

# **UCLA**

## **CSW Update Newsletter**

### **Title**

CSW Newsletter Fall 1990

### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3vb5t6mq>

### **Publication Date**

1990-10-01



# Center for the Study of Women Newsletter

Fall 1990

## President's Fellowships

For the first time, scholars studying women and gender issues have the option of applying for University of California President's Fellowships through the UCLA Center for the Study of Women.

The University of California offers one-year postdoctoral fellowships (with the possibility of renewal for a second year). President's Fellows receive generous stipends plus health benefits and support for research expenses. Applications are encouraged from women in the physical sciences, math and engineering, and from women and men of color in any field.

Applicants doing research on women or gender can affiliate both with CSW and with an academic department for 1991-92. The Center will help match prospective Fellows with faculty mentors, and will assist with the application process.

The Center offers President's Fellows the opportunity to join an academic community of leading feminist scholars. CSW encourages multi-cultural, multi-ethnic research by and about women of color. This emphasis is reflected in both research-related and programmatic activities. In the last academic year, CSW's activities included a speakers' series on African American Feminist Scholarship, and a major Ford Foundation-funded project to integrate new research about women of color into the undergraduate curriculum.

All application materials for fellowships beginning July 1, 1991 must be submitted by **December 14, 1990**. For more information about how to apply, please call Lynn Naliboff, CSW Programs Coordinator, (213) 206-8627.

## Sexual Assault in Los Angeles: A Community-Based Study

By Judith Siegel

From both a research and a clinical perspective, sexual violence is an important concern in contemporary American society. In recent years the media have provided us with detailed accounts of assaults at a New Bedford, MA tavern, and in New York City's Central Park. Although the horror of these assaults is undeniable, these situations may not be representative of most assault-related experiences.

In the early 1980s my colleagues (Audrey Burnam, Jacqueline Golding, Susan Sorenson, Judith Stein) and I became interested in finding out about community residents' experiences with sexual assault. From other research, we knew that sexual assault was (as it still is) considered the most underreported crime in the United States, with estimates of non-reporting ranging as high as 92%. We also knew that assaults reported to police, which provided the basis for crime statistics, shared certain characteristics: the perpetrator tended to be a stranger to the victim, a weapon was often used, and physical injury in addition to sexual assault was common. In 1983, when we began our study, most research data on sexual assault was gathered from police reports, from women who utilized the services of rape

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## Grad Student Travel Grants Available

The Center for the Study of Women has initiated a competitive travel grant program for graduate students doing research on women and gender. Awards may be used to fund travel to conferences at which the student is presenting work, or to fund research travel.

Funds will be awarded four times a year. The maximum annual grant per student is \$400. The first application deadline is **November 19**. A joint faculty-graduate student committee will review applications and notify applicants by December 14, 1990. Students receiving awards will be reimbursed by CSW upon submission of proof of travel costs.

Applications may be picked up at CSW, 236A Kinsey Hall. For more information, call Emily Ooms, Director of Programs, at (213) 206-1843.

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## Affiliated Scholars Bring Range of Experience to CSW

By Lynn Naliboff

Seven women, representing a broad range of scholarship on women and gender, have been appointed to CSW's 1990-91 Affiliated Scholars Program.

Three new scholars were selected for the program this year. **Jill Cherneff** (Anthropology) is studying the culture of the Hollywood film industry, focusing on women's roles behind the cameras. **Karen Langlois** (History) is writing a scholarly biography of western writer Mary Austin. **Marta López-Garza** (Sociology) is researching the implications of the 1986 Immigration Reform Act on the status of immigrant women from Mexico and Central America.

Four 1989-90 scholars were reappointed for the current year. **Jaelyn Greenberg** (History) is continuing work on a book analyzing gender and ethnicity in the transition from farming to industry in California's Santa Clara Valley. **Dorene Ludwig** (Theater Arts), artistic director of the American Living History Theater, is researching material for a play about Queen Isabella of Spain. **Paulene Popek** (Psychology) is studying the meaning of retirement in the lives of aging women, by comparing women who have concentrated on outside work to women who have focused on both work and family. **Kathleen Sheldon** (History) is working on a book based on her studies of working women in Beira, Mozambique.

The Center's Affiliated Scholars Program, now in its fourth year, supports independent scholars and faculty early in their careers who are conducting gender-related research. Although stipends are not yet available, scholars can use their formal affiliation with the Center to apply for funding from other sources.

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:** The Center is now inviting applications for the 1991-92 Affiliated Scholars Program. The deadline for completed applications is **February 1, 1991**. For more information, contact Lynn Naliboff, Programs Coordinator, (213) 206-8627.

## Former Affiliated Scholar Accepts Tenure-Track Job

Roberta Fernández, a 1989-90 CSW Affiliated Scholar, has been appointed associate professor in the Department of Hispanic and Classical Languages and Literatures at the University of Houston.

On **November 15**, from 7 to 9 p.m. the Wight Art Gallery will present "The Role of Chicanas in Theater," a panel discussion co-sponsored by CSW. Participants include Edit Villareal (Theater, UCLA), Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez (Chicano Studies, UC Santa Barbara), Evelina Fernandez (Los Angeles Theater Center), Diane Rodriguez (Latinas Anonymous) and Paulina Sahagun (Teatros Nacionales de Aztlan). This panel is part of "Chicano Art: Resistance and Affirmation, 1965-1985," a national multi-media exhibition.

She will teach courses on Latin American literature, Chicano literature, and creative writing, and will continue her research on Third World women writers in the U.S. In addition to her teaching duties, Fernández will serve as assistant editor at Arte Público Press.

While participating in CSW's Affiliated Scholars Program, Fernández conducted in-depth research on Third World women writers. She found interacting with other Center scholars studying women and gender issues intellectually stimulating. She also appreciated the "valuable access to all of the UC system's libraries" provided by her CSW affiliation.

Both a scholar and a creative writer, Fernández recently published a book, *Intaglio: A Novel in Six Stories* (Arte Público Press, 1990).

## Feminist Research Seminars

This year's first Feminist Research Seminar session, "Methodological and Conceptual Questions Surrounding Research on Undocumented Immigrant Women from Mexico and El Salvador" was led by Marta López-Garza on October 23. López-Garza, an assistant professor of sociology at California State University, Los Angeles, is a CSW Affiliated Scholar. Her work examines the implications of recent immigration laws on immigrant women's status.

On **November 20**, Lillian Faderman, visiting professor in English and Women's Studies, will present a talk entitled "What is Lesbian Literature?" Andrea Rapkin (Gynecology and Obstetrics) will discuss "When Biomedical Research Has Political Consequences: The Case of Premenstrual Syndrome" on **January 22**. Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell (Coordinator, L.A. Jewish Feminist Center, and CSW Affiliated Scholar) will talk about "Exploring the Feminist Challenge to Judaism: The Case of the Book of Esther" on **February 19**.

The purpose of this long-standing interdisciplinary seminar is to provide an informal context for the discussion of theoretical, methodological and cross-cultural issues raised by current feminist scholarship. Special attention is given to the ways in which race and class interact with gender.

Membership in the seminar is open to UCLA faculty, graduate students, affiliated researchers, and other interested members of the academic community. For a small membership fee, participants receive background readings in advance of each session. For further information, contact Lynn Naliboff, CSW Programs Coordinator, (213) 206-8627.

The Association of Academic Women's annual dinner to welcome new and returning women faculty is scheduled for **November 28** at the Faculty Center. For more information, contact Joanna Phillippe, (213) 206-1667.



# News from the CSW Acting Director: 1990-91 Plans

By Helen S. Astin

Last spring, I was asked to serve as Acting Director of the Center for the Study of Women for 1990-91, while we await the arrival of the new permanent director. I accepted this honor and responsibility because I am strongly committed to the Center and to my colleagues at UCLA.

I look forward to helping guide the Center's growth by working with Julia Wrigley (Education, Sociology), Associate Director of the Center, and the Center's outstanding staff.

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## Sexual Assault....

(Continued from page 1)

crisis centers (a large proportion of whom also reported to the police), and from populations of undergraduate women. Reliance on such samples may have biased popular opinions about assault.

We launched one of the largest community-based studies of sexual assault ever conducted. Probability techniques were utilized to select a representative sample of 3,000 adults residing in East Los Angeles and the Venice/Culver City area. English-speaking and Spanish-speaking respondents were interviewed in person about their mental health, their use of mental health services, and their lifetime experiences with sexual assault. A unique aspect of our study was the inclusion of men and Hispanics.

We found that 10.5% of our sample reported experiencing pressure or force for sexual contact as adults and 5.3% reported such experiences during childhood. Assault was more common among women (13.5% had experienced assault as an adult; 6.8% had experienced assault as a child) than men (7.2% for adult assault; 3.8% for childhood). From a statistical perspective, the "typical" adult assault occurred to a non-Hispanic white woman, who was assaulted by a lone male assailant who was acquainted with, but not related to, the victim. The victim tried to resist the assault and the outcome most often resulted in oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse. The presence of a weapon was rare, and most victims did not report their assaults to the police or utilize the services of a rape crisis center.

Research such as ours is important both for educating the public about assault and in informing prevention efforts. For example, about three-quarters of the incidents described by our participants involved an assailant known to them. This suggests that attention should be devoted to teaching methods of deterring assault in common social interaction.

In other words, walking in dark alleys may not be wise, but it isn't what puts us at highest risk for sexual assault.

*Judith Siegel (Public Health) was principal investigator for the Sexual Assault Supplement to the Los Angeles Epidemiologic Catchment Area Study, a five-year project funded by the National Institutes for Mental Health.*

It gives me special pleasure to thank the two former Acting Co-Directors, Carrie Menkel-Meadow (Law) and Anne Peplau (Psychology), and Associate Director Kathryn Norberg (History) for providing strong leadership during the past year and a half. Under their guidance, the Center grew and flourished. With the addition of a senior editor to the CSW staff, last year the Center's *Newsletter* evolved into a more substantial publication. More graduate students have become involved with the Center, through new programs designed to help us mentor the next generation of feminist scholars. Several CSW faculty have won major grant funding with the Center's help. In addition, the feminist research seminars and public lectures have continued to feature outstanding scholars.

The Center has just acquired additional space in Kinsey Hall. We will now be able to create a commons room — a center within the Center. We want to make a place where faculty and graduate students can meet for brown bag lunches to discuss their research in an informal setting, and get to know each other.

This year, I hope to help the Center reach out to more faculty and graduate students. We're eager to assist UCLA professors who are developing gender-related research proposals. Also, I hope that we will be able to create new mechanisms for disseminating our scholars' work to public policy makers.

Since assuming the role of Acting Director in July, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the CSW staff. This is a remarkable, talented and dedicated group of women. With their help, I look forward to a challenging and productive year, working closely with the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Friends of CSW.

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## Gender and Sexuality in Asia

On December 9-11, the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and the Center for Pacific Rim Studies will co-sponsor an interdisciplinary workshop on "The Construction of Gender and Sexuality in East and Southeast Asia." Fifteen scholars from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, and North America will meet to discuss pre-distributed papers and to establish agendas for future research. UC faculty will serve as discussants.

Topics to be addressed include state ideologies and the shaping of sexual identity and practice; commodification and notions of the self and other; the social and cultural control of reproduction; the cultural construction of menstruation and menopause; and the representation of gender in popular theater. Participation is limited to an invited group of scholars. However, in an all-day open session on **December 11**, workshop participants will present methodological and theoretical issues which arose in the course of their discussions, inviting feedback from non-Asian studies scholars as well as from specialists in the field.

If you are interested in participating in the open session, please contact Emily Ooms, CSW Director of Programs, at (213) 206-1843. Workshop papers will be available in advance for a small donation.



# Book Review: Beyond Feminist Aesthetics

*Beyond Feminist Aesthetics: Feminist Literature and Social Change*, by Rita Felski. (1989) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

By Ruth B. Yeazell

On what basis should a feminist critic value one piece of literature and criticize another? What makes a literary text more or less feminist?

In her thoughtful new book, *Beyond Feminist Aesthetics: Feminist Literature and Social Change*, Rita Felski argues that the search for a single feminist aesthetic is fundamentally misguided. Felski contends that there is no satisfactory way of defining in the abstract what will give a literary work feminist value; the feminist significance of a text, she insists, cannot be separated from the particular conditions of its production and reception.

The first part of *Beyond Feminist Aesthetics* shrewdly analyzes the current impasse in feminist literary theory. Even readers who disagree with Felski will find her a helpful guide to the central debates. While some feminists have sought to identify the value of a text with its purported faithfulness to women's experience — and have thus tended to favor what might loosely be termed feminist realism — others have argued that ordinary

language and the conventions of representation are themselves "phallogocentric." Readers from this second group prefer experimental writing, associating the feminist potential of a text with its tendency to disrupt and subvert conventional structures.

Although these opposed positions have come to be routinely labeled "Anglo-American" and "French," respectively, Felski clearly shows that their opposition resembles the conflict between "instrumental" and "aesthetic" accounts of the text in Marxist literary theory. She also argues that such disagreements cannot finally be resolved, only understood dialectically. If "instrumental" readers naively reduce literature to ideology, those who celebrate the subversive power of formal experiment fail to explain why the disruption of literary conventions should bear any particular relation to political change. Indeed, to the degree that the reading of difficult modernist and post-modernist works is largely confined to a small academic elite, one could just as easily argue that the celebration of a supposedly disruptive *l'écriture féminine* is in fact a profoundly conservative enterprise.

Unlike Toril Moi, whose *Sexual/Textual Politics* (1985) concluded an analysis of the conflicts within feminist theory by sympathizing guardedly with the French position (or at least with Julia Kristeva's views), Felski chooses to move "beyond" such debates in order to account for the great outpouring of recent literature that has been influenced by feminism — literature which, as she argues, has tended to assume predominantly realistic forms. Rather than abstractly theorize about what makes a text "feminist," Felski wants to analyze some works of literature that have been written in the historical context of contemporary feminism and that appear to have been influenced by its concerns.

Drawing on works by writers in several languages (her principal examples come from the U.S., England, Canada and Germany), Felski isolates two related genres, and terms one "confession" and the other "the narrative of female self-discovery." Because she is concerned to establish these as genres, her accounts of individual works are comparatively schematic; although Felski argues for a dialectical relation between politics and literature (or between feminist and aesthetic values), her own book, as she admits, tends to emphasize the political.

Felski's rather ponderous and repetitive prose is unlikely to satisfy readers who turn to literary criticism for verbal elegance or wit. Nor does her focus on contemporary fiction satisfactorily resolve the question of how a feminist critic should approach the literature of other periods and cultures. But in its sharp analysis of theoretical issues, its firm emphasis on the importance of history, and its salutary refusal to sacrifice either political virtue or aesthetic pleasure, Felski's book marks a very welcome turn in the continuing debate about feminism and literature.

Ruth B. Yeazell (English) is the editor of *Sex, Politics and Science in the Nineteenth-Century Novel* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986). Her *Fictions of Modesty: Women and Courtship in the English Novel* will be published by the University of Chicago Press in spring, 1991.

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## UCLA Campus Diversity Study

UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) is conducting a campus-wide study of diversity, under the direction of Alexander W. Astin, HERI director. The study involves a comprehensive examination of UCLA's environment for diversity, with the ultimate aim of improving and strengthening the climate for students, staff, and faculty.

The plan is to survey all members of underrepresented student groups (Chicano, African American, Latino, Pilipino) and a large sample of white and Asian students. The study is intended to provide an empirical basis for reform efforts by systematically documenting actions and policies that currently contribute to a positive climate for diversity, as well as areas of greatest concern where significant change and reform are needed. The data collection is being conducted by the Institute for Social Science Research, under the guidance of Marilyn Brewer (Psychology). Results and strategies for action will be prepared by the end of the winter, 1991 quarter.

## NCRW Database

The National Council for Research on Women is building the first online database of research-in-progress about women. NCRW is collecting database citations from scholars, graduate students and others. For worksheets and guidelines, contact NCRW, The Sara Delano Roosevelt House, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021, (212) 570-5001.



# Feminist Bookstores: Mixing Business and Idealism

By Penelope Moffet

In 1972 Simone and Adele Wallace founded Sisterhood Bookstore in Westwood. "We saw it as political work, we didn't know anything about business," Simone Wallace remembers.

"We figured this was a short-term political project," Wallace said, and mainstream bookstores would soon stock many books by and about women. Yet, "I'm surprised at how we continue to fill such a void — women's fiction, women's poetry, women's art, all the books which, when you walk into a general bookstore, are so incredibly missing."

Today five Los Angeles-area feminist bookstores are in business: Sisterhood, Page One in Pasadena, Bread and Roses in Sherman Oaks, Wild Iris in Claremont, and A Different Drummer in Laguna Beach. Nationally, there are now about 100 feminist bookstores, according to the *Feminist Bookstore News*, a bi-monthly newsletter. Many alternative bookstores, such as Midnight Special in Santa Monica and A Different Light in Silverlake, also carry strong selections of women's literature.

The personalities of the stores' owners are as different as the stores themselves. However, those who start successful feminist bookstores seem to share at least three traits: an ideological commitment to the women's movement, a love of books, and a lack of prior business experience.

Sisterhood's co-founders are both UCLA graduates. Simone Wallace earned a B.A. in English, and Adele Wallace majored in Education. Both pursued other careers (Simone as social worker, Adele as elementary school teacher) before founding Sisterhood. They aren't sisters, but former sisters-in-law — Adele was briefly married to Simone's brother.

The two women became friends in the late 1960s while working as volunteer political activists at the Crenshaw Women's Center, a community project. Together they edited the center's newsletter and organized its reading room into a self-service bookstore. This led them to the idea of a feminist bookstore for Los Angeles. At the time, only a few such

stores existed in the country.

After researching how political bookstores are run, the Wallaces and a third partner raised \$3,000 from friends and relatives. They rented a storefront and built the bookcases themselves.

"The day we opened, people were running to the store," Simone Wallace said. Business continued strongly until the early 1980s, when the demand for radical feminist books ebbed somewhat. By then, however, "we had become a broad-based store, so we were no longer appealing only to the real fervent activist," Wallace said. Now she sees a resurgence of interest in women's issues and women's books: "The movement has really picked up in the last few years. We have Operation Rescue to thank for that, and abortion rights." The store's West Los Angeles location has also helped it stay in business. Several UCLA professors order books for their women's studies classes through Sisterhood.

About 20 miles northeast of UCLA, Page One Bookstore in Pasadena serves a different part of the Los Angeles community. Page One was founded by Nancy Alexander in 1974 and has been at its present location, an old California bungalow on Lake Street, since 1984. It has developed its own clientele of regular customers, and also does a lot of business through mail orders and through staffing sales tables at conferences.

At Page One, books about women's spirituality are housed in the kitchen. A hallway features an "un-bulletin board" for announcements of services for women. Children's books and a play area are on the back service porch, books about sexuality and emotions in the front bedroom. Like the other stores, Page One also carries cards, jewelry and other sidelines.

A graduate of Stanford University, where she earned a B.A. in English, Alexander was a social worker before she opened Page One. Like the other bookstore founders, she was "always a feminist." She founded Page One to help support the women's community and because she likes being around books — although these days she seldom has time to read anything but publishers' catalogs and book reviews. Her decisions about

what to order from publishers are "seat of the pants," she said, the result of balancing ideological concerns with business sense: "There are a lot of books I think are worthy, but I know they won't sell."

Located a little closer to UCLA, the San Fernando Valley's sole feminist bookstore, Bread and Roses, was founded in 1982 by Barbara Schneyer. Schneyer earned a B.A. in sociology, with a specialization in women's studies, from UCLA in 1981, and started the bookstore a year later. "Everybody told me I was either very brave or very silly," she said, but she was "convinced the Valley was ready for a feminist bookstore." Schneyer visited many bookstores around the country for ideas and advice, found financial backing for her venture, and located a storefront on Ventura Blvd. Friends helped her design the space.

The store's name comes from a poem about a 1912 textile mill strike. The young women strikers felt that "hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread, but give us roses," wrote author James Oppenheimer. Schneyer encountered the poem in a UCLA women's studies classes, and was struck by "the spirit of the poem, of women needing all things in their lives. The poem, and the concept of the poem, reflected what I wanted the store to reflect," she said. The store carries a strong mix of women's fiction, lesbian, recovery movement, women of color, and women's spirituality books, as well as small literary and alternative magazines. In addition, Bread and Roses hosts poetry readings by local women authors the third Sunday of each month.

Two other, newer bookstores, each about an hour's drive from UCLA, also specialize in books by and about women: A Different Drummer Book Shoppe in Laguna Beach, and Wild Iris Bookstore in Claremont.

Keeping a feminist bookstore in operation today requires hard work, perseverance, and a willingness to forego big profits. "You have to be slightly idealistic, I think," said Page One's Alexander. "You don't get rich. You have to believe in it, or it just wouldn't be worth it. But it's very satisfying."



## Jacqueline Leavitt: Realizing Multiple Dreams

By Penelope Moffet

Jacqueline Leavitt lives a few miles south of UCLA, in a small house full of books, prints and colorful rugs. The house is attached to another unit, where the owners — who have become Leavitt's close friends — live.

An associate professor of urban planning at UCLA, Leavitt has just completed a book, *The Double Dream: The Single Family House and Community*, about the desire of many middle class women to have both privacy and a sense of community. She's dedicated the book to her landlords, whose neighborliness has helped make this dream a reality in Leavitt's own life.

Communities of all kinds are of deep interest to Leavitt. In her recent book, *From Abandonment to Hope: Community Households in Harlem* (Columbia University Press, 1990), Leavitt and co-author Susan Saegert, a professor of environmental psychology at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York, explore elements of community essential to creating successful tenant cooperatives in landlord-abandoned buildings in Harlem. Analyzing 219 interviews with residents, the researchers found that women and elderly people played vital leadership roles in tenant organizing.

"The part that surprised us was that nobody in the city government had ever made that connection between women and leadership," Leavitt said. Bureaucrats weren't taking into account low-income women's needs: child care so they could come to meetings, a city phone line dedicated to their business, recognition of their high stress levels. "The other surprising thing was that the older people were leaders. The literature said older people are victims and don't take a leadership role." In their research, Leavitt and Saegert identified some factors beneficial to tenant attempts to self-govern: attachment to place, devotion to community, connections with key city resources, willingness to adopt a non-hierarchical governing system, and training programs.

The research confirmed Leavitt's feelings about the importance of "acknowledging and respecting what people's lives have been, so the experiences people have accumulated aren't trivialized." She also realized that "when there are setbacks in the economy, women's roles become more prominent, and it's important not to neglect that fact if and when the economy recovers."

Leavitt's interest in gender issues began in the early 1960s. A native of New York City, she earned a B.Sc. in political science at Pennsylvania State University, then returned home. She took graduate level political science classes at Columbia University, but wasn't satisfied by them. Always intrigued by both architecture and civil rights issues, she enrolled in urban planning classes. "I was interested in finding out about women's issues and how they were integrated or not integrated into planning," she said. After earning a master's degree in urban planning from Columbia in 1965, she held planning, teaching and research positions in Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey, and she also became involved in the burgeoning women's



Photograph by Garo Enjaian

movement. While living and working in a low-income community in Newark, she observed the strong, but often unacknowledged, leadership roles played by women.

In 1980, Leavitt finished her doctoral work at Columbia. From 1982-84 she held a post-doctoral fellowship in the Environmental Psychology Program at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. During this time, she and Saegert conducted the bulk of their research for *From Abandonment to Hope*.

Leavitt came to UCLA as a visiting professor for the spring, 1984 quarter. The following spring, she accepted a tenure-track position as acting associate professor of urban planning. For a time she commuted frequently between New York and Los Angeles, while she and Saegert finished their book. In 1988, she was awarded tenure.

Leavitt's involvement with gender issues led her to four years as advisor to Feminist Planners and Designers, a UCLA organization of architecture and urban planning students who seek to incorporate feminism into their graduate education and professional lives. In 1988 she also served as a member of CSW's Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Public Policy. With Helen S. Astin (Education) and Thelma Estrin (Engineering),

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## Leavitt...

(Continued from page 6)

she helped create a 1989-90 CSW-sponsored series on gender and public policy.

For three years, Leavitt and her students have been involved in community building efforts at Nickerson Gardens in Watts, a public housing project. "I actually came out here thinking I would never be able to work with the black or Latino communities," Leavitt said, because she didn't have long-term contacts in California. But soon she met community development consultant Gilda Haas, and she found readier acceptance for her skills than she'd anticipated.

Haas introduced Leavitt to Claudia Moore, Commissioner of the Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles. Moore introduced her to Nora King, president of the Nickerson Gardens Advisory Council. Throughout the country, "there are a lot of women at the forefront of management in relation to housing issues," Leavitt noted, and women leaders are instrumental in current explorations of potential tenant management for Nickerson.

Leavitt initiated an ongoing "studio" project through which her students have learned how Nickerson residents want their project to evolve and have explored ways to facilitate communication between the residents and the Housing Authority. With Nickerson leaders and Shirl Buss, a licensed contractor who is now a UCLA doctoral student in Urban Planning, Leavitt is assisting in the planning and design of several "tot lots," play areas for children, at Nickerson. She sees the tot lot project as a way to improve conditions for youngsters, and also "help in developing community, and encouraging the development of community leaders."

Leavitt has always liked working with architects on planning issues. In 1984, she and architect Troy West won first place for their design of an innovative single parent house at "House of Women," a conference at California State University, Long Beach. Later that year, Leavitt and West won a national competition sponsored by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the National Endowment for the Arts, for their "New American House," which featured child care and in-house office space, along

## The Gender Component

We asked male and female leaders about their perceptions of who became most involved in tenants' associations. Both agreed that women did more work. Even male leaders noted that women often provided the backbone of the organization by doing necessary but less publicly visible organizing....The men in the study spoke most forcefully about how women approached housing differently, how they were more committed to saving their homes, even if the homes seemed almost not worth saving to men....

Our findings fit in with themes that repeat themselves over and over in feminist writing: women handle the daily problems of coping with poverty and crisis routinely but often without acknowledgment of their contributions....Many women understand their lives in terms of commitment to others more frequently than in terms of individual advancement. Social relationships provide the vehicle through which women most often seek to achieve goals. Many evaluate their activities in terms of an ethic of care and commitment. Often women accept work characterized by unending and conflicting demands for attention, work that is never done and often subject to reversals. Men's activities can also be understood along these dimensions, but the vocabulary in which many men describe their experiences highlights other issues: individual achievement, confrontation, completion of tasks, to name but a few.

(From Leavitt, J. & Saegert, S. *From Abandonment to Hope: Community Households in Harlem*. (1990) New York: Columbia University Press.)

with communal living quarters.

Winning the New American House award "opened a lot of doors for me," Leavitt said. A talented public speaker and avid traveler, she's frequently invited to give talks at colleges and conferences around the country. Since joining the UCLA faculty, Leavitt has won additional prizes, including American Planning Association honors for her work on women's issues.

In her leisure hours, she is fond of reading fiction, and she's found ways to integrate novels such as Gloria Naylor's *The Women of Brewster Place* into her classroom discussions. In her spare time she also likes to draw and sketch.

But Leavitt's great passion is writing, thinking, teaching and working to improve communities by bringing women's issues to the forefront. "What I'm always interested in is how to include gender in any kind of architecture, or housing, or urban planning," she said. "That's my agenda."

## WS, CSW Events

The Women's Studies Program will host a T.G.I.F. (Thank Goodness I'm a Feminist) open house on **November 15**, from 4 to 5 p.m. in 240 Kinsey Hall. Students, staff and faculty interested in women's studies are invited to attend.

As part of the Women, Culture, and Society public lecture series co-sponsored by Women's Studies and CSW, on **November 16** poet SDiane Bogus, owner of Women in the Moon Publications of San Francisco, will give a talk on "The Myth and the Tradition of the Black Bulldagger." The talk, co-sponsored by the Center for Afro-American Studies, will be held at 2 p.m. in 158 Haines Hall. In **January** Bonnie Zimmerman, director of the Women's Studies Program at San Diego State University, will also give a talk. Zimmerman is the author of *The Safe Sea of Women: Lesbian Fiction 1969-1989* (Beacon Press, 1990). For details, please call (213) 206-8101.



# Graduate Student News

## An Invitation to Graduate Students

By Julia Wrigley

If you are a graduate student doing gender-related research, we would like to know you. The UCLA Center for the Study of Women is trying to reach one of its most important constituencies: the ever-growing number of students doing research on women.

In many departments, over the years UCLA students and feminist faculty members have exerted enough pressure to make feminist inquiry academically legitimate. In some of the more conservative departments, however, students are still isolated and given the message that their work is non-mainstream and low-status. Whatever your situation, we think you'll benefit from interaction with other students and faculty members who share your interests.

Last year the Center formed a joint student/faculty committee to develop new programs to address the concerns of graduate students. The Center held two programs in 1990-91: a winter quarter panel discussion on current trends in feminist research, and a spring quarter

series of workshops on career issues. This year, we are organizing cross-disciplinary support groups and other events.

The best interchanges often come in an informal atmosphere. This was certainly true on October 28, when a number of graduate students, CSW staff and UCLA faculty gathered at the home of Professor Ellen DuBois (History). For the winter quarter, we're planning a panel discussion on various aspects of funding for graduate students. If you're on our mailing list, you'll receive advance information about this event.

Two types of support groups for graduate students doing feminist research are being formed. A dissertation support group for advanced graduate students in all fields will provide a forum for sharing work in a multi-disciplinary context. Students in earlier stages of their graduate work can share ideas and concerns in an interdisciplinary support group.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups, or if you would like other information about CSW graduate student programs, please contact CSW Programs Director Emily Ooms at (213) 206-1843.

## Grad Student Achievements

**Lisa G. Aspinwall** (Psychology) won a \$5,000 grant from the Spring Foundation for Research on Women in Contemporary Society, to study stress, coping, and well-being in low-income ethnic minority students who are the first in their families to attend college.

**Chris L. Heavey** (Psychology) co-authored a 1990 paper with Prof. Andrew Christensen. The paper, "Gender and Social Structure in the Demand/Withdraw Pattern of Marital Conflict," was published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 59(1):73-81.

**Marci Lobel**, who completed her doctoral work in psychology at UCLA in 1989 after working as co-investigator on the UCLA Stress in Pregnancy Study, is now Assistant Professor of Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The doctoral dissertation of **Marilyn Manners** (Comparative Literature, 1989) was entitled "Samuel Beckett, Sylvia Plath, Hélène Cixous: Reading Woman and the Language of Man."

**Cynthia E. Orozco** (History) published "Getting Started in Chicana Studies" in the Spring/Summer 1990 *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

**Paula Ries** (Education) has been appointed Director of Research at the Women's Research and Education Institute in Washington, D.C.

**Sara Wolf** (Dance) won a regional award at the American College Dance Festival in March for her work, "This Fault of Heaven, This Piece of Pie," a duet with **Gregory A. Johnson** (Dance) exploring the relationship between a middle-aged wife and husband. In April, 1990, Wolf and Johnson also presented their choreographic thesis material in performances throughout Los Angeles.

## International Fellowships Available

UCLA graduate students in the early phases of Ph.D. programs are eligible to apply for an International Predissertation Fellowship Program sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. Applications are due by **January 3, 1991**.

The program is aimed primarily at graduate students in economics, political science and sociology, and is designed to encourage dissertation research in or on Africa, China, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, the Near East, South Asia, or Southeast Asia. Each fellowship provides 12 months of support, including a living stipend and tuition for language training, overseas study and course work in area studies. Applications are available at the Graduate Fellowships

Office, 1228 Murphy Hall, (213) 825-3521.

### Mailing List

Graduate students on CSW's mailing list receive the Center's quarterly newsletter and notices of feminist programs and events, as well as calls for applications for CSW's funding competition. Send your current campus and home addresses and phone numbers to Emily Ooms, 236A Kinsey Hall, Campus 150405.



## Upcoming Conferences

### *Huntington Library Women's Studies Seminar* *Fall, 1990 - Spring, 1991*

This series of free seminars is designed to encourage a continuing dialogue on women's studies. No advance registration is required. Each session begins at 9 a.m. For further information contact Virginia Renner, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA, (818) 405-2190.

- December 1** Intersection of Feminist Research and Public Policy  
**January 19** Cycles of Negative Response to Women's Activism  
**March 2** Japanese Women Authors - Then and Now  
**April 13** Chicana History and Culture

### *How Do We Transform Women's Health Services?* *January 23 - January 26, 1991*

For information about this conference, to be held in Columbus, OH, contact its sponsor, The Elizabeth Blackwell Center at Riverside Methodist Hospital, 3635 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

### *National Network of Women's Caucuses and Committees* *February 22-24, 1991*

The second biennial conference of the National Network of Women's Caucuses and Committees in the Disciplines and Professional Associations will be held in Washington, D.C. For information, call Debra Schultz at the National Council for Research on Women, (212) 570-5001.

### *Women in the 90s: Unified in Diversity* *March 7-10, 1991*

The Association for Women in Psychology will hold its sixteenth national conference in Hartford, CT. The meeting will feature discussions of interest to psychologists, nurses, social workers, psychiatrists, students, women's advocates and political activists. For information contact Joan C. Chrisler, Department of Psychology, Connecticut College, New London, CT 06320, (203) 799-1801.

### *The Canon and Marginality* *May 3-4, 1991*

The State University of New York at Binghamton will sponsor a conference featuring talks about sexual diversity; gender, race and class; children's literature; and repression and alienation. For information contact Prof. Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Romance Languages & Literatures, SUNY, PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000, (607) 777-4635. Abstracts of up to 250 words are being accepted through **December 23**.

### *Detective Fiction and Film*

An interdisciplinary conference in honor of the 100th anniversary of Agatha Christie's birthday is being planned by Hofstra University. Abstract and letters of intent are requested by **December 1**; submission deadline for completed papers is **March 1, 1991**. Contact Athene Collins, Conference Coordinator, (516) 560-5669.

## CSW

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The CSW Newsletter is published by the UCLA Center for the Study of Women, 236A Kinsey Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1504. Telephone: (213) 825-0590. Subscriptions to the Newsletter are available. Regular rates are \$20 for institutions and \$10 for individuals. Please send your address and check, written to "UC Regents," to CSW.

Compiled by Terry Saunders.



# UCLA Publications in Brief

In each issue you will find short descriptions of recent books, articles, and papers on women and gender, authored by UCLA scholars. The wide diversity of subjects reflects the broad interests of the faculty and the breadth of research at UCLA. We would like to include your most recently published work in future issues.

Deadline for the winter, 1990 issue is **January 14, 1991**. Please send a typed or legibly printed description of your article, paper, or book, with complete citation information, to:

Penelope Moffet, Editor  
CSW Newsletter  
236A Kinsey Hall  
Campus 150405

## Emily Abel

Abel, E.K. & Nelson, M.K. (Eds.) (1990) *Circles of Care: Work and Identity in Women's Lives*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Examines the experiences of women providing care to children, displaced persons, the chronically ill, and the frail elderly. UCLA professors Emily Abel, Carole H. Browner, Karen Brodtkin Sacks and Julia Wrigley have written some of the essays included in this volume.

## Helen S. Astin

Astin, H.S. (1990) "Educating Women: A Promise and a Vision for the Future." *American Journal of Education*, 98(4).

Examines the educational and career aspirations of women entering college, identifies trends over time, and draws implications for higher education.

## Erma Dosamantes

Dosamantes, E. "Movement and Psychodynamic Pattern Changes in Long-Term Dance/Movement Therapy Groups." *American Journal of Dance Therapy*, 12:27-44.

Examines shifts in individual and interpersonal movement style, psychodynamics, and perception of the therapist among two groups of female participants in movement therapy groups.

## Lissy Jarvik

Jarvik, L. & Small, G. (1988) *ParentCare: A Commonsense Guide for Adult Children*. New York: Crown.

A guide to assist middle-aged caregivers, who are more often women than men, as they adapt to their parents' decline in today's society.

## S. Barbara Penny Kanner

Kanner, B. (1990) "Autobiographical Writings: Women in English Social History, 1800-1914." *Gender and History*, 2:89-91.

Argues that women's autobiographical writings, both individual and collective, have value as primary documents for social history, women's history and gender studies. Describes the approach, methodology and contents of Kanner's 1987 volume, *Autobiographical Writings*.

## Adeline Nyamathi

Nyamathi, A. & Shin, D.M. (1990) "Designing a Culturally Sensitive AIDS Educational Program for Black and Hispanic Women of Childbearing Age." *NAACOG's Clinical Issues in Perinatal and Women's Health Nursing*, 1(1):86-98.

Outlines methods for designing an AIDS educational program that appropriately addresses the needs of Hispanic and African American women, and provides a list of national resources relating to AIDS for these communities.

## Kathleen Sheldon

Sheldon, K. (1990) "To Guarantee the Implementation of Women's Emancipation as Defined by the Frelimo Party":

The Women's Organization in Mozambique." *Working Papers on Women in International Development*, No. 206, Michigan State University.

Examines the history and policies of the Mozambican women's organization, to gain some understanding of the possibilities and problems concerning female and feminist organizing for power.

## Judith Siegel

Siegel, J.M., Golding, J.M., Stein, J.A., Burnam, M.A. & Sorenson, S.B. (1990) "Reactions to Sexual Assault: A Community Study." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5:229-246.

Examines behavioral and emotional responses to sexual assault among a community-based sample of women and men.

## Emma Lewis Thomas

Thomas, E.L. (1990) "I Throw Her in the Air." (performance)

A modern dance/performance art duet showing the relationship between a young man and an older woman, part of a suite of duets and solo pieces conceived by M.F.A. candidate Robert Allen. The suite was performed September 4-5, and will be presented again at Schoenberg Hall in February, 1991.

## Nan Van Den Bergh

Van Den Bergh, N. (Ed.) (1990) *Feminist Perspectives on Addictions*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

Looks at the broad range of addictive behaviors including alcoholism, drug dependence, eating disorders, compulsive gambling, compulsive sexuality, and relationships. A feminist analysis of addiction's cause is presented, as well as suggestions for treatment.





## Friends of the Center for the Study of Women

By Bea Mandel

The Friends of CSW concluded another successful year with their annual dinner in June honoring the eminent UCLA scholar, Marija Gimbutas (Archaeology, Indo-European Studies). Noted editor Jean Stone introduced Gimbutas. The Wollstonecraft Prize, funded by Penny and Ed Kanner, was presented to Nancy A. Matthews (Sociology) for her outstanding dissertation on the anti-rape movement in Los Angeles (please see story on back page). The Center's graduate student fund was also launched with year-end gifts from the Kanners, Joan Palevsky, and other donors.

The new academic year promises to be exciting for the Friends. Program Vice-President Sallie O'Neill has lined up a superb series of presentations for members and their guests. (Please see accompanying listing.) Membership Vice-President Charlotte Georgi and Treasurer Wendy Kohn join with me in encouraging you to renew your membership today, and to place these events on your calendar. With budget crunches throughout the university, your support is needed. We greatly value your participation.

CSW is unique in the nine-campus UC system as the only research center devoted to work on women and gender. Your membership will include not only invitations to the Friends' programs, but to other campus and CSW-sponsored events. Upcoming events include scholarly conferences on the construction of gender and sexuality in Asia, and on the empowerment of poor women in Latin America.

For further information, please call Bea Mandel, President, at (213) 474-2902 or Millie Loeb, CSW Assistant to the Director, at (213) 206-1844.

## Promotions, Appointments and Honors

**Erma Dosamantes** (Dance) presented her research, "An Object Relations Perspective of Movement Therapy: The Relationship of Psychoanalytic Theory to the Practice of Movement Therapy," in an invited workshop in Paris, France in July, 1990.

**Christine Dunkel-Schetter** (Psychology), principal investigator of the UCLA Stress in Pregnancy Study, presented research she conducted with **Susan Scrimshaw** (Public Health and Anthropology) and former graduate student **Marci Lobel** (Psychology) at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in August, 1990.

**S. Barbara Penny Kanner** presented a paper, "Challenging Victorian Stereotypes Through British Women's Autobiographies," at a symposium, "The Construction of Sex/Gender: What is a Feminist Perspective?" in October, 1990 in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Jerome Rabow** (Sociology) was selected to serve on the Board of the California Sociological Practice Association for 1990-92.

**Greg Sarris** (English) was awarded both a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship and an Institute of American Cultures Grant for 1990-91.

**Debora Silverman** (History) has been awarded a UC President's Fellowship for 1990-91. In addition, Silverman's book, *Art Nouveau in Fin-de-Siecle France: Politics, Psychology and Style* was named "Best Book of 1989 by a Woman Historian" by the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians.

**Ronald S. Swerdloff** (Medicine) was plenary lecturer at the National Academy of Medicine conference in Mexico City in July, 1990. His lecture was entitled "Contraception — New Approaches in the Male."

**Joanna Woods-Marsden** (Art History) was awarded a summer, 1990 stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## 1990-91 Friends Events

The Friends of CSW are sponsoring a number of special events in 1990-91. The first event, held on September 12, featured Mitzi Myers (Writing Programs), CSW Research Scholar and Guggenheim Fellow, speaking about *The Relationship Between Children's Literature and Women's Development: A Personal Odyssey*. The talk was chaired by Laura Levy. These Friends events are upcoming:

### *Women in Career Transition*

**November 15, 7:30 p.m.**, 2343 AGSM  
Moderator: Fran F. Spears, Associate Dean, UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management

Panel: Caroline W. Nahas, Managing Partner, Korn Ferry International; Dawn O. Prebula, Catering Director, American Golf Corporation; Bylle K. Snyder, Senior Vice President, Drake Beam Morin, Inc.

Chair: Sallie O'Neill

### *The Anti-Aging Industry and its Impact on Women Over 40*

**March 18, 1991, 7:30 p.m.**, location TBA  
Speaker: Glenda Wina, Author and Health News Reporter

Moderator: Helen S. Astin (Education), Acting Director, Center for the Study of Women

Chair: Georgia Mercer

### *The Women Who Choose Political Careers*

**Early May**, time and location TBA  
Speaker: Carole Pateman (Political Science)

Respondent: A noted woman politician  
Chair: Rosalind Loring

Membership in the Friends is available at several levels: UCLA faculty, administration, staff (\$50); Student (\$20); Friend (\$150); Associate (\$250); Sponsor (\$500); and Director's Circle (\$1,000). Write tax deductible checks to "UCLA Foundation," and send to CSW, 236A Kinsey Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1504.



# Study Of Anti-Rape Movement Wins 1990 Wollstonecraft Award

By Millie Loeb and Julia Wrigley

The UCLA Center for the Study of Women awarded its 1990 Mary Wollstonecraft Prize to Nancy A. Matthews (Sociology) for her dissertation on the Los Angeles anti-rape movement. The dissertation, "Stopping Rape or Managing its Consequences? State Intervention and Feminist Resistance in the Los Angeles Anti-Rape Movement, 1972-1987," offers a first-hand look at how rape crisis centers changed from protest organizations to social service providers.

When Matthews decided to study rape crisis centers, she faced a paucity of written records. She utilized the limited archival resources available, but obtained most of her data through intensive interviews with center administrators, counselors, and organizers. Through this research, Matthews captured the history of the rape crisis centers, and also portrayed the hopes and goals of the women who made the centers happen. These activists sought to redefine rape — often seen as a shameful experience in the lives of individual women — as an assault on all women.

The centers were born in the heady days of the early, radical feminist movement, but they survived and changed in the more conservative environment of the 1980s. Nearly all the centers, run on shoe-string budgets, ultimately applied for and received state funding. In a compelling sociological analysis, Matthews shows how the shift to state funding led the centers away from their collectivist feminist roots. The centers gradually became bureaucratic and conventional, operating within the framework of governmental regulations and political constraints. In Matthews' view, the centers' histories demonstrate the state's flexibility in allowing feminist ideas but limiting their practice to the individual level. Personal therapy, rather than collective action, became the paradigm for change.

Matthews' dissertation is sensitive to issues of class and race. Rape crisis centers run by African American and Latina women face problems and challenges different from those run by middle-class white women. She shows that the pressures toward bureaucracy were not straightforward, but were refracted through class and ethnic relations as well as through relations with the state. Her dissertation not only preserves the history of some of the most important institutions of the feminist movement, but makes an important theoretical contribution to our understanding of how state money and legitimacy can redirect grassroots social movements.

Each spring the Center for the Study of Women presents the Mary Wollstonecraft Prize for an outstanding dissertation that concerns women or gender and that makes use of historical materials and methods. The \$1,000 award has been established by the Ed and Barbara Penny Kanner Endowed Fund. Penny Kanner is a CSW Research Scholar whose work focuses on British women's history. This award is designed to make doctoral research on women more visible, and to assist students at a critical stage in their careers.

Matthews' dissertation was selected by a committee of three Center faculty: Kathryn Norberg (History), Chair; Nicky Hart (Sociology); and Katherine King (Classics, Comparative Literature). Bill Roy (Sociology) chaired Matthews' dissertation committee.

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