

NEWSA 2011

New England Women's Studies Association
Conference UMass Dartmouth, April 29th-30th, 2011

Privilege 2011: Theories and Perspectives Inside/Outside the Classroom



*Students presenting at
NEWSA 2010*

The Women's Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth is pleased to announce that it will again host the annual New England Women's Studies (NEWSA) conference in the Spring of 2011. The keynote speaker will be Peggy McIntosh, Associate Director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women. McIntosh is best known for her germinal work on white privilege and male privilege, and her article, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," is a pivotal reading for Women's Studies curricula throughout the U.S. The keynote will be accompanied by the showing of the new documentary film, *Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*.

NEWSA invites presentations theorizing privilege inside and outside the classroom. Possible topics include:

Sexual privilege	Class privilege
White privilege	Age privilege
Heterosexual privilege	

- How do we think about privilege in the 21st century?
- How does privilege operate in our world?
- How do we educate people about different types of privilege?
- How do different privileges continue to be a barrier in our work?
- What is our role as educators in dismantling systems of privilege?
- How do different systems of privilege intersect and/or mutually reinforce one another?
- How can we betray our privilege(s)?
- How do we deal with resistance in the classroom to recognizing privilege?

The conference includes an embedded undergraduate student track for presentations of undergraduate research and experiences relating to the conference theme. We encourage proposals from undergraduate students; faculty and undergraduate panels are especially welcome.

500–word abstracts due by February 1st. Panel submissions welcome. Submit electronically as .RTF, .DOC, or PDF attachment to: newsa@umassd.edu

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Going Out in Style

Betty Mitchell. Professor of History and Women's Studies Affiliate Retires



Professor Betty Mitchell

One of Women's Studies first Affiliates, Betty Mitchell, Professor of History, earned her Ph.D. from UMass Amherst before joining the UMD History Department in 1978. Her dissertation was in the field of Civil War and Reconstruction. It was in graduate school that Professor Mitchell first took a women's history class and became interested in feminist theorists, such as Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique* and one of the chief architects of the Women's Liberation Movement of the late 1960s.

At the start of Professor Mitchell's career, she felt resistance to her teaching Women's Studies courses, as these courses were thought to be "on the edges" of proper college courses or areas of study. Professor Mitchell worked with Rita Moniz, Margaret Miller, Janet Freedman and Barbara Jacobskind to help create a Women's Studies program. Professor Mitchell team-taught Women's Biography and Autobiography courses, and these courses later inspired her to develop her iconic Women's Studies course on Lizzie Borden, which is still a popular cross-listed course today. These early years were not without encouragement and support from UMD colleagues. Professor Mitchell relates that her chairperson, Ann Carey, returning from a conference, presented her with a button that said "Rejoin Cleo" (the muse of history), meaning reclaim women's past.

Professor Mitchell says that she has seen the WMS program develop and grow with the support of sympathetic administrators like John Brazil, and the hard work of Chairs and Program Directors like Peggy Miller, Rita Moniz, Barbara Jacobskind, Ann Carey, Janet Freedman and Jen Riley.

Professor Mitchell is proud to have been part of this movement. She currently enjoys teaching WMS and Labor History classes, including her seminar, "Working Women's Oral History." Professor Mitchell's current scholarly interests and research centers on women and mental illness, in particular, on Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Packard, who were both involuntarily committed to insane asylums in the 19th century.

When asked about retirement, Betty said she would miss her colleagues but not the New England winters! She will be wintering in South Florida and spend the rest of the year enjoying western Massachusetts. On behalf of all the WMS Affiliates, majors and minors, we wish her a wonderful retirement.

New Online Journal: *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

<http://www.umassd.edu/jfs>

The Women's Studies Program is pleased to announce the creation of a new peer-reviewed, open-access journal published online, the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*. We see this as a way of gaining recognition for our program outside of the UMD community and also as a way of raising our scholarly profile. The *JFS* was founded by Catherine Villanueva Gardner (PHL/WMS), Jen Riley (ENL/WMS) and Anna Klobucka (POR). The journal will be published twice a year, and we anticipate the first issue will be available in July 2011. In the meantime, please visit our site at <http://www.umassd.edu/jfs> to follow our progression.

The editors would like to thank the following people for their help:

Dean William Hogan of the College of Arts and Sciences for his support of the project; Nicole Nelson (UMD Alumni) for her web design; and Don King (UMD's webmaster) for his technical support.



Journal of Feminist Scholarship

Current Issue

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Welcome to the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

The *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* is a new twice-yearly, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published online and aimed at promoting feminist scholarship across the disciplines, as well as expanding the reach and definitions of feminist research.

Why a new journal? Why now?

We believe it is time to explore the state of feminist scholarship at the turn of the new century, and we see the endeavor as part of a larger question of where feminism itself is heading. For example, we ask whether it still makes sense to talk of the "waves" of feminism. If so, what is the status of the third wave? Is there a post-third wave? We wish to encourage a discussion of feminist thought for the twenty-first century. What are its directions today, and what relationship does it sustain with the foundations laid down by twentieth-century feminist inquiry and action? We aim to publish work that explores the multiple theoretical paradigms and political agendas of current feminist scholarship and the potential intersections and tensions between these paradigms and agendas. We are especially interested in examining productive controversies and divergences between local and global contexts of feminism. We also welcome submissions that focus on feminist pedagogies and activism.

Publishing the journal online means that we are able to offer open access to its contents to feminist scholars anywhere in the world where there is an internet connection. It also has an immediacy that allows us to publish articles on topics that are in the here and now and to significantly shorten the time lag from submission to publication for our prospective contributors.

The rest of the site is currently under construction, and we invite you to return in January 2011 to see the finished version. In the meantime, please contact Catherine Villanueva Gardner at cgardner@umassd.edu with questions about the journal or for submission guidelines.

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My Internship Experience Living with the Yankton Sioux Tribe

Sherrie Andre, WMS Major

The young women who participated in the Isnati ceremony



Photo Courtesy of The Braveheart Women's Society

After the ICE raid on the Michael Bianco factory in 2007, I was appalled with the amount of sexual harassment these immigrant women faced and became interested in the resources available to them. It came to my attention that a lot of advocacy programs may mention cultural differences in providing services, but no one was really enforcing the integration and recognition of culture in advocacy. With this in mind, I did some internet searching and was able to secure an internship with a non-profit organization on the Yankton Sioux Reservation, located in Lake Andes, South Dakota. This organization stressed the importance of utilizing traditional tribal ways—ceremony, stories, rites of passage, and music—in their programming, services, and trainings. While immigrants and Native Americans are not the same by any means, I was still hoping to gain insight from this organization in the hopes of starting my own multi-cultural center one day.

Five months later, dissatisfied with the organization's nepotism, I decided I wanted to extend my stay and ended up working directly with the Yankton Sioux Tribe/the Ihanktowan Oyate, under the Indian Child

Welfare Act office and the Victims Advocacy Program. With the support of a wonderful family, Takes War Bonnet–Drapeaux family, who offered a room in their home and treated me as their relative, I was able to fully understand tribal ceremonies and traditions, as well as really feel comfortable personally identifying myself as a woman of color. At work, under the guidance of Raymond Cournoyer, Director of ICWA, I helped with basic office duties, such as filing, faxing and answering the phone, and I learned about the purpose and benefits of ICWA, as well as assisting in determining blood quantum for tribal enrollment.

I also followed the tribe's Victim Advocate, Janet Johnson, on cases and learned about tribal and federal policies and the high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault on the reservation. One out of three Native American/Alaskan Native women will be a victim of sexual assault. Originally, I was led to believe that many men got away with assaulting women because they were non-native abusers who did not fall under the jurisdiction of Tribal police, but that is not always the case. Not only was I taught about the long term effects of colonization-alcoholism, sexual



*Laren and me at the
Lake Andes Pow Wow*

assault, domestic violence, continued genocide of the Native people—I also saw their effects and was disappointed with the disconnect within our country.

When I wasn't working, I was at my home away from home learning skills I never thought I would thoroughly enjoy. Jennifer Takes War Bonnet was my host/sensei/best-friend/sister for my last 3 months in SouthDakota, and through her and with her family I was given the opportunity to learn how to bead, cook Native foods, learn some Lakota, participate in sweat lodges and ceremony. One important ceremony I was grateful to be able to assist with was the Isnati Awica Dowanpi, a four-day coming of age ceremony for Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota women. The Brave Heart Women's Society has for years been practicing this traditional ceremony for young women who have experienced their first moon (menstruation). During these four days, the young women are taught by their elders, Unci's (grandmothers), and past Isnati participants, the history of the Isnati and their other ceremonies—all of which was brought to them by the White Buffalo Calf Women. They learn how to assemble a teepee, the meaning of the 13 poles

(representing the moons a woman has each year); they gather medicines and learn their purpose as well as meaning to their people; they make ceremonial foods, and sing traditional songs. Along with traditional lessons, the elders discuss courtship, teen pregnancy, suicide, abuse, and the sisterhood they have now formed with each other and The Brave Heart Society.

When my internship came to a close, it was difficult to leave the reservation; I had acquired a new family, embraced my own culture through their culture, and became fully aware of and passionate about ending the problems on the "rez". I was able to learn so much about the integration and the need to respect culture when providing resources to men and women—because when you do that, not only are you able to understand racial and gender stereotypes within our own culture, you are respecting their identity.

WMS Faculty Affiliates



Lisa Maya Knauer

Lisa Maya Knauer, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Crime and Justice Studies

Lisa Maya Knauer, together with Steve White and Tim Shea of CCB, received a Creative Economies award from the University of Massachusetts President's Office to help nurture the development of a Central American women's handicrafts cooperative in New Bedford. The group has chosen the name Oxib' B'atz'/Tres Hilos/Three Threads (Oxib' B'atz' means "three threads" in the K'iche' language, and Tres Hilos is the Spanish translation). Its core members are a few highly experienced Maya weavers from the Quiche region of Guatemala.

Students and faculty from across the university have been lending their expertise to the project: CVPA design faculty Yoon Soo Lee and Ziddi Msangi are helping design a logo, CVPA alumna Rhonda Fazio (an experienced weaver and dyer) has been working on product design, and some Soc/Ant students have helped wind unwieldy skeins of thread into more manageable balls so that the weavers can concentrate on weaving. We are making t-shirts and totes for the Connecting for Change conference (and will be happy to sell any surplus to folks on campus!) and are planning a fundraiser in early November in downtown New Bedford to both launch the group and raise some additional funds.

Lisa is also getting ready to travel to Guatemala in January where she will spend 10 months as a Fulbright scholar. In addition to teaching classes at the Universidad del Valle, she will be collaborating with an indigenous women's organization, Ixmucane, headquartered in Chichicastenango, and conducting research on race and gender and the impact of migration in highland communities.



Cristina Peixoto-Mehrtens

Cristina Peixoto-Mehrtens, Associate Professor, Department of History, has authored, *Urban Space and National Identity in Early Twentieth Century Sao Paulo, Brazil*, published by Macmillan Books

Cristina Peixoto-Mehrtens was a Professor of Architecture at the Catholic University in Campinas and served as an architect for the State Housing Agency (CDHU) in São Paulo. Her research interests extend from the construction of a mostly male technical apparatus in 20th-century Brazil to the current history of mostly female Brazilian immigrants in the United States. She is the author of several journal articles, and contributed to *The Unedited Diaries of Carolina Maria de Jesus* (1999), *The Brazil Reader* (1999), and *Municipal Services and Employees in the Modern City* (2003).

Dario Borim, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Portuguese, has completed the following publication activities

Research Article:

"Tropicalist Mutantes: Dada and Kitsch under Dictatorship." *Music and Dictatorship in Europe and Latin America*. Eds. Roberto Illiano and Massimiliano Sala. Speculum Musicae Series. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols, 2010. 521–548.

Translation of Short Story in Peer-Reviewed Journal:

The Incendiary. Translation of the short story *O incendiário*, by Camila Mont-Rond. *Transition* (in press).

Book Review in Peer-Reviewed Journal:

Jáuregui, Carlos A. *Canibalia: canibalismo, calibanismo, antropofagia cultural y consumo en América Latina*. Madrid: Iberoamericana y Vervuert, 2008. 724pp. in *Luso-Brazilian Review* (in press).

Interview:

Feature interview on Lusophone music to Lusofalante, a radio show from Radio MEC, Rio de Janeiro. Aug 2010.



Dario Borim

Bridget Teboh, Assistant Professor, Department of History

Has published two book chapters:

"Historicizing 'The Moghamo-Bali ibit/Conflict: German Encounters with 'Rebellious Vassals,'" in Toyin Falola and Raphael Chijioke Njoku (eds.) *Wars and Peace in Africa: History, Nationalism and the State*, (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, Jan. 2010), pp.143–187; and, "Reproducing African Communities in the US: Settlement Patterns, Reproduction and Social Organizations," in Emmanuel Yewah and Dimeji Togunde (eds.), *Across the Atlantic: African Immigrants in the United State Diaspora* (Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, November 2010).

Dr. Teboh also presented two conference papers:

"Motherhood, Women's Body and 'Eating Well': Pregnancy, A Metaphor of Life in the Cameroon Grassfields" at the 10th Annual 2010 Africa Conference on Women, Gender and Sexuality in Africa, University of Texas at Austin, March 26–28, 2010; and "African Women's Survival 101: Tontines, Njanggis, Money–Go–Rounds as Alternatives to Failed 'Capitalist' Economies" at the SASE Conference on Capitalism in Crisis: What Next? Economic Regulation and Social Solidarity after the Fall of Finance Capitalism, Paris, France (July 16–18, 2009).



Bridget Teboh

Update from WMS Alumni

Nicole Di Fabio
WMS and Anthropology
2006 Graduate Student

Nicole Di Fabio '06 is presently a Senior Education Associate at the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Washington, DC. She is responsible for overseeing the undergraduate student chapter report process and for maintaining department metrics in the undergraduate programs office. Di Fabio has co-authored several annual literature reviews for SWE Magazine as well as a chapter for the magazine's recent 60th anniversary edition, among other contributions to publications and research projects for various organizations. Nicole also serves as a national board member for the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) in Washington, DC.

Nicole is a May 2006 graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Women's Studies. While a student, she served as the Senior Editor of the Women's Studies Newsletter, interned at the Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts, and was honored with the Dr. Janet Freedman Women's Studies Book Scholarship. In February of 2008 she was asked to return to UMass to speak on a panel with Gloria Steinem regarding activism and civic engagement. Di Fabio is currently an anthropology Master's degree candidate, with a research focus on gender, sexuality, media, and communication at the George Washington University and is expecting to graduate in May 2011.

Shara Sarnelli, WMS
2009 Graduate Student

I am pursuing my Master's of Education in Secondary English at Boston College. This summer I worked at an international language school as a resident adviser, and it was such an amazing experience; I worked with students from all over the country who were studying abroad in America. Being around a large variety of cultures and languages was an eye-opening journey that I am so thankful to have taken. Now, I am student teaching one day a week at Arlington High School, on top of five classes, including Black Cultural Studies. I carry all I've learned through UMass Dartmouth's Women's Studies department wherever I go. My studies as a WMS minor have increased my ability to become an effective educator.

Odessa Carbonell, WMS
2003 Graduate Student

My name is Odessa Carbonell (Bates) and I continued on to Southern CT State University right after my 2003 graduation from UMD to pursue my Masters in Women's Studies. My husband, Paul, and I continue to live in CT and we welcomed our son, Lucas Stone, in June 2009. I have worked for the past three years at the New Life Center as a Substance Abuse Counselor for pregnant and postpartum women and their children in a residential program. In my free time, I still like to travel internationally, bring my son to visit the ocean and go on sushi dates with my husband.

Announcements

Congratulations to the following faculty

Promoted to Professor in 2010

Yoon Soo Lee, Department of Design

Susan Toni Krumholz, Department of Sociology/
Anthropology/Crime and Justice Studies

Andrea Klimt, Department of Sociology/Anthropology/
Crime and Justice Studies

Jeannette Riley, Department of English

Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor in 2010

Shannon Jenkins, Department of Political Science

Christina Mehrrens, Department of History

Isabel Rodrigues, Department of Sociology/
Anthropology/Crime and Justice Studies

Matthew Sneider, Department of History

Timothy Walker, Department of History

Congratulations to our

Student Scholarship Winners!

Jillian Washburn, Samantha Coffin,
Estelle Peyton, and Denise Schultz.

Reflections from a few of our winners on “Living Feminism”:

Janet Freedman Book Award Winner:

Jillian Washburn, WMS Major

“Living Feminism” for me means bringing attention in day-to-day life by using small acts, whether it be in the form of a class discussion, protest, march or use of language to fight against the patriarchal society that we live in.

Tuition Scholarship Award Winner:

Samantha Coffin, WMS Major

Everyday that I enter the world, I make decisions as to which magazines to read, which businesses to buy from and what to do based off my ideas of a feminist friendly world. I never tip-toe around but instead make myself heard as I state that “this is offensive to women.” I speak up in classes, I educate myself and I teach others.”

“The deeper you go into the personal—the more you hit the universal.” – May Sarton

SIREN

a literary journal focusing on women's issues is accepting submissions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and artwork.

Work from any student, faculty, or staff member is welcome.

Submit your work to: Siren@umassd.edu

By February 15, 2011

Upcoming Events

AHA! Night



The Star Store

December 9th AHA! Night

"Who Does She Think She Is?:
Artists Speak Up about Motherhood"
From 4:00pm to 5:30pm
at the Star Store in
New Bedford, MA

The Loop Bus will be available to
take students on campus to and
from the Star Store that night.

AHA! (Art • History • Architecture)
Night is a FREE arts & culture
event which takes place the
2nd Thursday of every month
in Downtown New Bedford.

Past Events

Robyn Ochs, "Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum" *Samantha Coffin, WMS Major*



Robyn Ochs

On November 1st 2010, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's library browsing area was flooded with students, staff, and faculty excited to attend "Beyond Binaries" with Robyn Ochs.

Robyn Ochs is a self-identified bisexual, who is happily married to a woman. She was a vibrant presenter and caught the attention of the entire audience throughout the presentation.

In her workshop, "Beyond Binaries," Ochs addressed how we try to make order out of sexuality. Individuals such as Alfred Kinsey, Fritz Klein and Michael Storms have attempted to measure sexuality of difference scales. Through a unique survey of questions and a live human data collection, Ochs allowed the audience to see that sexuality is not simple and we cannot and perhaps should not make order out of sexuality.

Being a country that loves binaries, such as right and wrong, Democrat and Republican, black and white; we miss the in-between. We miss a lot. When we are discussing sexuality, we push people into binaries and expect them to want to be there; however, we are mistaken.

The Robyn Ochs event was great for our University community as we approach a new GLBT addition to our Women's Resource Center.

2011 Spring Course Highlights

WMS 302

Global Feminism

W 4:00–6:30 pm

Professor

Anna Klobucka

Portuguese Department

Feminism is as old as human culture and as diverse as the variety of cultures that exist in the world today. WMS 302, Global Feminism, will examine cultural, social and political issues affecting the condition of women and women's movements for development and change around the world. Parallel and contrastive study of both Western and non-Western sex/gender systems will draw on texts, documents and objects from the realm of history, political theory, sociology, anthropology, literature, and art. A substantial part of the course will consist of five "country modules," in-depth case studies focusing on five distinct countries on four continents (Brazil, Iran, Mozambique, Poland and Portugal). In addition to exploring the experience of women's lives in these culturally specific contexts through assigned readings and student research, the course will rely on UMD faculty with personal and academic expertise in respective country settings, who will visit class meetings as guest speakers and serve as consultants on student projects.

WMS/PSC 339-7101

Women in Public Policy

Associate Professor

Shannon Jenkins

Political Science Department

The processes by which policies are produced by the U.S. government and the policy outcomes themselves are not gender neutral. In this course, we will study the role women play in shaping policy outcomes as well as the specific impact of U.S. public policies on women. We will also examine different perspectives on who the unique policy problems faced by women ought to be solved. This course will be offered online.

WMS 200-02,

ENL 200-05,

and FRN 203-01

Gender & Society in

Forgotten French Best-Sellers

MWF 1:00–1:50 pm

Assistant Professor

Stephanie O'Hara

Foreign Literature

& Languages Department

To read forgotten bestsellers is to find out what books long-ago readers found fascinating, horrifying, meaningful, or sublime. Not all bestsellers turn out to be classic or canonical works of literature, but like the classics, they open a window onto the past. The heroes and heroines of the novels selected for this course include an independent Inca princess transported to Paris, virtuous wives struggling with their inner demons, a confused newlywed husband, and a highly unconventional, gender-bending couple. All of them cross social boundaries in one way or another: geographical, social, moral, and the question of gender is at the heart of each novel.

HST-316/WMS-316

Women & Gender

in Medieval & Early

Modern Europe

MWF 11:00–11:50 am

Associate Professor

Matthew Sneider

History Department

Women and Gender in Medieval and Early Modern Europe uses a wide variety of source material—saints' lives and marriage contracts, sermons and law codes, guides for witch hunters and aristocratic portraits, medical treatises and mystical poetry—to explore the changing answers to two basic questions: "what makes a person a woman or a man" and "how does this gender identity affect their lives in the world". The course moves from the Roman Empire through the Protestant Reformation but its focus is the Middle Ages."

Women's Studies Program

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Director's Report

Catherine Villanueva Gardner, Director, Women's Studies

Greetings from the Women's Studies Program! As you can see from this semester's newsletter, the Women's Studies Program, our affiliates and our alumnae have all been very busy. We are particularly excited that UMass-Dartmouth will be hosting the New England Women's Studies conference next Spring. We are also excited that UMass-Dartmouth will soon host a new online, peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*.

Our program continues to grow, both in the day school and online. We had a great boost to our online program when it was featured in the Fall 2010 issue of *Ms. Magazine* in an article about Women's Studies online. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. All that remains for me to do is to thank everyone who helped in the production process: Claire Travers, Arianne Del Rios, Sherrie Andre and Samantha Coffin.

Catherine Villanueva Gardner, Director, Women's Studies

