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Center for the Study of Women Newsletter

Winter 1991

Gender and Sexuality in Asia

By Emily Ooms, Francesca Bray and Alison Yeung

Writing about women and sexuality in Asia has a history that is inseparable from Western imperialism and Orientalism, in which the Asian (usually female) "other" is romanticized, exoticized, and subordinated to the interests of the Western (usually male) "self." Any effort to understand issues of gender and sexuality in Asia must acknowledge this history of racism, sexism, and domination, and be sensitive to how Orientalism continues to influence Western academic discourse on Asia.

In "Constructions of Gender and Sexuality in East and Southeast Asia," a December, 1990 interdisciplinary workshop (co-sponsored by the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and the UCLA Center for Pacific Rim Studies, and funded by the UC Systemwide Pacific Rim Research Program), 20 Asian and Western scholars conducting research on women confronted these difficult issues.

To do this, workshop participants found it necessary to break through the formal conventions and detached arguments of academic conference etiquette. Affirming personal experience and political realities, the scholars engaged in passionate debates about the meaning of gender and sexual experience in the Asian context and examined unspoken assumptions of Western academic and feminist perspectives. Both Asianist and non-Asianist scholars participated.

Discussion of pre-distributed research papers served as the point of departure for these debates. In the introductory session, Helen Hardacre (Asian/International Studies, Griffith University, Australia) and

Lenore Manderson (Tropical Health/Anthropology, University of Queensland Medical School, Australia) attempted a comprehensive critique of Western representations of Asian sexuality, to establish a basis for more objective and reflexive analysis.

Julia Suryakusuma, an Indonesian freelance writer, described how the extremely repressive Indonesian state creates and employs an ideology of gender and sexuality to control its civil servants and their wives through bureaucratic regulations and organizations. Mariko Tamanoi (Anthropology, University of Iowa) explored how women workers in Japanese silk-reeling factories at the turn of the

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Political Economy of Gender in the Middle East

By Sondra Hale

The first of two linked workshops on the Political Economy of Gender, "Women and Health in the Middle East" was held at UCLA on November 2, 1990. Sponsored by the Gustave E. von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, the presentations are being funded through an Andrew Mellon Foundation grant.

On April 12-13 the second workshop, "Women, Work, and Power in the Middle East" will be co-sponsored by the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and the von Grunebaum Center.

In the fall workshop, a philosophical/ideological split between two groups of political economists emerged. One group critiqued international agencies for controlling from the outside which health problems are tackled in the Middle East; members of this group indicated that, given the strictures placed on international health agencies' funds, it might be better to refuse such grant money. Scholars in the second group gave priority to women's reproductive health, making women, rather than the political economic context, central to their argument. They gave the highest priority to utilizing any available funding resources to save women's lives, even if these sources are flawed.

The fall event consisted of two panels and a round table discussion. In the first session, chaired by Afaf Marsot (History, UCLA), Soheir Morsy (Visiting Scholar

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Wollstonecraft Prize Nominations Sought

Nominations are presently being accepted for the 1991 CSW-sponsored Mary Wollstonecraft Prize for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation that is focused on women or gender issues, and that makes use of historical materials and methods. This award is designed to make doctoral research on women and gender more visible and to assist students at a critical stage in their careers.

The Wollstonecraft Prize is an endowed grant established through the generous donation of S. Barbara Penny and Ed Kanner. Penny Kanner is a CSW Research Scholar and member of the Friends of CSW. Nominations are welcome for individuals in any field. Past awards have been given to graduate students from the departments of Sociology and Theater Arts, and to the writer of an individual dissertation (history and literature). Each year, \$1,000 is awarded.

UCLA faculty can nominate graduate students who have completed their dissertations since January, 1990 or will receive their doctorates by June 30, 1991. Nominations should include a letter of nomination from the Dissertation Chair or Committee; a one-page, single-spaced

dissertation abstract; the candidate's vita; and one copy of a substantial segment of the dissertation. All submissions should be sent under one cover to Wollstonecraft, 236A Kinsey Hall, CAMPUS 150405. Nomination packages must be received by **May 1, 1991**. A three-person committee will review nominations, and the award will be announced this summer.

For further information, please call Emily Ooms, CSW Director of Programs, at (213) 206-1843.

CSW Staff Changes

On February 1, 1991 CSW Assistant to the Director Millie Loeb began a new position as Assistant Director at the USC Center for International Studies. Center staff would like to thank Millie for her many contributions to the Center, including helping CSW develop its community outreach, research grants and administration capabilities. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.

Feminist Artists

The UCLA Center for the Study of Women is interested in including line drawings and cartoons by feminist artists in the Newsletter. Please send work samples to Penelope Moffet, Editor, CSW, 236A Kinsey Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1504.

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Cooperative Column

As space allows, future issues of the CSW Newsletter will include a column through which CSW scholars can share information, and make requests for information, about research resources (such as bibliographies, letters, etc.). If you have an item or request of this kind, please send it to Newsletter, Center for the Study of Women, 236A Kinsey Hall, CAMPUS 150405. Deadline for the spring, 1991 issue is **March 25**.

UCLA Women's Week

March 4 - 8, 1991

Women's Week will be celebrated at UCLA March 4-8, 1991, and will be coordinated by the Women's Studies Program. March 8 is widely honored as International Women's Day, to recognize the history of working women's struggles around the world. Since 1987, the month of March has also been celebrated as National Women's History Month.

Schedule of Events

March 4

"Exploring Intersections of Race and Gender in Violence against Women of Color" (lecture)
Professor Kim Crenshaw

4:30 p.m., 158 Haines Hall

Sponsored by Center for Afro-American Studies

March 5

"With Babies and Banners" (film)

Noon, 3508 Ackerman Union

Sponsored by Women's Resource Center

"Women's Perspectives on War" (forum)

2 p.m., 162 Dodd Hall

Co-sponsored by Radical Student Alliance,
UCLA Alliance to Stop the War

March 6

"Union Maids" (film)

Noon, 2408 Ackerman Union

Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center

"Educational Equity for Girls and Women" (lecture)

Reception for AAUW graduate student fellowship recipients

4 p.m., Hacienda Room, Faculty Center

Co-sponsored by AAUW, Women's Studies,
Center for the Study of Women

March 7

"Three Voices/Three Visions" (poetry reading)

Amy Uyematsu, Akilah Nayo Oliver, Eloise Klein Healy

4 p.m. program, 5 p.m. reception, Law 2448

Co-sponsored by Center for the Study of Women,
Women's Studies

March 8

"Invisibility Blues: Race, Gender and Cultural Resistance" (lecture)

Michele Wallace

Noon, 121 Dodd Hall

Co-sponsored by Center for Afro-American Studies,
Women's Studies, Center for the Study of Women, Film and Theater

"The Cutting Edge of Narrative Boundaries:

Incised Woman/Excised Women" (lecture)

Mary N. Layoun

2 p.m., 236 Royce Hall

Co-sponsored by French Department, von Grunebaum Center
for Near Eastern Studies, Center for the Study of Women,
Comparative Literature Department

All events are free and open to the public; parking is \$4.

Women's Perspectives on the War

A forum, "Women's Perspectives on the War," will be held at 2 p.m. on **March 5** in 162 Dodd Hall.

Organized by the Radical Student Alliance and the UCLA Alliance to Stop the War, the forum will explore the possibilities and forms of women's participation in the anti-war movement in regard to the Gulf War. Speakers include Ellen DuBois (History), who will give an historical overview of women in pacifist movements, and Margaret Prescod of Wages for Housework. Christine Choi Ahmed will discuss her recent visit to the Occupied Territories and her interviews with Palestinian women in the region. Other speakers will also participate. For more information, please call (213) 206-8101.

Writers Speak at Women's Week Events

Three poets and one essayist will give public presentations of their work as part of UCLA's 1991 Women's Week celebration.

On **March 7**, "Three Voices/Three Visions" will feature poets Eloise Klein Healy, Akilah Nayo Oliver and Amy Uyematsu reading at 4 p.m. in Law Building 2448. The poetry reading will be followed by a 5 p.m. reception.

Eloise Klein Healy is an assistant professor in the School of Humanities and coordinator of the Women's Studies Program at CSU Northridge. Healy's fourth book of poems, *Artemis in Echo Park*, will be published by Firebrand Books in April. Akilah Nayo Oliver is artist-in-residence at the Beyond Baroque Foundation, where she teaches multicultural performance art and African American literature workshops. Oliver works with the Los Angeles Poverty Department (LAPD), a group of artists who visit homeless shelters in different cities. Amy Uyematsu earned a B.A. in mathematics and an M.A. in Education from UCLA, where she also worked with the Asian American Studies Program. Her poems have been published in many magazines. She presently teaches mathematics at Grant High School in Van Nuys.

On **March 8**, Michele Wallace will discuss her recent book, *Invisibility Blues: From Pop to Theory* in 121 Dodd Hall at noon. Wallace is an assistant professor of English and Women's Studies at the City College of New York and author of *Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman*. Wallace's new book contains essays about her Harlem girlhood and early adulthood, culture and history in the literature of African American writers and problems within contemporary academic accounts of race and gender.

Prenatal Diagnostic Testing: How Women Decide

By Carole H. Browner
and Nancy Ann Press

In 1986, California became the first state in the nation to require that a voluntary prenatal diagnostic test be offered to every woman enrolled in prenatal care. The Alpha Feto-Protein (AFP) test, performed on a maternal blood sample, screens primarily for neural tube defects (malformations of the fetus's brain and spine) and can also sometimes detect Down's Syndrome. There is no remedy for the vast majority of conditions the AFP test can reveal. This means that women who receive abnormal diagnoses must either continue their pregnancies with full knowledge of a defect, or terminate them.

Our research was designed to explore the considerations pregnant women take into account when deciding whether to undergo AFP testing. We were particularly interested in the impact of religiosity, ethnicity, and social class, and in the role health care providers might play in shaping women's decisions. For the pilot phase of our project, we interviewed 35 Catholic lower and middle-class Mexican American and non-Hispanic white women. All were patients at a Los Angeles-area health maintenance agency (HMO).

We conducted lengthy, open-ended interviews to ask the women about self-care and medical care during pregnancy, prior knowledge about and experiences with prenatal diagnostic testing, and attitudes on subjects we thought might influence their feelings about prenatal testing, such as their views about disability, genetic disease, and voluntary abortion.

We soon discovered that 90% of our informants were agreeing to the AFP test. This rate is comparable to other California HMOs, but far higher than aggregate statistics compiled by the state which show that in 1989, only 60% of eligible women underwent AFP testing. We were also surprised to find that rates of AFP-test acceptance in our study population did not vary significantly by ethnicity, social class, or religiosity. However, we did find that women who are less acculturated to mainstream U.S. society were significantly more likely than others to refuse AFP testing.

We are now seeking to determine why the women in our study, and at other California HMOs, are far more likely to agree to the AFP test than are women who receive prenatal care elsewhere. We feel that several factors are involved. In part, we suspect that the HMO mode of service, where fees for prenatal care include the cost of AFP testing, has a positive influence on women's decisions to take the test.

Other dynamics may also influence the decisions. Observations we conducted during 35 prenatal intakes at the HMO revealed that the test was only briefly described, with the procedural aspects of obtaining it emphasized rather than the conditions it screens for or their developmental consequences. Efforts to minimize anxiety about the test (e.g., "It's just a prick in the arm") and to legitimate it (e.g., "This is a government screening program") were prominent. In addition, the test was usually discussed in the same segment of the intake as required routine testing for maternal conditions such as diabetes, thereby making the AFP seem more ordinary.

Finally, our preliminary data indicate that women regard the AFP test much as they regard other prenatal care: they hope it will reassure them that their pregnancies are proceeding normally. Few think beyond this when they agree to AFP testing. When we explored with the women the possibility that the test could reveal that their pregnancies were defective, most said that this would be useful information, although they had no intention of terminating their pregnancies. In reality, 80% of women who receive positive AFP diagnoses for non-remediable conditions do decide to abort. We explore this paradox in our paper, "The Politics of Disclosure in Prenatal Diagnostic Testing," which was presented at the 1990 Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. We will further examine this paradox, and other aspects of the routinization of prenatal diagnostic testing, during the next phase of data collection, which began in January, 1991.

Professor Carole H. Browner (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences; Anthropology) and Research Anthropologist Nancy A. Press (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences) are conducting their research through UCLA's Mental Retardation Research Center. Copies of "The Politics of Disclosure" are available from the authors, upon request.

On March 5, CSW Affiliated Scholar Dorene Ludwig will give a presentation about eliminating sexual harassment. Noon, 314 Royce Hall. For further information, call Gwen Hendrix at (213) 825-9603.

Research on Women and Gender: A Directory of UC Scholars will be available in late spring. The nine-campus directory lists approximately 500 scholars doing work on women and gender at all nine UC campuses. Research statements and publication citations accompany names, telephones and addresses. Substantial indexes make it easier to locate scholars doing particular kinds of work, and an introductory section provides information about women's programs throughout the UC system. The directory was compiled by the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and the UC Council of Women's Programs. Information on how to order the book will be included in the spring, 1991 CSW Newsletter.

Book Review: Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory

Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory by Nancy J. Chodorow (1989) New Haven, CT: Yale University Press

By Mitzi Myers

The dust jacket of *Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory* playfully suggests the study's content and context. All the letters are white except for the fleshy orange of "feminism" and the "o" in the author's last name. The color irresistibly links the movement and the vaginal symbol, suggesting that theory emerges from woman's distinctive bodily experience. The backdrop is a sensible academic hue, a discreet dark teal.

Nancy Chodorow's *The Reproduction of Mothering* (1978) must surely be a top contender for the feminist work most cited in the 1980s. References to her psychological anthropology (often bracketed with Carol Gilligan's 1982 *In a Different Voice*) punctuate recent studies in virtually every field of feminist endeavor. Chodorow's work fueled interest in psychoanalytic feminism, especially by offering a model of female selfhood as different rather than deficient. According to Chodorow, the selves of women tend to be constructed relationally and involved with boundary negotiations; male autonomy, in contrast, is predicated on a difficult distancing from the mother, and thus tends toward denial of the self-other connection so important to women. Though Chodorow's work has been faulted for ahistoricism and inattention to the linguistic structures through which selves are articulated, it provided a model that scholars of many persuasions could elaborate. Consequently, Chodorow (and Gilligan) have become the "empirical" Americans frequently contrasted with French theorists.

Chodorow's new book is therefore important. This isn't really a new study, however, but a collection of previously published essays from 1971 on, thematized in three sections and located within the author's career and within the developing field of psychoanalytic feminism. Part I, "The Significance of Women's Mothering for Gender Personality and Gender Relations," contains "The Fantasy of the Perfect Mother" (written with Susan Contratto), an essay that remains particularly pertinent, given the mother-bashing that still turns up in both popular and scholarly texts. A 1986 essay on relational individualism, a thoughtful grappling with "selfhood" in the postmodern age, is among the pieces reprinted in Part II, "Gender, Self, and Social Theory." Part III, "Psychoanalysis, Psychoanalysts, and Feminism," indicates Chodorow's increasing passion for psychoanalysis itself — she speaks of her relationship with her subject as falling in love, "being hooked."

In her introduction to the book, Chodorow gives credit to women like Karen Horney and Melanie Klein for their contributions toward the field. She also describes how she came to the object-relations theory that grounds her own revisionist project,

and explains how her thinking has changed on certain points since her famous earlier book. In a way, her collection of diverse essays from different periods — a popular strategy with many feminist scholars just now — testifies to her desire for a "multiplex" feminist theory, not monocausal but "more holistic and pluralistic." The introduction is thoughtful and, like Chodorow's best work, readable even when she deals with technicalities.

Unfortunately, what should be the most interesting piece seems to me not the strongest. "Psychoanalytic Feminism and the Psychoanalytic Psychology of Women," apparently the only essay composed specifically for this collection, is an attempt to make sense of the burgeoning publications, groups, and subgroups that have emerged since Chodorow's work helped make psychoanalytic feminism possible. As she struggles to summarize positions divergent from, and often critical of, her own, Chodorow's tone grows increasingly beleaguered. The essay culminates in a tart aside suggesting the lowly psychoanalytic practitioner may be doing more good than the elegantly trendy (and jargon-ridden) postmodern theorist.

The essay's intent is valuable indeed, but a whole book would be needed for a true overview of how psychoanalytic feminism is affecting the various disciplines. Oddly, although Chodorow cites revolutionary new studies based on mother-infant interaction and its effect on the emergent self, the human sense of identity, and the earliest stages of language formation — for example, Daniel N. Stern's *The Impersonal World of the Infant* (1985) — she doesn't really bring those findings to bear as she grapples with such recent theorizing as Lacanianism. Yet Stern's work (and the work of similar researchers) has implications for gender, language, and mothering.

Chodorow's collection demonstrates again her strengths, but shows that for historicizing selfhood, and for attending to its mediation through language, we still need to seek out other scholarship. We know that Chodorow's theories of mothering work beautifully with certain periods of history, as in the 19th-century female world of love and ritual depicted in the initial issue of *Signs*, but we need more historically and culturally situated work. It would be regrettable if Chodorow's love affair with psychoanalysis alienated her from the kinds of comparative analysis she is so well-equipped to do.

Mitzi Myers, a CSW Research Scholar, is a lecturer in the UCLA Writing Programs and the English Department. Her current research focuses on 19th-century women writers of children's literature.

The American Woman, 1990-91: A Status Report has been published by the Women's Research and Education Institute. The book pays special attention to the experiences of women of color, and to progress and pitfalls encountered by women in housing, employment, business and the arts. \$12.95, postage included. Write to WREI, 1700 18th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Immigrant Women, Lesbian Literature Highlighted in Feminist Research Seminar

By Lynn Naliboff

Undocumented immigrant women from Mexico and Central America are among the most oppressed and exploited members of our society. In addition to being low-income women of color, they lack legal status and face a formidable language barrier. However, according to CSW Affiliated Scholar Marta Lopez-Garza (Sociology, CSU Los Angeles), these women are not just passive victims of Los Angeles' urban economy.

In the first session of the UCLA Center for the Study of Women's 1990-91 Feminist Research Seminar, Lopez-Garza discussed her research, which involves the reconceptualization of women's work. Building on a 1986 study in which she interviewed 232 immigrant women from Mexico and Central America, she plans to document women's activities, including wage-work and unpaid activities. In examining the often "invisible" work performed by female immigrants, Lopez-Garza hopes to gauge the degree to which Los Angeles and its institutions are managed and altered by these women. She will also look at the effects on immigrant women of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

Discussion at the seminar touched on theoretical dilemmas inherent in the research, including ways in which classical Marxist theory and feminist theory conflict when examining the class and gender components of relationships between immigrant women and the middle-class women who employ them. In addition, methodological and research design questions were addressed.

In a later session of the seminar, Lillian Faderman (English; Women's Studies) presented a talk entitled "What is Lesbian Literature?" She pointed out that until the 1970s, most books presented lesbians as either congenital anomalies or exotic demons. However, with the rise of feminism, and lesbian feminism in particular, many books began presenting lesbians in a positive light.

Faderman said she is "personally grateful for the lesbian literature" published in the last two decades. However, she added, the new writers are largely engaged in the same old debate about lesbianism. Their novels, which depict lesbians as strong, brave, intelligent amazons, are no more subtle than the old works. Faderman feels that style, symbolism, and character complexity have become secondary to political and social messages in much recent lesbian literature.

Participants questioned Faderman's distinction between "political" and "literary" works. Faderman said she judges a novel's literary merit by whether the work stands up to frequent rereadings. To broaden the scope and quality of the lesbian literary canon, Faderman argues for the inclusion of writers such as Virginia Woolf and Willa Cather, whose works have not been recognized as "lesbian." Works whose lesbian content has been "encoded" should also be included in the canon, she said.

Faderman hopes for literature in which the lesbian can be seen as a metaphor for the human condition, with all of humanity's foibles and problems. Some seminar participants pointed out that it will be a while before the lesbian community — and the straight world — are ready for such literature.

During the winter quarter, two more sessions of the Feminist Research Seminar were held. Andrea Rapkin (Obstetrics and Gynecology) talked about "When Biomedical Research Has Political Consequences: The Case of Premenstrual Syndrome." Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell (L.A. Jewish Feminist Center; CSW Affiliated Scholar) discussed "Exploring the Feminist Challenge to Judaism: The Case of the Book of Esther." These sessions will be more fully described in the spring issue of the Newsletter.

On April 16, Brenda Stevenson (History) will present "Female Slaves' Gender Convention and Their Convictions about Slave-Holding Women," and on May 14 Kathryn Norberg (History) will discuss "Prostitution in Revolutionary France."

The CSW Feminist Research Seminar provides an informal context for interdisciplinary discussion of current feminist scholarship. Membership in the seminar is open to UCLA faculty, graduate students, affiliated researchers, and other interested scholars. For a small fee, members receive background readings in advance of each session. For more information, call Lynn Naliboff, CSW Programs Coordinator, (213) 206-8627.

Research Grants

The Institute of American Cultures, in collaboration with the ethnic studies centers, invites applications for support of research on African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans or Chicanos. Faculty, students and others are invited to submit proposals. Deadline for 1991-92 projects is **March 31, 1991**. Preference is given to projects in the social sciences, arts and humanities. For information and application forms, contact the appropriate ethnic center: N. Cherie Francis, Center for Afro-American Studies, (213) 206-8009; Anthony Brown, American Indian Studies Center, (213) 825-7315; Enrique dela Cruz, Asian American Studies Center, (213) 825-2974; or Maria Cuevas, Chicano Studies Research Center, (213) 825-2364.

Support Groups

A support group for female faculty members is being formed through the Staff and Faculty Service Center. Several other support groups are also being formed: for all campus women; for people who have friends and family affected by the Middle East crisis; for parents; for pre-retirement faculty. Contact Nan Van Den Bergh, Service Center Director, at 825-8489.

Asia...

(Continued from page 1)

century resisted the imposition of state ideologies of gender by composing songs and stories which extolled a very different sense of their bodies and experiences as women.

Vivienne Wee (Sociology, National University of Singapore) explicitly addressed the relationship between sexuality and otherness, showing how the exoticization of the Asian "other" necessarily involves political and cultural domination. In her analysis of prostitution in Thailand, Penny Van Esterik (Anthropology, York University, Canada) supported this view, noting that the privileging of sexuality in Western definitions of gender identity is done at the expense, ironically, of a deeper awareness of the body.

Hardacre looked at the relationship between cultural constructions of gender and individual constructions of gender identity. Her paper focused on the 20th-century woman founder of a Japanese religion who manipulated conventional gender norms to establish her own authority, while continuing to uphold conventional norms for her followers.

Manderson, analyzing Bangkok sex shows, argued that prostitution enables Thai women to fulfill economic obligations as daughters and wives without threatening their self-esteem or the structure of traditional social relationships. "For them, the body and its sexual expression in work is a means of production rather than a mirror to the self," she suggested. Raising the crucial issue of cultural context, Laurel Kendall (Associate Curator, American Museum of Natural History) focused on the performances of Korean shamans. What strikes Western observers as "sexual" in the ecstatic dances of these women is not seen as such by Korean observers, she noted.

Francesca Bray (Anthropology, UCLA), in her study of abortion practices in early modern China, found that the ability to raise children successfully was as fundamental as fecundity to the achievement of ideal womanhood. Abortion was therefore a strongly contested issue among women vying for power within the Chinese extended family.

Looking at contemporary family planning policy in Korea, Eun-shil Kim (Medical Anthropology, UC San Francisco/Berkeley) discussed how both men and women have accepted the view promulgated by the state that small family size is essential to national modernization and a family's prosperity. However, free access to birth control in Korea has not liberated women from their subordination within the patriarchal family and state.

Charlotte Furth (History, USC) and Chueh Chang (Women's Research Program, National Taiwan University) both looked at menstruation in contemporary Taiwan. In her investigation of the meanings of menarche for educators, mothers, and their pubescent daughters, Chang argued that although this proof of sexuality seems to embarrass most older women, it should be a positive element in a young woman's identity formation.

Western participants discussed the need to rid their work of Orientalist assumptions; Asian scholars educated in the West confessed their fear of colluding with the orientalizing "self."

Furth explored the changes which modernization has brought in women's physical and social experiences of menstruation, and provided new insights into menstrual symbolism in Chinese culture. Siriporn Chirawatkul (Nursing, Khon Kaen University, Thailand) described how rural Thai women experience menopause as the appropriate fading away of inconveniences associated with fertility, but medical practitioners now identify the same symptoms as indicating reproductive dysfunction requiring medical intervention.

Throughout the workshop, discussants Carole Browner (Anthropology/Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA), Chungmoo Choi (Anthropology, UC Santa Barbara), Sondra Hale (Anthropology/Women's Studies, UCLA), Louise Krasniewicz (Anthropology,

UCLA), Iris Lopez (Anthropology, UCLA), Marcyliena Morgan (Anthropology, UCLA), Miriam Silverberg (History, UCLA), and Mayfair Yang (Anthropology, UC Santa Barbara) focused attention on critical theoretical problems and points of cross-cultural comparison.

One issue that generated heated debate involved the notion of "sexuality" itself. Is it useful or even legitimate to impose a notion of sexuality developed in the West on the experience of Asian women? An equivalent term does not exist in most Asian languages. In the West today, sexuality is usually viewed as an individual preference, but in most communities in Asia it is not perceived as a category of experience separate from the "rest" of one's life. Some argued that it would be more appropriate to establish a continuum of bodily function, experience, and consciousness through which the individual's gender/sexual identity is constructed. Everyone agreed, however, on the importance of placing sexuality in its broader social, cultural, and political context. The failure to do so leads to intellectual voyeurism in the "best" Orientalist tradition.

On the final day of the workshop, participants spoke frankly and movingly about the personal experiences which led them to devote themselves to the study of Asian women. All emphasized the responsibility they feel toward the women they study. Western participants discussed the need to rid their work of the Orientalist assumptions implicit in research on Asia, and Asian scholars educated in the West confessed their fear of colluding with the orientalizing "self." All criticized the detached and distancing stance inherent in academic discourse, for in the study of women and sexuality the tendency is to render impersonal that which is most personal, and to fragment the unified subject. Perhaps feminism as an academic perspective cannot save us from these negative consequences, but as a political commitment it forces us to identify and resolve them.

Emily Ooms is CSW's Director of Programs; Francesca Bray is a UCLA professor of Anthropology; Alison Yeung is a graduate student in the UCLA History Department.

Vilma Ortiz: Documenting Latino Lives

By Penelope Moffet

As a child, Vilma Ortiz began observing the dynamics among different ethnic groups living in close proximity in New York City. The daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants, "I thought a lot about my position relative to other people and other groups," she said.

"I went to a school where 90% of the kids were minority, and most of them were Puerto Rican, and all of the teachers were white. Everyone in authority was from a different background, and there was very little understanding of Puerto Rican culture. I was also aware that the storeowners in my community were white."

Now a UCLA associate professor of sociology who studies Latino issues and heads the Chicano Studies administrative committee, Ortiz has moved a long way from her childhood environment. Yet, she said, "My experiences growing up in a poor Puerto Rican community in New York — that's really what fuels my interest in examining the disadvantaged positions of Latinos in society."

She has published papers about language background and literacy among Latino young adults, childbearing and fertility among young Latinas, changes in Puerto Rican immigrant characteristics over 25 years, characteristics of Latinas participating in the U.S. labor force, and related topics. Her writing is always based on a careful analysis of existing data from sources such as surveys and censuses. She hopes in future to conduct some surveys of her own in Los Angeles. "I'm not interested in statistics in and of itself, I'm just interested in being able to say something reliably about my community," she said.

How Latinas achieve social position is often a key question in Ortiz' research. In a 1983 paper, "Nativity, National Origin, and Hispanic Female Participation in the Labor Force" (*Social Science Quarterly*, 64(3):510-523), Ortiz and co-author Rosemary S. Cooney found that "the process of integration into the work force may be qualitatively different for women born in the United States and for those born elsewhere — a possibility that earlier research has largely ignored." Reexamining data others collected, the authors found that Cuban and Mexican women immigrants held jobs much more often than did Puerto Rican women immigrants, that members of all these groups worked more in areas where low-income jobs were plentiful, and that English-language proficiency seemed the largest single factor affecting foreign-born Latinas' participation in the work force. In contrast, the authors noted, native-born Latinas' work force participation was much more influenced by years of schooling in the U.S. than by English-language proficiency.

In a 1989 paper, co-authors Katherine Fennelly, Vasantha Kandiah and Ortiz examined varying definitions of marriage in order to compare the nonmarital fertility among young Latinas ("The Cross-Cultural Study of Fertility among His-



Photograph by Philip Channing

panic Adolescents in the Americas," *Studies in Family Planning*, 20(2):96-101). The authors point out that censuses, surveys, and registration systems fail to take into account different cultures' definitions of marriage. Because marital status in pregnancy has strong social and legal implications for a woman and her child, it's important that U.S. analysts perceive that consensual marriages are considered legitimate in much of Latin America. Such definitions of marriage can also be applied to Latina immigrants to the U.S. "What is most striking [among foreign-born Latinas] is the low percentage of mothers among women who have never been consensually or legally married," the authors note.

"We use a U.S. standard in evaluating everyone else," Ortiz said, but in looking at other cultures, "the U.S. standard may not work very well. All those perceptions on the part of the U.S. mainstream create problems between mainstream society and Latino communities, and also between mainstream society and many other groups."

Ortiz' current work focuses on Latinos in both New York and California. "I'm very interested in immigration, in examining how immigrants get integrated, and that comes from being in Los Angeles," she said. "The immigrant population is so big." Her New York research concerns "how changes in the decline of manufacturing have had a negative effect on the Puerto Rican community — high rates of unemployment, high rates of poverty. It's important

(Please turn to page 9)

Ortiz...

(Continued from page 8)

because Puerto Ricans came to New York to work in the garment industry, and that's an economic niche from which they've been displaced.

"In Los Angeles, what's interesting to me is that there is some of the same kind of patterning. The result has been that Chicanos are concentrated in lower level jobs, with lower pay, and worse working conditions." The society's economic restructuring affects both Latinas and Latinos, Ortiz said, "but in different ways. Both are in low-level jobs, but they're in different jobs. Men are more likely to work in manual jobs, women are more likely to work in the garment industry or do domestic work, such as being nannies. It's one of the key questions I have to pursue in my research: How do women make these economic choices? It's important that we not simply view women as appendages to men."

Ortiz' work points strongly toward the need for improved educational and job-training programs for minorities. "If you have a really large undereducated population, there'll be some large-scale social problems to deal with," she observed. "Education is a key piece of the picture, but it's future-oriented, it wouldn't solve all the problems immediately." Addressing job training and health issues and improving working conditions can provide more immediate remedies for workers, but "some of these problems are huge," Ortiz acknowledged, and solutions won't come easily.

She believes strongly in bilingual education, and has done research indicating that family status, more than English proficiency, influences students' ability to learn. Ortiz herself was born into a family where Spanish was the primary language, and at first she didn't excel in school. "I wasn't engaged in the process," she said. "I think that's where schools fail minority children, they don't engage them." At New York's City College, however, "I got very interested in studying social problems. Somehow it became an avenue for me, that studying these issues was what I could do. That's what finally hooked me."

After graduating from City College, Ortiz went on to earn both an M.A. and a

Ph.D. in Social Psychology at New York University. She held three post-doctoral fellowships, at Fordham University's Hispanic Research Center, the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research and the University of Wisconsin's Center for Demography, then worked for two years as a research scientist and visiting scholar for the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. From 1987 to 1988, she was a senior research associate at the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation in New York City, where she studied the effect of employment programs on welfare recipients.

She joined the UCLA faculty in 1988. This year she is serving as chair of the Chicano Studies Program's administrative committee.

"It's a tremendous amount of responsibility, especially when the program is undergoing major transitions," Ortiz said. "It's been criminal, the lack of resources available to Chicano Studies, but now we have an office in the Kinsey Hall basement, we're hiring a staff person, there's a major effort to revise the curriculum, there's effort toward faculty recruitment, and toward planning the future — deciding whether the program should be a department at UCLA." Currently, nine classes are offered at various

times through the interdepartmental program, and Ortiz says there are 15 students majoring in, or about to declare majors in, Chicano Studies. In the future, Ortiz will teach some introductory Chicano Studies classes. She is also designing a course on the experiences of Latinas in the labor force. "We want to develop a program that incorporates gender issues," she said.

Occasionally controversy arises over a Puerto Rican American heading a Chicano Studies program. "Some people do feel it's inappropriate, but for the most part there's a lot of acceptance," Ortiz said. "The most important thing is I stay open, be willing to learn, and check my own perceptions." While there are undeniable differences between New York Puerto Rican culture and California Chicano culture, Ortiz said, she also sees a lot of similarities.

When she's able to take time off from her multiple UCLA involvements, Ortiz' "main form of diversion" is going to the movies with her life partner, Antonio Serrata, Policy Coordinator for the Chicano Studies Research Center.

She enjoys living in Los Angeles, Ortiz said. "It's exciting. I still miss New York, but I like Los Angeles — the ethnic diversity, and the large Latino community."

Contention Begins at UCLA

Contention: Debates in Society, Culture and Science, a new journal edited by Nikki Keddie (History), will begin publication in fall, 1991. The journal will feature new perspectives on controversies and trends in various fields. Critical review articles, surveys of recent developments in different fields, essays, autobiographical accounts, evaluations of major scholars, summaries of foreign language scholarship and interviews will be included in the journal. For further information contact Scott Waugh, History Department, UCLA, Los Angeles CA 90024-1473.

Bea Olvera Stotzer to Speak

Bea Olvera Stotzer, vice-president of KCET Community Relations, will be featured at a **March 19** meeting of the Faculty Women's Club. Stotzer is president of New Economics for Women and past president of the Comision Femenil Mexicana Nacional, Inc. The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the UCLA Faculty Center. For more information, call Elaine Wise, (818) 888-3477 or Elizabeth Ceccetti, (213) 454-3906.

Graduate Student News

Graduate Students Receive CSW Travel Grants

By Emily Ooms

Last fall the Center for the Study of Women initiated a travel grant program for UCLA graduate students doing research on women and gender. The funds are intended to assist students with travel expenses related to their research (at the dissertation or pre-dissertation level), and to enable them to present papers at professional conferences.

The program was launched with generous donations from Joan Palevsky and from S. Barbara Penny and Ed Kanner. A major gift contributed recently by Jean Stone will enable us to continue the program and increase the number of awards made annually. We are very grateful for these individuals' support.

Travel funds are awarded four times a year, with quarterly application deadlines. The maximum award is \$400. A joint student/faculty committee reviews the applications and notifies the recipients by the end of each quarter.

The excellent quality of the first group of applications made the selection process very difficult. Warmest congratulations to the following students, who received grants in the fall cycle.

Susan Masuoka (Art History) is preparing a dissertation proposal on "Frances Toor, the Forgotten Gertrude Stein of Mexico." Masuoka's research took her to Mexico City to catalogue and review Toor's newly discovered papers and photographs.

Lisa Messersmith (Anthropology) is completing her master's thesis, "Brothel Prostitutes in Bamako, Mali: Medical, Economic and Social Considerations of Sexual Negotiation and High Risk Behavior." In December, 1990 Messersmith went to Mali to conduct follow-up interviews with the 15 prostitutes who are the subjects of her study.

Mary O'Connor (English) is completing her dissertation, "In Her Own Image: Irish Women Poets and the Question of Identity." She will spend this spring and summer in Ireland interviewing the three poets who are the focus of her research.

The committee also named **Neda Rose Baric** (English) as an alternate. Baric is completing her master's thesis, "Of Mothers and Mentors: Sylvia Plath and Olive Higgins Prouty."

Winter quarter grant recipients will be announced in the spring newsletter.

The application deadline for spring quarter is **May 13, 1991**. Program guidelines and application forms are available at the Center for the Study of Women, 236A Kinsey Hall. For more information, please contact Emily Ooms, CSW Director of Programs, at (213) 206-1843.

Graduate Student Achievements

*In each issue of the CSW Newsletter, we publish short announcements about UCLA graduate students' work on women and gender. We encourage graduate students and faculty members to let us know about such work. Please provide the student's name, department, complete publication citation information where appropriate and any other pertinent details. Deadline for the spring, 1991 issue is **March 25**.*

Amina Haji Adan (History) presented a paper, "Women and Words: Traditional Protest Literature by Somali Women," at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association in Baltimore in November, 1990.

Jamie Monson (History) will present a paper, "Food Crop Successions and Female Vulnerability in Nineteenth-Century Tanzania," at the Annual Meeting of the American Geographical Association in Miami in May, 1991.

Judith A. Stein (Public Health) was first author on a chapter with Golding, J.M., Siegel, J.M., Burnam, M.A. & Sorenson, S.B. (1988) "Long-Term Psychological Sequelae of Child Sexual Abuse: The Los Angeles Epidemiologic Catchment Area Study," included in G. Wyatt & G. Powell (Eds.), *Lasting Effects of Child Sexual Abuse*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

❖ **SAVE THE DATE** ❖

Friday, April 19, 1991

UCLA Graduate Research Conference

At this conference, graduate students doing research on women and gender will have the opportunity to present their work-in-progress to the campus community. For more information, contact Emily Ooms, Director of Programs.

Pass the Word

Do you know any new graduate students in your department who are interested in gender-related research? If so, please pass this copy of the CSW Newsletter along to them, so that they can find out about the Center, sign up for our mailing list, and receive future Newsletters and other materials.

Jean Stone Dissertation Fellowship

A generous donation from Jean Stone, a writer, editor and member of the Friends of CSW, has made it possible for the Center for the Study of Women to award a \$12,000 fellowship for the 1991-92 academic year to a graduate student whose dissertation focuses on women and gender issues.

Graduate students who have advanced to Ph.D. candidacy in any UCLA department or school are invited to apply. Applications should include a brief resume (including UCLA affiliation, home phone and address), an abstract of the dissertation topic (three-page limit) and two letters of recommendation from faculty members familiar with the candidate's work.

All materials should be submitted under one cover by **April 1, 1991** to:

Jean Stone Dissertation Fellowship Committee
UCLA Center for the Study of Women
236A Kinsey Hall
CAMPUS 150405

For more information, please contact Emily Ooms, CSW Director of Programs, at (213) 206-1843.

Upcoming Graduate Student Conferences

Plots and Plans: What's Cooking in Feminist Scholarship
National Graduate Women's Studies Conference
March 8-10, 1991

Organized by and for graduate students, this yearly conference will bring together emerging scholars from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to explore recent developments in feminist scholarship. This year's conference will be held in Ann Arbor, MI. For information, call Melanie Holcomb or Karen Selby at the Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan, (313) 763-9791.

Flaunting It
First National Graduate Student Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference
April 17-20, 1991

For information about this conference, which will be held in Milwaukee, contact Cheryl Kader, Department of English/Comparative Literature, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 229-1122.



Director's Column

By Lena Astin and Julia Wrigley

The Center started the new year with new space, a suite at the north end of Kinsey Hall (room 288). For the first time, we have a place where people can gather informally and where public activities can be held. The suite also includes offices for the director, associate director and editor. The Center retains its offices in the middle and south ends of the hall; our main office is still 236A Kinsey.

In our new conference room, we plan to host informal brown-bag lunches where students and faculty can talk about their work in a supportive environment. For the first time, CSW postdocs and Affiliated Scholars will also be able to have some desk space. The new room will additionally serve as a resource for the Women's Studies Program.

We are grateful to Don Simpson, Facilities Analyst, for helping us get our new offices and for overseeing their renovation. We would also like to thank Dean Fred Eiserling for providing the funds to furnish the rooms.

We continue to learn from, and work with, those involved with women's programs at the other UC campuses. Last quarter our representative to the fall retreat of the UC Council of Women's Programs discovered that most of the UC women's programs are thriving. Perhaps the biggest recent development has occurred at UC Davis, where Women's Studies has developed a "Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research" to allow graduate students in English, Anthropology, Sociology and History to specialize in Women's Studies. The Berkeley Women's Studies Program is also moving toward a graduate emphasis.

These developments are relevant for UCLA, where the Women's Studies Program is working toward establishing a graduate program, and where the Center has been increasingly involved with graduate students. A new phase in women's studies has begun.

Upcoming Conferences

***Women Claim Their
Public Identity:
19th-Century Professionals West
of the Allegheny***
March 22-23, 1991

This conference, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, will focus on the careers and contributions of 19th-century women who challenged traditional gender roles. For information, contact Britta C. Dwyer, Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Department, 104 Frick Fine Arts Bldg., University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, (412) 648-2400.

***Living in the Margins:
Class, Race, and Gender***
Northwest Women's Studies
Regional Conference
April 19-21, 1991

For information, contact the Women's Resource and Research Center, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-7204, (509) 335-6830.

National Lesbian Conference
April 24-28, 1991

Contact the National Lesbian Conference, P.O. Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031, for information. The conference will be held in Atlanta.

Women and Work: Diversity at Work
April 25-26, 1991

This conference, sponsored by the Women and Minorities Research and Resource Center of the University of Texas at Arlington, will focus on current and new issues that may result in a diverse workforce. Contact Silvia Lesko, Conference Coordinator, at (817) 273-2581.

The Canon and Marginality
May 3-4, 1991

For further information on this second annual conference, sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literature, State University of New York at Binghamton, contact Antonio Sobejano-Moran, P.O. Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000.

***Second International Seminar on
Gender and Economic Restructuring
In Industrial and Post Industrial
Societies***
May 5-10, 1991

Topics such as gender and the environment, urbanization and migration, and reproduction and production will be addressed at this conference in Waterloo, Canada. For information contact Lindsay Dorney, Director of Women's Studies, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1.

***Celebration of Our Work:
9th Annual Conference***
May 21, 1991

The theme of this year's conference, sponsored by the Rutgers Institute for Research on Women, is "Theory/Praxis: Research/Activism." Participants will examine the connections, benefits, and costs of taking theory into the public sphere and/or translating activism into theoretical constructs. For further information, write to IRW, Voorhees Chapel, Douglass College, Box 270, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-0270.

***16th National Conference on
Men & Masculinity***
June 5-9, 1991

The theme of this conference, sponsored by the Tucson Men's Cooperative, is "Discovering New Paths: Men Together Healing the Earth." For further information, write to the Tucson Men's Cooperative, P.O. Box 41286, Tucson, AZ 85717-1286.

***Ninth Conference of the Society
for Menstrual Cycle Research***
June 6-8, 1991

The conference theme is "Mind-Body Rhythmicity: A Menstrual Cycle Perspective." Contact Nancy Woods, Continuing Nursing Education, University of Washington, SC-72, Seattle, WA 98195, (206) 543-1047.

***Integrating Class, Race and Gender in
the Curriculum and Research***
June 7, 1991

For information on the conference, to be held in Albany, NY, contact Christine E. Bose, Institute for Research on Women, Social Science 324, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222.

***New Directions in Child and
Family Research: Shaping
Head Start in the Nineties***
June 24-26, 1991

For information about this conference, to be held in Crystal City, Washington, D.C., contact Faith Lamb Parker, National Council of Jewish Women Center for the Child, 53 West 23 Street, New York, NY 10010, (212) 645-4048, fax (212) 645-7466.

***Feminist Theory and Music: Toward a
Common Language***
June 27-30, 1991

Contact Lydia Hamessley, School of Music, 100 Ferguson Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, for information on this conference.

***Coalition for Western Women's
History Conference***
August 7-9, 1991

This year's conference addresses the topic, "Suspect Terrain: Surveying the Women's West." For information, contact the Center for Great Plains Studies, 1213 Oldfather Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0314.

Middle East...

(Continued from page 1)

in Anthropology, UC Berkeley) discussed "Women and Health Promotion: Medicalization of Power and Powerlessness." Morsy critiqued "gatekeeper concepts," those reigning topics that dominate the study of gender and health in the Middle East. For example, she pointed out scholars' selective emphasis on biological reproduction, and the assignment to women of the responsibility for family health. She set the tone for the day by challenging non-Middle East scholars for continuing to do Orientalist research, and international agencies for sponsoring it.

A more culturally and locally-specific study followed. Akili Gursoy Tezcan (Visiting Scholar, Middle East Studies, University of Texas, Austin) discussed "Cultural Dynamics of Child Mortality in Istanbul." In looking at the child mortality rate in Turkey, Tezcan's preliminary survey and interview data show that paternal literacy and smaller families correlate positively with lower child mortality. The discussant, Emily Abel (Public Health, UCLA), drew parallels with health policy problems in the U.S.

The second panel, which I chaired, was framed by a talk by Nahid Toubia

(Population Council, New York) on "Reproductive Health in the Arab World: A Legacy of Ideological Conflict and Neglect." Toubia presented documentation on how reproductive health issues have been neglected by nearly every sector and interest group, and called for making women's concerns central. Ellen Gruenbaum (Anthropology, California State University, San Bernardino) and Nayereh Tohidi (UCLA Center for the Study of Women) grounded the session with case studies of Sudan and Iran. Gruenbaum's talk, "Development Schemes, Cultural Debates, and Rural Women's Health" focused on women in two ethnic groups and on the issues of culture, class and religious/ethnic identity as these impact women's health. Tohidi's "State of Women's Health in Iran" summarized women's health problems, with particular emphasis on both the positives and negatives of current Iranian state policies.

Discussant Nancy Gallagher (History, UCSB) reviewed the papers and linked the two workshops by pinpointing the main areas of debate: the importance of focusing on women's health versus the importance of critically evaluating international factors. In the round table discussion that followed, anthropologists

Carole Browner (UCLA) and Barbara Pillsbury, and Public Health professor Milton Roemer (UCLA), gave brief presentations that broadened the picture of women's health internationally.

On April 12-13, three panels will discuss "Women and Work: Paid and Unpaid Labor," "Family and Community Power," and "Gender, Ideology, and Power." The two-day spring event will conclude with a "working lunch" coordinated by UCLA graduate students, who can link their own cross-cultural research to questions raised by the presentations. For more information, call Azadeh Kian, 825-4668.

The organizing committee for "The Political Economy of Gender in the Middle East" includes Nancy Gallagher; myself; Nikki Keddie (History, UCLA); Afaf Marsot; Georges Sabagh (Sociology, UCLA); and Karen Sacks (Anthropology and Women's Studies, UCLA). The workshops are being coordinated by Jonathan Friedlander and Azadeh Kian (Near Eastern Studies, UCLA).

Sondra Hale, a CSW Research Scholar, studies the intersection of gender, religion and the State in the Sudan.

Promotions, Appointments and Honors

Judith Carney (Geography) received a 1990 UCLA Faculty Career Development Award, as well as a 1990-91 UCLA Academic Senate grant.

Barbara Fish (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences), one of the nation's leading researchers in schizophrenia, has been named to the Della Martin Endowed Chair at the UCLA School of Medicine. Fish studies the biological antecedents of schizophrenia.

In October, 1990 CSW Research Scholar **Sondra Hale** presented a paper, "Islamic and 'Secular' Contradictions: Gender, Cultural Identity, and Political Mobilization in Sudan" at a United Nations conference, "Identity Politics and Women: Cross-National Perspectives," in Helsinki.

Marilyn Manners (Comparative Literature) presented a paper, "Some Bodies in Place: Women Outside Space and Time" at the International Association for Philosophy and Literature Conference at Irvine in April, 1990.

While serving as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Legal Theory at the University of Toronto last September, **Carrie Menkel-Meadow** (Law) taught "The Changing Faces of the Legal Profession," in which she discussed the increasing role of women in law.

Carole Pateman (Political Science) presented the York Lecture in Political Science at York University, Ontario, Canada in October 1990. Her talk was entitled "Promise and Paradox: Women and Democratic Citizenship."

Judith Siegel (Public Health) has been promoted to Full Professor.

CSW Affiliated Scholar **Nayereh Tohidi** presented "Identity Politics and the Woman Question In Iran" at a United Nations conference in Helsinki in October, 1990 (see Sondra Hale, above).

Gail Wyatt (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences) received a major, four-year grant from Family Health International to do research on "AIDS-Related Sexual Decision Making Among Jamaicans."

Joel Yager (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences) has been appointed editor-in-chief of *Eating Disorders Review*.

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 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 spring, 1991 issue is **March 25**. 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



Linda Brookover Bourque

Bourque, L.B. (1989) *Defining Rape*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Examines the criteria used by Los Angeles County community members to decide whether or not a given encounter constitutes an act of rape. Also shows how definitions of rape relate to social structures, research in sociology and psychology, and the law.

Jennifer Bradley

Bradley, J. (1990) "Zoe Akins and the Age of Excess: Broadway Melodrama in the 1920s." In J. Schlueter (Ed.), *Modern American Drama: The Female Canon*, 86-96. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson.

Examines the literary and social context of Akins's plays, their debt to and critiques of traditional melodramatic conventions about female virtue, and Akins's support for the careers of other women of the theater.

Carole H. Browner

Browner, C.H. & Sargent, C.F. (1990) "Anthropology and Studies of Human Reproduction." In T.M. Johnson & C.G. Sargent (Eds.), *Medical Anthropology: A Handbook of Theory and Method*, 215-229. New York: Greenwood Press.

Reviews recent work in the field, focusing particularly on what anthropological studies of human reproduction have revealed about broadly-based social processes.

Andrew Christensen

Christensen, A. & Heavey, C.L. (1990) "Gender and Social Structure in the Demand/Withdraw Pattern of Marital Conflict." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 59(1):73-81.

Shows that the pattern of wife-demand/husband-withdraw interaction during marital conflict is more likely than husband-demand/wife-withdraw. Discusses situational factors for both patterns.

Clara M. Chu

Chu, C.M. & MacDonald, B.H. (1990) "The Public Record: An Analysis of Women's Contributions to Canadian Science and Technology Before the First World War." In M.G. Ainley (Ed.), *Despite the Odds: Essays on Canadian Women and Science*, 63-73. Montreal: Vehicule Press.

Examines women's contributions to Canadian science and technology until 1914 through an analysis of the published literature.

Diane Favro

Favro, D. (1991) "Women Architects in Early California." *Architecture California*.

Describes the favorable climate of early 20th-century California for women architects, due to the accommodating culture of the western frontier and the proliferation of building types deemed appropriate for women designers.

Carrie Menkel-Meadow

Menkel-Meadow, C. (1990) "Durkheimian Epiphanies: The Importance of Engaged Social Science in Legal Studies." *Florida State Law Review*, 18:91-119.

Discusses the relationship of feminist epistemology to research in socio-legal studies.

Judith M. Siegel

Siegel, J.M. & Kuykendall, D.H. (1990) "Loss, Widowhood, and Psychological Distress among the Elderly." *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 58(5):519-524.

Examines psychological response to recent familial loss in elderly men and women. Shows such loss was related to a higher level of depressive symptomatology in men, but not in women.

Gail Wyatt

Wyatt, G.E. (1990) "Changing Influences on Adolescent Sexuality over the Past Forty Years." In J. Bancroft (Ed.), *Adolescent and Puberty*, 182-206. New York: Oxford Press.

Reviews and compares research on adolescent sexuality conducted over the last 40 years. Discusses how young women learn, and make decisions, about sexuality.

Compiled by Terry Saunders and Penelope Moffet.

Contested Lives...

(Continued from back page)

Ginsburg found that Fargo's pro-choice and "pro-life" activists alike considered themselves feminists. Each group saw itself working to improve the social position of American women, albeit through different routes; each drew on a rhetoric that stressed the values of nurturance and domesticity to legitimize their actions. Also, as the conflict progressed, the two groups ceased to be faceless enemies. In a city as small as Fargo, it was inevitable that activists from different camps would have opportunities to interact. Ginsburg argues that activists on both sides took moderate positions in the abortion conflict for these very reasons. And despite efforts by more radical externally-based "right-to-life" groups to polarize Fargo's abortion conflict, most local pro-life activists did not abandon their moderate stance.

Through condensed life histories, Ginsburg seeks to show how biography and history interact to shape the experience and political positions of the two activist groups. She reveals the common patterns uniting the two groups: every life story was marked by a deeply-rooted tension between domesticity and the workplace; all the women experienced their abortion activism as a key turning point in their lives. Although her observations are provocative, the life story data themselves are less compelling. Integrating the theoretical and substantive chapters and more directly comparing the two groups' life narratives might have been a more satisfying approach.

Ginsburg correctly concludes that the U.S. abortion controversy will persist because it grows out of unresolved societal issues such as the definition of female domesticity and extent of men's paternal responsibilities. With the publication of *Contested Lives*, that debate can advance with deeper insight. The book is a much needed and most welcome contribution.

This article was published in slightly different form in 1990 in American Anthropologist, 92(3):767-768.

Friends of the Center for the Study of Women

By Bea Mandel

The Friends of CSW are very pleased to welcome a number of new members, and to welcome back many who have recently renewed their memberships.

Our 1990-91 programs began with a November meeting, "Women in Career Transition." A capacity crowd attended a panel moderated by Associate Dean Fran Spears (Anderson Graduate School of Management), and featuring Caroline Nahas, Managing Partner of Korn Ferry International, Dawn Prebula, Director of Catering at American Golf Corporation, and Bylle Snyder, Senior Vice President at Drake Beam Morin, Inc. The evening was chaired by Sallie O'Neill, Membership Vice President.

The **March 18** dinner meeting will feature noted journalist Glenda Wina, speaking on the anti-aging industry and its impact on our lives. The evening will be moderated by CSW Acting Director Lena Astin (Education), and chaired by Friends member Georgia Mercer.

The **May 9** dinner meeting will focus on the impact of feminist women in political office. Well-known theorist Carole Pateman (Political Science) will speak from a scholar's perspective. Former Congresswoman Yvonne Braithwaite Burke and Monterey Park Mayor Judy Chu will also speak.

The Friends are particularly grateful to noted editor Jean Stone for her generous year-end donation of \$25,000. Stone's contribution will support both graduate student work on women and gender and the Center's mini-grant research program.

According to the Ms. Foundation for Women, only 5% of foundation grants nationwide are designated for women's issues and causes. We need your support. If you would like to get more involved, please call me at (213) 474-2902.

Bea Mandel is President of the Friends of CSW.



Join the Friends of CSW

We strongly encourage you to support our activities by becoming a member of the Friends of the UCLA Center for the Study of Women. Your contribution will place you on our mailing list to receive our quarterly Newsletter and you'll be invited to special events. As a member, you will know that your generosity is furthering the development of feminist research and outreach in the Los Angeles area.

___ UCLA faculty, administration, staff: \$50
___ Student: \$20
___ Friend: \$150

___ Associate: \$250
___ Sponsor: \$500
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Write checks payable to the UCLA Foundation. Mail to:
All contributions are tax deductible.

UCLA CSW, 236A Kinsey Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1504.

Book Review: Contested Lives

Contested Lives: The Abortion Debate in an American Community by Faye D. Ginsburg (1989) Berkeley: University of California Press

By Carole H. Browner

This is an important book, not the least for its timeliness. For too long, anthropologists have been silent in the U.S. abortion controversy. Ginsburg's study of "pro-choice" and anti-abortion activism in Fargo, N.D. during the early 1980s situates the phenomenon by explicating its links to deeply-rooted cultural principles. Showing how this society's social and symbolic organization of gender, sexuality, and reproduction devalue motherhood and perpetuate women's economic dependency, Ginsburg argues that the current abortion debate is part of a larger struggle over the meaning and place of reproduction in America.

Although the book revolves around how the establishment of a for-profit, free-standing abortion clinic mobilized two groups of women to political action, it is not a conventional ethnography. Its main data consist of a detailed description and analysis of how the abortion conflict has been played out in Fargo and the "life narratives" of several pro-choice and anti-abortion activists living there. This material is contextualized by an excellent historical overview of the practice and significance of induced abortion in the U.S., and an account of other female-led moral reform movements in America during the past two centuries. This latter discussion is interesting in its own right but too loosely linked to the book's specific focus to be particularly illuminating.

Ginsburg makes apt use of Victor Turner's notion of social drama to interpret the significance of events leading up to and following the founding of the Fargo Women's Health Organization, but she expands the paradigm to also analyze the roles actors on both sides play over time. In doing so, she effectively articulates the processes through which a national issue is shaped at the local level, showing how the drama's participants continually construct its very meaning. The analysis offers a valuable model for future studies of conflict and change in complex society.

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