ANNOUNCING

The Twentieth Annual Conference on Women and Gender
at the University of Connecticut
Spring 2008

On the theme of
Community Activism, Transnational Feminisms
and the Politics of Empowerment

Please check our website this summer for more information
www.womens.studies.uconn.edu
or contact us in the Fall for more information
wsinfo@uconn.edu

CELEBRATING OUR COMMON THREADS

The 19th Annual Conference on Women & Gender
Situating Gendered Violence Within A Global Context
February 16 & 17, 2007
Rome Ballroom,
University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut
Women’s Studies Program
Beach Hall 426
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Welcome to the 19th Annual Conference on Women and Gender, co-sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program, the Provost’s Human Rights Initiative, Office of Multicultural and International Affairs, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Human Rights Institute, Department of Art & Art History, Office of International Affairs, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Institute, Urban and Community Studies, Modern and Classical Languages, Human Development and Family Studies, the UConn Native American Cultural Society, New England Women’s Studies Association, and Iota Iota Iota UConn Storrs Chapter.

We focus this year’s conference on “Situating Gendered Violence within a Global Context.” We take a broad view of gendered violence to include economic, cultural, environmental, spiritual and political violence, as well as domestic violence and trafficking in women. We believe that feminists can help provide a more effective approach to ‘security,’ one that takes into account strategies to protect women, their families and communities, and the environment. We hope that this conference can provide the context for helping us as global citizens envision the political strategies to create a more just and humane world.

We are pleased to have keynote speakers Dr. Charlotte Bunch, Dr. Andrea Smith, Lakota Harden and Masum Momaya join us to provide their visions of a socially just world and their strategies for building effective movements for social justice. We are also grateful to our presenters who have come to share their scholarship and feminist insights on pedagogy, activist research and social justice among other important themes. We encourage all participants to share their own concerns, visions and organizing efforts.

As always, it takes the work of many to bring together an event such as this and we are deeply indebted to our co-sponsors and supporters from throughout the University. For their support of this conference and of the Women’s Studies Program, we are grateful to: Provost Peter Nichols, Vice Provost Ronald Taylor, and Dean Ross MacKinnon. Of course, this conference would not be possible without the assistance of many people who work behind the scenes including the Women’s Studies Advisory Board, Women’s Studies faculty and affiliates, especially Professors Margaret Breen, Mary Crawford, Anne D’Alleva, Françoise Dussart, and Diana Meyers and Kathleen Holgerson, Director of the Women’s Center. We would also like to thank Stacey Melanson and UConn Catering Services. Thanks, also, to all of our wonderful vendors, and Suzy Staubach and her staff at the UConn Coop for their support.

I would also like to express my special thanks to Marita McComiskey, Kate Hurley-Dizigan, Coleen Spurlock and the Women’s Studies student staff. And, of course, there are no words to express my gratitude to Barb Gurr for her vision and her terrific organizational work to make this conference a success.

Nancy A. Naples, Interim Director of the Women’s Studies Program
Professor of Women’s Studies and Sociology

Follow Me Home
A Cinematic Exploration of Race & Identity
Friday, February 16
Konover Auditorium/Dodd Center, 7:30 pm

Written and directed by Peter Bratt, of South American Indian ancestry, Follow Me Home is a defiant, humorous, poetic tale exploring race and identity. Weaving together traditions of Native, African and Latin cultures, the film tells the story of four artists and their journey across the American landscape. The film, called “a work of genius” by Alice Walker, earned Bratt the Best Director award at the 1996 American Indian Film Festival and the Best Feature Film Audience Award at the 1996 San Francisco International Film Festival. It was also an Official Selection in the 1996 Sundance Film Festival.

Film Screening and Discussion moderated by Lakota Harden
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16
12:00 PM Registration Opens
12:30 PM Welcoming Remarks
Dr. Nancy Naples, Interim Director of Women’s Studies
Dr. Ronald Taylor, Vice Provost of the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs
12:45 PM Opening Plenary
Masum Momaya, Third Wave Foundation
Lakota Harden, Poet, Orator and Activist
1:45 PM Break
2:00 PM Session I
3:15 PM Break
3:30 PM Session II
4:45 PM Break
5:00 PM Keynote Address
Dr. Charlotte Bunch
Center for Women’s Global Leadership
6:00 PM Reception
6:30 PM Dinner (list of local restaurants provided)
7:30 PM Movie Screening & Discussion
Follow Me Home
Moderated by Lakota Harden
(at Konover Auditorium)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17
8:30 AM Registration Opens
9:00 AM Welcome
9:15 AM Session III
10:00 AM Break
10:15 AM Session IV
11:30 AM Lunch
Performance: Sangeeta Ratna
1:00 PM Session V
2:15 PM Break
2:30 PM Session VI
3:45 PM Break
4:00 PM Closing Address
Dr. Andrea Smith
INCITE!, Boarding School Healing Project
5:00 PM Closing Reception
**POSTERS**

Posters will be on display both days in the Portico Room (P)

**South Asian Women and Abuse: Advocate Perspectives on Domestic Violence Within South Asian Communities**
Artie Maharaj, University of Connecticut

**A Heaven Built By Others: Han Chauvinism and Uyghur Separatism in Xinjiang**
Benjamin Rubelmann, University of Connecticut

**Paradise Lost: The Mesh and Lace of the Sexual Trafficking Industry**
Jodi Alberti, University of Connecticut

**Human Rights in the US: A View Through Posters**
Katie Fileccio, University of Connecticut

**National Security: Human Rights in the United States?**
Michelle Zagura, University of Connecticut
Sara Topper, University of Connecticut
Katie Fileccio, University of Connecticut
Benjamin Rubelmann, University of Connecticut

**MOVIE SCREENINGS**

There will be ongoing movie screenings on Saturday in Room E. Please review the detailed schedule for titles and times.

**VENDORS**

Vendors will be available both days with a variety of products for purchase and information to share. Please be sure to stop by their tables in the Common Area. Their support is invaluable in keeping our conference affordable.
others about this modern day slavery, you are taking an active role in creating a truly free world.

Fileccio, Katie: Many of the posters presented this weekend focus on human rights issues in the US. Developed as part of a class project, the undergraduate student presenters offer several themes for further reflection as we survey the human rights landscape in the US today. Topics include: the Universal Declaration of Human rights, immigration, welfare, gay/lesbian/transgender rights, healthcare, civil and political rights including the PATRIOT act. One poster will focus on CEDAW.

Maharaj, Artie: In this study, nine advocates were interviewed regarding their perceptions about domestic violence within South Asian communities – specifically the ways culture influences the response to domestic violence within these particular communities. The results indicated that several aspects of South Asian culture can serve as both a strength and weakness in responding to domestic violence. The recognition of this duality can help us avoid “blaming specific cultures” for domestic violence and identifying ways in which we can utilize the existing strengths within the culture in working with South Asian communities to combat domestic violence.

For their support of this conference and of the Women’s Studies Program, we are grateful to:

Provost Peter Nichols
Vice Provost Ronald Taylor
Dean Ross MacKinnon
Professor Richard Wilson, Director of the Human Rights Institute
Theodore Van Alst, UConn Native American Cultural Society
Dr. Ron Sabatelli, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Dr. Anita Garey, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Dr. Boris Bravo-Ureta, Director of Office of International Affairs
Dr. Elizabeth Mahan of the Office of International Affairs
Dr. Marysol Ascencio, Institute for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies
Dr. Guillermo Irizarry, Director of the Institute for Puerto Rican and Latino Studies
Dr. Robert Fisher, Director of the Urban and Community Studies
Dr. Cornelia Dayton of the Department of History
Dr. Judith Thorpe, Chair of the Department of Art & Art History
Dr. Jacqueline Loss of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages
Dr. Jeffrey Ogbar, Director of the Institute for African American Studies
Dr. Roger Buckley, Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies
Dr. Bandana Purkayastha of the Institute for Asian American Studies
Dr. Richard Hiskes, Political Science and Human Rights Institute
Dr. Blanca Silvestrini, History and Human Rights Institute

OPENING PLENARY

Friday, February 16
12:45 – 1:45 PM
Main Dining Area

Situating Violence At Home Within A Global Context
Moderator: Barbara Gurr, University of Connecticut
Masum Momaya, Third Wave Foundation, Feminism & Violence Against Women: Expanding the Definition, Subtracting the Dollars
Lakota Harden, Poet, Orator and Activist, Honoring Our Ancestors: Remembering, Reclaiming, Recreating Our Sacred Hoop

SESSION I

2:00 – 3:15 PM

1A Interrogating Expectations
Moderator: Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut
Maura Kelly, University of Connecticut, Virginity Loss on “Teen Drama” Television Programs: An Analysis of Discursive Frames
Shweta Majumdar, University of Connecticut, Women in the Right-Wing Movements: Comparative Study of India and the US
Samantha Brown, University of Connecticut & Gregory Kerwin, University of Connecticut
The Introduction Of Beauty Pageants In A Developing Country: Competing Pressures Of Modernization And Traditionality on The Identities Of Nepalese Women

1B Gender Violence In Africa
Moderator: Kathy Labadorf, University of Connecticut
Lucy Wanjiru Njagi, Brandeis University, Gender Violence in Kenya
Maria Goreth Nandago Ssenyomo, Brandeis University, Fighting The Silence Surrounding Domestic Violence; Challenges And Prospects Of Success (Case Drawn From Uganda)

1C Embodying Change: Young Women And Their Activist-Bodies
Masum Momaya, Third Wave Foundation

PLEASE NOTE: THE LETTER IN THE SESSION NUMBERS NEXT TO THE PANEL TITLE IS THE ROOM IN WHICH THE PANEL WILL BE HELD
SESSION II

3:30 – 4:45 PM

2A CEDAW: A Valuable Tool or Dangerous Window Dressing
Moderator: Kelley Ready, Brandeis University
Kelley Ready, Brandeis University, The Human Rights Approach to Gender Equality
Mareska Mantik, Brandeis University, Summary of Essay on CEDAW Report in Indonesia
Shamila Daluwatte, Brandeis University, CEDAW and Sri Lanka at a Glance Through Gender Lens
Kyle Woolley, Brandeis University, The Political and Cultural Roots of the Trafficking Women in Malawi

2B Women Will: Raising Awareness On Sexual and Domestic Violence In The Face Of Adversity
Edmund Eddings, Providence College
Frances Ford, Providence College
Victoria Picinich, Providence College
Kathryn Stewart, Providence College
Patricia Wagner, Providence College
Kerry Bergin, Providence College

2C Teaching About Violence
Madeleine Cahill, Westfield State College, Global Film: Illuminating Worldwide Violence Against Women

2E Violence And The State
Moderator: Barbara Gurr
Robert A. Booth, University of Connecticut, Sexual Violence in the Balkan Conflict: Comparisons and Contrasts of Rape, Sexual Violence and the Victimization of Women and Men
Barbara Sutton, University at Albany – SUNY, Gender, State Violence, and ‘Living Room’ Terror in Argentina
Pamela O’Leary, Claremont University, Prison Rape: A Violation of Human Rights and Civil Liberties

Mitsunaga, Kyla: Japan was the last developed nation to pass anti-trafficking laws in 2005. It was also the last developed nation to pass an anti-domestic violence law in 2001. By looking at the Gender Development Index, Gender Empowerment Measure, and the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, I suggest that there is a link between the treatment of women in Japan with that of the trafficking situation.

Ramanand, Shahista Ramdhani; Zea, Liliana: This presentation demonstrates how a small gesture from one person or group, such as that we have undertaken at the University of Connecticut, can make a phenomenal contribution to a disadvantaged community. The Women’s Studies Social Activism project will serve as an example of how this could be achieved. It will also demonstrate how the spirit of Ubuntu fulfills this need for community involvement and how this spirit can be drawn on to deal with global scourges such as poverty and HIV Aids.

Ross, Lauren Sardi; Shannon, Deric: This paper demonstrates how graduate students learned about feminist pedagogy through methodology. Primarily, we noted dilemmas in feminist methodology that became central dilemmas for us in our roles as feminist research guides within a combined graduate/undergraduate feminist methodologies course. As we became aware of these specific dilemmas, we attempted to apply them to the work we were doing for our research project on campus safety, and also found them to be central pedagogical concerns in ways that were both unique and also common to each of us.

Carminati, Genevieve; Coffey, Nora; Schweikert, Rick; Urquhart, Susan R: Women’s Studies programs are in a unique position to help stop hysterectomy and castration from becoming the legacy of future generations. This presentation will provide the necessary information about removal of the female organs to make it an educational imperative. Because the public is largely unaware that hysterectomy has continued at the same rate for decades, hysterectomy is viewed by many as a “past debate,” but the “present possibilities” of avoiding millions of medically unwarranted, damaging surgeries is something that belongs in all “future feminisms.”

Posters
Alberti, Jodi: Every day women and young children are being shipped, bought, traded and discarded in the sexual trafficking industry. The problem is a global concern, not strictly limited to third world countries. By educating yourself and...
customized for Black communities are beginning to prosper. This presentation will offer a review of domestic and international evidence-based primary prevention programming tailored specifically for Black communities.

**Purvin, Diane:** Using longitudinal ethnographic data from low-income African American, Latina, and Euro-American urban mothers, I describe how domestic violence resulted in a range of negative consequences for their long-term educational and career paths. Both exposure to and experience of such abuse caused respondents to drop out of school, greatly diminished their ability to learn and utilize educational and vocational skills, and permanently derailed them from professional careers into lifetimes of marginalization, low-wage work, and welfare receipt.

4C **Irawaty, Diah:** The hegemony of patriarchal views upon Islamic thoughts is one of the biggest problems causing discrimination against women in Islamic society. In this condition, Muslim women have no space to participate in the process of more gender-sensitive Islamic teachings. To respond this problem, it is important to build critical views tradition among Muslim women in order to be able to reconstruct these patriarchal Islamic thoughts.

**Letendre, Denise:** This paper explores the biblical figure, Mary Magdalene, as a model of courage whose story offers a healing message for victims of violence today. It will describe select Mary Magdalene myths and ritual practices exploring how she becomes a personal and public symbol of women's experiences of violence, as well as a site of collective recognition of and resistance to violence against women as a form of oppression.

**Session V**

5A **Barbeau, Elizabeth; Cracco, Elizabeth; Tran, Vu; Vanase, Jaclyn:** Members of the University of Connecticut Violence Against Women Prevention Program will explore the questions of what activism looks like on a college campus in 2007. They will discuss their efforts to identify and change attitudes and behavior across the continuum of sexual violence. We will touch upon the challenges involved in expanding our feminist awareness of social justice issues, and of formulating effective, educational, community-based responses. We will be presenting a diversity of initiatives that highlight the creative possibility of energized activism.

5B **Alberti, Jodi; Hamill, Bronwyn; Jordan, Michelle; Myers, Brenda; Pauling, Kim; Sawka, Alane; Staye, Megan:** Violence against women is a very important issue that is often overlooked and disregarded in American society and within the education system. As a result of taking a Women and Violence class, we have emerged with a variety of personal awakenings and are eager to share our experiences with others. We firmly believe that education and awareness are essential components for eliminating gendered violence. This panel discussion offers attendees the opportunity to engage in dialogue about the impact of education on understandings of violence.

5C **Hatcherson, Jean:** Acid attacks against women in Bangladesh can be situated within a broader context of patriarchy, religion, tradition, and economics. Drawing on public documents as well as personal experience as a volunteer administrator on three separate surgical missions to Bangladesh to aid acid victims, I will discuss how local feminist organizations and international communities came together to aid these disenfranchised and disfigured women, and in

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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

5:00 – 6:00 PM
Main Dining Area

**Dr. Charlotte Bunch**
Center for Women’s Global Leadership

**Gender Based Violence on the Global Agenda: Progress and Challenges**

Introduction by Kathryn Libal, University of Connecticut Women’s Studies and Anthropology

**RECEPTION**

6:00 PM

Please join us in the main dining area for a light buffet. A list of local restaurants will be provided.

**MOVIE SCREENING**

7:30 – 10:00 PM
Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center

**Follow Me Home**

With a discussion following moderated by Lakota Harden

— Please see page 23 for details —
SESSION III

Saturday, February 17
9:15 – 10:00 AM

3A Violence And The Nation
Moderator: Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut
Joanna Nairn, Harvard Law School, Constructing Gender, Constructing Women: Inclusive Nation-Building in Post-Apartheid South Africa
Sanjeta Sing Negi, Brandeis University, Gender and Natural Resource Management

3B Violence And Voice
Moderator: Kathy Labadorf, University of Connecticut
Ozgün Basmaz, University of Akron & Sevin Gallo, University of Akron
Kristen Pavlik, Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Stamford, Connecticut, Change in Voice: An Analysis of the Female Experience in Haiti During the Reign of "Papa Doc" Duvalier in Edwidge Danticat's Krik? Krak!

3C Researching Safety On Campus
Moderator: Deric Shannon, University of Connecticut
Deborah Mullen, University of Connecticut
Shaina Rasmussen, University of Connecticut
Abbey Willis, University of Connecticut
Researching Safety On Campus
While conducting original feminist research on the UConn Campus, we encountered some dilemmas and some insights. Some of these topics include the struggle for the redistribution of power relations within feminist methodology and the difficulty of mapping an entire community’s conception of “safety,” as well as working as a class to accomplish the united goal of an institutional ethnography.

3C Visual Narration: Through the Looking Glass
Carolyn Ginsberg, University of Connecticut – Stamford
* This presentation begins in Session III and continues into Session IV

3E Internationally Renowned Nobel Women Laureates Who Were Peace Activists
Leah Stambler, Western Connecticut State University

Historically, women have been known as advocates of world peace, and have organized female peers in their efforts to persuade political leaders and governments about the rectitude of their causes. Twelve prominent women have earned recognition as Nobel Peace Laureates between 1905 and 2004 for their extraordinary work. They have taken strong stands about prospects for the world’s future, which reflected anti-war principles, concern for the effects of inequity among populations, and putting an end to the underlying causes of violence against humanity.

Session IV

4A Cheverette, Amy; DiGrazia, Jennifer; Mildred, Jane; O'Rourke, Michelle; Pilver, Erika; Stassinos, Elizabeth: Our interdisciplinary panel addresses strategies for teaching and promoting discussions of feminisms with students who come to college with the backlash political notion that "feminism" succeeded in past U.S. civil rights movements and that they need not identify with the feminism that they have benefited from. We address global and domestic case studies and invite the audience to engage in a variety of "teachable moments" that can turn difficult discussions into moments that students can find common ground in and investigate in their other classroom discussions, their personal lives and relationships, and in the workplace.

4B Alexander, Pamela: Immigrant women overall experience more domestic violence than do U.S.-born women; more research on them is sorely needed. This study is based on data collected from 1,500 male batterers (30% immigrants) who were court-mandated to treatment in the State of Maryland as well as 400 of their female partners (21% immigrants). The correlates of domestic violence in these men and women are compared on the basis of their immigration status.

Driggers, Monica Ghosh: Women of color suffer higher rates of incarceration than their White counterparts, yet rehabilitative services for female offenders rarely include culturally sensitive practices. Given that the vast majority of female offenders of all races have been victimized by domestic or sexual abuse, the need for services that address these traumatic experiences effectively cannot be overstated. This presentation explores the obstacles to delivering culturally appropriate domestic violence counseling in the criminal justice setting, as well as what these gaps in service ultimately mean for the human rights of female offenders.

Morrison, Katherine: The public health community has been slow to create primary prevention efforts that are designed specifically for Black communities both domestically and abroad. However, primary prevention efforts that are...
Stassinos, Elizabeth: Two texts on terrorism by women scholars at Harvard, Jessica Stern’s *Terror in the name of God* and Louise Richardson's *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the enemy, containing the threat*, signal a revolution in the way that American criminal justice texts and programs must now address terrorism. My paper describes a possible new curriculum for criminal justice programs that would engage anthropology and women's studies and how these changes and deepening understandings of terrorism will affect texts and the pedagogy of criminal justice in the coming years.

Booth, Robert: By broadening investigations into war-time sexual violence to include men as well as women as victims (as well as potential perpetrators) one sees that there are differences between sexual violence aimed at men and at women. By examining these gendered variations in sexual violence perpetrated during the Yugoslavian war one can see how sexual violence was structured during that war and thus attempt to understand and to prevent future atrocities from taking place.

O'Leary, Pamela: As a rape crisis counselor, I interacted with a male raped during his first week in juvenile hall. This experience shall act as a departure point for an exploration of prison rape as a violation of civil liberties and human rights as seen through the contexts of structural violence, human rights discourse, and gendered violence. Feminists must re-conceptualize our understanding of gendered violence to include ostracized members of society such as male prisoners.

Sutton, Barbara: This paper examines itineraries of gender violence between state and ‘living room terrorism’ in Argentina. From women murdered during democracy using techniques similar to those applied to the people “disappeared” by the last military dictatorship, to women who speak of domestic violence in ways that evoke the experience of state terrorism, we can see the fluidity of gendered violence and how discourses and practices of terror are deployed across seemingly unrelated sites.

Session III

3A Nairn, Joanna: In 1994, South Africa emerged from apartheid eager to reinvent itself as an inclusive and pluralistic society. Despite these intentions, I find that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's approach to nation-building consistently and significantly underrepresented women and their experiences. Moreover, I suggest that despite the government's concerted efforts to redress high levels of gendered violence in the state, there has been great reluctance to change the practices and attitudes which support and encourage this violence.

3B Basmaz, Ozgün; Gallo, Sevin: Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*, published in 2003, flies off shelves in bookstores and libraries across the United States. Our paper examines the reasons behind the popularity of this work and others like it by analyzing their political and social uses. Our research contributes to the understanding of the process and practices of domination–including economic exploitation, ongoing oppression, humiliation and epistemological violence.

Pavlik, Kristen: Edwidge Danticat’s *Krik?Krak!* focuses on the experience Haitian women. “Children of the Sea,” the first story in the collection focuses on war torn Haiti through a female Haitian in comparison to the experience of migration

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**SESSION IV**

10:15 – 11:30 AM

4A Not Me!? Feminisms And Feminists In The Classroom: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable Discussion By Westfield State College Faculty And Students On The Issue Of Resistance To Feminism In The Classroom

Moderator: Elizabeth Stassinos, Westfield State College
Jennifer DiGrazia, Westfield State College
Amy Cheverette, Westfield State College
Jane Mildred, Westfield State College
Michelle O'Rourke, Westfield State College

4B Domestic Violence And The Global Marginalization of Women

Moderator: Katherine Morrison, Wellesley Centers for Women
Pamela Alexander, Wellesley Centers for Women, *Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrant Groups*
Monica Ghosh Driggers, Wellesley Centers for Women, *Domestic and Sexual Victimization Among Female Offenders in the Criminal Justice System: A Human Rights Perspective*
Katherine Morrison, Wellesley Centers for Women, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Within Black Communities In The United States And Nigeria*
Diane Purvin, Wellesley Centers for Women, *The Impact of Domestic Violence on Women’s Educational and Career Trajectories*

4C Using Religion To Interrogate Violence

Diah Irawaty, Brandeis University, *Building Freedom Of Thinking Among Muslim Women: Toward Critical Views Against Patriarchal Islamic Thought*

4CA Visual Narration: Through the Looking Glass
Carolyn Ginsberg, University of Connecticut – Stamford
* This presentation begins in Session III and continues into Session IV

4E Ongoing Film Screening
Title: *Senorita Extraaviada*
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Please join us in the main dining area for lunch and a vocal performance by

*Sangeeta Ratna*

Performers: Vrunda Aithal, Shobha Gurung, Anjana Narayan & Shanthi Rao
(members of The South Asian Tree—TSAT)

Introduction: Bandana Purkayastha
University of Connecticut Sociology,
Asian American Studies & Women’s Studies

Don’t forget to browse the vendor tables!

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**SESSION V**

1:00 – 2:15 PM

5A  **The Continuum Of Violence Against Women & Campus Activism**

*Moderator: Elizabeth Cracco, University of Connecticut*

Elizabeth Barbeau, University of Connecticut
Vu Tran, University of Connecticut
Jaclyn Vanase, University of Connecticut

5B  **Student Perspectives And Experiences With Gendered Violence**

*Moderator: Barbara Gurr, University of Connecticut*

Jodi Alberti, University of Connecticut
Bronwyn Hamill, University of Connecticut
Michelle Jordan, University of Connecticut
Brenda Myers, University of Connecticut
Kim Pauling, University of Connecticut
Alane Sawka, University of Connecticut
Megan Staye, University of Connecticut

Trenched in social, economic and cultural practices that cause it to be a commonly occurring phenomenon in society and often goes unreported. I suggest that creation of awareness and community education, coupled with putting in place appropriate legislation, will in the long run eradicate violence against women in society.

**Nandago Ssenyomo, Maria Goreth:** This presentation examines salient issues that have contributed to the silence around domestic violence and attempts to explore possible strategies that could be used to complement the ones already in existence with the hope that when all is done we shall begin to see reduced suffering of women as a result of domestic violence.

**1E Coffey, Nora; Schweikert, Rick:** *Un Becoming* leads audiences through the revolving door of an issue that affects every part of a woman and every part of society. What is being done to another woman every 30 seconds of every minute of every day is difficult to look at, but *Un Becoming* allows the public to look at the impact of the removal of the female organs through familiar characters in everyday situations. In this way, audiences identify with the story and say, “That could be me.”

**Session II**

**2A Ready, Kelley:** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is a mechanism through which gender equality is promoted by the UN. This paper will explain the process through which countries that have ratified the bill must report on their progress, and how non-governmental groups use CEDAW to challenge their government’s claims. Efforts in the US to promote CEDAW on local and state levels will also be discussed.

**Daluwatte, Shamila:** Sri Lanka ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on October 5, 1981. Despite political instability resulting from a long civil war, Sri Lanka has sustained positive social indicators, particularly with regard to education and health. Nonetheless, there are a number of issues that impede the advancement of women in social, political, cultural, legal and economics spheres. This paper focuses on gender discriminatory laws and practices that have been formulated without paying due attention to gender sensitivity and gender equality.

**2B Bergin, Kerry; Eddings, Edmund; Ford, Frances; Picinich, Victoria; Stewart, Kathryn; Wagner, Patricia:** As members of a college community where sexual assault often goes unreported and domestic violence is viewed as a myth rather than a reality, we have taken it upon ourselves to promote these issues through our on-campus organization, Women Will. In our presentation, we hope to explain how we successfully raise awareness about sexual and domestic violence on campus. From the campus we expand into the community and the state, then to the nation, and finally to the global level.

**2C Cahill, Madeline:** Hollywood film often treats violence against women as entertainment, but many filmmakers around the world use film as a mode of feminist political activism. This paper will explore the use of film as a pedagogical tool for raising student awareness of and interest in global violence—physical, economic, and political—against women. Video clips will be shown.
Opening Plenary Panel
Momaya, Masum: Inheriting the strong legacy of activism against violence against women (VAW) from second wave feminists, third wave feminists have helped expand the definition of VAW, connecting it with other social justice movements, while still preserving and making central a gender analysis. Such expansion and broadening, though, has created interesting challenges for funding and resourcing this activist work. Drawing upon examples from the work of the Third Wave Foundation and some of its grantee partner organizations, I will discuss how this conceptual expansion has had unforeseen consequences for providing resources for VAW work.

Session I
1A Brown, Samantha; Kerwin, Gregory: This study examined the impact of competing pressures of modernization and traditionality on the identities and attitudes of urban Nepali women. The study’s chief objective was to capture the predicament facing Nepali women who are attempting to resist patriarchal traditions while also trying to preserve their long-established conventional values and customs. For some, modernization is a blessing as it allows women more freedoms and rights. Conversely, women may be more vulnerable to developing an identity grounded in their physical appearance and body shape.

Kelly, Maura: Teen dramas provide a unique location for examining how teenage sexuality is discursively framed. In this analysis, I examine the ways that these discursive frames manifest in virginity loss narratives on teen dramas. Although the storylines provided many healthy sexual messages (e.g. contraception use, delaying sex until it was mutually desired), from a feminist perspective, it is highly problematic that any mention of female desire was missing from the majority of the storylines.

Majumdar, Shweta: This paper investigates the participation of women in right-wing movements in India and the US. While some scholars view the participation as an indicator of women’s transition from the domestic/private/traditional sphere and greater acceptance in public sphere of politics (regarded so far as the ‘masculine’ domain), others question the very paradoxical nature of participation. I find that in spite of greater visibility the role, expectations and participation of women in these movements is gendered and services the masculinist agenda of the movements.

1B Momaya, Masum: What does living, being, and moving about in the world in a female body have to do with being an activist? Using examples from my dissertation research with “professional” young women activists working in the mainstream political system in Washington and my experience with “grassroots” young women activists grant partners of the Third Wave Foundation, I will explore how young women from a variety of political proclivities narrate being in their bodies while trying to bring about change in the world.

1C Njagi, Lucy Wanjiru: Gender-based violence, which refers to physical, sexual, or psychological violence, such as in wife battering is often en-

SESSION VI

2:30 – 3:45 PM

6A Responses And Strategies
Moderator: Kathleen Holgerson, University of Connecticut
Saraswati Avatapalli, Dress for Success Hartford, Dress for Success Hartford: Making a Difference in the Greater Hartford Community
Shahista Ramdhani Ramanand, University of Connecticut & Liliana Zea, University of Connecticut
Ubunthu: Making a Difference in Communities: The Case of South Africa

6B Learning Feminist Pedagogy Through Methodology
Lauren Sardi Ross, University of Connecticut
Deric Shannon, University of Connecticut

6C Medical Rhetoric: Amputating The Uterus Does Not Prevent Uterine Orgasm — Amputating The Penis Prevents Erection And Orgasm, Right?
Moderator: Nora Coffey, HERS Foundation
Rick Schweikert, HERS Foundation
Genevieve Carminati, Montgomery College
Susan R. Urquhart, HERS Foundation

6E Ongoing Film Screening
Title: The Vienna Tribunal
Title: In the Morning
4:00 – 5:00 PM
Main Dining Area

**Dr. Andrea Smith**
INCITE!, Boarding School Healing Project
_**Violence Against Women of Color**_
Introductory remarks by Theodore Van Alst, Coordinator, University of Connecticut
Native American Cultural Society Office

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Please join us in the main dining area for a light buffet. Thank you for joining us at the conference! Thanks to all presenters, moderators, vendors, participants & volunteers for making this conference a success!

**EVENT STAFF**

 Conference Coordinator: Barbara Gurr
Interim Director of Women's Studies: Nancy Naples
Assoc. Director of Women's Studies: Marita McComiskey
Program Assistant: Kate Hurley-Dizigan
Administrative Assistant: Coleen Spurlock
Invaluable Women's Studies Student Staff:
Maureen Doran, Brittney Dullard, Michelle Jordan, Estela Lopez, Sara Moravej, Katy Sileo & Tamika Trotman

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**SPEAKERS**

**Masum Momaya**
is a board member of the Third Wave Foundation and a member of the national steering committee for Amnesty International USA's Women's Human Rights Program. She is a co-founder of Saheli, a South Asian Women's Political Collective at Stanford University and has worked for the Center for Women Policy Studies, the Global Fund for Women and the Three Guineas Fund.

**Lakota Harden**
is a Minneconjou/Yankton Lakota/HoChunk/Quechua/Tlingit poet, orator and activist who has done work in many traditional communities on the importance of healing as well as the impact of colonization and other forms of violence on Native communities.

**Charlotte Bunch**
is the Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership, recipient of numerous women's human rights awards, and widely published in the areas of women's human rights and anti-violence. She was a keynote speaker at the 1995 Beijing Conference for women and is currently a Board of Governor's Distinguished Service Professor in Women and Genders Studies at Rutgers University.

**Andrea Smith**