

The 22nd Annual Conference on
Women & Gender

Feminism in Action

Friday, March 26, 2010

The Dodd Center & Student Union
University of Connecticut - Storrs Campus

Proudly presented by:
The University of Connecticut
Women's Studies Program



Schedule of Events

8:00 AM	Registration at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium
9:00 AM	Opening Ceremony at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium Opening Plenary: - Diane Wilson, <i>The Forgotten Risk Factor: Unreasonableness</i>
10:15 AM	Break - Conference moves to the Student Union
10:30 AM	Session I - Student Union 3 rd Floor*
11:45 AM	Lunch (available for purchase - Student Union 1 st Floor)
1:00 PM	Afternoon Plenary at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium - Theodora Skipitares, <i>BODY LANGUAGE: The Performing Object in Contemporary Art</i>
2:00 PM	Break - Conference moves to Student Union
2:15 PM	Session II - Student Union 3 rd Floor*
3:45 PM	Session III - Student Union 3 rd Floor*
5:00 PM	Break - Conference moves to the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium
5:15 PM	Closing Ceremonies
6:00 PM	Reception

*Student Union Rooms for Individual Sessions are rooms 312, 316, 318, 319, 320, 321 & 325
- please see individual session listings in Expanded Schedule of Events for room details



Welcome

We are excited to present the program for ***Feminism in Action***, the 22nd Annual Conference on Women and Gender at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, sponsored by the Women's Studies Program. The conference explores the diverse, intersecting and even contradictory ways that we practice (and at times fail to practice) feminism through pedagogy, activism, art, scholarship and daily life. The presenters include UConn faculty, students, staff, and alumni; faculty from other college and universities in New England; and community activists working to create a socially just world. We are fortunate to have two outstanding keynote presentations from feminist activists **Diane Wilson**, author of *An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas*, and **Theodora Skiptares**, a visual artist and theatre director who has performed and exhibited her art in the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America, and collaborated with puppeteers, composers and choreographers in Vietnam, India and Cambodia. Both presenters will also offer workshops following their keynote presentations, *A Feminist's Guide to Monkeywrenching* and *A Life Within The Box*, respectively. Other workshops include: Feminist Pedagogy; Organizing Against Child Sexual Abuse; Organizing for Reproductive Freedom; and Violence Against Women, Human Rights and Health Effects.

Panels include: Feminist Arts, Activism & Education; Activism After University Work: Think AAUW!; Gender & Sports; Gender in the Workplace; Generating Monsters or Queering Birth? Sex & Gender Transgression from Mary Shelly to Ursula LeGuin; Homebirth as a Feminist Act; Our Bawdies, Our Selves: Feminist and Queer Concerns in the Arts; Prostitution, Sex Trafficking, and New Laws in Rhode Island; Representations of Gender in Today's Media; and Feminists in Action: Transnational Feminisms.

A special feature of the conference is **Open Space Technology** which allows people to create their own agenda for collective discussion. Feminist activism means being actively engaged in defining what feminist activism means! If you have a question/topic/issue you would like to get to talk about collectively join one of these sessions to engage in self-organizing, provocative face-to-face dialogues.

Thanks to Conference Committee members Phoebe Godfrey, Kate Hurley-Dizigan, Coleen Spurlock, Amber West, and Jeffrey Wickersham. We also would like to thank our co-sponsors: Art/Art History, Asian American Studies, English, International Affairs, Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Puerto Rican & Latino Studies, Rainbow Center, Sociology, UConn Research Foundation and the Women's Center.

We hope you enjoy the conference.

Nancy A. Naples, Conference Chair, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies
Manisha Desai, Director of Women's Studies, Associate Professor of Women's Studies

Announcements

Please note: This conference is being held at two venues - the Dodd Center and the Student Union. These sites are marked on the map at the end of this program and event locations are clearly stated on the expanded schedule of events, starting on page 3.

Places to eat: Several options are available on the ground floor of the student Union - there is a food court with a wide variety of selections as well as a sit-down restaurant, Chuck & Augies.

Poster and Art Displays: Student posters and faculty art will be on display in the Dodd Center Reception Room and in the hallway immediately adjacent to the Konover Auditorium throughout the entire day of the conference. Please take a few minutes to browse through these displays today.

UConn Women's Studies Listserv: if you would like to be kept current on happenings here at the UConn Women's Studies Program, you may be interested in joining the UConn Women's Studies Community listserv. If you'd like your email address added, please contact Kate Hurley-Dizigan at kate.hurley@uconn.edu and ask her to add you to the list.

Schedule of Events (expanded)

Opening Ceremony and Opening Plenary at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium 9:00 - 10:15 AM

■ **Welcome and Introductions**

Nancy A. Naples, Conference Committee Chair, Sociology & WS, UConn

Manisha Desai, Director of Women's Studies, UConn

Peter J. Nicholls, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

■ **Discussion of Open Spaces/Town Hall: Phoebe Godfrey**

Phoebe Godfrey is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence in the Sociology Department at UConn. She does research in a number of diverging areas such as ecofeminism, food sovereignty, community engagement and feminist pedagogy. She is very interested in the uses of the creative arts to enhance people's learning and consequently their willingness to be more politically active/engaged in their lives.

■ **Introduction to Diane Wilson: Phoebe Godfrey**

■ **Keynote Presentation: Diane Wilson**

Presentation Title: The Forgotten Risk Factor: Unreasonableness

Diane Wilson is the author of *An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas* (Chelsea Green, 2005). It is a remarkable book, telling the story of Wilson's life as female shrimp boat captain and an environmental activist fighting devastating toxic pollution from chemical and plastics manufacturers on the Texas Gulf Coast. She has fought Dow Chemical for their failure to act on behalf of the people of Bhopal, India and she has traveled to Iraq to protest the US invasion. Most recently, she participated in the world climate talks in Copenhagen.

Break

Conference moves to the Student Union 10:15 - 10:30 AM

Session I

at the Student Union 10:30 - 11:45 AM

1. **Workshop by Diane Wilson: A Feminist's Guide to Monkeywrenching**

Room: Student Union 320

Moderator: Manisha Desai, Director, Women's Studies, UConn

Workshop Theme: Whatever a woman needs in her activist tool kit to infiltrate TV stations, sink boats, and scale fences and towers.

2. **Panel: Feminist Arts, Activism & Education**

Room: Student Union 312

Organizer and Moderator: Amber West, English & Women's Studies PhD student, UConn; Co-Founder, Alphabet Arts

Panel Theme: This panel will examine how feminism is put into action in the arts and education. How do feminists employ the arts in their activism? What is the role of art in social change/social justice movements? How can feminist pedagogy challenge tokenist inclusions of women artists in "the canon"? What are the challenges and benefits of arts activism and arts education models grounded in feminism? Through a discussion by each panelist of the ways in which she has put feminism into action through the arts and arts education, we aim to better understand the variety of ways in which feminist arts activism can contribute to social change, since, as Audre Lorde wrote, "Revolution is not a onetime event."

Presenters:

Emily Blandford, Communications Science major and Women's Center Intern, UConn

Courtney Weida, Assistant Professor of Art Education, Adelphi University

Maria Yates, Co-Founder, F.A.D.G.E Fest

3. **Panel: Generating Monsters or Queering Birth? Sex and Gender Transgression from Mary Shelly to Ursula LeGuin**

Room: Student Union 321

Organizer and Moderator: Mary. M. Gallucci, Department of English, UConn

Panel Theme: These three papers explore constructions of gender in horror and fantasy genres. The literary and filmic works examined consider alternative means to traditional human biology, but the undercurrents of fear and terror reveal instead that the social institutions of family and marriage seek to control and oppress the gendered body and its sexual orientations.

Presenters:

Laura Blackburn, English, UConn

“Reproduction Technologies and Subversion of the Gendered Body-- Finding the 'Other' Mother in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein”

Allison Collins, English, UConn

“Gender and Sex in Science Fiction”

Aimee Rodas, English, UConn

“Hierarchy and its control in Octavia E. Butler's Dawn, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, and Wachowski's The Matrix”

4. Panel: Representations of Gender in the Workplace.

Room: Student Union 325

Organizer and Moderator: Maura Kelly, Sociology &WS, UConn

Panel theme: At the proposed panel, students enrolled in the Spring 2010 *Gender in the Workplace* course, will present the findings of the research projects they conducted as part of their coursework. Students will co-present in small groups. In their original research projects, students will analyze representations of gender in the workplace in current television series. Students will focus on the ways in which male and female characters challenge and uphold stereotypes about men and women as workers. Maura Kelly, the instructor for the course, will moderate the panel. The panel will also include time for questions about the students' specific research projects as well as a more general discussion of student research as part of feminist pedagogy.

Presenters:

Chineye Anako, Christopher Lewis, Shalice Culbreath, and Liz Crowne

“Representing Gender in the Workplace Case Study: *Grey's Anatomy*”

Justin Gerwien, Clarice Diavua, Shannon Hubbard, and Chris Reeves

“Representing Gender in the Workplace Case Study: *House*”

Tess Koenigsmark, Kelsey Aderman, and Jonathan Ramos

“Representing Gender in the Workplace Case Study: *Bones*”

Kelly Bielonko and Danellys Rivera

“Representing Gender in the Workplace Case Study: *Dexter*”

Katie Phee, Dana Segall, Rebecca Chadwick, and Kate Leber

“Representing Gender in the Workplace Case Study: *The Office*”

5. Panel : Gender & Sports

Room: Student Union 318

Organizer and Moderator: Gaye Tuchman, Sociology, UConn

Panel Theme: Participation in sports is part of the expression and construction of gender in American society. Based on participant observation, these three honors papers document how UConn students display their understandings of gender roles and sexuality. Natalie Gaudette considers how men and women use different machines at the campus Fitness Center to enhance different "parts" of their bodies and so their sexual attractiveness. Nicholle Geoffrion explores how undergraduate men involved in a sports club shape both their immediate environment (rented house) and treatment of women to reproduce stereotypic depictions of masculinity. Margaret Holmes uses autoethnography to demonstrate how the association of stereotypes with sports affects women, too; even the family and friends of a woman may make assumptions about her when they learn she plays rugby.

Presenters:

Natalie Gaudette, Sociology, UConn

“Exercises in Stereotypes: College Students at the Fitness Center”

Nicholle Geoffrion, ACES exploratory major, UConn

“The Effect of the 'Real Man' on Real Men: A Sports Team Living Together”

Margaret Holmes, Nursing, UConn

“Girls Play Rugby, Too: Stereotypes of Women in Contact Sports”

6. TOWN HALL/Open spaces

Room: Student Union 316

Facilitator: Phoebe Godfrey, Sociology, UConn

Open Spaces: Feminist activism means being actively engaged in defining what feminist activism means! Open Space Technology allows people to create their own agenda for collective discussion. If you have a question/topic/issue you would like to talk about collectively, join one of these sessions to engage in self-organizing, provocative face-to-face dialogues.

LUNCH

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch is available for purchase in the Student Union Food Court and Chuck & Augie's Restaurant. Both are located on the ground floor.

Afternoon Plenary at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium 1:00 – 2:00 PM

- **Introductions:** Nancy A. Naples, Conference Chair, Sociology & WS, UConn
 - **Update on “open spaces” town hall meetings:** Phoebe Godfrey, Sociology, UConn
 - **Introduction to Theodora Skipitares:** Amber West, English, UConn
Amber West is a poet, dramaturge and teaching artist from California. She is currently a doctoral student in English/Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut where her studies focus on poetry, theater and puppetry by women artists. She is also Assistant Director of UConn's Creative Writing Program, an adult literacy tutor at the Brooklyn Public Library, and co-founder of Alphabet Arts, a nonprofit arts organization (www.alphabetarts.org).
 - **Keynote Presentation:** Theodora Skipitares
Presentation Title: BODY LANGUAGE: The Performing Object in Contemporary Art
Theodora Skipitares is a visual artist and theatre director who has been creating her works for more than 30 years. Skipitares has performed and exhibited her art widely in the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America, and collaborated with puppeteers, composers and choreographers in Vietnam, India and Cambodia. She has been awarded Guggenheim, Fulbright and Rockefeller Fellowships, and a UNIMA Citation for Excellence in Puppetry. Rooted in autobiography, Skipitares' art has expanded to consider large-scale subjects, such as the history of American invention, genetics, and food and famine. Her works include *Under the Knife*, a site-specific history of medicine told through twelve different theater environments; *Body of Crime*, a history of women in prison; and *Trilogy*, a cycle of plays about the long and bloody Trojan War created in response to the war in Iraq.
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Break

Conference moves to the Student Union
2:00 - 2:15 PM

Session II at the Student Union 2:15 - 3:30 PM

1. **Workshop by Theodora Skipitares: A Life Within The Box**
Room: Student Union 318
Moderator: Amber West, English, UConn
Workshop Theme: In this hands-on workshop, Skipitares will guide participants in creating micro performances using a variety of media. The workshop will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants. Participants are asked to bring a small box with them; additional materials will be provided. To register in advance for this workshop, please email Amber West: amber.west@uconn.edu
2. **Panel: Activism After University Work: Think AAUW!**
Room: Student Union 312
Moderator: Loretta Wrobel, AAUW Storrs Willimantic
Panel Theme: Opportunities for activism while a student at UConn are plenty. This panel has a combination of elements which illustrate the broad scope of activist possibilities, national regional, statewide, and local, available after graduation through the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Presenters:

Lesley Kirschenbaum, President, Storrs-Willimantic Chapter of AAUW
 Kathy Labadorf, AAUW member, Public Policy representative
 Nikita S. Mason, Student Leader, Event Coordinator, Intercultural Center, President, P.O.W.E.R
 (Promoters of the Word Effecting Reality), Eastern Connecticut State University
 Lee Terry, Attorney, active in Tri-county community foundation: Women and Girls fund
 Loretta Wrobel, AAUW Storrs Willimantic, Panel Moderator

Performers:

Members of the Windham High School Drama Club, Vincent Iovine, Director.

3. Panel: Feminists in Action: Transnational Feminisms

Room: Student Union 321

Organizer and Moderator: Manisha Desai, Director, WS, UConn

Panel Theme: The papers in this panel explore the complex relationships between women and feminisms in transnational sites and across borders. In particular, papers explore how women's groups and movements negotiate and rearticulate feminisms for their own contexts.

Presenters:

Sharielle Applewhite, Sociology, UConn
 "State Feminism in Action in Rwanda"
 Barret Katuna, Sociology, UConn
 "Feminists in Action: A Methodological Discussion on the Assessment of the Social Impact of the First Nepali Women's Global Network (NWGN) Conference"
 Nicolle Powell, Political Science, UConn
 Reifying the "Other": The Effects of Transnational Activism to "Save" Darfur

4. Workshop: Organizing for Reproductive Freedom

Room: Student Union 320

Organizer and Moderator: Abbey Willis, Workers Solidarity Alliance

Panel Theme: A large group of folks from different organizations in Hartford have decided to work with each other towards the common goal of starting a real live (and kicking!) women's movement in Connecticut. We will be discussing different ways of organizing, coalition politics, rights-based systems (and our critiques of them), and centering our analyses on the most marginalized in our communities (a la bell hooks). This workshop will mainly focus on queer issues, men's interests, and an over-all introduction to reproductive freedom (as opposed to single-issue reproductive rights, as we've seen them deployed). Our analyses will mainly focus on how the interests of white, middle class women become the dominant interpretation of reproductive liberty in the US.

Presenters:

Deric Shannon, Department of Sociology & WS, UConn
 Abbey Willis, Workers Solidarity Alliance
 Regina Dyton, City of Hartford LGBT Commission
 Jerimarie Leisegang, CT TransAdvocacy Coalition and Queers Without Borders

5. Workshop: Violence Against Women, Human Rights and Health Effects

Room: Student Union 325

Organizer and Moderator: Caely Flynn, Women's Center, UConn

Workshop Theme: For the week of Metanoia, the Violence Against Women Prevention Program developed a workshop to reach a larger campus audience. Typically, the workshops VAWPP presents are given to freshmen and general education classes. By incorporating a human rights perspective with the complexities of health effects, students are able to apply these issues more directly to their lives as well as their academic work. This presentation utilizes Martha Nussbaum's 'Capabilities Approach', violence throughout the life cycle, and research from the United Nations reports.

Presenters:

Caely Flynn, Women's Center, UConn
 Hoin Choi, Women's Center, UConn
 Colleen Szabo, Women's Center, UConn

6. TOWN HALL/Open spaces

Room: Student Union 316

Facilitator: Phoebe Godfrey, Sociology, UConn

Open Spaces: Feminist activism means being actively engaged in defining what feminist activism means! Open Space Technology allows people to create their own agenda for collective discussion. If you have a

question/topic/issue you would like to talk about collectively, join one of these sessions to engage in self-organizing, provocative face-to-face dialogues.

7. Documentary Screening: “Beyond Metanoia”

Room: Student Union 319

Filmmaker & Moderator: Emily Blandford, Communications and American Sign Language major, UConn

Description: In the fall of 2009, the University of Connecticut held a week-long “Metanoia on Preventing Violence Against Women.” Metanoia-- as described in *The Connecticut Daily Campus* in October of 1979-- is “a concept meaning ‘change of attitude’ that was introduced at UConn in 1970.” UConn’s 1979 Metanoia on “Violence in the Community” was prompted by both the brutal sexual assault of a graduate student and incidents of racist violence on campus. Thirty years later, students again called for an opportunity to reflect and bring about a “change in attitude” in response to the significant number of sexual assaults on campus the previous year. The goal was not to recreate the 1979 Metanoia, but to build on it. A wide variety of programs and events took place across the university campuses during the week, allowing the campus community to reflect on how far we have come in terms of victim support, interventions, and prevention efforts-- and how far we have to go in changing the attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors that continue to support violence against women on our campuses. UConn student Emma Blandford is currently in the process of completing “Beyond Metanoia,” a documentary that records the week’s events in an attempt, she says, “to look at our own thoughts, values and actions in order to bring about a change in our ways.” A screening of this documentary-in-progress will be followed by open discussion.

Filmmaker Bio: Emily Blandford is a Senior Communications and American Sign Language major at the University of Connecticut. She has been a member of and intern for the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP), and also uses her position as a Resident Assistant to further activism across campus and in the community.

Please note: this video will be shown in its entirety in both Session II and Session III

Session III at the Student Union 3:45 – 5:00 PM

1. Workshop on Feminist Pedagogy

Room: Student Union 320

Facilitator: Phoebe Godfrey, Sociology, UConn

Workshop Theme: This workshop will explore the central themes of feminist pedagogy- social justice, equality, democracy and critical engagement- by practicing them in the workshop. Using a variety of mediums participants will collectively explore the meaning and practice of feminist pedagogy and its connections to feminist activism. No prior knowledge needed.

2. Panel: Prostitution, Sex Trafficking, and New Laws in Rhode Island

Room: Student Union 318

Organizer: Melanie Shapiro, UConn Law School

Moderator: Margaret Brooks, Professor & Chair, Economics, Bridgewater State College

Panel Theme: This session will provide a detailed look at how prostitution and sex trafficking impacted women and girls within Rhode Island from 1980-2009. During this period, prostitution was not outlawed or regulated in Rhode Island if it occurred indoors. The panelists will present the results of their research on how the sex industry grew rapidly within the state as it became a sex tourist destination, and how women and girls from the Northeast US, Asia, and likely Latin America became increasingly involved in prostitution. They will also show how their new organization –Citizens Against Trafficking -- played a key role in educating the public, exposing the opponents’ network and agenda, and ultimately leading to the passage of three key laws in November 2009. Rhode Island now has the legal means in place to protect women and girls from being sexually exploited by pimps, johns, and traffickers.

Panelists:

Melanie Shapiro, Law Student, Roger Williams Law School; Co-founder, Citizens Against Trafficking
 Donna M. Hughes, Professor and Carlson Endowed Chair, Women’s Studies Program, University of Rhode Island; Co-founder, Citizens Against Trafficking
 Margaret Brooks, Professor and Chair of the Economics Department, Bridgewater State College

3. Panel: Boys and Girls, Men and Women: Representations of Gender in Today’s Media

Room: Student Union 316

Organizer and Moderator: Samantha Bok-kai Gomes, M.A. Communication Sciences, UConn

Panel Theme: This panel will consist of research examining today's media as it pertains to the representation of masculinity and femininity. Media such as television, film, magazines and newspapers serve as tools of mass communication, providing models for gendered behavior to every age group. As such, understanding the current content of media representations can lend insight into our cultures views of masculinity and femininity. The research presented here will examine cultural norms of gender role performance, as well as several cultures' constructions of beauty standards. The media's role in the perpetuation of beauty standards and other gender role norms will be examined. Further, the content of gendered representations in children's media (specifically Disney films and advertising during children's educational programming) will be critically analyzed, with special attention paid to the theoretical effects of this content on viewers.

Presenters:

Julia Cocca, Communications, UConn
 Susan Picone, Communications, UConn
 Samantha Bok-kai Gomes, M.A. Communication Sciences, UConn

4. Panel: Our Bawdies, Our Selves: Feminist and Queer Concerns in the Arts

Room: Student Union 321

Organizer and Moderator: Margaret Sönser Breen, English & WS, UConn

Panel Theme:

In this panel Murphi Cook discusses her play *Hole in the Head*. Particularly attuned to the interplay between gender and pathology, the play may be read as both critique and comic send up of medical interventions regarding the female body and women's health.

John Bailey in turn discusses his thesis on how social and cultural conditions help shape lesbian fiction. From early twentieth-century novelists through those of mid century to those of the contemporary literary scene, writers of lesbian fiction critically engage their socio-cultural climate in order to find spaces—medical, aesthetic, counter-cultural, and theoretical—that allow for the literary expression of lesbian desire.

Jen Taylor uses multi-media to explore mythos and lesbian sub-text in the iconic six season of the cult classic, *Xena Warrior Princess*. Humankind is at a crossroads, a time when the feminine principle seeks rebirth. What type of a living mythos does Xena represent in these times, particularly in her relationship to Gabrielle? What antidote does the Xena/ Gabrielle pairing offer our mythological landscape? And why is this medicine important?

Presenters:

John C. Bailey
 "Desiring Texts: The Social & Cultural Conditions of Lesbian Writing"
 Murphi Cook
 "*Hole in the Head*: The Making of a Feminist Play"
 Jen Taylor
 "*Xena Warrior Princess*: The Greatest Love Story (N)ever Told & the Importance of a Living Mythology"

5. Panel: Homebirth as a Feminist Act

Room: Student Union 312

Organizer and Moderator: Jennifer Wisner, Birth Artist

Panel Theme: When a woman births her child at home she engages in a profoundly feminist act. She has rejected the patriarchal medical model of birth, in which the birthing woman is a passive consumer of medical technologies. She has embraced either the woman centered midwifery model or chosen to have an unassisted homebirth. Two panelists planned homebirths with their first births and three journeyed from a place of initially trusting the modern medical model of birth to a place in which homebirth seemed to be her only and best option. The panelists will examine their homebirth experiences, in contrast to birth in the hospital, from a range of perspectives. The panel will seek to engage audience members in a dialogue about their preconceived notions about homebirth and midwifery, and to challenge these notions to see homebirth as feminist activism.

Participants:

Deborah Popkin, MSN, CNM, Certified Nurse-Midwife
 Melissa Roderick, MA, Stay-At-Home Mom
 Maura Jo Lynch, MA, CD, CBE, Birth Doula and Childbirth Educator
 Christian Moran, MA, Instructor, Sociology & WS, Southern Connecticut State

6. Workshop on Child Sexual Abuse

Room: Student Union 325

Moderator: Heather Turcotte, Political Science & Women's Studies, UConn

Organizer and Presenter: Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak, School of Social Work, UConn

Christina Chiarelli-Helminiak has nine years of experience working in the fields of child welfare, family violence, sexual assault, and mental health. She has interviewed over 200 children who have been sexually abused and testifies as an expert in criminal processing.

Workshop Theme: Feminist have been at the forefront of exposing the hidden reality of child sexual abuse, starting in the 1930s and more actively beginning in the 1970s. When a child is abused, the responsibility of caring and supporting the child often falls on a woman, but not without consequence. Historically, women have been blamed for "allowing" the sexual abuse of children, while men have been given "excuses" as to why the abuse occurred (often due to something the mother did or did not do). Feminist research provides insight into how the judicial, medical, and child welfare systems eliminate an abuser's responsibility for the abuse and influence the continuation of power and control over women and children. Connecting the presenter's previous work and current research in the field of child abuse, research and policy implications, particularly in the judicial and child welfare fields, will be discussed. Additionally, workshop participants will discuss ways to address concerns they may have as an activist.

7. Documentary Screening: "Beyond Metanoia"

Room: Student Union 319

Filmmaker & Moderator: Emily Blandford, Communications and American Sign Language major, UConn

Please note: this video will be shown in its entirety in both Session II and Session III - please see Session 2-7 for film description and filmmaker bio.

Break

Conference moves to the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium

5:00 - 5:15 PM

Closing Ceremonies

at the Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium

5:15 - 6:00 PM

- **Thanks and Concluding Remarks:** Nancy A. Naples, Conference Chair
- **Wrap up town hall/open spaces gatherings:** Phoebe Godfrey, Sociology UConn
- **Poetry Reading :** Meryl Kremer
Presentation Title: Where my Girls at?
Meryl Kremer, from Columbus, Ohio, attends UConn- Avery Point. She is considering becoming a funeral director, hair dresser or anthropologist... but is currently weighing her options. This rhyme is dedicated to Michelle Jacobson, her mother.
- **Poetry Reading:** Amber West
Presentation Title: An Ordinary Knife
Amber West is an English & Women's Studies PhD student at UConn. She will read selections of feminist/activist poetry from her manuscript-in-progress, "An Ordinary Knife."
- **Open Mic:** We will have an open mic for anyone who would like to read, speak out, or perform something related to the conference theme. We encourage you to join us, and to let your voice be heard.

Reception

in the Dodd Center Atrium Room

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Poster Session - on display at the Dodd Center throughout the day

The Uses and Consequences of Self-Protective Strategies in the Prevention of Sexual Assault

Stephanie Rua, Psychology, UConn

Samantha Gorley, Psychology, UConn

- poster co-authors: Annie Fox, Psychology, UConn; Valerie Earnshaw, Psychology, UConn;
and Mary Crawford, Psychology, UConn

Presenter and Moderator Index

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Collaborative Conference - Tomorrow, Saturday March 27

Organized by
UConn Women's Studies, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies and Asian American Studies



Image: Domestic Workers United. Rally. April 2009 in Albany, NY.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

HOPE IN HARD TIMES

CONFERENCE!

This event will bring together activists, scholars and policy-makers in 3 plenary sessions to discuss the recent organizing efforts of domestic workers: a low-wage, transnational workforce largely made up of immigrant women.

This conference is deeply informed by the global dimensions of care work. It aims not only to discuss issues facing domestic workers, but to aid the current legislative efforts to include them in US labor law.

Funded by the Human Rights Institute and the Research Foundation at UConn.
Organized by the Programs of Women's Studies, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, and Asian American Studies

Saturday, March 27: 9am-4pm
Thomas Dodd Research Center
University of Connecticut - Storrs

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Priscilla Gonzalez**, Executive Director, Domestic Workers United (New York) and Representative member/organizers of DWU
- **Grace Chang**, Associate Professor (Dept. of Feminist Studies, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara) and author of *Disposable Domestic*s
- **Shareen Hertel**, Associate Professor (Dept. of Political Science, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs) and author of *Human Rights and the Global Economy – Bringing Labor Rights Back In*
- **Marina Karides**, Associate Professor (Dept. of Sociology, Florida Atlantic Univ. Coral Gables) and author of *Informal Sector Workers, Gender, and Income Inequality in the Caribbean: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago*
- **Paul Filson**, Director of Connecticut Council of Service Employees International Union (Hartford) / SEIU
- **Ai-Jen Poo**, Policy Staff, National Domestic Workers Alliance (California)
- **Heloisa Maria Galvao**, Executive Director, Brazilian Women's Group (Massachusetts)

Please visit the Women's Studies website to obtain the schedule for this conference:

www.womens.studies.uconn.edu

Thank you to our co-sponsors!

Art/Art History Department
 Asian American Studies Institute
 The Dodd Center
 English Department
 Office of International Affairs
 Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Puerto Rican & Latino Studies Institute
 The Rainbow Center
 Sociology Department
 The Student Union
 The UConn Research Foundation
 The Women's Center

Organizing Committee Members and Event Staff:

Director, Women's Studies: Manisha Desai
Conference Committee Chair: Nancy Naples
Committee Members: Phoebe Godfrey, Shweta Majumdar, Amber West,
 & Jeffrey Wickersham
Conference Intern: Marissa Dubecky
Program Coordinator: Kate Hurley-Dizigan
Administrative Assistant: Coleen Spurlock
Invaluable Women's Studies Student Staff: Jimmy Brown, Nina Hunter & Kate Leber

Women's Studies at the University of Connecticut

The Women's Studies Program is a flexible interdisciplinary academic program devoted to the critical analysis of gender and the pursuit of knowledge about women. Combining methods and insights of traditional academic disciplines with the special insights of Women's Studies scholarship, our courses yield fresh perspectives, which illuminate the origins of and changes in diverse cultural and social arrangements.

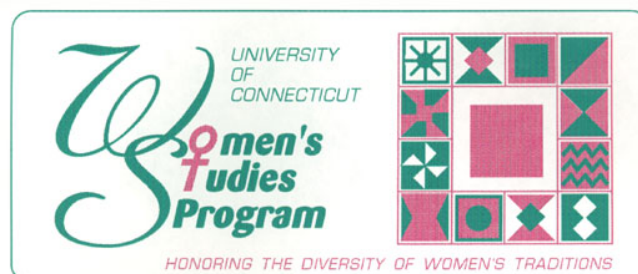
The Women's Studies Program is committed to a vision of women and gender that is truly international and cross-cultural. Without this perspective, our view of the world is profoundly impoverished and stereotypes will continue to distort our understanding.

The Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut offers both an undergraduate major & minor, and a graduate certificate that can be taken in conjunction with a graduate degree program or on a stand-alone basis.

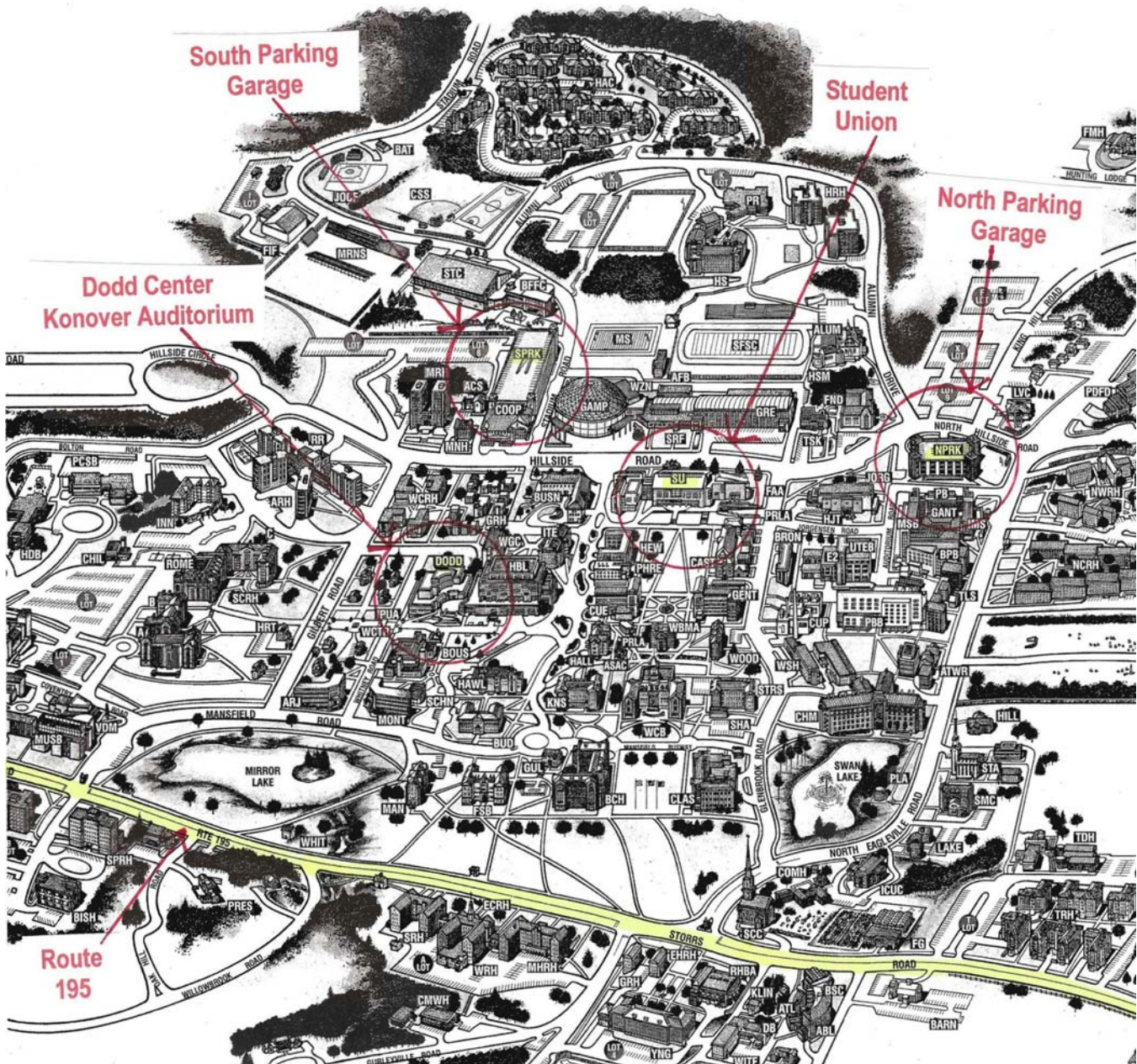
The University of Connecticut - Women's Studies Program

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CELEBRATING OUR COMMON THREADS



Campus Map



Please note: This conference is being held at two venues - the Dodd Center and the Student Union. These sites are marked on the map above and event locations are clearly stated on the expanded schedule of events, starting on page 3.

Directions to the UConn-Storrs campus can be found at <http://www.uconn.edu/storrs-campus.php>.

Parking: As the conference is on a weekday, all non-UConn participants and attendees will need to park in one of the two parking garages on campus. Cars that do not have a valid UConn parking pass cannot park in any of the parking lots on a weekday before 5:00 PM. The garages charge a fee to park - WS will not be validating parking.