, psychoanalysis and sexuality.

Research action cluster activities took a variety of formats, from the Latina feminisms discussion group sponsored by **Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui** (Spanish and Portuguese) with seven members from three departments to the film and video screening and lecture series organized by **Kathryn Hansen** (now at U Texas-Austin), **Bishnupraya Ghosh** (IRW Rockefeller Fellow from Utah State) and **Leela Fernandes** (Political Science and Women's Studies) which attracted audiences of up to 100 people. The Psychoanalysis RAC, initiated by **Joan Scott** and history graduate students, featured a two-day intensive workshop in June led by **Charles Shepherdson** (Institute for Advanced Study) which generated many inquiries and rave reviews. Women's Studies faculty undertook a major examination and revision of curriculum and teaching practices through the Feminist Methodologies RAC conceived by **Judith Gerson** and **Susan Carroll**.

The IRW continues to field inquiries about this very popular program supporting cutting-edge work. We are currently exploring possibilities for new and continuing funding in support of our research action clusters and will update the community when a new round of grants in support of RACs is available.



# **IRW/IWL Seminar 2000-2001**

## **Advocacy: Decisions, Data and Discourse**

The IRW/IWL Faculty-Graduate Seminar meets weekly at the IRW library (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 160 Ryders Lane, Douglass) to discuss faculty and graduate student work-in-progress on Advocacy: Decisions, Data, Discourse. With major funding from the Ford Foundation, FAS-New Brunswick and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the seminar aims to advance cross-disciplinary research, connections and teaching among faculty and graduate students whose work on women and gender has thematic connections.

As indicated by the fellows' individual topics (listed below), our discussions will consider the impacts of cultural, social and educational policies, how those policies are implemented and the extent to which outcomes deviate from those envisioned by policy advocates. We will also be considering whether and how scholars working with data and other kinds of evidence can use that evidence in advocating specific programs while maintaining claims to objectivity. Our discussions will also consider whether objectivity is attainable and if so, whether and when it should be considered a paramount value in evaluating scholarly work.

Based on evaluations of the past three years of seminar meetings, the multidisciplinary perspectives uncovered through the discussion will find future applications in fellows' teaching, research, and publications.

Each week we will discuss a paper in progress by one of the seminar members. Papers are available at the IRW one week in advance and members of the community are invited to attend.

### **Fran Bartkowski**

English/Women's Studies - Newark

"Kissing Cousins: Kinship @ Century's Turn"

### **Eleanor L. Brilliant**

Social Work

"Fund Raising and Fund Allocation as an Empowerment Strategy for Women"

### **Susan J. Carroll**

Political Science & Eagleton Institute - FAS

"Women Public Officials as Agents of Social Change"

### **Jocelyn Crowley**

Public Policy – Bloustein School

"Fathers in Absentia - Child Support Policy in the 21st Century"

### **Barbara DiCicco-Bloom**

Department of Family Medicine, UMDNJ

"Cultural Diversity Among Nurses and its Impact on the Health Care System: Female Nurses Born in Kerala, Educated in India and Practicing in the US"

### **Sunday DiPalma**

Social Work - Newark

"Advocacy in the Academy"

### **Renee Larrier**

French - FAS

"Women Bearing Witness. 'Temoignage' or the Affirmative I in Caribbean Literature"

### **Ardele Lister**

Visual Arts – Mason Gross

"Advocating Independence"

### **Sarah Rosenfield**

Sociology - FAS

"Gender and Sense of Self: Impact of Douglass College Mission Course"

### **Suzan Armstrong-West**

Women's Studies (Douglass College)

"Gender and Sense of Self: Impact of Douglass College Mission Course"

### **elmira Nazombe**

Adult Education (Center for Women's Global Leadership)

"Feminist Popular Education as Advocacy Strategy"

### **Ann Graham**

Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies

"Women's Advocacy in Central and Eastern Europe"

### **Jennifer Brier**

History - FAS

"Infectious Ideas: Exposing Cultural Transmissions of AIDS in the 1980's"

### **Rose M. Corrigan**

Political Science - FAS

"Talking to Strangers"

### **Lora Monfils**

Educational Psychology - Educational Statistics & Measurement

"South Asian-American Young Women and Mathematics: An Exploratory Study"

### **Waranee Pokapanichwong**

Anthropology – FAS

"Negotiating Rural Subsistence: Cultural Politics and the Commodification of Thai Female Sexuality"



## IRW Library Update

Over the summer, our student librarian, **Iris Morel**, has upgraded and reorganized the IRW library. In addition to our periodical collection including *Signs*, *Feminist Studies*, *The Women's Review of Books*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, our library's many early and classic titles in women's studies are now easier to locate and use.

Thanks to the efforts of several IRW research action clusters, which purchased books for their discussions and then donated them, the library also boasts many new titles in feminist methodology, Latina studies, psychoanalysis and sexuality purchased over the last six months. New acquisitions include recent books by Uma Narayan, Lisa Lowe, Purnima Mankekar, Ruth Behar and Sandra Harding along with important new anthologies on feminist geography, performance and cultural studies, women and development and more. Copies of the readings from our talked-about RAC meetings on Lacan and sexuality are also available in the library.

A complete list of our library holdings will be available online soon at <http://irw.rutgers.edu/library>. Books circulate to affiliates to the IRW; stop by soon to review our holdings, scan the latest journals, and say hello to Iris.

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

### Staff:

Bonnie G. Smith, Director  
Beth Hutchison, Associate Director  
Marlene Importico, Office Manager  
Iris Morel, Student Librarian and Office Assistant  
Nina Nightingale, Office Assistant

Rutgers The State University of New Jersey  
160 Ryders Lane  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-8555

telephone: (732) 932-9072

fax: (732) 932-0861

email: [irw@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:irw@rci.rutgers.edu)

<http://irw.rutgers.edu>

---

IRW Network - 4

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

**RUTGERS**

**Institute for Research on Women**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

160 Ryders Lane

New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-8555

---

IRW Network - 4