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The Women's Studies Program and The Alice Paul Center at The University of Pennsylvania

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The Women's Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program that provides exciting intellectual opportunities to explore the role of gender in human affairs. The Women's Studies Program offers over 50 courses each year, many cross-listed with other departments. Women's Studies offers a major, a minor, and a graduate certificate.

The Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality fosters cutting-edge research on women, gender, and sexuality across the disciplines. The Center offers graduate and faculty fellowships, hosts a number of seminar series, and sponsors four named lectureships annually which bring prominent academic, literary, and public figures to campus.

Women's Studies Program & The Alice Paul Center
249 South 36th Street
411 Logan Hall, University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304



FALL 2007
Newsletter

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Women's Studies Program and the Alice Paul Center Newsletter Fall 2007

Letter from the Directors

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The past academic year was an excellent one for the Women's Studies Program and the Alice Paul Center. As this newsletter details, our endowed lectures and faculty seminars once again featured scholarly work of the highest caliber. Several even generated a festive feeling, as when a huge audience, including a host of Penn's Haitian students, came to listen to the novelist Edwidge Danticat speak about her imaginative engagement with the island of her birth. 2006-2007 also marked two new initiatives. The first was the annual Brownlee Lecture Series in Sexuality Studies, featuring Professor Judith Butler of University of California, Berkeley as the inaugural speaker. The second was a renewed focus on advancing the scholarly work and professional lives of our graduate students, an initiative necessitated by the fact that SAS decided to discontinue its dissertation fellowships in Women's Studies. As part of this effort, we launched the Phyllis Rackin Fellowship for Feminist Research in the Humanities, which along with the Leboy-Davies Fellowship, should enable us to continue to give some support to graduate students across the disciplines, though, admittedly, not at quite the same level as before. We also held our first annual pedagogy seminar, in which faculty and students came together to discuss the pleasures and difficulties of teaching introductory courses in women's and gender studies and hosted an end-of-the year mini-conference to



Demie Kurz and Rita Barnard, Directors
Photo by Lisa Godfrey

showcase the research and writing of more than a dozen of our fine graduate students working on women, gender, and/or sexuality in fields like History, German, English, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, and Education.

These positive events in and around Logan Hall, of course, occurred against the background of the increasingly depressing war in Iraq. We seem to live at a time when, as Susan Stanford Friedman puts it, the US claims "to bring an enlightened modernity and democracy to the darkness of the tradition-bound Muslim world" at the same time that its own government has "duplicitously undermined modernity and democracy at home." "Gender—and particularly the status of women," observes Friedman, "is woven so thoroughly into the catastrophes of world events today that it is impossible to consider feminism old hat, passé, no longer relevant." It is with a firm belief in the global relevance of feminism and Women's Studies today that

Letter from the Directors, continued

the Women's Studies and Alice Paul Center staff, especially Shannon Lundeen, has been investing considerable resources and energy in an upcoming conference on gender, war, and militarism. Scheduled for October 25 and 26, this will be an international event, bringing together some twenty-five leading scholars (including Cynthia Enloe, Charlotte Bunch, Catherine Lutz, Spike Peterson, Sondra Hale, and Elisabeth Wood) to discuss topics ranging from gender and nationalism, the militarization of society, war and the media, genocidal rape, child soldiers, to the prospects for peace and reconstruction. We invite all members of our community to view the program on our website for details (on this and other upcoming events) and to publicize and attend the conference.

This past year our undergraduate curriculum in Gender, Culture, and Society featured an array of over fifty courses from many disciplines, a figure that includes our own courses and the many classes we cross-list with other departments. Our undergraduate major in Gender, Culture, and Society, while not a large one in terms of comparative enrollments, continued to flourish in 2006-2007, offering our students intensive individual guidance, especially in the writing of their theses. Thesis topics this past year covered a range of subjects including attitudes towards sexuality among inner-city youth, issues in HIV testing among married couples in Malawi, to a more theoretical consideration of how gender is framed in international human

rights law.

Thanks to the combined energies of these committed undergraduates, of our stellar graduate students (especially our program associates Leah Comeau, Kim Gallon, Jennifer Glaser, and Anika Kiehne), and the excellent course offerings of our affiliated faculty members, the program's pedagogical mission remains on track. Indeed, opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration seem brighter than ever, with the appointment of two of our key advisory board members to leadership positions in the SAS: Karen Beckman, who will be serving as director of Cinema Studies, and Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, who will be serving as director of the Middle East Center. Two other board members, Ania Loomba and Ritty Lukose will be bringing a set of brilliant South Asian feminist scholars to Penn for a major conference at the end of March, the second of its kind.

Along with Shannon Lundeen and Luz Marin, our trusty staff members, we thank these and all members of our community for their energetic and thoughtful contributions. We look forward with great pleasure to our continued work in the vibrant intellectual collective that is Women's Studies at Penn.

—Rita Barnard and Demie Kurz

Note of Special Thanks



Jennifer Glaser and Leah Comeau

We would like to thank Leah Comeau and Jenn Glaser for their invaluable help with this newsletter and for attending each of our events. Additional thanks to Leah for taking pictures. Congratulations to this past year's dissertation fellows: Kim Gallon and Aubrey Baadsgaard.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Anika Kiehne and Kim Gallon, the Alice Paul Center and Women's Studies Program Graduate Associates for 2007-2008. This will be Anika's third year as a Graduate Associate and we are thrilled to have her continue working on our team.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007-2008

Fall 2007

Thursday 9/27/07

BERKOWITZ LECTURE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES SUSAN FALUDI

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and author of *Backlash*
5pm, 200 College Hall

Friday 10/5/07

Global Gender Faculty Seminar Professor Ritty Lukose (Penn, GSE)

12pm, Logan 436

Thursday-Friday, 10/25-26/07

GENDER, WAR, AND MILITARISM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE featuring CYNTHIA ENLOE, Research Professor of International Development and Women's Studies, Clark University, as the BROWNLEE LECTURER IN FEMINIST THEORY and award-winning journalist and co-founder of "Democracy Now!" AMY GOODMAN

8am-6pm, location TBA

For more information visit

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/wstudies/gwmconference/>

Friday 11/9/07

Graduate Student Pedagogy Seminar

featuring Penn Professors Ruth Cowan, Kathy Peiss, Heather Love,
Demie Kurz, and Shannon Lundeen
12pm, Logan 436

Friday 11/30/07

Works-in-Progress Faculty Seminar Professor Katherine Sender (Penn, Annenberg School)

12pm, Logan 436

Spring 2008

Thursday 1/31/08

R. JEAN BROWNLEE LECTURE IN SEXUALITY STUDIES MICHAEL WARNER

Professor of English, Rutgers University
5pm, 17 Logan Hall

Friday 2/15/08

Works-in-Progress Faculty Seminar Professor Eve Troutt Powell (Penn, History)

12pm, Logan 436

Wednesday-Thursday 2/20-21/08

Faculty-in-Residence in Gender & Sexuality Studies Event Series Judith Halberstam

Professor of English, University of Southern California

Thursday 3/20/08

JANE S. POLLACK MEMORIAL LECTURE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES BELL HOOKS

Distinguished Professor in Residence, Berea College
5pm, 200 College Hall

Thursday-Friday 3/27-29/08

South Asia Feminism Conference

time and location TBA

Friday 4/11/08

Global Gender Faculty Seminar Professor Deborah Thomas (Penn, Anthropology)

12pm, Logan 436

Friday 4/18/08

Graduate Student Conference on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

12-5pm, 401 Fisher-Bennett Hall

Friday 4/25/08

Faculty Tenure Workshop

time and location TBA

GRADUATE STUDENT PEDAGOGY SEMINAR, December 13, 2006

Graduate students and faculty across disciplines gathered in December for our Graduate Student Pedagogy Seminar. During this session, graduate students had the opportunity to raise their own concerns for integrating critical thinking about gender into survey courses, as well as courses explicitly designed to engage gender and sexuality scholarship. The conversation also included the implementation of feminist methodologies in the classroom, the changes and development of gender and sexuality departments nationally, as well as classroom management techniques for encouraging critical perspectives in identity-based fields. Faculty members provided insight from within their particular fields of expertise, as well as broad generational differences that they have seen over the course of their careers in a variety of academic settings. This seminar produced very practical ends in the exchange of syllabi and other course materials. Yet, more importantly, faculty and graduate students were able to interact and support each other's contributions to scholarship in gender studies by exchanging ideas (and some laughs) across disciplines and generations. A warm thank you to our panelists: Ruth Cowan, Kathy Peiss, Heather Love, Demie Kurz, Shannon Lundeen, and Jennifer Glaser.

LEBOY-DAVIES FELLOWSHIP IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Leboy-Davies fellowship was created last year to honor Phoebe Leboy and Helen Davies, two pioneers in the fight for women at Penn, both of them distinguished senior faculty members in the health sciences. The fellowship supports a graduate student whose research will foster women's health, well-being, and educational equality anywhere in the world.

The second recipient of the fellowship is a graduate student in Sociology, **Catherine van de Ruit**. Catherine will be using the award money to travel to South Africa for the summer to work on the policies shaping the treatment of AIDS orphans. In the spring of 2008 she will present her research to fellow graduate students and Women's Studies faculty at the second annual Graduate Student Conference on Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

The F-Word: A Collection of Feminist Voices

A New Space for Feminist Voices at Penn

Kristin Williams, Editor-in-Chief of The F-Word, C'08

Pandora's box has been reopened, so to speak. A group of Penn undergraduates came together in the fall of 2006 with a mission—the desire to revive *Pandora's Box*, the feminist literary magazine that we had heard about, but had never seen, since it had died out nearly a decade before we came to Penn. We discussed, brainstormed, and deliberated over pizza in the Kelly Writers House and decided we wanted to use *Pandora's Box* as a springboard for a new and even more inclusive feminist publication, which we dubbed *The F-Word: A Collection of Feminist Voices*. This publication would be a space for both men and women and would allow a wide range of artistic expression from the Penn undergraduate community.

With a newly formed editorial board and an enlivened sense of feminist purpose, we solicited submissions, learned the ropes of the publication world, tried to master the lingo of paper weight and binding types, navigated the bureaucracy of the university and the Student Activities Council and put together the premier edition of *The F-Word*. In the spring of 2006 we had our "Coming Out" Party, and we edited and designed the issue throughout that semester and into the fall semester. The first issue was released in January 2007 and officially launched at our February 2007 launch party, complete with readings by authors as part of the university-wide Women's Week. We will release the second issue in October 2007 and are in the midst of getting the issue ready for the printer. The biannual magazine showcases poetry, prose (short stories and personal essays), photographs and other artwork, as well as academic work. For more information about *The F-Word*, please see our website: <http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~fword/>.

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Prize

The Smith-Rosenberg Prize awards \$250 each year for a superior senior thesis paper in the field of Women's Studies. During their senior year, all Women's Studies majors write a thesis based on original research they carry out on a topic relating to gender. The prize, which recognizes the student paper of the highest quality, is named in honor of the distinguished historian Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, a founder of the Women's Studies Program at Penn. This year there were two recipients of the award: **Katie Bailey** for her thesis entitled, "**Gendercide as an Incomplete Framework: the Exclusion of Male Victimization Experiences**" and **Lauren Gaydosh** for her thesis entitled, "**To Test or Not to Test: Decision Making and Marital Power Regarding Voluntary Counseling and HIV Testing in Rural Malawi.**"

Lynda S. Hart Prize

The Hart Prize, established in the spring of 2006, awards \$250 each year for a senior thesis or seminar paper in the field of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender) studies. This new prize will be awarded in memory of Lynda S. Hart, Professor of English at Penn and groundbreaking scholar in feminist performance studies and queer theory. The prize recognizes original, rigorous scholarship by an undergraduate in any field. The 2007 recipient of the award is **Sara Gorman** for her paper entitled, "**The Theatricality of Transformation: Cross-Dressing and Gender/Sexuality Spectra on the Elizabethan Stage.**"

ENDOWED LECTURES

Susan Bordo, "Not Just a 'White Girl's Thing': The Changing Face of Food and Body Image Problems" —*Judith R. Berkowitz Lecture in Women's Studies, October 5, 2007*

This October began with the 2006 Judith R. Berkowitz Lecture in Women's Studies delivered by Susan Bordo, Professor of English and Gender & Women's Studies at the University of Kentucky.

In her presentation, Bordo brought our attention to food and body image problems outside of the anorexia paradigm in order to investigate less dramatic but equally urgent

and destructive behavioral patterns. Using anonymous blogs by a diverse selection of young women, as well as familiar celebrity faces and figures, she brought excessive and obsessive exercise and dieting to the fore of our attention in order to connect body disorders to American societal disorder.

Ultimately promoting moderation and diversity in body

representation and maintenance, Bordo insightfully pinpointed that our visually active media culture is not just producing pretty pictures, but rather marketing a set of values and rewards that affect a wide range of people and produce destructive effects that cut across boundaries of class, gender, and race.



Susan Bordo

Judith Butler, "Sexual Politics, Limits of the Secular and the Question of Our Time" —*R. Jean Brownlee Lecture in Sexuality Studies, January 31, 2007*

On January 31, 2007, theorist Judith Butler gave the R. Jean Brownlee Lecture in Sexuality Studies to a standing-room-only audience packed with scholars, students, and Penn community members. Butler, the Maxine Eliot Professor in the Departments of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, gave a talk entitled "Sexual Politics, the

Limits of the Secular, and the Question of our Time."

In her lecture, Butler wove magisterially between theoretical speculation and anecdote in order to pose questions about whether an embrace of secularism and the liberal ideal were necessary to oppose torture and sexual coercion. Using examples from contemporary global politics, such as the re-

cent collision between liberalism and the multicultural ideal in the Netherlands and the relation between sexual violence and international politics in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, Butler pointed out the complex rhetorical power of sexuality and difference in the twenty first century.



Judith Butler

ENDOWED LECTURES, continued

A Conversation with Edwidge Danticat

—Jane S. Pollack Memorial Lecture in Women's Studies, February 22, 2007



Edwidge Danticat

Penn's Women's Studies Program and the Alice Paul Center for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality presented Edwidge Danticat in conversation with Rita Barnard and Thadious Davis for this year's Jane S. Pollack Memorial Lecture in Women's Studies. Author of several books, including *Breath, Eyes Memory* and *Krik? Krak!*, Danticat spoke about the experience of her own journey from Haiti to the United States as a young woman and the communities with which she remains deeply connected. Danticat described her writing as a way to go home—a way not motivated by

nostalgia but rather by a desire to be closer to Haiti through reflective understanding. Prompted by Rita Barnard's question about Danticat's thematic attention to mothers and daughters, Danticat warmly described the deep connection she felt to Zora Neale Hurston, the first black woman to attend Barnard College, where Danticat also earned her Bachelor's degree. She explained that Hurston's brilliancy and sense of orality validated and inspired her to draw from her own storytelling tradition. Thadious Davis raised the political aspects of Danticat's relationship to Haitian immigrants

and students in the audience also echoed political and personal desires to understand and empathize with the Haitian diaspora.

Danticat said that her first job as a writer is "to tell a good story." She also described some of her other writing projects as opportunities to seek justice, and reconstruct the story of Haitian immigration, as well as the inevitable meeting point of the familial, political, and personal. The conversation was followed by student questions, book signing and some enthusiastic photographs.

Toril Moi, "I am Not a Woman Writer': On Women, Writing, and Feminism"

—R. Jean Brownlee Lecture in Feminist Thought, March 22, 2007

Toril Moi, Professor of Literature and Romance Studies at Duke University, delivered this year's R. Jean Brownlee Lecture in Feminist Thought entitled, "I Am Not a Woman Writer': On Women, Writing, and Feminism." Author of several noteworthy texts on literary theory and feminist thought, including *Sex, Gender and the Body*, *Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory*, and

Simone de Beauvoir: The Making of an Intellectual Woman, Moi asked several key questions about what makes a writer a *woman* writer and what makes words into *meaningful* words.

In her closing remarks, Moi argued that the foundation of meaning is none other than the continued use of language and that literature should not fall to the wayside of critical theory as a

romantic expression of the inner soul, but should be conceived of as a speech act of great significance. This speech act is an invitation to the reader to take interest in the vision of the author and it is only then that the gender of the author may become important as the reader determines his or her interest in the literary invitation.



Toril Moi

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILES

Aubrey Baadsgaard



Aubrey Baadsgaard is a Ph.D. candidate in Penn's Anthropology Department and recipient of the 2006-07 Alice Paul Center Dissertation Fellowship. Over the past year, Aubrey had the opportunity to travel to London and to the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago in order to complete her dissertation research. Aubrey's research is focused on the jewelry and evidence of adornment found at an ancient royal burial site at Ur, located in modern day Iraq. Her project literally made headlines this spring when she was able to perform a CAT scan on a skull of a sacrificial maiden that was preserved with head ornaments intact. At the conclusion of her research, Aubrey intends to make her

cataloguing efforts available online to Penn, the British Museum, and to curators of the remaining third of the Ur collection in Baghdad.

Among her many accomplishments this year, Aubrey's participation in the Women's Studies Graduate Conference this spring also stands out prominently in her memory. In addition to her dissertation fellowship, Aubrey found that the welcoming feminist community that participated in the conference was another measure of invaluable support for her as a young scholar. Her experience with the Women's Studies Program at Penn as a safe space with opportunities and appreciation for gender studies continues to encourage her pursuit and advancement of knowledge about women's lives and relationships.

Alison Stein



Alison Stein, Penn Law School Class of '09, is not your average first year law student. Prior to beginning law school in Philadelphia, Stein founded and ran the Younger Woman's Task Force, a successful Washington D.C. non-profit. Stein formed the Task Force after realizing that women in their twenties and thirties were often falling through the cracks of conventional feminist organizations. Helmed by Stein, the Younger Woman's Task Force focused on issues such as family, reproductive freedom, and the pay gap between female and male workers. Two years and eleven Task Force chapters later, Stein returned to school in order to get her law degree. At Penn Law, Stein continues to work on issues pertaining to gender equity and activism, participating in both the Reproductive Health and Human Rights clinics at the school. Over the summer, Stein provided legal counsel at

Yale Law School's low income legal clinic, focusing particularly on the many domestic violence cases that she encounters there.

Stein manifested an interest in gender in both the international and domestic contexts early on. She majored in English and African Studies as an undergraduate at Penn. During summers, she spent time in Ghana and Tanzania. In Ghana, Stein started a discussion group for young women, which allowed them access to local midwives who could answer their questions about contraception and sexual health. After graduating from Penn, she returned to Ghana in order to work for the Ghana Health and Education Initiative, where she interviewed hundreds of local women in order to collect data for groups seeking to build reproductive health clinics that responded to the women's needs. After completing her law degree, Stein intends to return to working in the non-profit sector.

FIRST ANNUAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Graduate students and faculty gathered at the end of the spring semester (4/13/07) to share and celebrate graduate students' scholarship from a range of disciplines at the First Annual Graduate Student Conference on Women, Gender, and Sexuality. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Shannon B. Lundeen, Associate Director of the Alice Paul Center. Lundeen opened the conference with thoughts on the ways in which the Women's Studies program at Penn plays an important role for conversations in the larger University, as well as for graduate students looking for a supportive intellectual home. Lundeen also pointed to the future, citing the flexibility and ever-growing discipline of Women, Gender and Sexuality studies here at Penn.

Panels addressed Women in Sociopolitical Contexts, Representing Pre-Modern Women, and Gender and Race in Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century United States History. Participants and audience members contributed to the stimulating interdisciplinary discussions that spanned fields in English, History, Political Science, Anthropology, Psychology, Archaeology, Sociology, and Social Policy. A special thanks to the event organizers, panelists and moderators for making this a successful graduate student event.

Our conference was followed by a reception honoring Professors Phoebe Leboy and Helen Davies and the recipients of the Leboy-Davies Fellowships for 2007 and 2008. This year's recipient, Catherine van de Ruit, Department of Sociology, will be working with HIV/AIDS orphans and kinship formation in South Africa this summer. The 2007 Leboy-Davies Fellowship recipient, T. Nana Mokoah Ackatia-Armah, Graduate School of Education, also shared remarks from her research last summer, during which she engaged young women living on the streets in Ghana and their respective interactions with non-governmental organizations.

FACULTY PROFILES, continued

Eve Troutt Powell



Eve Troutt Powell is Associate Professor of History at Penn and specializes in the social history of the Middle East with a particular emphasis on the history of slavery. She holds the distinguished honor of being awarded a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award which provides the recipient with a no-strings-attached award of \$500,000 over five years. Troutt Powell received her Ph.D. from Harvard University, and taught for ten years at The University of Georgia, prior to coming to Penn. She is the author of *A Different Shade of Colonialism: Egypt, Great Britain and the Mastery of the Sudan* (University of California, 2003) and the co-editor, with John Hunwick, of *The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam* (Princeton Series on the Middle

East, Markus Wiener Press, 2002).

Troutt Powell is now working on a book about the memory of slavery in the Nile valley, which examines how slaves and slaveholders wrote, sang or talked about the experience of servitude and its meaning in their societies. Both her research and her teaching explore the relationship between Africa and the Middle East, and thus connect her closely to Africana Studies and African Studies at Penn. As a cultural historian, she emphasizes the exploration of literature and film in her courses on the history of the modern Middle East.

The Women's Studies Department was pleased to welcome her as a respondent to Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet's research on women's reproductive politics in Iran at our Global Gender Seminar in February.

TRUSTEES' COUNCIL OF PENN WOMEN JUNIOR FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS

These summer research grants, which the Women's Studies Program awards, are funded by the Trustees' Council of Penn Women. The awards of \$5,000 each are given to female faculty, or faculty members whose research is centrally concerned with the role of women in society, science, or arts and letters. The grants assist in the promotion of standing faculty to the permanent rank of Associate Professor. A faculty committee from the Alice Paul Center and the Women's Studies Program reviews the proposals and makes the selections. The Council has been funding these awards since 1991. We are very grateful for the Council's generosity. Assistant professors have found these grants to be invaluable in accomplishing their research.

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 awardees of the TCPW Summer Faculty Research Stipends!

The awardees are:

Melissa E. Sanchez

School of Arts & Sciences, English
"Political Voyeurism in English Literature from Sidney to Milton"

Stromberg Childers

School of Arts & Sciences, History
"Decolonization and the Struggle for National Identity in Postwar France, Martinique, and Algeria"

Claudia Vallegia

School of Arts & Sciences, Anthropology
"Indigenous People Taking Care of Their Health Project"

GLOBAL GENDER SEMINARS

The Global Gender Seminar is a seminar for Penn faculty who teach or do research in areas related to global gender issues. The seminar meets several times a semester, on Fridays at noon. The seminars feature the work of Penn faculty as well as visiting scholars from outside the Penn community.

October 13, 2006: Professors Tim Brennan & Keya Ganguly

The first of this semester's Global Gender Seminars began with Tim Brennan and Keya Ganguly from the Departments of English and Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota presenting on "Globalization and Gender." Their engaging presentations were followed by comments from respondents Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, Department of History, and Andy Lamas, Urban Studies Program at Penn.

Ganguly's primary work reframes theoretical engagements in order to substantiate many of the claims of the Frankfurt School. In her own work, as well as in conversations with students, she sees a need for more of a dialectic in theoretical discourse and formation. Brennan argued for a more productive employment of theory in globalization and post-colonial studies. He suggested we see the public intellectual as a potential site for dialogues between politics of both left and right wing ideologies where a move toward a reintegration of economic and political terms into theory might take place.

In response, Farnsworth-Alvear probed a somewhat utopian vision for the future for the gender politics that would be entailed, as well as the types of gendered figures that might be created from the proposed integration of a globalized intellectualism. Following an inspiring musical illustration of a dueling saxophone and trumpet, Lamas proposed a distinction between capitalism and the market and suggested that we understand theory as an aesthetic stylistics of thought.

Led by Ganguly and Brennan, who both drew particular attention to the need for productive conversation with a variety of voices substantiating theoretical frameworks in contemporary politicized discourse, participants in this seminar engaged in new ways to conceive of theory in context and current events.

November 10, 2006: Professors Inderpal Grewal & Caren Kaplan

The Women's Studies department welcomed Inderpal Grewal (University of California, Irvine, Women's Studies) and Caren Kaplan (University of California, Davis, Women and Gender Studies) to speak at the Global Gender Seminar on "Postcolonial Feminist Studies of Militarism." Kaplan emphasized her interest in theoretical linkages and the investigation of social relations that might make gender knowable. In this seminar, she focused on the intersections of war, commerce, and civilian consumption of visualizations of militarism. Grewal explored the intersection of security and feminist politics, highlighting her own focus on the re-articulation of the home(-land) and domestic space through the figure of the mother. Respondents, Ritty Lukose (Penn, Graduate School of Education) and Anne Norton (Penn SAS, Department of Political Science), linked militarization with concepts of territory and globalization. Lukose raised the fetishization of precision in the wake of rising GPS technology as another form of visualizing the spectacle of war. Norton introduced the figure of the "security slut" as a foil to Grewal's "security mom" (a new war-time figure of domesticity, dominion, and economy) to conclude an engaging and energetic seminar meeting.

February 2, 2007: Professor Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

In February, the Global Gender Seminar welcomed Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet from Penn's History Department to present her work "Maternalism and Women's Reproductive Politics in Iran." Heather Sharkey from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) and Eve Troutt Powell from the History Department were our two respondents. Kashani-Sabet's recent research on maternalism and women's hygiene within the history of nursing and midwifery in Iran raised important issues in reproductive politics and present-day institutional developments in women's healthcare in the Middle East. Both respondents added insights into possible relationships between population studies, birth rates, and the development of "patriotic womanhood" through promotions for cleanliness and feminine hygiene. The discussion also included the role of missionaries in healthcare training and Kashani-Sabet's vision for future work on the perceived division between the history of maternalism and the history of medicine and the ways in which this false dichotomy is embodied and perpetuated by current medical schools.

March 16, 2007: Professor Neville Hoad

The final Global Gender Seminar was an exploration of "Sexuality, Racism, and AIDS in South Africa," led by our guest, Neville Hoad (Department of English, University of Texas, Austin), recent author of *African Intimacies: Race, Homosexuality, and Globalization* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007). The respondents were Heather Love (Penn SAS, English) and Lesley Marx (Visiting Professor at Emory and former Chair of both the English Department and the Film and Media Department at the University of Cape Town). During his presentation, Hoad demonstrated the need for new archives on race and sexuality and new texts drawn from cultural representations in order to critique the existing critique of racism. In his own research, Hoad has explored theater, novels, films, new media and emerging genres to reconfigure Enlightenment views of race and sexuality in the South African context. Respondents echoed Hoad's fundamental questions about the formation of global gender and how to mobilize global feelings toward ethics. The problems were played out in our discussion of the film "Yesterday" in which the intimate and global were linked through a melodramatic portrayal of suffering AIDS victims in Zululand, South Africa. Our seminar closed with a lively discussion that included a generous mix of faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students.

FACULTY WORKS-IN-PROGRESS SEMINARS



Demie Kurz at her Faculty Works-in-Progress Seminar

The Faculty Works-in-Progress Seminar provides a forum for Penn Women's Studies faculty to present and receive feedback on their current work and research. Those who attend the seminar receive a copy of the "work-in-progress" ahead of time. At the session, the speaker discusses his or her work and two faculty respondents speak briefly, offering their feedback on the paper. The session is then opened up to general discussion.

The first Works-in-Progress Seminar was held on September 22, 2006 and featured our very own **Demie Kurz** of Women's Studies and Sociology. She presented on her current book project regarding relationships between teenagers and parents and the process of "letting-go." Given that many faculty have gone through or are currently going through this very process of negotiating adolescence with their children, the seminar and Professor Kurz's research sparked a lively and engaged discussion. Respondents for the seminar included Michelle Fine of CUNY, Department of Psychology and Vivian Gadsden of Penn's Graduate School of Education.

The second WIP seminar of the year was led by **Nancy Bentley** of Penn's English Department. Professor Bentley

presented a chapter-in-progress from her current book project. The chapter examined kinship and the notion of futurity in African-American fiction. In this "work-in-progress" Bentley primarily analyzes author Pauline Hopkins' novels for Hopkins' read of the relationship between kinship, race, and the future. Amy Kaplan and Josephine Park, both of Penn's English Department, offered insightful comments and began an intriguing discussion amongst seminar participants.

For our final WIP seminar **Anita Allen-Castellitto** of Penn Law presented her ongoing research on the law's approach to the concept of modesty. She presented a history of cases that dealt with the issue of modesty and privacy and elaborated on many of their contradictions and inconsistencies. Her main concern is the way in which modesty practices become coerced through law by authoritarian states. Respondents Kathy Peiss from Penn History and Nancy Hirschmann from Political Science both offered compelling "histories" of modesty from their own disciplines and a discussion amongst participants on the gendered nature of modesty and privacy laws ensued.



Global Gender Faculty Seminar featuring Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet (at head of table)

Phyllis Rackin Lecture

On April 19, 2007, the Women's Studies Program and the Alice Paul Center, along with Dean Rebecca Bushnell, the English Department, and the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Group, proudly co-hosted the fourth annual lecture in honor of Professor Phyllis Rackin's influential work on feminist studies of the English Renaissance. The speaker was **Lena Cowin Orlin**, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Executive Director of the Shakespeare Association of America, and author and editor of numerous feminist-materialist studies of the English Renaissance, including *Private Matters and Public Culture in Post-Reformation England* (1994), *Elizabethan Households* (1995) *Material London, ca. 1600* (2000), *"Othello": Contemporary Critical Essays* (2003), *Center or Margin: Revisions of the English Renaissance in Honor of Leeds Barroll* (2006), and *Locating Privacy in Tudor*

London (forthcoming from Oxford University Press). Professor Orlin's lecture, entitled "Locating Women in Tudor London," was a tour-de-force of archival research that followed the life of one woman, Alice Barnham, as a way of discussing the participation of women more generally in the mercantile, commercial, and financial worlds of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. Through meticulous study of family portraits and memoirs, property deeds, trade ledgers, and parish records, Professor Orlin's talk challenged prevailing narratives about patriarchy and demonstrated the extent to which women shaped early modern social and economic life. Following the lecture, a reception was held to celebrate Professor Rackin's many contributions to the university and the profession.

FACULTY PROFILES

Jerry Jacobs



Jerry A. Jacobs is Professor of Sociology at Penn, where he has taught since 1983. Professor Jacobs describes his early interest in gender inequality as an opportunity to explore general problems of inequality in a new way. Thirty years later, seismic changes as well as persistent problems inspire interesting questions for Professor Jacobs to ask about working women, professionalism, and family.

Professor Jacobs recently completed a book with Ann K. Boulis, PhD, to be released by Cornell University Press entitled, *Women Becoming Doctors: Women's Entry in the Medical Profession in the United States, 1970-2000*. In this book, Jacobs and Boulis explore the progressive increase of women's entry into the medical profession and its rela-

tionship to changes in the way medicine is practiced. By following both application rates for medical schools and the professional lives of current female doctors, this study seeks to explain the rapid changes affecting medical graduates over the course of one generation. Other recent publications of Jacobs' include, *Putting Poor People to Work: How the work-First Ideology Transformed Welfare and Job Training* with Katherine Shaw, Sara Goldrick-Rab, and Chris Mazzeo (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006) and *The Time Divide: Work, Family and Gender Inequality* with Kathleen Gerson (Harvard University Press, 2004).

Professor Jacobs is also studying the work and family issues of professional couples. His research in work hours, the tenure process, and the needs of a young family have led Jacobs to argue that in order to reach full gender integration in the university workplace, a limit must be placed on the work week of its professors.

Kathy Peiss



Kathy Peiss, the Roy F. and Jeannette P. Nichols Professor of American History, is one of Penn's pre-eminent scholars in the field of gender studies and gender history. At Penn, Peiss has taught a number of courses both inside and outside the discipline of gender studies, from classes on gender and film, the history of sexuality, and women in America to those that take a broader look at modern

American cultural history and consumer culture. Peiss's work as a cultural historian has taken her into the beauty industry in the United States and abroad, the complex history of the American working woman, and the thorny topics of interracial and working-class sexuality. Over the course of her tenure at Penn, Peiss has published: *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* (1986); *Passion and Power: Sexuality and History* (co-edited with Christina Simmons, 1989); *Men and Women: A History of Gender, Costume, and Power* (co-authored with Barbara Clark Smith, 1989); *Love Across the Color Line* (co-edited with Helen Horowitz, 1996); and *Major Problems in the History of American Sexuality* (2001). In addition to these volumes, Peiss has published the award-winning *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture* (1998), which was not only a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book

Award, but also one of Amazon's top ten books in Women's Studies in 1999. Her articles have appeared in *Gender, American Literary History, Daedalus*, and a number of other noted publications. Peiss has received research fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Smithsonian Institution, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Apart from her work teaching and writing, Peiss has acted as a consultant for museums and appeared in a number of documentaries, including "Miss America" and "Beauty in a Jar." Her current research concerns the history of American librarians, books, intelligence-gathering, and cultural reconstruction in the World War II era, a project that originated in the discovery of the hidden life of a family member. She has two other projects in the works: a study of the zoot suit and the politics of style, and "Designs for Living," a cultural history of the mass middle class in the mid-twentieth century, its material culture, aesthetics, and sensibilities. Peiss has long served on the advisory board of the Alice Paul Center. Most recently, she has participated in the Center's Faculty Pedagogy Colloquium, where she advised grad students in how to integrate the teaching of gender into their classroom curricula.