It’s already a busy semester here at Purdue. For some months we have been planning for Experience Liberal Arts Month, an initiative of the College of Liberal Arts. The Women’s Studies Program has organized a panel discussion on Women and the War in Iraq, to take place on 23 October. (See inside for details.) The panel includes representatives of two U.S.-based women’s organizations – MADRE and Code Pink – to discuss their views on the war in Iraq and describe their activities in connection with the war, such as lobbying members of Congress, humanitarian work for Iraqi women and children, protest actions, and advocacy-oriented research. This will be an opportunity for students and faculty to engage with social movement activists and learn about the operations of two women-run movement organizations deeply involved in international solidarity work and in anti-war and peace activism. We welcome Yifat Susskind of MADRE and Lori Perdue of Code Pink.

This semester, too, Women’s Studies joint-faculty member Dr. Alicia Decker has organized the first Feminist Film Festival. The theme is African Women and Revolution and includes films on Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe, and South Africa.

In other news, Purdue University’s new strategic plan is underway, and that of the College of Liberal Arts will follow. At Women’s Studies we too are working on a plan of action, and next semester’s newsletter will contain information on it.

We have a wonderful new group of graduate students this year who are teaching sections of Introduction to Women’s Studies or assisting professors. Our graduate students also serve on various committees (including the newsletter committee) and thus contribute in major ways to our Program while also gaining new skills and career-oriented experience. I welcome them to the Program and thank them for their contributions.

Dr. Valentine M. Moghadam
Women's Studies /African Studies Film Festival

By: Dr. Alicia Decker

The first annual Women's Studies interdisciplinary film festival takes place in October as part of the celebrations for Experience Liberal Arts Month. This year's theme, "African Women and Revolution," explores various ways in which African women have participated in liberation struggles. Although women have always played crucial roles in nationalist movements, their experiences have been largely absent from the historical record. This film series seeks to restore African women to history, illustrates how revolutionary action can advance feminist goals, and highlights the gendered challenges facing women and men in the aftermath of war. A regional expert will introduce each film and facilitate a discussion following the viewing. Free admission.

The schedule is as follows:

October 7th (Tuesday) at 6:30 in University Hall 317
"Algeria: Women at War"
Discussant: Dr. Valentine Moghadam

October 15th (Wednesday) at 6:30 in University Hall 317
"Mortu Nega: Those Whom Death Refused"
Discussant: Dr. Ellen Gruenbaum

October 21st (Tuesday) at 6:30 in Beering Hall 2291
"Flame"
Discussant: Dr. Alicia Decker

October 28th (Tuesday) at 6:30 in Beering Hall 2291
"You Have Struck a Rock!" and "To Walk Naked"
Discussant: Dr. Raymond Dumett

Women's Studies Noon Lecture Series

FALL 2008

Dr. Patricia Boling
Women's Studies and Political Science
Wednesday, September 17
11:30-12:30 (STEW 214C)
"Care Work: Lynchpin of the American Welfare State"
***

Dr. Geraldine Friedman
Department of English
Tuesday, October 28
12:00-1:00 (STEW 206)
"'A White Child of the East' Taxonomizes South America"
***

Dr. Aparajita Sagar
Department of English
Wednesday, November 19
11:30-12:30 (STEW 313)
"'Puttin de pain on de stage and making fun a de people dat cause it': Sistren's Cultural Activism in Kingston Shantytowns"

Panel on Women and the War in Iraq

Panel members:

Valentine M. Moghadam,                        Yifat Susskind,                        Lori Perdue,
Director, Women's Studies & Professor, Sociology Communications Director, MADRE National Campaign Organizer, CODEPINK

October 23, 2008
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Lawson Computer Science Building Room 1142
Free and open to the public

The panel includes representatives of two U.S.-based women's organizations to discuss their views on the war in Iraq and describe their activities in connection with the war, such as lobbying members of Congress, humanitarian work for Iraqi women and children, protest actions, and advocacy-oriented research.
Meet the New Faculty

Dr. Laurie Graham

Laurie Graham is Assistant Director of Women's Studies at Purdue. Before moving to Women's Studies, she briefly taught for the Organizational Leadership Department at Purdue and was Assistant Professor of Labor Studies at Indiana University for 14 years. She has a PhD in Sociology from Purdue and more than 30 years of experience in labor education and union activism. Considered an expert on labor issues in the auto industry, her research articles appear in journals and books including Work and Occupations, Research in the Sociology of Work, and The Oxford Handbook of Work and Organization. Her book On the Line at Subaru Isuzu: Japanese Management and the American Worker is widely used in graduate and undergraduate classes across the country.

Interview 9/18/08
By Adrianna L Lozano

Q: What are your goals for Purdue's Women's Studies Program?
A: I would like to see it grow with more undergraduate majors and the development of a Master's program.

Q: What are your thoughts on the gender dynamics in the current election?
A: Lots of sexism going on! Both the liberal and conservative camps are criticizing Sarah Palin's choice to work while she has five children at home. Equally disturbing are the sexist comments and images about her. Unlike with Hilary Clinton, who was seen as the "intelligent bitch," Palin is showcased as the "beauty queen bimbo." In either case, gender is the foreground of their competency.

Q: Do you think that labor history is integral to Women's Studies? Why?
A: Labor history is the site where class, race, and gender all come into play. If you want to see African American and white men and women working together...go to a union hall. One of the key questions in my research has been to find out what is necessary to reach the level of consciousness necessary to demand unionization, and is that experience gendered?

Q: Your fields of interest, labor history and organizations, have traditionally been male dominated, both at the academic and institutional level. How has that shaped your experiences?
A: In the 1970s when Equal Employment Opportunity was passed, I was the first woman hired at an Iowa hog house factory. Even though I was the only woman I was treated very well. I had dropped out of college and had been working as a waitress. The money in the factory was much better, but there was no union. I gained invaluable experience in understanding working class consciousness while working to unionize the factory. But that moment in history is different than what women are facing in male dominated positions now...since the 70s there has been a definite backlash.

Q: You said you dropped out of college to work...when did you delve back into academics?
A: Up until 1980 I had been working as either an activist or an employee within the union movement. In 1980 I went back to school and eventually completed my PhD here at Purdue. While completing my dissertation I conducted research at the local Subaru factory. While the goal of my research was not to observe gender, but in fact, to observe the Japanese management style that was able to keep out unions, wonderful gender dynamics emerged! The women on my team directly challenged the company's ideology of caring and fairness.

Q: What, in your opinion, are the greatest strengths of the Purdue Women's Studies program?
A: The people. Our strength comes from a wide range of interests within our graduate students and faculty.

Q: Who are some of your feminist heroes?
A: Hilary Clinton is right up there for me...she fought like a dog and never gave up...she just did a hell of a job representing women in the political arena. Also at the top of the list would be Angela Davis and bell hooks.

Q: As this edition of the Women's Studies Times is looking heavily at film, what is your favorite movie?
A: Ack! I don't know...I would have to say I am partial to documentaries in general. One in particular is "Union Maids." It looks at labor history in the 1930s...those women are an inspiration.

“Our strength comes from a wide range of interests within our graduate students and faculty.”
Meet the Graduate Staff

Dina Banerjee
Year/Program: 7th year PhD, Sociology
Academic Fields of Interest: Gender, Race & Ethnicity; Work and Labor Markets; Industry and Organizations; Development and Social Change; Transnational Feminisms; Developing Nations
Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Vandana Shiva, Shabana Azmi
Pet Activist Cause: Non-Human Beings
Guilty Pleasures: Chocolate
Favorite Movie(s): Little Women, Fried Green Tomatoes, & Thelma and Louise

Turgay Bayindir
Year/Program: 6th year PhD, English
Academic Fields of Interest: Modernist British/American literature; Narrative Theory; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Queer Theory; Masculinity, Militarism and War
Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Virginia Woolf, Judith Butler
Pet Activist Cause: LGBT rights
Guilty Pleasures: Watching "Cheaters"
Favorite Movie(s): Thelma and Louise, Brokeback Mountain, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest

Sherrema A. Bower
Year/Program: 2nd year MA, American Studies
Academic Fields of Interest: History & Sociology (Focusing on Women in Religion)
Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: My amazing grandmother, Betty Bower, now deceased.
Pet Activist Cause: Stem cells. I also love doing behind-the-scenes work for various causes.
Guilty Pleasures: Reading celebrity biographies. Right now I'm enjoying The Way She Is by Christopher Andersen about who else...Barbra Streisand. It's over 400 pages long and I'm almost done with it.
Favorite Movie(s): I'm conflicted between The Sound of Music & What's Up Doc? with Barbra Streisand. Incongruous, but fun, combination, I know!

Adrianna L. Lozano
Year/Program: 1st year PhD, History
Academic Fields of Interest: Comparative Women's Movements in the Global South with specific focus on Africa, Latin America, & the Caribbean, and International, Transnational, & Indigenous Feminisms.
Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Trite as it may be…my mother has always been the greatest feminist role model in my life…though, ironically, she resists the label of “feminist!”
Pet Activist Cause: Getting Obama elected, Reproductive Rights & Medically Accurate Comprehensive Sex Education, and Domestic Violence Prevention
Guilty Pleasures: Vampire Romance novels
Favorite Movie(s): Gone with the Wind, Return to Me, Cinderella, Steel Magnolias, Beaches, Mystic Pizza…okay okay…so maybe I like a lot of movies!

Cindy Konrad
Year/Program: Final year PhD, English
Academic Fields of Interest: American Literature 1940-Present, Women's Literature, Feminist Theory, Women's Studies and the methods and sites of resistance and activism in working class queer literature, including issues of urban sexual and economic landscapes and GLBTQ labor organizing.
Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: My grandmother, Genevie Konrad
Pet Activist Cause: Fighting SJR-7, the proposed Indiana constitutional amendment that would limit definitions of marriage and also restrict domestic violence prosecution and access to a variety of benefits and services
Guilty Pleasures: My favorite indie musicians live, even when I don’t have "free time"
Favorite Movie(s): Born in Flames
Meet the Graduate Staff

Kendra Unruh

Year/Program: 2nd year PhD, American Studies

Academic Fields of Interest: 20th Century American Literature, Modern American Drama, Eco-Feminism, & Gender in Popular Culture

Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Susan Bordo

Pet Activist Cause: Humane Society/Animal Shelter

Guilty Pleasures: ABBA music videos

Favorite Movie(s): Anne of Green Gables

Michaela Null

Year/Program: 5th year PhD, Sociology

Academic Fields of Interest: Gender, Sexuality, Sociology of the Body & Fat Studies

Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Raewyn Connell

Pet Activist Cause: Fat Rights and Fat/Body-Positive Efforts

Guilty Pleasures: Perpetual Internet Surfing

Favorite Movie(s): Amelie!!

Melissa Buehler

Year/Program: 5th year PhD, Political Science

Academic Fields of Interest: International Relations & Organizations

Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Actually, my mother

Pet Activist Cause: Domestic Violence & Women's Shelter Activism

Guilty Pleasures: Celebrity gossip

Favorite Movie(s): Out of Africa

Jen Lindquist

Year/Program: 2nd year MA, American Studies

Academic Fields of Interest: Contemporary U.S. Cultural Studies with a Focus in Literature and Popular Culture, Feminist and Queer Theory, Sexuality, and Intersections of Gender and Technology

Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Tie between my life coach Mara Faulkner, OSB, and the fantabulous Judith Butler.

Pet Activist Cause: LGBT rights

Guilty Pleasures: T.R.A.V.E.L.I.N.G

Favorite Movie(s): Antonia's Line ... However, like identity, I'm afraid fave movies are fluid.

Jae Truesdell

Year/Program: 2nd year MA, American Studies

Academic Fields of Interest: Cultural Anthropology & Transgender Studies

Feminist Mentor/guide/hero: Loren Cameron

Pet Activist Cause: Equal rights

Guilty Pleasures: Food, all of it!

Favorite Movie(s): The Land Before Time

Notable International Conference of the Season

Dr. Valentine Moghadam, Director of Women's Studies Program at Purdue, gave a talk on "Women and Democratization in the Middle East" at the International Conference, "Comparative Studies on Family Democratization and Socio-Politics: An Integral Approach on the Private and Public Spheres."

The international conference took place on September 24-26, 2008 at the National University of San Martin (UNSAM) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was organized by Inter-Universities Networks on Gender, Democratization and Human Rights Studies.
The National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) 2008 Conference
June 19-22, 2008, Cincinnati, OH

By Cindy Konrad

I was honored and excited to participate in the 2008 NWSA Annual Conference. In my presentation, I looked at the ways that representations of gentrification that take into account issues of sexual orientation and class often focus on changing neighborhoods as battlegrounds between white, middle class gay men and working class heterosexual and heteronormative families, often composed of people of color. The selectivity of these texts renders invisible working class queer sexualities, especially those of people of color, and neglects an analysis of the intersections of categories of class and sexuality. In my paper, I analyzed the ways that Erika Lopez’s 2001 graphic novel Hoochie Mama refuses such simplification of the politics and identities of groups enmeshed in debates over gentrification and resists these erasures. In Hoochie Mama, Lopez champions the resistance of systems of privilege and power, rather than certain identity groups, and cleverly employs textual strategies to represent and explore the means of such resistance. Presenting this paper, part of my larger dissertation project on literary strategies of resistance for working class GLBTQ writers, allowed me to receive valuable feedback on the project from scholars in a variety of disciplines.

OUToberfest 2008: Tippecanoe County Pride Celebration

Out and Proud in Lafayette

By Jen Lindquist

On October 11 Pride Lafayette, Inc., Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and Citizen's for Civil Rights (CCR), held the first public LGBTI pride celebration (for the Greater Lafayette Area), and OUToberfest 2008 was a smash hit. According to the OUToberfest website, OUToberfest was intended to “increase public awareness of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community, and to celebrate diversity among family, friends, and straight allies. Additionally, we hope to educate residents in Tippecanoe County about the availability of LGBTI organizations and services.”

The OUToberfest planning committee met its mission. From family oriented booths featuring face painting, visiting Columbian Park zoo animals, and (adoptable) friends (from the local Almost Home Humane Society) to multiple concert performances, karaoke, a beer garden, and more, the event truly had something for attendees of all ages. The night culminated in a drag show featuring several local and some imported acts. Our own Jae Truesdell was a massive success as the only featured drag king in the performance.

While there was a small protest presence at the entrance to the event, celebration attendees and protestors were able to peacefully engage in dialogue under the watchful eye of the Lafayette police force with minimal disruption to the event itself. All in all, the event seems to have exceeded expectations and will hopefully result in a repeat event next year.

OUToberfest 2009 here we come!

* (hir): gender-neutral pronoun
New Publications from Joint and Affiliated Women’s Studies Faculty

Books:

Janet Afary, Professor of History and Women’s Studies
• Sexual Politics in Modern Iran. Cambridge UP, March 2009.

Anne Flittoos, Associate Professor of Theatre

Tara Johnson, Assistant Professor of English Education
• From teacher to lover: Sex scandals in the classroom. New York: Peter Lang, 2008.

Valentine M. Moghadam, Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies; Director of Women’s Studies

Articles, Chapters and Editorial Appointments:

Janet Afary, Professor of History and Women’s Studies
• Guest Editor: Special issue of Iranian Studies on the on-going struggle for gender equality in contemporary Iran, to appear in Feb 2009.

Linda Bergmann, Associate Professor in English
• Review Essay of the following books: Jeffrey Jablonski, Academic Writing Consulting and WAC: Methods and Models for Guiding Cross-Curricular Literacy Work; Anne Ellen Geller, Michele Eodice, Frankie Condon, Meg Carroll, and Elizabeth H. Boquet. The Everyday Writing Center: A Community of Practice; and Christina Murphy, and Brian L. Stay, The Writing Center Director’s Resource Book, to appear in Pedagogy: Vol. 8.3 (Fall 2008).

Evelyn Blackwood, Associate Professor of Anthropology
• Won Ruth Benedict Prize for Women’s Sexualities and Masculinities in a Globalizing Asia, an anthology co-edited with Saskia Wieringa and Abha Bhaiya.
• Won the Martin Duberman Fellowship, a prestigious national award given by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, City University of New York for book project entitled, Tomboys and Femmes: Gender, Sexuality and Desire in Indonesia.

Patrice M. Buzzanell, Professor and W. Charles & Ann Redding Faculty Fellow, Communication


Elizabeth A. Hoffmann, Associate Professor of Sociology

Alicia Decker, Assistant Professor of History and Women’s Studies

Anne Fliotsos, Associate Professor of Theatre

Phoebe Farris, Professor of Art and Design and Women Studies

Alicia Decker, Assistant Professor of History and Women’s Studies

Publications—continued.


Alicia Decker, Assistant Professor of History and Women’s Studies


Phoebe Farris, Professor of Art and Design and Women Studies

- Appointed Editor for the “Indigenous Arts Column” of the Cultural Survival Quarterly.
- Farris, P. ”Bridging Urban and Traditional Cultures: Nadaema Agard/ Winyan Luta Red Woman” CSQ: Cultural Survival Quarterly Summer 2008.

Anne Fliotsos, Associate Professor of Theatre


Elizabeth A. Hoffmann, Associate Professor of Sociology


Tara Star Johnson, Assistant Professor of English Education


Paula Leverage, Assistant Professor of French and Medieval Studies

- “Reading Hagiography in an Epic: The Liturgical Calendar in Girart de Roussillon” Dalhousie French Studies (82), Spring 2008: 151-162.

Valentine Moghadam, Professor of Sociology and Women’s Studies


Patsy Schweickart, Professor of English and Women’s Studies

- Guest Editor, Lit: Literature Interpretation Theory Special Issue on The Question of Reading, April-June, 2008.
- “Preface” to Special Issue on The Question of Reading, Lit, April-June 2008, pp. 95-99.

J. Jill Suitor, Professor of Sociology