

**University of Connecticut
Women's Studies Program**

**21st Annual Conference on Women & Gender
“Ecofeminism in a Transnational World”**

Final Schedule – March 19, 2009

CONDENSED SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

- 12:00 Registration Opens
1:00 Welcome and Introductions
1:15 Friday Opening Plenary
Ecological, Activist & Community Involvement
Denise Burchsted, Karolina Fucikova, Meghan Ruta and
Jennifer Sayers, University of Connecticut
2:00 Friday Opening Performance
The Tragic Tale of Chronic Consumption and Her Lover Carbon Footprint
Phoebe Godfrey, University of Connecticut
Kristin Fortier, Independent Artist & Performer
2:45 Break
3:00 Session A
4:00 Break
4:15 Session B
5:15 Break
5:30 Opening Keynote
What are the Lessons of the Iraq War if We Pay Attention to Women?
Cynthia Enloe, Research Professor, Department of International Development,
Community & Environment, Clark University
6:30 Reception

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

- 9:00 Registration Opens
10:00 Saturday Opening Plenary
Gender, Religions, Human Rights
Bandana Purkayastha, Bidya Ranjeet and Shweta Majumdar
University of Connecticut
11:00 Break
11:15 Session C
12:30 Lunch available for purchase in the Student Union
1:30 Session D
2:45 Break
3:00 Session E
4:15 Break
4:30 Closing Keynote
Woman is the First Environment
Katsi Cook, Wolf Clan Mohawk Aboriginal Midwife
5:30 Closing Reception

EXPANDED SCHEDULE

Friday, March 20, 2009

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1:00 - 1:15 PM

Student Union Ballroom

Barbara Gurr & Nikki McGary

Women's Studies, University of Connecticut

OPENING PLENARY

1:15 - 2:00 PM

Student Union Ballroom

Ecological, Activist & Community Involvement

**Denise Burchsted, Karolina Fucikova,
Meghan Ruta, and Jennifer Sayers**

University of Connecticut

Moderated by Nikki McGary, University of Connecticut

OPENING PERFORMANCE

2:00 - 2:45 PM

Student Union Ballroom

The Tragic Tale of Chronic Consumption and Her Lover Carbon Footprint

Phoebe Godfrey, University of Connecticut

Kristin Fortier, Independent Artist & Performer

SESSION A:

3:00 – 4:00 PM

A1: Connecticut Women's Studies Coalition Meeting

Room: SU 321

A2: The Elephant in the Room: Best Practices in Teaching Gender and Sexuality

Room: SU 421, The Women's Center

Jennifer R. Daniels, University of Connecticut

A3: Venus, Priests, and Superwomen

Room: SU 325

Alexia Kosmider, University of Rhode Island

Deborah Monuteaux, New Beat Video

A4: Sex and the Body

Room: SU 312

Moderated by Dina Giovanelli, University of Connecticut

Kristin Pompano, University of Connecticut

The Controversial Clitoris: A Source of Female Oppression and Pleasure

Mia Freeddenfield, University of Connecticut

Pornography and Its Affects on Relationships and Views of Sex

Tina Parziale, University of Connecticut

Green and Amber

A5: Conscious Transgressions: Gender, Ecology and the Subaltern

Room: SU 316

Moderated by Shweta Majumdar, University of Connecticut

Ute Bettray, University of Connecticut

Spivak's Quest for the Consciousness of the Mute Subaltern Woman as an Implicit Critical Genealogy

Michelle Garvey, University of Connecticut
Constructing the Native: Transgressing Boundaries through Ecological Restoration

A6: Theoretical Interventions

Room: SU 318

Moderated by Anne D'Alleva, University of Connecticut

Mary Burke, University of Connecticut

Deric Shannon, University of Connecticut

Abbey Willis, University of Connecticut

Queering Ecofeminism

Bibek Sharma Poudyal, University of Connecticut

Hegemonic Masculinity, Gender Justice and Gender Related Violence in Nepal

SESSION B

4:15 – 5:15 PM

B1: Reading Excerpt from a Novel in Progress *To Be Especially Watchful*

Room: SU 316

Introduction by Margaret Breen, University of Connecticut

Ruth Macijauskas, University of Connecticut

B2: This panel has been cancelled - Dr. Gilbert will be presenting in Panel E2 on Saturday @ 3:00 PM in SU 325

B3: Managing Family Resources in Challenging Times

Room: SU 325

Faye Griffiths-Smith, University of Connecticut

B4: The Theoretical and Methodological Challenges of Intersectional Analysis

Room: SU 321

Moderated by Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut

Barbara Gurr, University of Connecticut

Jaime L. Gusrang, University of Connecticut

Miho Iwata, University of Connecticut

Jacqueline C. Larriva, University of Connecticut

Nikki McGary, University of Connecticut

Jayne Schwartzman, University of Connecticut

B5: Transnational Gender Justice

Room: SU 318

Moderated by Heather M. Turcotte, University of Connecticut

Zehra F. Kabasakal Arat, Purchase College

Debra J. Leibowitz, Drew University

Micki McElya, University of Connecticut

Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, University of Connecticut

Heather M. Turcotte, University of Connecticut

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5:30 – 6:30 PM

The Women's Center, SU 421

What are the Lessons of the Iraq War if We Pay Attention to Women?

Cynthia Enloe

Department of International Development, Community & Environment, Clark University

Introduction by Heather M. Turcotte, University of Connecticut

CLOSING RECEPTION

6:30 PM

The Women's Center, SU 421
Please join us for a light reception.

Saturday, March 21, 2009

OPENING PLENARY

10:00 – 11:00 AM

Student Union Ballroom

Gender, Religions, Human Rights

Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut

Bidya Ranjeet, University of Connecticut

Shweta Majumdar, University of Connecticut

Moderated by Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut

Introduction by Manisha Desai, University of Connecticut

SESSION C

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM

C1: Campus Safety

Room: SU Ballroom

Moderated by Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut

Victoria Flagg, University of Connecticut

Caely Flynn, University of Connecticut

Safety on Campus: Results from a Survey of Students, Faculty, Administrators and Staff

Stephanie Guirand, University of Connecticut

HIV Awareness Among University of Connecticut Students

C2: Transgender Issues: Violations of Trans Personhood

Room: SU 321

Moderated by Margaret Breen, University of Connecticut

Andrea Teague, University of Connecticut

The Danger in Being 'Both': Violence Against the Transgender Community

Cassidy Weyel, University of Connecticut

Violence Against Transgender Community

Katie Haggans, University of Connecticut

The Transgender Struggle for Justice in the Prison System

C3: The Varying Roles and Images of Women in Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Picture Books for Young Children

Room: SU 421, The Women's Center

Thomas B. Goodkind, University of Connecticut

Elizabeth Rowell, Rhode Island College

C4: Erasing the Colonizer's Footprints: Embracing Holistic (Creation) Stories and Activist Agendas for an Ecofeminist Future

Room: SU 316

Moderated by Eveline Lang, Shippensburg University

Eveline Lang, Shippensburg University

Popular Culture and Ecofeminist Pedagogy

Pia Silverlieb (in absentia), Shippensburg University

Reawakening a Holistic Worldview as a Passage to an Ecofeminist Future: the Power Stories in Oral Traditions

B. Naqqi Manco (in absentia), Shippensburg University

From Spectator Tourism to Eco-Friendly Tourism: Counteracting the Exploitation of the Cultures and the Land on the Grand Turk Islands

C5: Environmental Justice and Natural Agency in the Discourses of Climate Change

Room: SU 318

Moderated by Keith R. Peterson, Colby College

Patricia Glazebrook, Dalhousie University

Agency and Environmental Justice: Women Farmers and Climate Change in Ghana

Keith R. Peterson, Colby College
'Ecosystem Services,' Nonhuman Agency, and Climate Change

C6: Conceptualizing Pedagogical Territories in Ecofeminist Thought

Room: SU 325

Moderated by Christy Holmes, Ohio State University

Janet Gray, The College of New Jersey

Anya Saretzky, The College of New Jersey

Emily Witko, The College of New Jersey

Positioning Ecofeminism Across the Curriculum

Christy Holmes, Ohio State University

Ecofeminist Genealogies: Developing a Pedagogy of Deterritorialization

Sharon Collingwood, Ohio State University

Serious Games: Using Virtual Worlds for Feminist Teaching and Activism

C7: Gender, Politics and Location

Room: SU 312

Moderated by Eve Shapiro, University of Connecticut

Dr. Fatemeh Haghghatjoo, University of Massachusetts – Boston

The One Million Signatures Campaign and its Impact on Legislators and Legislative Policy in Iran

Gordon Gauchat, University of Connecticut

Maura Kelly, University of Connecticut

Feminist and Post-Feminist Identity and U.S. Politics

Patricia Hynes, Boston University

The Unique Harm of War to Women and the Moral Necessity of Peace-Making

SESSION D
1:30 – 2:45 PM

D1: Feminist Methodology and the Use of Self Reflection in the Research Process

Room: SU Ballroom

Moderated by Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut

Samit Bordoloi, University of Connecticut

Barbara Gurr, University of Connecticut

Jama Holchin, University of Connecticut

Matthew McDuff, University of Connecticut

Jeffrey Wickersham, University of Connecticut

D2: Power and Media

Room: SU 325

Moderated by Maura Kelly, University of Connecticut

Rita Offiaeli, University of Connecticut

From Spice to Film: Encountering and Mediating Conflicts Between Traditional and Contemporary Female Gender Roles Through 'Nollywood' Video-films

Allysa Milan, University of Connecticut

Women, the American Media, and the Construction of Femininity

Archana Krishnan, University of Connecticut

Green Advertisement: A Critical Content Analysis of Eco-Friendly Product Advertisements

D3: Feminist Pedagogy, Space and Discourse

Room: SU 421, The Women's Center

Moderated by Nikki McGary, University of Connecticut

Molly Ferguson, University of Connecticut

Lauren Hatch, University of Connecticut

Colleen Thornberg, University of Connecticut

Finding Pockets of Women's Agency in the Classroom: A Collaborative Effort

Alison Happel, Georgia State University

Feminist Pedagogy: Challenging Neoliberalism within the Classroom

D4: Gender and Literature

Room: SU 321

Moderator Rebecca Willman, University of Connecticut

Elizabeth A. Paushter, University of Vermont

'Trembling and Panting': Woman, Nature, and the Oppressive Universal in Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd

Jonah Mitropoulos, University of Connecticut

Human and Natural Ecologies in George Eliot and Thomas Hardy

D5: Gendered and Sexual Bodies – Violations and Disciplines

Room: SU 316

Moderated by Margaret Breen, University of Connecticut

Brittany Florio, University of Connecticut

Lesbian Women and Gendered Violence

Jaime LoCurto, University of Connecticut

Disordered Eating and Its Causes: Comparing Lesbians and Heterosexual Women

Alison Berk, University of Connecticut

Same-Sex Marriage and Beyond

D6: Transnational Bodies: The Gendered Representation of Race and Nationality

Room: SU 318

Moderated by Christina Klein, Boston College

Aiko Takeuchi, Brown University

Transnational Birth Control Movements: U.S.-Japan Relations and the Shaping of Female Sexuality

Naoko Shibusawa, Brown University

The Axis Sallys and the Roses: Gender & Treachery during World War II

D7: Gendered Spaces

Room: SU 312

Moderated by Manisha Desai, University of Connecticut

Thomas Lawrence Long, University of Connecticut

Jennifer Casavant Telford, University of Connecticut

Gendered Spaces, Gendered Pages: Civil War Women's Nurse Narratives

Sherri Olson, University of Connecticut

Women, Place and Sense of Place: Neighborhood Formation in the Medieval Village, 1280-1350

Fatima Zahra Biila, University of Connecticut

The Correlation between Women's Representations in Moroccan Magazines and Street Harassment

SESSION E

3:00 – 4:15 PM

E1: Pornography on Campus: What Counts as Porn and How Perceptions Influence Students' Perceptions of Campus Life

Room: SU 321

Moderated by Nancy Naples, University of Connecticut

Erin Chiaputti, University of Connecticut

Kaila Most, University of Connecticut

Apurva Reddy, University of Connecticut

Michaela Ten Cate, University of Connecticut

E2: Ecofeminism, Justice and Healing

Room: SU 325

Moderated by Denise R. Letendre, University of Connecticut

Denise R. Letendre, University of Connecticut

Earth Healing Through Ecofeminist Theology and Spiritual Practice

Charlene Gilbert, University of Toledo

Complications in the 'Community Garden' as a Site of Utopian Discourse: In the 1st Person

Ashley Pryor, University of Toledo

Sustaining Higher Education: The Role of Contemplative Studies Pedagogy in Creating More Sustainable Learning Environments for Women Students

E3: Gendered Minds & Bodies

Room: SU 312

Moderated by Alison Happel, Georgia State University

Jenny Folsom, University of Massachusetts – Amherst

The Woman Does Not Exist: Psychoanalysis, Butler, and the Oedipus Complex

Skylar Sandel, University of Connecticut

Body Image Socialization of Children

E4: Queerness in Literature

Room: SU 318

Moderated by Margaret Breen, University of Connecticut

Murphi Cook, University of Connecticut

Boys or Broads: Male Impersonators in Victorian Music Halls

Annie Peterson, University of Connecticut

The Importance of Queer Pulp

Emma Liddle, University of Connecticut

Virginia Woolf's Orlando as a Blank Body

E5: Transnational Feminist Practices

Room: SU 316

Moderated by Manisha Desai, University of Connecticut

Sarah Freeman, University of Connecticut

Dramaturgy in Anglaphone Africa: Women's Pre-Colonial and Popular Theater

Shweta Majumdar, University of Connecticut

Widowhood in India

Giusi Russo, University of Connecticut

Questioning the Boundaries of the Nation: The Ban of the Hijab and Transnational Feminism

Moeno Hotta, University of Connecticut

Transnational Feminism and Micro-Credit Programs

CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

4:30 – 5:30 PM

The Women's Center, SU 421

Woman is the First Environment

Katsi Cook

Wolf Clan Mohawk Aboriginal Midwife

Introduction by Barbara Gurr, University of Connecticut

CLOSING RECEPTION

5:30 PM

The Women's Center, SU 421

Please join us for a light reception.

**Thanks to all presenters, moderator, vendors, participants
& volunteers for making this conference a success!**

We hope you enjoyed your time with us!

POSTERS & ART EXHIBITS

Open Session – these will be set up in the Student Union Ballroom for the duration of the conference

A Comparison of Domestic Violence in the U.S. and South Africa

Lindsay Dashefsky, University of Connecticut
Elizabeth Ronan, University of Connecticut

Visual Border Crossing

Elizabeth Barbeau, University of Connecticut

Women: Their Careers, Their Husbands and Their Families

Lindsay Edwards, University of Connecticut

Lakota Women and the Land

Leah Gawlak, University of Connecticut
Jessica Muirhead, University of Connecticut
Rebecca Richardson, University of Connecticut
Nicole Rubin, University of Connecticut
Stephanie Silvestri, University of Connecticut
Lauren Young, University of Connecticut

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Cynthia Enloe

Cynthia Enloe is the recipient of numerous awards in recognition of her scholarship as well as her teaching, and currently a research professor in the Department of International Development, Community & Environment at Clark University. Dr. Enloe's teaching and research have focused on the interplay of women's politics in the national and international arenas, with special attention to women's labor in globalized factories and how women's emotional and physical labor has been used to support governments' war-waging policies – as well as the ways by which many women resist these efforts. Racial, class, ethnic, and national identities as well as the pressures shaping ideas about femininities and masculinities have been common threads throughout her studies.

Katsi Cook

Katsi Cook (Wolf Clan Mohawk) is a mother, grandmother, and aboriginal midwife. She teaches about healing plants in the Akwesasne Mohawk traditions and is a presenter on Native childbirth, has been active in the Indigenous Women's Network and is a former editor of *Akwesasne Notes*. Since 1983, Katsi Cook has conducted community-driven environmental justice health research, focusing on Akwesasne Reservation. Her work examining environmental damage on the reservation has now emerged into the first human health study at a Superfund site that brings together the combined capacity of health research scientists, community members, and health care providers. She used this knowledge to found the Lewirokas/First Environment Project, which brings together Native American women's leadership in reproductive and environmental health issues.

SPEAKER/MODERATOR INDEX

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Bettray, Ute	A5	Long, Thomas Lawrence	D7
Blila, Fatima Zahra	D7	Macijauskas, Ruth	B1
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Florio, Brittany	D5	Peterson, Keith	C5
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Freedendfeld, Mia	A4	Ranjeet, Bidya	Saturday Opening Plenary
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Leibowitz, Debra J.	B5		

University of Connecticut Women's Studies Program

21st Annual Conference on Women & Gender “Ecofeminism in a Transnational World”

Abstracts – March 17, 2009

FRIDAY'S OPENING PLENARY

Burchsted, Denise; Fucikova, Karolina; Ruta, Meghan; Sayers, Jennifer: This plenary will discuss the gains and pains of environmental activism within and beyond the university community.

- Denise's work over the past 15 years has included environmental advocacy on behalf of the Naubeastuck Watershed Council, scientific support for restoration of the Everglades, project management of river and wetland restoration projects, and US EPA-supported research in the pre-colonial conditions of northeastern rivers. She has served her community through participation in the Conservation Commission and the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership.
- Karolina has always been interested in nature and the environment, and has been studying biology for nearly eight years now, with a focus on freshwater and terrestrial algae. For her MS degree, she participated in a large biodiversity inventory in the Great Smoky Mountains. She studies molecular phylogenetics and evolution of green terrestrial algae, and is the president of the UConn Green Grads.
- Meghan is currently serving as the University's Climate Action Plan Project Manager, and co-teaches a course on Environmental Sustainability. She also serves on the board of directors of the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership. As an undergraduate, she founded the EcoHusky Student Group. Her graduate research focuses on using spatial analysis to examine associations between land cover in small Connecticut watersheds and the condition of the associated aquatic biological communities.
- Jennifer currently serves as the Sustainability Coordinator at UConn. Jennifer has amassed extensive experience in environmental education including teaching with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association and for the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration in American Samoa. Her senior thesis included a trip to Malta to study the national EkoSkola ("Eco-Schools") program.

FRIDAY'S OPENING PERFORMANCE

Godfrey, Phoebe; Fortier, Kristin: In a playful yet poignant way this performance will tell the tale of the Chronic Consumption's search for and construction of her 'femininity,' through consumption and her resulting love affair with Carbon Footprint, who although created by her is an independent being. Thus, their love affair becomes a clash of emerging identities that endanger both themselves and the planet. How this tragic tale ends must be seen to be revealed.

SESSION A

A2 Daniels, Jennifer R.: Gender and sexuality is taught in a variety of courses. Thus, it is useful to have a ready tool box for the particular issues that can occur: Lop sided female-to-male ratio; differing religious views; diffusing heated arguments; accurate and meaningful student assessment. During this interactive workshop, we will share tactics and engage in round table discussions. This practical workshop will be of use to a variety of people in many levels of their academic careers.

A3 Kosmider, Alexia; Monuteaux, Deborah: *Venus, Priests, and Superwomen* captures the tumult climate that exploded on Providence College's campus the President Father Brian J. Shanley banned Eve Ensler's, *The Vagina Monologue*, a play performed by college students as a way to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence, from the college's campus President Shanley's decision sparked a large protests by PC students.

A4 Parziale, Tina: This a poetic examination exploring the exploitation of the Earth and its resources while paralleling the objectification of the feminine figure.

Pompano, Kristin: From its initial discovery, the clitoris has been instrumental in defining and controlling female sexual behavior. Originally discussed in terms that labeled it as useless and inferior in comparison to the male penis, the clitoris

became justification for the oppression of women. Though the clitoris is now widely recognized as a source of sexual pleasure for women, it too continues to be a source for sexual regulation and control in today's culture and society.

A5 Betray, Ute: In my paper I will argue that Gayatri Spivak in her search for a consciousness of the mute subaltern woman, (which serves as an attempt to conceptualize a historic rupture) delineates, implicitly, a critical genealogy. Evidence for my argument will be provided by showing that Spivak's implicit critical genealogy is, to a certain extent, analogous to A.E. Weinbaum's critical genealogy.

Garvey, Michelle: Inspired by both the dangers and productive potential of ecological restoration, this paper explores bio/colonialism and the social constructions of "native," "nonnative," and "invasive." In an appeal to posthumanist, queer kinships, I seek to differentiate between the liberatory and oppressive boundary transgressions inherent to our postmodern condition, in order to expand the parameters of belonging, and restore human-nonhuman relationships.

A6 Burke, Mary; Shannon, Deric; Willis, Abbey: At first glance, one might think that ecofeminist and queer theory are contradictory perspectives. Indeed, much early ecofeminist work essentializes women, often making claims that women are somehow closer to nature, "in tune" with the Earth, or "naturally connected" to the non-human world. We argue that one can develop as ecofeminist praxis that is also radically queer. That is, through shared experiences (e.g. binary conceptions of essential categories like man/woman, homo/hetero, nature/humanity, human/animal, etc.) of marginalization, one can build an ecofeminism fully engaged in queer critiques of essentialized subjects and binary conceptions of social life.

Poudyal, Bibek Sharma: This presentation discusses about the forms and dynamics of Hegemonic form of Masculinity practiced in Nepal. This is also the major factor for causing violence against women and creating hurdles for developmental. My objective through this presentation is to demystify hegemonic masculinity and try the new way of engaging boys and men for reducing violence against women.

SESSION B

B1 Macijauskas, Ruth: *To Be Especially Watchful* is about a girl named Beth who grew up poor in Maine and finds herself in one crash course after another in human relations. When Beth's Bowdoin College Big Sister shows her a different lifestyle, the journey begins. From calling all Jehovah's Witnesses "weird," to asking in boot camp how "culads" perm their hair, to encounters with homosexuals, Beth must constantly reevaluate what she thought she knew about the human race.

B2 Gilbert, Charlene: The "community garden" is often conceived of as an environmentally progressive and "neutral" strategy aimed at reconnecting urban dwellers to land, food and sustainable practice. Unfortunately, this "utopian" garden requires a pastoral notion of community free from the complications manifested in the social constructions of the human body. In many ways there is a false sense of comfort in the "non-human", in so much as that which is non-human can be constructed as free of race, gender and class. In my work to imagine the community garden and its function is a social justice practice I feel compelled to "work" this construct using the tools of critical race and gender theory. This paper is my attempt to begin that analytical project.

B3 Griffiths-Smith, Faye: Economic, environmental and social changes may be causing you to reflect on how you and your family use resources. In this workshop we will review some of our current practices in managing personal and family resources such as money and material goods, time and consider their impact on the environment. This overview session and workshop booklet will help you to identify your goals, priorities and identify some possible action steps toward achieving them.

B4 Gurr, Barbara; Gusrang, Jaime L.; Iwata, Miho; Larriva, Jacqueline C.; McGary, Nikki; Schwartzman, Jayme: Calls for analyses that simultaneously take into account the dynamics of race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and other dimensions of social inequality and difference are new central to feminist scholarship, critical race and racism theory, among other theoretical frameworks. Presenters will discuss how different scholars are theorizing and researching intersectionality, describe the limits and possibilities of different approaches to intersectionality for understanding and analyzing difference, and share how they have taken up the call to intersectionality in their research.

B5 Arat, Zehra F. Kabasakal; Leibowitz, Debra J.; McElya, Micki; Schlund-Vials, Cathy J.; Turcotte, Heather M.: The TGJ roundtable draws out questions about the structural continuities and discontinuities of global power by locating how justice surfaces within national, international, global, and local politics and knowledge formations. Our goal is to renew and recast the project of social justice within extant disciplinary formations, as well as to extend its boundaries beyond both state and international rubrics of jurisprudence. We are invested in expanding the frameworks of collective epistemologies that actualize intellectual and material possibilities of anti-imperialist feminist praxis in our everyday practices at different registers and more specifically, within the classroom and through regulations of citizenship.

SATURDAY'S OPENING PLENARY

Majumdar, Shweta; Purkayastha, Bandana; Ranjeet, Bidya: In a post 9/11 world, we are most aware of the inextricable links between gender, religion, and politics. Pundits make claims and counter-claims about religions and the treatment of women; political initiatives are launched to save women of selected religions. While much of the political discussion and action is about Muslim and Hindu women, few real women are formally and systematically asked about their experiences with their religions. This panel, by some authors of the books *Living Our Religion* will cut through the myths of the "invisible minority" to talk about the diverse and culturally dynamic religious experiences and practices of Bangladeshi, Indian, and Nepali origin women in the US, and discuss religion from a "post-colonial" perspective.

SESSION C

C1 Flagg, Victoria; Flynn, Caely: Sexual assault is extremely prevalent on college campuses. Given the sexual assaults publicized on campus in the beginning of the 2008 Fall semester at the University of Connecticut, our research group began to consider how this would affect students, faculty and staff on campus. More specifically, we thought about the perceptions of safety concerning sexual assault on campus. A key question that we addressed was whether or not the students are properly educated about assault on campus. In this presentation, we discuss the findings from the survey including recommendations from the respondents regarding how UConn can improve the perceptions of safety on campus.

Guirand, Stephanie: Using an online survey on the website surverymonkey.com, we surveyed students on their of HIV knowledge. In this presentation, I report on the findings from this study and discuss the following questions: What stigmas are attached to HIV/ AIDS as reported by UConn students? What general knowledge do students have about HIV? How does their knowledge of HIV/AIDS affect sexual practices and attitudes?

C2 Haggans, Katie; Teague, Andrea; Weyel, Cassidy: This panel discusses various instances of erasures (violations of and violences against) transgender people. Katie Haggans will be presenting "The Transgender Struggle for Justice in the Prison System." Andrea Teague's paper is entitled "The Danger in Being 'Both': Violence Against the Transgender Community." And Cassidy Weyel's presentation is "Violence Against Transgender Community."

C3 Goodkind, Thomas B.; Rowell, Elizabeth: Although less than 100 "GLT friendly" picture books for young children have been made available in the USA, these materials can have a great impact on all children. This multimedia session will explore how women have been portrayed in these books over time in regard to race, culture, work families, relationships, and recreational pursuits. Attention will also be given to the missing images of women in these materials and how to advocate for their inclusion.

C4 Lang, Eveline: The study explores how the ecofeminist worldview can be spread/awakened through forms of popular culture, such as popular films. Many ecofeminists, myself included, make the abolition of oppression against animals (or "non-human animals", as preferred concepts holds) an indispensable component of our quest for change. In particular, the study examines the movie *Happy Feet* (with a comparison to *March of the Penguins* and an analysis of some bonus tracks on both DVDs) and its potential of instilling ecological awareness, inclusive of an awareness of animals' plight in a way that also spurs global awareness.

Manco, B. Naqqi: The study will discuss the interventions the Grand Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust has embarked on a mission to replace the spectator tourism so ruinous to the environment (with plans to build a Club Med on an island, for example) with ecotourism. As part of this project, the study will illuminate the central role of women in the island cultures as healers (defying conceptualizations of disease and healing practices Western medicine relies on, living the awareness of the interconnections between food and health) and ways by which the marginalization of women can be countered.

Silverlieb, Pia: The study will examine creation myths and other stories in indigenous cultures with a focus on the prominent roles women play. The stories, which challenge the dualistic world view imposed by the colonizers, are capable of bringing about transformations in communities, countries, even the whole world when attended to, resurrected from obscurity and mediated to audiences in ways that encourage careful examination of how the Western tradition's imposition of its exploitative schemes has culminated in a close to irreversible ecological crisis.

C5 Glazebrook, Patricia: Women subsistence farmers in Northern Ghana suffer disproportionate harms from climate change because of their role in the family, persistent cultural gender inequities, and the so-called "gender gap" in development. A functional strategy to respond to the increasingly critical problem of climate change-related impacts on food supply is to increase women's agency by increasing their visibility in decision-making, diversifying economic options, and supporting their agriculture.

Peterson, Keith R.: Val Plumwood argues that in order to get through to a sustainable future we must learn to appreciate nature's agency beyond the strictures of the construction of agency by hegemonic rationality. She envisions a "collaborative landscape" where neither indigenous human nor nonhuman agencies are "disappeared" in the classical maneuvers of dualizing thought. Recovering agency is especially important to encourage in the discourses of climate change, which are currently dominated by technophiles, politicians, and corporate economists.

C6 Collingwood, Sharon: Social media like Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter are increasing being used in women's studies teaching and in feminist activism. Second Life, a 3-D multiuser virtual world, represents the next generation of social media, and shows great potential for ecofeminist teaching, networking and collaboration. As with all new technologies, the benefits of this platform must be weighed against the environmental damage it may cause. This presentation is a preliminary assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of ecofeminist use of virtual worlds.

Gray, Janet; Saretzky, Anya; Witko, Emily: As a resource for engaged citizenship, ecofeminist coursework responds to institutional imperative to address environmental issues with both a local and global scope, and thus offers opportunities to enhance institutional resources. At the same time, positioning ecofeminism as a part for the toolbox for 21st-century academia must send ecofeminism down new roads. The instructor and two students are from TCNJ's first our vantage points.

Holmes, Christy: I address the marginalization of ecofeminism within feminist studies and gesture toward the importance of reading and teaching ecofeminism genealogically with an eye toward disrupting giving narrative of ecofeminism's origins and the burden of essentialism ecofeminism is thought to carry. I conclude by looking Chicana Studies for examples of both the failing of ecofeminist thought and potential future direction, highlighting the pedagogical implications of focusing on the field as fractured.

C7 Gauchat, Gordon; Kelly, Maura: In this analysis, we use quantitative analysis to examine predictors of feminist and post-feminist identities and the relevance of these identities in U.S. politics. We examine feminist and post-feminist identity as predictors of support for public policies. The results demonstrate that feminist and post-feminist identity are significant factors in individuals' attitudes towards some public policies and represent political views independent of the effect of party identification and liberal political ideology. Thus, feminist and post-feminist identities are still relevant and should be considered in analyses of U.S. politics.

Haghighatjoo, Fatemeh: The objective of this paper is to analyze the impact of the One Million Signatures Campaign (the Campaign) on policy makers and particularly on members of Iran's legislative body. Utilizing a comparative perspective, this paper discusses three obstacles that women's rights activists have been faced, structural barrier, patriarchal culture and national security assumption. Research materials include Persian and English written documents as well as the author's interviews and firsthand experience as a Member of the 6th Iranian Parliament.

Hynes, Patricia: Women are primary and unique victims of war from bombs and weapons of modern war and from the trauma inflicted in military brothels, rape camps, the growing sex trafficking of prostitution, and increased domestic violence, all of which is fueled by the culture of war, male aggression and the ruin left in the wake of war. Despite this, women have been virtually excluded from ethnic, national and international peace processes. This talk will provide an overview of documented harm to women in war and post-war setting, examine the social and cultural conditions for substantive peace-making, and explore the moral necessity to end war-making as a response to local, national and international conflict.

SESSION D

D1 Bordoloi, Samit; Gurr, Barbara; Holchin, Jama; McDuff, Matthew; Wickersham, Jeffrey: Feminist scholars use self-reflection about power as a tool to deepen analysis and to highlight the dilemmas of fieldwork and other forms of research. The call for reflective practice has also been informed by the critiques of third world and postcolonial feminist theorists who argue for self-reflexive understanding of the epistemological investments that shape the politics of method. Presenters will discuss the challenges of applying reflexivity in their research using specific examples from their diverse research on Native American health care, international students negotiation of student status in the US, arts communities in Second Life, history education and memory in post-apartheid South Africa and understanding non-transsexuals' attitudes towards transsexuals.

D2 Krishnan, Archana: Advertising is a powerful media tool designed to sell products, and in the process, sell aspirations for acceptable gender roles and behavior. Research indicates that a gender bias exist in favor of men in television advertisements. This paper looks at the emerging area of green advertising, that is, advertisements for eco-friendly products and services. A dual perspective of eco-feminism and media effects is employed to examine how men

and women are portrayed in green advertisements.

Milan, Allysa: Visual media is one of the primary ways in which girls and women learn how they should act and look in order to be considered 'feminine' or a 'real woman.' I want to explore the modern day representations of femininity, and how these representations impact the self-esteem and self-image of girls and women in America and beyond.

Offiaeli, Rita: The Nigerian video-film phenomenon seems to have become a window into the life of the Igbo and the public arena for debates on socio-cultural issues—debates in which conflicts between modern and traditional gender roles are centerpiece. Are video-films used to re-affirm, negate, mediate and reconstruct gender roles? Could these video-films and the public discourse they generate achieve the type of gradual and progressive transformation of harmful customs that some scholars advocate?

D3 Ferguson, Molly; Hatch, Lauren; Thornberg, Colleen: To stay relevant, feminism must practice internal recycling. The classic feminist credo, "the personal is political," can be productively repurposed into the concept that "the global is individual." In this collaborative presentation, two of my students will share their discoveries of women who found agency in unlikely and controversial spaces. I will introduce their findings and then use them to point towards a way of thinking about global feminisms as individual acts of resistance. This framework, I argue, gives students a greater sense of their own ability to act in a globally conscious manner.

Happel, Alison: Within education, neoliberal ideology has perpetuated notions of school choice, individualism, and competition, and many believe that the most extreme of the neoliberals would encourage the complete privatization of public education. This paper will investigate the ways in which feminism, with its emphasis on social justice, equity, and community, can be utilized to work against the embodiment of neoliberal ideology within the classroom.

Pryor, Ashley: Drawing upon the emergent work of contemplative studies pedagogy, as well as the pioneering "despair work" of Joanna Macy and other practitioners of mindfulness (Weiss, Thich Nhat Hanh) I will provide both the theoretical justification for incorporating mindfulness practices into the liberal arts curriculum generally, and into our environmental sciences, and sustainability programs more specifically, and will offer some practical suggestions for ways of integrating these exercises into our courses.

D4 Mitropoulos, Jonah: In *Animal Liberation*, Peter Singer argues that the impulse to discriminate on the basis of race or sex is intimately related to the way in which we consider the "rights" of nonhuman entities. By reading two novels from 19th-century England, I wish to examine how two authors relate human and natural ecologies by linking the exploitation and natural bodies.

Paushter, Elizabeth: Using methods of ecofeminist literary critics, I look at how certain dichotomies denigrate woman and nature in Hardy's *Far from the Maddening Crowd*. The male fantasy of phallic dominance in the novel pervades and prevails, not only as the authoritative interpretation of life, but as the *only* interpretation. The heroine and nature are denied agency, resulting in a denial of a singular female conception of enjoyment and forcing her and nature to appropriate the universal, male perspective.

D5 Berk, Alison: While it is obvious that members of the LGBTQ community experience discrimination in our current system of marriage, as feminists should we be focusing on gaining equality in such a patriarchal system? Instead, I suggest we focus on models that go beyond the traditional institution of marriage in order to better obtain the quality we are searching for.

Florio, Brittany: It is an unfortunate reality of our culture that gendered violence occurs. To add insult to injury, we, as a society, do a poor job addressing the concerns of those survivors who we most often think of—straight women. However, when we consider the plight of Lesbian Survivors of gendered violence, it becomes painfully clear we are even less equipped to deal with the needs that arise.

LoCurto, Jamie: Throughout history there has been little debate that women encompass the majority of eating disorder victims. Although this fact is unquestionable, most of us do not take into consideration how diverse and varied these women really are. I hope to illustrate that all women, lesbian or heterosexual, struggle with this disorder and to show the causes of why they engage in disordered eating habits.

D6 Takeuchi, Aiko: Featuring two birth control advocates across the Pacific, Margaret Sanger and her Japanese friend Ishimoto (Kato) Shizue, this paper examines how the transactional connection that these feminists abolished played a vital role in the shaping of reproductive politics of the United States and Japan. I explore the international and social context of the early birth control movement by analyzing how other feminists, male reformers, and the public constructed the images of Sanger and Ishimoto.

Shibusawa, Naoko: This paper examines the cases of four American women who broadcast for the Axis during World War II. Of the four, perhaps only one, "Tokyo Rose" (a.k.a. Iva Toguri D'Aquino), is remembered today, and the paper seeks to explain why this might be so.

D7 Blila, Fatima Zahra: Women in Morocco are constantly subject to harassment and have, therefore, to negotiate their presence in the public sphere. Street harassment as a social phenomenon emerged after the political (Moroccan independence) and socioeconomic change in Moroccan society, the growing urbanization, and the shift in gender roles and spaces. Street harassment germinated the cities and became a means to secure the established gender roles. Street harassment is still persistent, which requires looking at other factors that sustain the phenomenon. I suggest a reading of women's representations in media, more specifically magazine covers to explain the practice of street harassment in Morocco.

Long, Thomas Lawrence; Telford, Jennifer Casavant: This paper examines reconfigurations of gender in Civil War military hospitals and on the pages of published narratives by three nurses: Louisa May Alcott, Emma Edmonds, and Mary Livermore. We pursue three questions: How did women nurses reconfigure the male military hospital space? How did women nurse writers reconfigure the male military narrative page? How did a new business model of publication, subscription publication, involve the "regendering" of book sales?

Olson, Sherri: The role of women in various types of community formation has received little attention from historians. My research, based on local court records, suggests that one factor in neighborhood formation in the medieval village was precisely the profile of women associated with it. Because male heads of household were culturally preferred, the fact of a woman inheriting and controlling land, although perfectly in keeping with customary law, inhabited a kind of frontier of significance: it activated the sources from which villagers drew their symbols and ideas, artifacts that in their turn could be used to divide and define local space.

SESSION E

E1 Chiaputti, Erin; Most, Kaila; Reddy, Apurva; Ten Cate, Michaela: In this session, we present findings from our study of students' perceptions of the availability of pornography on the UConn campus. In recent years, the explicitness and availability of pornography has greatly increased. However, there are numerous definitions of pornography that influence what students define as pornographic. We discuss how students in our study defined pornography and how they feel when they view images they define as pornographic in public places on campus.

E2 Letendre, Denise R.: This paper outlines the core principles of ecofeminist theology, as well as the cultural alternatives it envisions. It will also offer examples of counter-imagery and root metaphors that are generated in opposition to dominant cultural paradigms and social values. The paper will show how ecofeminist spiritual practice is a vehicle for cultural change, how it aims to expose the sexism underlying environmental degradation, and will discuss the ecofeminist imperative of earth healing.

Stambler, Leah G.: The life story and career of Dr. Wangari Mathaai provide a clear model of an ecofeminist who thinks globally and acts locally. Her character traits represent a combination of multiple intellectual, spiritual, organizational, activist, and creative strengths, as well as dedication to peace and justice for women, embodied in one person. She was the first African woman to become a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for her work as the founder of The Green Belt Movement.

E3 Folsom, Jenny: This paper aims to elucidate Judith Butler's conception of gender as it pertains to psychoanalysis and Ecofeminist principles. I will explore the way in which an expanded Butlerian conception of Oedipus complex can help us to understand the colony as an attempt to make the 'woman' exist where she cannot, by virtue of her instability as a universal category.

Sandel, Skylar: The topic of my project was body image socialization of children. My goal was to foster a discussion with the expectation that it would convey the idea that the socialization of the female body infiltrates the minds of young girls and acts as the frame work for their own body construct.

E4 Cook, Murphi; Liddle, Emma; Peterson, Annie: An examination of three cultural moments in queer literary-cultural history: gender bending on the Victorian stage, representational strategies of the 1920s literary modernism of Virginia Woolf, and the cultural politics of 1950s queer pulp.

E5 Freeman, Sarah: This paper traces the role of female performers in African traditional theatre, the development of a discourse on patriarchy and colonization in women's theatre of the British Empire, and women's voices in colonial and postcolonial popular and development theatre of the twentieth century Africa. This transnational feminist awareness soon developed into international collaborative theatre, women's international organizations and NGOs that aimed to give

women a creative voice outside of national limitations. Whereas one may differentiate between colonial or feminist emancipation, transnational women's theatre and organizations see the ways in which imperialism and patriarchy are mutually reinforcing.

Hotta, Moeno: Both the development discourse and feminism are transnational, and within these movements, micro-credit programs emerged as a strategy to alleviate poverty. While the dominant micro-credit methods have brought significant impacts and changes in development practices, feminist critics warn against the trend of micro-credit programs to be seen as the best solution for women's empowerment.

Majumdar, Shweta: The presentation explores the construction of widowhood in India and applicability of human rights paradigm in addressing the modes of the current situation.

Russo, Giusi: This paper explores the debate on the ban of the Islamic Veil in contemporary France. The paper looks at conceptions of gender, race, and law that shape the *Affair du Foulard*. The paper focuses on different types of tradition used to frame the debate. Within the debate, transnational feminism is contemplated as an alternative solution to the inclusive/exclusive mechanism of citizenship.

POSTER & ART EXHIBITS

Dashefsky, Lindsay; Ronan, Elizabeth: In our poster, we plan to review the literature on domestic violence in South Africa and the United States, discussing the different rates of violence and the potential reasons for these differences in order to propose solutions to this often seriously underestimated problem. Based on the previous research, we will argue for specific changes that could drastically reduce domestic violence in both the US and South Africa.

Barbeau, Elizabeth: This project attempts to accomplish two things: to illustrate the disassociation I feel between racist, sexist, classist and heterosexist imagery I view on TV and my understanding of the "real world;" and to isolate individual messages regarding race, gender, sexuality and class that are found in television content. I will accomplish this using televisual imagery from programming such as Miss Universe Pageant, MSNBC's *Lockup*, popular sitcoms, and other news and commercial footage.

Edwards, Lindsay: Gender is a constructing concept around which the traditionally structured marriage was formed. An undercurrent of traditional thought still influences how women make their decisions around pursuing a career and caring for their children. Their relationships with their husbands, in part, influencing both their decision-making and experience of their roles. This was a qualitative multiple case study describing women's decision making around, and their experience of, these roles. Themes found in the participant's narratives related to finances, intentional decision-making, and the fluidity of child-care and work roles.