



Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 5, Issue 4, November/December 1999

From the Director Women's Studies in the Year 2000

Exciting times are ahead for Women's Studies as we enter the new millennium. Our program continues to experience growth and vitality. The number of our minors remains high and we will be offering four sections of our core course, *Women, Gender and Society* (WS 120) in Spring 2000. We continue to collaborate with departments and units across campus on both curricular and co-curricular matters. There is now a new sequence available to Social Work majors – it is the Women's Studies minor. We plan to establish similar arrangements with other departments. And we continue to explore the prospect of a graduate concentration in Women's Studies.

In January we will kick off the calendar year by celebrating 25 years of Women's Studies at ISU and holding an open house to take place at our offices on Wed., 26 January, from 35 PM. That will also be an occasion to recognize the recipient of the annual Women's Studies Academic Achievement Award. And we plan to invite one of our accomplished alumni to visit ISU and share insights and experiences with us and especially with our students.

During the Spring we will be organizing seminars and video screenings, in collaboration with units such as International Studies and Global Review. We will be present at the International Fair in February, and we will commemorate International Women's Day on Wednesday, 8 March, by hosting an open house at our offices. The Fifth Annual Women's Studies Symposium will be held on Friday, 24 March and we are delighted to have Dr. Sonya Michel as our keynote speaker. She will be speaking on the history of childcare in the United States. Her talk will tie in nicely with the University's theme of Consider the Children.

We have made important connections with Women's Studies programs elsewhere in Illinois, and as readers of this column know, we helped to found the Illinois Women's Studies Consortium. In April, we will take part in the second conference of the Consortium, which will be hosted by the Women's Studies Program of Eastern Illinois University on 7-8 April. Our program will support the participation of promising ISU scholars.

So to our friends, colleagues, and students – have an enjoyable winter break and Christmas holidays, and see you again in the year 2000! ☺



Graduate students and faculty at a Women's Studies seminar.
Photo by V.M. Moqhadam



Members of the Illinois Women's Studies Consortium meet at ISU,
in the Women's Studies Library/Conference room.
Photo by V.M. Moqhadam

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Visit our website at: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/WomenStudies/womenstudies.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FEATURES

Fifth Annual

Women's Studies Symposium

Friday

March 24, 2000

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

University Galleries
Center for the
Visual Arts

Illinois State University

For more information, contact

Women's Studies at: (309) 438-2947; e-mail Rozel

White at rwhite@ilstu.edu, or visit our website at:

<http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/WomenStudies/womenstudies.html>.

Faculty--Please encourage your fall semester students to submit abstracts or complete papers that they prepared for your classes to the Women's Studies Programming Committee for consideration for the spring symposium.

Call for Papers

Panels in the morning and afternoon

Lunch at noon

Keynote Address (1:00 pm)

Key note speaker:

Dr. Sonya Michel,
Director of Women's Studies
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Topic: *History of Childcare in the United States*

Call for Papers (first round)

Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit proposals for presentation of papers at the Symposium. Proposals/papers are welcome on any topic related to the study of women and gender. Outstanding papers on women and gender issues prepared for courses will be especially welcome!

Proposal

Please send a one-page proposal with the following information to the address below, preferably by December 1, 1999:

Proposed paper title

Your name

The course for which and the professor for whom you wrote/are writing the paper

Your address, telephone number, and email

Please briefly describe your proposed presentation. Where relevant, include a summary of the main argument or findings, your research methodology (if applicable), and sources of information/data.

Send to:

Women's Studies Programming Committee, Illinois State University, Campus Box 4260, Normal, IL 61790-4260

or bring your proposal to the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2nd floor. ✉

Women and Cinema in Iran

By Maryam Arabshahi

Iran is a conservative country with a long history of revolutions, wars and social challenges. For a long period after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and during the war with Iraq, cinema had a specific function, very different from what it is today. Most films had as their theme revolution or war. The goal of these films was mostly to establish a relation between people who were not directly participating in the war and people who were out there, fighting to defend the country and the lives of their compatriots. In those days rarely was there a movie about social problems in the civil sphere or in daily life. After the war ended in 1988, changes came about in the subject-matter of films. The story-lines become more concerned with everyday life, and with the difficulties that common people faced in a country that had experienced revolution and war. We also saw stories about women, including the problems that they faced in their social participation outside the home.

Due to the fact that Iran is a conservative and religious country and all the laws conform to the laws of Islam, women are second-class citizens in the society and subordinate to their husbands and fathers at home. However, little by little, women came out of their houses, went to school and sought paid employment. (Of course this has roots in the years before the Islamic Revolution, but today even more women are increasing their social participation). Cinema started to depict women and their problems. Previously, movies showed women mainly in their roles as mothers, sisters or wives. In the 1990s, however, this changed. Today, we see more and

more films about women and their feelings, responsibilities, roles inside and outside houses, and more importantly about their problems and their rights as citizens in a country.

For instance, the film *Do Zan* (Two Women) tells the life story of an usual girl who is smart and interested in studying and accomplishing something in the society. It shows how, because of some problems in her life largely caused by a young man, her life totally changed. She is captured in the conservative beliefs of her father and her husband, and there is no one to help her, not even the law. Other films such as *Narges*, *Hamsar* (Wife), *Zinat*, *Badbadake sefid* (white balloon), *Roosari Aby* (The Blue Veil) explain the emotional pains of women who know who they are and what they want – which is not always what the men want them to be in such a society. Previously, there was no talk about such subjects, and many uneducated women in particular were not exposed to depictions of women's frustrations or aspirations. At least now Iranian cinema helps them to see what they couldn't see or feel before, and it may help them to stand up for their rights and to change the life that religion or culture would determine for them. †



Did you know that Women's Studies has a Resource and Documentation Center available to use for your research studies that focus on women's issues? Photo copy service available. We do not allow materials to be checked out. Call 309/438-2947 for information, hours available, or scheduling study-groups. You may also email Rozel White at rwhite@ilstu.edu.

NEWS ABOUT WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENTS AND

Women's Studies Alumni: News and Profiles

By Sandra Harmon

As part of our observance of the Women's Studies Program's 25th anniversary, we sent a survey to our alumni to find out what they are doing. Throughout the semester we will highlight the responses we have received.

Jessica Haxton, graduated in 1996 with a degree in social work. She earned her MSW from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She lives in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and is a medical social worker with Ministry Health Care Hospice Home Care Program. She has performed volunteer work with the Domestic Abuse Intervention Service in Madison and Family Advocates (domestic abuse intervention) in Plattville. She is engaged to be married.

Anita Revelle, received both her bachelor (1995) and masters (1997) degrees in history from Illinois State. She is Illinois State's University Calendar Coordinator. She worked with the project from the start, assessing the University's needs, working with computer technicians to develop and produce the calendar which is posted on the World Wide Web, writing procedure protocols and training staff members across the university in posting events on the calendar. Before her current position, she was a graduate assistant in Parent Services. She is married to Don and is enjoying three-and-a-half-year old grandson Brennan.

Diana Slaviero, a 1995 graduate in psychology, received her masters in counseling psychology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where she is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in counseling psychology. Her masters thesis is "The Relationship between Body Image, Internalization of Sociocultural Attitudes about Attractiveness, and Reasons for Exercise in College Women." Her current graduate assistantship position is Group and Outreach Coordinator, Women's Services at SIUC. Among her duties are facilitating one support group each semester, providing crisis counseling, developing and coordinating educational and developmental programs, and providing outreach services concerning issues pertinent to women students.

Laura Williams, a 1988 economics graduate, received her B.S.N. from Mennonite College of Nursing in Bloomington in 1992. She currently is a registered nurse in the ER and medical/cardiac intensive care unit at University Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Before settling in New Mexico, she worked for a year and a half as a travel nurse on three-month assignments all over the United States. She recently obtained through examination her certification in emergency nursing. ✍

Welcome New Women's Studies Minors

Hilary Patridge--English
Jamie Bockenfeld--Sociology

December Graduates

Congratulations to these Women's Studies minors who will graduate in December.

Joanna Quinley--English
Roanne Reid--Psychology
Sara Schroeder--Art

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity.

Faculty News

Dr. Valentine M. Moghadam, Women's Studies and Sociology, participated in two conferences in Cairo, Egypt, during October. At a conference organized by the French research center CEDEJ, she presented a paper entitled "Liberalizing Economies and Organizing Women: Changing Norms and Resource Allocations for Women in the Arab Mediterranean". The focus of the conference was the impact of economic and political liberalization on social norms and allocation of resources in the Arab Mediterranean region. Dr. Moghadam was also an invited discussant at the annual conference of the Economic Research Forum of the Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey (ERF), which took place at the Cairo Marriott Hotel on 28-31 October. She discussed a paper on the female labor force in Jordan.

On 14 November, **Dr. Moghadam** participated in the Eighth International Association for Women in Development (AWID Forum: Leading Solutions for Equality and Justice in Washington, D.C. The session for which she was a discussant was titled "Women's Rights v. Customary Law: Is Customary Law Always a Threat?"

At the annual meetings of the Middle East Studies Association (Washington, DC, 19-21 November), **Dr. Moghadam** presented a paper on Women and Citizenship in Iran, Turkey, and North Africa. The paper was part of a panel she organized on Islam, Civil Society, and Democracy in Iran, Turkey, and North Africa.

Dr. Maura Toro-Morn, Sociology, attended a conference at the University of Havana, in Cuba in October. The conference was The III Taller Científico Internacional, "Mujeres en el Umbral del Siglo XX," Third International Workshop on Women's Studies (Spanish and English). She presented two papers: "The Impact of Migration on the Family: A Gendered Perspective," and "La mujer puertorriqueña en la fuerza laboral en Chicago."

She also wrote a book review of *The Struggle of Latino/a University Students: In Search of a Liberating Education* by Felix Padilla (New York: Routledge, 1997). It appeared in *Contemporary Sociology, A Journal of Reviews*, Vol. 28(2):171-172, March, 1999.

Dr. Maria Canabal, Family and Consumer Sciences, was recently featured in an article in the Pantagraph on her continuing work on her India grant. This three-year U.S. Information Agency grant is nearly \$100,000. The project includes a faculty exchange between Illinois State University and India's Avinshilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women. The exchange is designed to help women in Colmbatore better understand democracy and help them play a greater role in the free enterprise economy.

Canabal expects that by the end of the three-year period, the six Indian faculty members will have developed their knowledge and skills enough so they can use it in their courses and outreach programs.

The project will also include a student exchange and the establishment of Internet facilities and faculty Internet training in India to continue the exchange of information between the two groups. ✍

University Teaching Awards Announced

Five Women's Studies affiliated faculty are among those to be honored with University Teaching awards during the Founders Day Celebration in February.

Faculty receiving the awards are as follows:

Roberta Trites, English, and Lou Perez, History, will receive the Outstanding University Teacher Awards;

Sandra Harmon, History and Women's Studies, will receive the Outstanding University Teacher Award--Category II;

Maura Doherty, History, and Sophia McClennen, Foreign Languages will receive University Teaching Initiative Awards. ✍

Women's Voice
Illinois State University
Women's Studies Program
Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor
Campus Box 4260
Normal, IL 61790-4260



You are invited
to the

**Women's Studies 25th Anniversary Open House
and
Award Ceremony**

Wednesday, 26 January, 2000
3 - 5 PM

Women's Studies, Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor

For more information, contact Rozel White at (309) 438-2947 or
rwhite@ilstu.edu.

**Diana Onken to be Special Guest at
25th Anniversary Open House**

Women's Studies alumna Diana Onken will be a special guest at the 25th Anniversary and Award Ceremony reception, January 26, 2000. Diana works in the Washington, D.C., national office of Peace Action, the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization. As the Membership Development Associate, her responsibilities include setting seasonal goals for the operation of the phone program (one of the organization's largest revenue sources); recruitment, training and retention of outreach staff; materials production including the monthly bulletins to members; administrative oversight of the membership development program; and development of major donor prospects. In addition, she does extensive work with Peace Action's Gender Caucus that works to empower women within the organization and to ensure continued strong leadership from women. Diana also volunteers as a clinic escort at one of the women's reproductive health clinics in Washington, D.C.

Diana graduated from Illinois State University in August 1997 with a BA in English. She had a double minor, History and Women's Studies. As a student, she served on the Women's Studies curriculum committee during the 1996-97 school year. She was the winner of the first Women's Studies Achievement Award given in the spring of 1997. While she is visiting campus in January, she will also speak to the Peace Studies class taught by Dr. Janie Leatherman.