SWS was created to address the barriers women faced in society and it is heartening to reflect on our progress over the past forty four years. Yet the core issues Pamela Roby identified in her history of SWS remain important today. We have to continue to link personal troubles to larger issues affecting women (and all marginalized groups) in society; we need to make our past and present conditions visible, and we need to address our problems collectively. Since I have been writing about human rights in our own backyard, I thought I write about three knotty problems that relate to changing cultures and climates that several SWS-ers have worked on for years.

I recently heard from some eager students on the West coast who wanted to write about India’s rape culture. I heard similar questions from students on my campus. They had all read about the Delhi rape case in 2012 and encountered many articles in the media about Indian men. They were not aware of the tsunami of sexual assault complaints on US college campuses, or about Title IX suits filed in their backyards. If they heard about sexual assault cases at all, these appeared to be isolated incidents that, in their minds, did not constitute a rape culture. As academics, we continue to teach about cultures of violence but, with a few exceptions, is our expertise widely in use when students and faculty are taught about violence on a campus wide scale? How do we make our expertise effective locally so that our campuses do not always have to turn to outside experts on these issues? Relatedly, while we have been successful in getting some laws and policies passed to address violence, have we figured out how to speak out effectively for the victims while lawsuits or complaints against our institutions are in progress? I know several SWS-members are experts on these matters. Perhaps it is time to bring their expertise to the forefront of our conversations again.

Two recent conversations with senior and junior scholars of color reminded me of another issue in our own backyard. We have made great strides in creating a culture of inclusiveness within our organization but we can and should do more. Let’s imagine a hypothetical junior scholar of color who has served SWS quietly for many years and wishes to run for an office, or be nominated for an award, or serve in some other visible capacity. Naturally there would be others vying for the same honor. I might wish to nominate someone else for the honor. However, I can do so respectfully, for instance, I should take care not talk about how I would oppose this scholar of color within the range of her hearing, as if she were invisible.

For me, it would be one unfortunate conversation, for this scholar, it is one more incident in her life of many similar incidents. Our not-so-conscious actions can run counter to our collective effort to create and maintain an inclusive culture unless we are mindful of our words and actions. Once again, I know many people have developed strategies and wisdom on how to maintain inclusive climates. Can we continue these discussions as an organization?

Last, we are increasingly beleaguered as academics because we are critical of structural arrangements that lead to inequalities. Many of our university administrators are being pressured by political groups—often with deep pockets—to censure us. Many refuse to do so and continue to support us. Can we systematically acknowledge who they are, just as we, as an organization, protest discrimination? At the same time, have we gained sufficient expertise to
SWS Winter Meetings

As the SWS Winter Meeting, to be held February 6-9 in Nashville, draws near, I want to share with you some of the exciting activities that we have planned, including plenary panels, other exciting workshops and activities, and some changes to the auction. I also want to encourage you to make your reservations at the Hutton Hotel, which is the conference hotel (see the link on the SWS conference website page). By staying at the SWS hotel, you help keep our costs down so that we can continue to support travel to the conference for those who need it! In addition, by staying at the Hutton, you will receive free Wi Fi in the guest rooms; complimentary wine hour in the hotel, 5-6pm M-F; a sweet creation from the pastry chef in your room every night; complimentary espresso machines and flavored syrup on every floor; easy access to meeting space. So make your reservations now!

We have four fabulous plenary panels planned that will address the central questions of the conference, which is how, as feminist scholars, do we explain simultaneously the challenge to and reproduction of gender inequality within and across institutions:

**THEME/TOPIC: Institutional Nexus of Welfare, Work and Family**

Shelley Correll, Stanford University  
Rhacel Parrenas, University of Southern California  
Ann Orloff, Northwestern University

**THEME/TOPIC: Embodiment Across Institutions**

Tristan Bridges, The College at Brockport, SUNY  
Tey Meadow, Princeton University  
Kemi Balogun, University of Oregon

**THEME/TOPIC: Sexualities and Gender in Multi-Institutional Context**

Zakia Salime, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Minjeong Kim, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Victor Rios, University of California – Santa Barbara

**THEME/TOPIC: Reproducing and Challenging Inequalities through New Technologies, Science, Economics, and Health Practices**
We also have some other events that I would like to highlight. These include a panel by NYU Press Editor Ilene Kalish who will run a workshop discussing everything that you want to know about book publishing. On Saturday afternoon, Professor Lary Isaac a renowned sociologist and expert on the Civil Rights Movement, from Vanderbilt University will conduct a lecture and bus tour about the Civil Rights movement in Nashville. There are 50 seats available, so sign up when you register so that you can be a part of this awesome event. Finally, with Vanderbilt University as co-sponsor, we will host a graduate student mixer at Vanderbilt University, complete with food and drinks!

We are making a few changes to the auction. Our two auction recipients are *Act Like a Grrrrl* which offers mentoring for local girls from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, schools, cultures, and faiths, fostering confidence and skills in a supportive, grrrrl-positive atmosphere and *Magdalene House* which provides safety through housing, medical care, and job training to women who have survived lives of prostitution, addiction, trafficking, and homelessness.

Our goals are to raise as much money as possible for these two great organizations and to shorten the time of the auction. We will still, as per our tradition, have a silent auction. But in addition, we are going to raise money through the sale of SWS fitted t-shirts. Proceeds will benefit the auction recipients and the company that makes the t-shirts, *Triple Thread Apparel*, a local non-profit organization which provides training, employment opportunities, and references for former offenders. While they were still incarcerated, many of the people who now work there have taken sociology courses taught by members of SWS’s Nashville local arrangements committee.

A special thanks to Andi Stepnick who has organized the t-shirt drive. The cost will be $15.00 and the money benefits all three of these great organizations! With Andi’s guidance, we chose a beautiful fitted t-shirt with the SWS logo and so we hope that when you register for the conference, that you will purchase a t-shirt. This will help us to shorten the live part of the auction and to raise even more money for the auction recipients.

Finally, since we couldn’t have a conference in Nashville without celebrating women artists, the banquet and auction will include short performances by spoken word artist Minton Sparks and performers from *Act Like a Grrrrl*.

I would also like to thank my program committee, Orit Avashai, Young-joo Cha, Afshan Jafar, Gayle Sulik, Nancy Naples, and CJ Pascoe, as well as my local arrangements committee, Terrie Spetalnick (Chair), Pallavi Banerjee, Laura Carpenter, Kumiko Nemoto, and Andi Stepnick. I would also like to thank my graduate assistant Devon Goss who has been invaluable to planning this meeting. Finally, I would like to thank all the committees who have organized workshops for the meetings and to those of you who have submitted panels and papers as well. This conference is truly a collective effort!

See y’all in Nashville!
Election Results

Thank you to the SWS members who participated in the election this year. A big “thank you” goes out to those who while not elected, who have provided valuable service to SWS. Thanks also goes out to the voters who influence the future of this organization.

Council

President Elect
Kathleen Gerson & Jerry Jacobs
Treasurer Elect
Rebecca Bach
Secretary
Angela Hattery
Student Representative
Sancha Medwinter

Committee Chairs

Academic Justice Co-Chair
Roberta Villalon
Awards
Anastasia Prokos
Sister to Sister Co-Chair
Lorena Garcia
Discrimination
Marcia Segal
International
Susan Lee

Committee Members

Publications
Christine Bose & Christine Williams
Nominations
Chloe Bird & Patricia Warren
Membership
Gretchen Arnold & Tristan Bridges
Career Development
Mindy Fried
Awards
Carrie Lee Smith
Academic Justice
Wendy Christensen

In Remembrance of Suzanne Kurth

We were all saddened to hear of the recent passing of our friend and colleague, Suzanne Kurth, a longtime SWS and SWS-South member. She died November 18th from cancer. Suzanne was a longtime gender scholar and social psychologist, as well as a generous mentor and friend to many, particularly her students at the University of Tennessee. This is a tremendous loss to SWS-South, as well as the many other professional organizations she served and the UT and Knoxville communities. She will be greatly missed.

Rebecca Adams plans to honor Suzanne’s contributions to SWS in the spring issue of Network News.
2014 SWS Membership Drive and Referral Raffle

We are launching a membership drive and we need you! You can help by renewing your membership & encouraging colleagues to renew theirs. And you can refer new members!

Our second annual referral raffle is underway. For each person you refer who becomes a member, your name is entered in a drawing to win a prize!! The more people you refer who become members, the better your chances of winning. The first prize is $150. Two additional winners will win SWS goody bags with great SWS gear.

Why should someone join? What does SWS do?

- We offer support and encouragement of feminist teaching and scholarship
- We work for equity in the academy
- We work for justice for women in society

In this issue of Network News you will find a detachable and “shareable” brochure that expands on the benefits of membership I mentioned above. Please share copies with colleagues and encourage them to join our wonderful network of feminists. Your personal invitation to a colleague to join our movement will certainly mean more! If you would like additional copies of the brochure sent to you, please contact the Executive Office (swsao@ku.edu).

If you or potential members have any questions about SWS membership, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am looking forward to working with everyone to build our strength in numbers. And, of course, I am also looking forward to seeing folks in Nashville!

Best,

Tiffany Taylor (ttaylo36@kent.edu)

Vice President and Membership Committee Chair
CONTACT INFORMATION
Please print legibly

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

______________________________

Email: ________________________________________

Phone: _____________________________

Occupation/Rank: _______________________

MEMBERSHIP DUES
New ☐ Renewal ☐ Gift ☐
$14 ☐ Income less than $15,000
$21 ☐ Income $15,000-$19,999
$31 ☐ Income $20,000-$29,999
$41 ☐ Income $30,000-$39,999
$46 ☐ Income $40,000-$49,999
$56 ☐ Income $50,000+
$1800 ☐ Life Membership*
*Payable in equal installments over 1-4 years.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENT DATA
Name: _______________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS (enter amount)
$___ SWS operations
$___ Natalie Allon fund (discrimination support)
$___ Rosenblum award fund
$___ Beth B. Hess Scholarship
$___ Feminist Activism Award
$___ Distinguished Feminist Lectureship
$___ Mentoring Award
$___ Undergraduate Social Action Award
$___ Chow-Green Dissertation Scholarship
$___ SWS-MFP ASA Minority Fellowship Program

HARD COPY PUBLICATIONS OPTIONS
Gender & Society ☐
Network News ☐

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?

COMMITTEE INTERESTS
I am interested in serving on the following committees.
Your name will be forwarded to the chair(s) of the committee(s) you have selected:

☐ Academic Justice
☐ Awards
☐ Career Development
☐ Discrimination
☐ International
☐ Membership
☐ Nominations
☐ Scholarship and Human Rights
☐ Sister to Sister
☐ Social Action
☐ Student Concerns

PAYMENT

Dues
Contributions
Total

Visa, MasterCard, and Discover only

Name on Card
Card Number
Billing Address
City/State/ZIP
Expiration Date
Signature

Make checks payable and mail to:
Sociologists for Women in Society
1415 Jayhawk Blvd. Rm. 716
Lawrence, KS 66045
From the Executive Office:

Besides trying to run elections with a busted website, a big piece of my agenda over the past couple of months has been the search for a new Media Specialist. This person will have big shoes to fill: Virginia Rutter and Stephanie Coontz’s period of outstanding service promoting Gender & Society articles is coming to a close. Thanks to them feminist sociology is making it into the mainstream.

For example, Rachel Dwyer and Randy Hodson’s February 2013 article generated more than eight news stories—ranging from the Wall Street Journal online to the Center for Economic and Policy Research’s DC-focused blog. Youngjoo Cha’s April 2013 article was covered in a variety places, including a column by Kay Stieger at Atlantic.com. Gender & Society is keeping up with public sociology with their vibrant new blog. Virginia and Stephanie: THANK YOU!

Our new Media Specialist will be building on this success. She will continue to find media-friendly articles in Gender & Society and work to maximize their coverage. She will have other duties too, including developing a strategic plan, helping us to identify and promote compelling feminist sociological research beyond the pages of our journal, developing and maintaining a media contact file and otherwise helping us to improve our communications infrastructure. This Media Specialist is a crucial element of the infrastructure we are building in order reach our goal of getting feminist sociological scholarship into mainstream political and social discourse.

Other pieces of our Mainstreaming Feminist Sociology effort include:

Communications Officer: Wendy Christensen is responsible for handling SWS’s LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook accounts. She uses these channels for a wide array of communications from broadcasting the work of members to the wider world to helping people find SWSers to follow on Twitter to calling members’ attention to blog posts and advice columns useful to those who are in the academy. She even tweets highlights from our sessions at our biannual meetings so those who can’t be there will get a bit of the action.

Mainstream team: A few years ago, with the aid of professional journalists, we identified key areas of public discussion and debate to which feminist sociologists should be contributing, including: economics, work and work organizations, poverty, immigration, globalization, health and healthcare policy, reproductive rights, violence against women, family and intimate relationships, sexualities, religion, and youth. Feminist sociologists with strong national reputations agreed to serve as nodes of the research networks in their areas. When reporters contact us looking for help on a story we will refer them to the appropriate team member who will advise them on good sources. To do that they will draw on our:

Database of Members: Once we have our Media Specialist on board we will be inviting all members who would like to serve as resources for reporters covering stories in their areas of scholarly expertise to join us and provide information that will help us link reporters with members with whom they should be talking. Together, we’re going to help change the public conversation about the issues we care about. That will be great for women in society!
Local Chapters in Action!

Updates from the University of Akron & Kent State University

Students and faculty in the joint sociology department of the University of Akron and Kent State University enjoy a professional environment infused with feminist scholarship and activism. Members of the local SWS chapter organize a variety of events and programs each year that are open to both departments, both campuses, and community members. These events are diverse and well-attended. They include professional development, service to the community, and social activities, which consistently bring SWSers, department faculty and students, and community members together to promote productivity and personal well-being. This year has been no different.

The last academic year concluded with an impressive showing from both universities in a supply drive for domestic violence shelters: we raised over $900 and gathered enough goods to fulfill requests from nine different shelters in the NE Ohio area. The ‘general goods’ supply drive in the spring was followed by a school supply drive in early August for the same shelters. Over 1000 items were collected and distributed in time for students headed back to school. These supplies included pens and notebooks as well as backpacks and calculators.

To kick off the fall semester, faculty advisor Dr. Tiffany Taylor hosted the annual back-to-school evening social. Current members had the opportunity to welcome new students and faculty to the organization. All who attended enjoyed a meal and helped plan the coming year’s activities.

Late in October, the chapter participated in the “Senior Day of Service”, an annual event that connects groups like SWS to in-need seniors living in their communities. Volunteers assist residents with yardwork and general property maintenance. This is the second year we have participated in this event.

The chapter organized and hosted two professional development seminars during the fall semester. For Master’s students, we convened a panel on completing the Master’s thesis; panelists were Dr. Richard Serpe, Jackie Towne-Roese, Fritz Yarrison, and Brooke Long. For all students, we presented a panel on applying for dissertation grants. The panel included Dr. William Kalkhoff, Dr. Adrianne Frech, Dr. Kristen Marcussen, and Dr. Mary Gallagher.

The local chapter also continues to cultivate an ongoing volunteer relationship with the regional food-bank. SWSers take part in sorting and organizing incoming food donations so that they can be delivered to families in need. Volunteer days are organized at least once per semester and more often over the summer. SWSers and other department faculty and students enthusiastically attend these shifts.

The local SWS chapter at the Akron-Kent sociology department is a visible and active organization, with strong presence on both campuses and in both communities. Student and faculty members from Akron and Kent also regularly attend national meetings and are active in leadership and organizing at these conferences. On behalf of the local chapter, thank you to the national organization for their support of organizing at the local level. A very special thank you to Dr. Tiffany Taylor and Dr. Kathy Feltey, who gracefully and generously organize and mentor students across campuses.

K. L. Risman, The University of Akron
SWS West Annual Networking Breakfast
7-8 a.m. Friday, March 28, 2014 on the waterfront near the Pacific Sociological Association Conference Hotel. For more information and/or to reserve a space for yourself, a colleague/student or a potential member, email: Mary.Virnoche@humboldt.edu

SWS-South Stands Against Human Trafficking “T-Shirt For A Cause” Day,
April 2014 Charlotte, NC
SWS-South is happy to announce that we will be spearheading a national campaign in SWS to spread awareness of the inhumane practice of human trafficking. The goal is to make scholarship and activism around human trafficking visible and impactful in our home cities and in those cities where sociologists hold our meetings. Our flagship event will be our “STAND against SEX Trafficking” campaign held in conjunction with the SSS Annual Meeting in Charlotte North Carolina April 2-5, 2014. We are partnering with a Charlotte organization that works to prevent victimization of women and girls who are trafficked through this corridor. Jillian Mourning is the founder of our chosen organization All We Want is Love and was herself, a victim of sex trafficking. Our effort is two-fold: 1) we will be placing one thousand wristbands inscribed with the Trafficking hotline toll-free number in local gas stations, schools, strip clubs and conference hotels with the hope of these pens getting into the hands of a victim; 2) a 5-month “T-shirt for a Cause” campaign which kicks off this November and goes through the annual meeting date in April. We encourage members to purchase a T-shirt through our site and forward the link to family, friends, and colleagues on other listservs to do the same. We are hoping to sell 500 T-shirts by the annual meeting date of April 2nd 2014. 100% of the proceeds will go to All We Want is Love to fund the work they do. SWS-South (and hopefully other SSS members) attending these meetings will all wear their T-shirts on the “T-shirt for A Cause Day” on Thursday April 3rd, 2014 (also the day of our auction). We will wear our T-shirts throughout the conference sessions and during sightseeing to increase awareness of our stand against sex trafficking of girls and women everywhere, including Charlotte, on this day. So please look out for follow-up announcements and purchase in advance your “SWS-South Stands...against Trafficking Women and Girls...And I Do Too!” T-shirts through the SWS-South website (www.swssouth.org). For more information about our programming at the conference, including our T-shirt fundraiser, contact Sancha Medwinter, SWS-South Vision Committee Chair (sld28@soc.duke.edu). For more information about SWS-South, including membership opportunities, contact Julie Wiest (jwiest@gmail.com).

- Vision Chair, SWS-South, Sancha Medwinter
Why is Pat Martin so happy here? Maybe because her three years on Council as president (elect, president, and past) are at an end. Unlike Carnac who was always funny and inevitably right, Pat is not very funny and, she admits, is regularly wrong. But she knows a few things and, what’s more, has many opinions. So here are some of both from her tenure.

Changes. First let me emphasize how much I enjoyed and learned from my three years. I made new friends, discovered the abilities and commitment of members I hardly knew before, and came to appreciate the resilience of our members and organization. We changed our operating structure, moved from a part-time Executive Officer with part-time help to a part-time Executive Officer with a fulltime Administrative Officer, and moved physical offices from Rhode Island to Connecticut to Kansas. We instituted a range of fail-safe procedures to assure our financial and administrative integrity. We signed new contracts with experts and vendors to provide services upon which we depend. If this recitation makes SWS sound like a bureaucracy, you know my stance on that one (Martin G&S 2013). Creating a “feminist bureaucracy” is a work in progress. We’ve proceeded along that path for 40+ years and we’ll do the same going forward. Circumstances give us little choice. Our challenge is to make SWS as transparent, responsive, effective, and feminist as possible.

Complexities. Second, and related to the first point, SWS is, in 2014, a complex organization. The challenges of routine administrative tasks are never-ending. We have nearly 900 members who pay their/our dues when they/we think of it so that simply keeping tabs on whose dues are current is never-ending. Gender & Society, issued six times a year, requires an accurate membership list so Sage can use it to mail the journal. We have contracts galore, e.g., with the university that hosts our office, a printer for Network News, an accountant, a lawyer, an investment counselor, IT experts, a webpage vendor, and more. We have a bank account. Our expenses and income must be recorded in an accountable manner which means our Administrative Officer must be skilled in the use of Quickbooks and our Treasurer(s) must know enough about Quickbooks to provide oversight. As you know, we have two meetings per year—most organizations like ours have one—and we are the only non-profit organization I know of that subsidizes members to attend our meetings (corporate boards do this but non-profits usually do not). Two meetings a year require registration—involving hundreds of forms and checks—at least twice. Then, for the Winter meeting, a complex system of reimbursement (with ‘cost-sharing’) must be implemented wherein refunds are configured and checks are written and mailed to qualified members.

Awards. We give a bevy of awards annually, each of which requires our Executive Office to provide the funds (and plaques) attached to them. Some awards involve a cash outlay and travel support while others involve a financial award only. Again, all such actions must be documented and implemented in accord with SWS policies. Sometimes an award committee does something “unique” which requires even more time and effort on the part of our administrative team.
Bylaws. Over the past two years, in accord with the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Task Force charged during Tracy Ore’s presidency, some of our members have been working to revise our Bylaws. We desperately need Bylaws that reflect our current organizational structure, practices, and policies. Soon the Bylaws Subcommittee of the Task Force will bring to Council and the membership recommendations for change. I urge all of us to be involved in reading, pondering, and responding to their recommendations. We will produce an effective “instrument” only if we pay attention and demand that our best arrangements and policies are reflected in it. When the time comes, let your thoughts be known. At the same time, I urge us to be tolerant of aspects of the document with which we disagree. If it works well for our organization, even if it is less than ideal (and I do not mean to imply that it will be flawed), we need it for a variety of reasons including the ability to show the Internal Revenue Service that we are living up to our rules and procedures.

Electing/appointing. A major duty of the Past President is to chair the Nominations Committee. I did so this year, with the aid of a strong committee. Like Forrest Gump, I have two things to say about that: One, we elect too many people! As you know, each person nominated must commit to attend our Winter meetings for the duration of her/his term of service (unless of course an emergency intervenes). Also, our committees have preferences for chair and members and we sometimes nominate candidates who have never participated in a committee’s activities or who are uninformed about the position’s obligations. This year: We had to identify 36 “qualified” nominees for 18 positions and our members had to select among them. Two, I suggest having the President appoint members for time-limited terms of service after which they rotate off, e.g., a three-year term would allow a new member to “learn the job” and then serve as Chair or as a resident expert before departing. Under this policy, the President can appoint people who might never “win” an election because they are not as well known as the person nominated with them. We can continue electing Committee Chairs or allow the President to appoint them or allow committee members to elect their own chair (as Publications Committee now does). Perhaps we should have a Committee on Committees (like ASA and SSSP have) to suggest people to serve on our committees.

Number of committees. Not only do we nominate and elect too many people, we have too many committees. Additionally, several committees overlap in charge and function with others. We should combine those with similar charges and reduce the overall number. We can always appoint Ad Hoc Committees to perform particular (time-limited) tasks, e.g., our current Strategic Planning Task Force. Eleven standing committees—some of which have subcommittees, e.g., Awards—are simply too many for an organization with only about 200-300 active members. Yes, we have many more than that on our membership rolls (878). Yet the number who are active, who vote, who come to our Winter meeting, is far smaller. The most we’ve had to register for a Winter meeting was 300 in St. Petersburg in 2012 and in our 2013 election, only 258 voted! These numbers are telling us something, I believe.

Meeting city/hotel selection. A Site Selection committee should be created and charged with identifying and selecting cities and hotels for our meetings at least three (preferably more) years in advance. The advantages of such a policy are twofold. One, the president-elect who has no experience whatsoever of choosing cities and hotels or in negotiating contracts would be removed from that duty, thus being able to spend her/his time and energy planning the program for the meeting. Two, by returning to a city/hotel every so often, and committing to that practice in advance, we can obtain better room rates, meeting room options, food and beverage charges, and complimentary rooms and privileges. We could have a rotating system that commits us to returning to the same city and hotels every X-year. For example, we could hold our Winter meetings in St. Pete, Phoenix (or Albuquerque), and New Orleans on a rotating basis: East, west, mid-country (or any other 3 cities spread across country). The Southern Sociological Society rotates between Atlanta, New Orleans, and X—with every third year a variable choice, e.g., 2014 is Charlotte NC and the time before was Jacksonville FL. Just a thought.

Selecting winter meeting hotel. Back when we were smaller & less complex, assigning a person just elected president the job of choosing a city and hotel for a meeting to be held about a year later might have been a treat. Today it is a burden, a task that should not be assigned to an amateur who never before thought about selecting or negotiating with a hotel. Our Executive Office, guided by Council, should work with a professional company (e.g., Helms-
Briscoe) that does this routinely and at no charge to us. [The hotel, once chosen, pays the company a percentage of what SWS spends on food and beverage just for “finding us.”] Professional hotel finders know the score. They are less apt to promise too much. If we make our preferences and principles clear, they will follow them. I was definitely over my head when I did this task. It is a waste of a president-elect’s time and energy and it is risky for the organization. We academics do not know what the game is much less how to play it. Why place SWS at risk by having inexperienced amateurs do a job that professional, seasoned people know how to do?

Affluence? During my years on Council, I regularly heard people say “SWS is rich” so why don’t we give money to abc, or pay for xyz, or do this and that, and so on. As was noted earlier, SWS is complex and it is “large” in some respects. We have nearly 900 dues-paying members although members’ dues provide a very limited source of income for us; in 2012, about $36,000. Thanks to the attraction of our journal, Gender & Society, many of our members join SWS but do not participate in our organization. Still, we are financially affluent, for a non-profit organization. Sage Publications funds our journal via a contract to support the home office—presently located at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Funds for the editorial office total over $100,000 annually. They provide summer salary for the G&S editor to continue working in summer months when she may receive no pay from her home institution. In addition to the editorial office contract, a separate contract assures SWS—the legal owner of Gender & Society—a minimum of $200,000 annually in royalty payments. Most years, we receive an additional percentage of royalty payments. In 2011, the additional amount was about $130,000. These funds finance our Executive Office, pay for our awards, pay for Network News, a media specialist, accountant, liability insurance, our “global partnership” program, and on and on. It is these funds from Sage that allow us to subsidize members’ travel to our Winter meeting. We regularly spend more than $100,000 on that event alone; in 2013, we spent $64,000 on the hotel expenses and $57,000 in member reimbursements for travel—totaling $121,000. Given the resources we have, we need to always ask a critical question: Is SWS an organization for women in Society? Or is SWS an organization for its own members? Do we use our resources to support feminist ends? If we stopped subsidizing members’ attendance at our Winter meeting, a sizeable chunk of change would be available for other purposes. At the end of the day, we are not as affluent as some of us think. Of course, we have a healthy investment fund and, down the road, you may be consulted about an orderly withdrawal of a portion of those funds to support feminist causes/purposes. If and when this occurs, I urge us to pay attention and participate in any decisions.

Challenge of democracy in a (feminist) bureaucracy. Finally. How do we manage our complexities, far-flung members, limited opportunities for face to face meetings, and competing priorities and, at the same time, foster democracy? However we address this challenge, the task will not be easy. Those who have served in an SWS office know we regularly struggle: Always have, always will. We have opinions. We want our say and, often, our way. We think we are right and others, though well-intentioned, are often wrong. I remind you of claims made by Karen Ashcraft in regards to the challenges of sustaining a feminist bureaucracy. As I suggested in my G&S paper earlier this year, SWS is a feminist bureaucracy. We have feminist ideals, goals, and aims, yet we are disciplined by a bureaucratic structure that entails explicit policies, rules and procedures, a division of labor, universalistic obligations and standards. The contradictions of this bifurcated situation are rife. But they can be managed, they can work in our favor. We have the ability to make SWS work if we remain vigilant about our feminist goals and practices and faithful to our organizational principles and obligations.

Finale. If Carnac were still with us, he would laugh and laugh. He’d shake his turbaned head and recommend a quick dunk in Antarctic waters to sober us up. He’d feel sorry for us too. But he would be wrong. We can make SWS work, we shall make SWS work, so long as we keep our feminist goals and principles in the forefront of our deliberations and actions. I thank each of you for your work on behalf of SWS and for your kindness and help to me during the past three years. May good fortune accompany us as we move forward together.

Cheers,
Pat
Call for Nominations

Junior scholars who are making a noteworthy contribution to our understanding of the sociology of gender will have an opportunity to apply for the Early Career Gender Scholar Award! Nominees should be the first author to a groundbreaking article, a series of articles, or book (which may be co-authored) that advances the scholarship of gender.

Eligibility: Assistant professors, postdoctoral scholars, contingent faculty, research associates, or other early career scholars who hold the Ph.D. are eligible for this award. The work must have been published within the past 3 years. Nominees may come from the applicant or from a third party nominator and are due March 1, 2014. Nominees must be affiliated with an institution in the South.

Nominations: Nomination packets should include the following:

One nomination letter detailing the merits of the nominee’s work,
A copy of any articles or books* to be considered for the award, and
A current CV of the nominee.

*Books, but not articles will be returned to the nominator.

Winners will receive a plaque, alongside a one-year membership to SWS-South. In addition, the winner will be featured in the following year’s SWS-South newsletter and will present her or his work at an SWS-South/SSS special session.

Please mail all nominations directly to the SWS-South Awards Committee Chair:
Claudia Youakim
Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
University of Florida
3219 Turlington Hall
P.O. Box 117330
Gainesville, FL 32611

Early Career Gender Scholar Award

This award will be given in even-numbered years to a junior scholar whose work makes a noteworthy contribution to our understanding of the sociology of gender. The award may be given for a single groundbreaking article, for a series of articles, or for a book that is viewed as making significant advancements to the scholarship of the sociology of gender. Articles or books may be co-authored, but the nominee should be the first author.

Eligibility: Assistant professors, postdoctoral scholars, contingent faculty, research associates, or other early career scholars who hold the Ph.D. are eligible for this award. The work must have been published within the past 3 years. Nominees for the Early Career award may come from the applicant or from a third party nominator and are due March 1 to the SWS-South Awards Committee Chair. Nominees must be affiliated with an institution in the South.

Award: The winner will be recognized at the annual SWS-South business meeting with a plaque and a one-year membership in SWS-South. In the following year, the winner will be featured in the SWS-South newsletter and will present her or his work at an SWS-South/SSS special session. (The newsletter piece should be the following year’s pre-conference issue that will hopefully also serve to promote the special session.)
Nominations: Nomination packets should include the following:

One nomination letter detailing the merits of the nominee’s work,
A copy of any articles or books* to be considered for the award, and
A current CV of the nominee.

*Books, but not articles will be returned to the nominator.

Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender

This paper award will be given in odd-numbered years to the best current paper written by a graduate student in the field of the sociology of gender. The purpose of this award is to encourage graduate student scholarship focused on gender and to facilitate the publication process for the student. SWS-South will appoint a mentor who will be available to assist the student in preparing the paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Eligibility: The paper may be co-authored, but only by another graduate student. Faculty-graduate student papers are not eligible. Papers that have previously appeared in publication are not eligible. Nomination packets are to be sent to the SWS-South Awards Committee Chair by March 1. Nominees must be affiliated with an institution in the South.

Nominations: Nomination packets should include the following:

A copy of the paper to be considered for the award,
A current CV of the nominee,
A letter of nomination.

Award: The award winner will be recognized at the SWS-South business meeting with a check for $300.00, a plaque and a one-year membership to SWS-South. An article about the winner’s work will appear in the association’s newsletter and the recipient will be invited to present their work in a special SWS-South session at the following annual meeting.

SWS-South Award Committee

SWS-South will elect a chair of the awards committee to serve a two-year term. The chair will recruit a minimum of two other SWS-South members to serve on the awards committee. Graduate students who wish to submit a paper to be considered for the award must submit materials to the SWS-South Awards Chair by March 1. Nominees for the Early Career award may come from the scholars or from a third party nominator and are also due March 1. Please send materials electronically.
2014 Call for Applications for Campus Visits
Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, Christine Bose, and Feminist Activism Winner, Margaret Abraham

Due March 1, 2014

During the 2014-2015 academic year, each award winner will visit two campuses. These campus visits are intended to celebrate and enhance feminist scholarship and social activism on college campuses.

The **Distinguished Feminist Lecturer** visits campuses that are isolated, rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or are characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship.

The **Feminist Activism Awardee** visits campuses with departments with a focus on feminist activism, social movements, sociological practice, and/or activist research.

The selection committee will look especially favorably on campuses that are committed to gaining the widest possible audience for these visits. This may be demonstrated by evidence of:
- collaboration with other departments and programs on campus
- multiple-campus cooperation
- community partnerships

SWS will pay at least a portion of the expenses for the two site visits; institutions should not let resource scarcity prevent them from applying. (See the detailed reimbursement levels and guidelines.) SWS awards the Distinguished Feminist Lecturer and the Feminist Activism Awardee a one-time honorarium of $1000.

If you are interested in hosting a campus visit send your application by **March 1, 2014** to:

**Distinguished Feminist Lecturer** Committee Chair Shannon Davis  
email: snaviso@gmu.edu; phone: 703-993-1443

**Feminist Activism Award** Committee Chair Melanie Heath  
email: mheath@mcmaster.ca

The application should include the following information:
- An explanation of your interest in hosting a campus visit and the merits of awarding a campus visitation to your school.
- A description of the type of presentation you are interested in hosting (this is particularly important in the case of the Feminist Activist).
- The number of days you will ask the awardee to stay.
- The audience to which the presentation will be targeted.
- A description of how local costs will be met.
- Tentative dates.

(continued on page 16)
Guidelines for Arranging and Funding Campus Visits for the Feminist Lecturer and Feminist Activist Award Winners

Communication and Planning

The host and speaker will communicate directly about travel arrangements, accommodations, scheduling, and any other details of the site visit. This communication should occur in a timely fashion to facilitate reasonable airfare and flight schedules (including best local information about alternative airports). The SWS Executive Office is not responsible for travel arrangements or scheduling.

In the event that the award winner is based internationally, the committee choosing the host institutions should work with them to attempt to schedule talks so only one international flight is necessary.

SWS does not pay costs upfront. The host and speaker are responsible for all payments and must submit receipts for reimbursable expenses to the SWS Executive Office within 30 days of the visit.

The speaker should not incur any financial costs for these trips.

Funding

SWS reimburses up to a total of $750 for domestic travel (airfare and ground) or $1500 for international travel (airfare and ground) and lodging at each site if needed.

SWS reimburses only the cost of coach airfare (up to the $750/$1500 limit). If the speaker prefers to fly first or business class, she or he (or the host institution) is responsible for paying the difference compared to the coach class fare.

If airfare, major transportation, and lodging exceed the funding limits, SWS will match the host institution's expenditure dollar-for-dollar, to a maximum of $250.

The host is responsible for local transportation, food, and any other hosting expenses in excess of the reimbursable limit (as described above).
Video Suggestions for Course on Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Media

*Dreamworlds 3*

*Miss Representation*

*Reel Bad Arabs*

*This Film is Not Yet Rated*

*Reel Injun*

*Game Over: Gender, Race, and Violence in Video Games*

*Wrestling with Manhood*

*The Codes of Gender*

*Mickey Mouse Monopoly*

*Ethnic Notions*

*Further off the Straight and Narrow*

*Tough Guise*

*The Celluloid Closet*

*The Bronze Screen*

*Beyond Beats and Rhymes*

*Killing us Softly IV*

(compiled by Rebecca Bach, with help from our faithful list)
Gender and International Migration Fact Sheet

by Pilar Gonalons-Pons and Ana Lucia Hernandez-Cordero

Overview

The purpose of this fact sheet is to raise awareness about research being conducted on gender and migration using a wide range of recent reports and scholarly research. We seek to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective in discussions about migration in teaching, advocacy and policy making.

Statistics on International Migration Flows

In 2013 the United Nations estimated that the number of international migrants amounted to 232 million people (3.2% of the world population), and 48% were women. Women have represented nearly half of all international migrants at least since the 1960s.

The proportion of women among international migrants varies considerably across regions. In Europe 51.9% of international migrants are women but in Asia only 41.6% are women. The United States, Russia and Germany receive the largest stock of migrant women; whereas Russia, Mexico, India and China send the largest stock of migrant women abroad.

Theories about International Migration

Conventional theories about migration ignored women and gender; migrant women were seen as companions of male heads of household. Researchers progressively include women in international migrant flows and deploy gender theory to inform theories about why and how individuals migrate (Boyd and Grieco, 2003).

Gender relations shape the motivations that propel international migrations. While marriage and family reunification continue to be important reasons to migrate among women, looking for a job is becoming increasingly significant. More and more often women initiate migration movements for other family members (IOM, 2008). Changes in the global economy underpin this transformation. The booming demand for female labor to fill jobs in the services, care and sex work sectors in the Global North is matched with the aftermath of neoliberal policies in the Global South that pushed women onto precarious wage work (Parreñas, 2008; Sassen, 2003; Ehrenreich and Hochschild, 2003).

Pessar and Mahler (2003) proposed the concept of gender geographies of power to synthesize the multiple dimensions – geographies, locations and power geometries – whereby gender relations operate in migration flows and experiences. State policies can shape these power relations by encouraging women’s migration, for instance (e.g. Philippines in Parreñas, 2008). Research also shows that some household structures encourage female migration more than others (Pessar, 1982; Massey et al., 2006). Within the household, women’s bargaining power can also condition the emigration of other household members (Nobles and McKelvey, 2012).

Migrant women might face specific risks when crossing national borders, such as assault, exortion, sexual violence or human trafficking (Chiarotti, 2003). Sending countries with restrictive and criminalizing policies hamper immigrants’ mobility as well as their contact with relatives in the home countries (Abrego and Menjivar, 2011; Boehm, 2012).

Migrant Families

International migration depends and is shaped by families’ ties and household configurations (Parrado and Flip-
pen, 2005). Families involve systems of rights, responsibilities and resources, which organize around (hierarchical) social relations based on gender, age and kinship.

The family group is often fragmented in the context of international migration, with members living in different countries. Through frequent phone calls, remittances, presents or e-mails, international migrants maintain regular contact and social ties with individuals in their home countries as well as in other migrant-destination countries. Studies show that these processes change the meaning and relations within the family (for transnational motherhood see Hondagneu-Sotelo and Avila, 1997; for children’s power and well-being see Dreby, 2007 or Nobles, 2013; for redistribution of household tasks see Curran et al., 2005; Parreñas, 2005 or Hoang and Yeoh, 2011; for deportation effects on families see Freed 2011). Researchers also look at the gendered experiences of migrant men, addressing parenting and masculinity in a transnational context (Parreñas, 2008; Dreby, 2010; Pribilsky, 2007). In sum, love, courtship, marriage and sexuality take on new meanings in the migratory experience (Hirsch, 2003; Gonzalez-Lopez, 2005).

**Global care chains**

The series of care and emotional relations based on both paid and unpaid work that link women and families around the world constitute global chains of care. For instance, a mother from Mexico migrates alone to the US to work as a live-in domestic worker and asks her aunt or sister to take care of her children (Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2001; Ehrenreich and Hochschild, 2003; Dreby, 2010). This phenomenon has two basic features. First, the care that is given and received is distributed unevenly along axes of hierarchy such as sex, ethnicity, social class, immigration status and age. Second, this reorganization of care relations maintains care work as the realm of femininity and might obstruct the recognition of collective responsibility over care and the possibility for other actors to become involved (e.g. men or the State) (Pérez-Orozco, 2009)

Global care chains also transform care relations in the sending countries. Mothers develop a variety of strategies to maintain the relationship with their children, but they are often perceived as abandoning their children and suffer stigmatization. Other women in the extended family, including grandmothers, aunts and older sisters take on central roles in caring for these children (Mummert, 2009). In other cases, migrants might hire other women as caregivers. For instance, Mexican mothers working in the US hire Central American nannies to take care of their children in Mexico (Hamilton and Stoltz, 2001). Men might potentially get more involved in care responsibilities but only rarely do they become the main caregiver (Waters, 2009).

**Migrants at work**

In 2012 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that 105 million people work in a country other than their country of birth (IOM, 2012). While pioneering scholarship often presumed that migration for work was emancipatory for women, other studies showed that employment was not necessarily an immediate source of independence or incompatible with the perpetuation of patriarchal gender relations in the household.

Sex segregation in the labor market affects both skilled and unskilled migrant women (Dumont et al. 2007; Ghosh, 2009). Their employment concentrates in the services, care, entertainment and agriculture sectors. In countries of the Global North, migrant women are employed in domestic work, health care and sex work (for domestic works see Romero, 1992 or Hondagneu-Sotelo, 2001; for sex work see Parreñas, 2011). These jobs are usually in the informal economy and offer low wages and limited possibilities for upward mobility. Studies find that women migrant workers experience lower wages than men migrant workers with similar skills and jobs (ILO, 2004). The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 43% of migrant women are excluded from
minimum wage coverage in countries where this regulation exists (UNDP, 2009). Research in Dubai shows that human trafficking and exploitation can be found in all feminized niches of employment (Mahdavi, 2011).

**Remittances and development**

In 2011 the World Bank estimated that more than $350 billion were transferred to countries of the Global South through remittances. Both men and women migrants send remittances back to their home countries. Studies provide inconsistent conclusions as to whether men or women tend to send more remittances (UNPFA and IOM, 2006). Researchers find that women send a larger share of their incomes, more consistently and to a broader network of relatives, which might include people caring for their relatives (Pérez-Orozco and Paisewonsky, 2009). Men send larger amounts of money but to a more restricted circle of relatives (Semyonov and Gorodzeisky, 2005).

Policies trying to link migration to development usually focus on remittances, which are found to be most conducive of development when invested in family well-being, housing, food, education and small entrepreneurship projects. The gendered differences in remittances lead some to conclude that migrant women are more reliable agents of development (UNDP, 2010), a statement that can problematically reinforce women’s obligations toward the well-being of other people (Mahler and Pessar, 2006).

**Citizenship and rights**

Migrant women’s participation in the public sphere faces multiple obstacles. Women seem to benefit from living in areas with well-developed co-ethnic or migrant communities (Pedraza, 1991; Dreby and Schmalzbauer, 2013) In new destinations the gendering of immigrants’ public involvement is shaped by institutions, family and community organizations (Deeb-Sossa and Mendez, 2008; Schmalzbauer, 2009).

Sending countries with restrictive immigration policies pose major obstacles for migrant women’s access to justice and rights (Menjivar, 2011; Menjivar and Abrego, 2012). They also interfere in immigrants’ family relationships and preclude contact between mothers and children (Abrego and Menjivar, 2011). Too often laws about violence against women do not offer enough protection to undocumented migrants, who might refrain from calling the police to avoid the risk of deportation (UNDP, 2013). Even when laws are comprehensive, migrant women still face information, linguistic and cultural barriers.

Nonetheless, migrant women are taking the lead in many ongoing activist campaigns to improve labor and migration policies. The most recent and prominent case is that of domestic workers. In 2011 the ILO adopted Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. This historical recognition was not only the result of organizing efforts among domestic workers, many of them migrant women, but also propelled the ongoing activist campaigns for its ratification. In the US, the National Domestic Workers Alliance is pushing for numerous advances in this realm (e.g. California signed a Domestic Worker Bill of Rights into law on September 2013). Migrant women might become central agents revitalizing national labor movements and mainstreaming gender in the global agenda for migration and labor policy.

**Resources for teachers**

ILO video about the Gallup survey on the conditions and well-being of international migrants: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcmRXPiGgI4&feature=youtu.be

Short video “The Call”, from I’m Here campaign for immigration policy reform in the US: http://www.breakthrough.tv/imhere/

National Domestic Workers’ Alliance (NDWA) website: http://www.domesticworkers.org/


Further reading


----- (2010). Migration, remittances and gender-responsive local development: case studies of Albania, the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines and Senegal.


Sociologists for Women in Society

Written Statement for UN Commission on the Status of Women 58

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) affirms the proposal of UN Women for a transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment in the post-2015 agenda, including UN Women's suggested targets and indicators. We agree that freedom from violence is the highest priority goal to ensure that women and girls are included in development opportunities such as education and employment. As the Beijing Platform for Action noted (A/CONF.177/20), violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men (Beijing para. 117). It is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women’s full advancement (para. 118). When women and girls are handicapped by violence in their daily lives, not only are their human rights violated but national development is inhibited and diminished. As the World Bank stated in its 2012 World Development Report, gender equality is good economics.

The absence of adequate gender-disaggregated indicators on the incidence of violence makes the elaboration of programs and monitoring of changes difficult (Beijing para 120). The indicators proposed by UN Women for the post-2015 agenda will help to address this difficulty and will provide a broad picture of violence against women and girls worldwide. In accord with guidelines issued by the UN Statistical Commission, the indicators should measure the prevalence, severity, and frequency of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women and girls by age and relationship of victim to perpetrator, including intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse, and spousal homicide. Sociologists for Women in Society recommends as well the measurement of violence on the basis of gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, the frequency and prevalence of human trafficking in women and girls, and the disaggregation of all indicators by gender, class, ethnicity, and rural/urban location.

To address root causes of violence against women and girls, the processes of social construction of gender, especially the socialization of boys into masculinities of dominance and violence, should be addressed in school curricula and in the media. The indicators suggested by UN Women on gender perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors are examples of ways to track cultural assumptions on gender. Proven practical strategies can be tracked as well such as the criminalization of gender-based violence, women's shelters in both urban and rural locations, specialized courts for intimate partner violence, and specialized police units staffed with female police officers.

While real progress has been made on increasing the number of children enrolled in primary school (Millennium Development Goal 2), the completion of primary school by all children remains a challenge. In a family crisis, girls are more likely to be withdrawn from school than boys. In some poor rural areas no more than 10 or 15 percent of girls are even enrolled in primary school.

The prevalence of formal and informal school fees make primary school completion challenging for poor girls, especially in rural areas. Poor parents delay their children's entrance into school or trade one child's education for another's when they do not have funds for school fees. Children are likely to drop out of primary school when their parents cannot pay their school fees. Uneducated girls earn less as adults and cannot support their families or pay for their own children's school fees. To avoid these undesirable outcomes, school completion rates and school fees, both formal and informal, should be measured and tracked in the post-2015 development agenda, disaggregated by gender, class, ethnicity, and rural/urban location.

Adult literacy classes, vocational programs, and women's community grassroots groups should be included in the post-2015 development agenda with indicators disaggregated by gender, class, ethnicity, and rural/urban location. Adult literacy is much lower for rural women than for urban women. Even among rural women, literacy varies dramatically along class, caste, ethnic, and religious lines. When rural women acquire literacy, they have new opportunities for paid employment and the means to contribute more effectively to their family circumstances.
Literacy projects bring women together and give them the confidence to organize against violence.

Vocational training for both school-age children and adults provides them with marketable skills both in the rural and urban setting. Women migrate to cities at higher rates than men and find themselves in a disadvantaged and marginalized position in urban areas. Vocational skills can help women transition into the urban environment more successfully, avoid low-paying informal work, and alleviate the high incidence of urban poverty. Women with vocational skills are more likely to obtain decent employment and avoid gender traps such as trafficking and prostitution in both rural and urban areas.

Women's community grassroots groups based in literacy projects provide the means for women to support one another as they address community and family needs. Community grassroots groups mobilize and empower women, especially in rural areas, giving them the confidence and skills to engage in the political process. Educated women empowered by community grassroots groups are more likely to fill leadership roles and work for community improvement rather than merely individual advancement. They can press for the enforcement of laws protecting women such as those against domestic violence and early marriage. Despite their proven success, there are few women's community grassroots groups in rural areas. A significant increase in women's community grassroots groups can empower rural women and accelerate social transformation and should be measured and tracked in the post-2015 development agenda.

In addition to stopping violence against women and improving female education, the post-2015 development agenda should include indicators of women's involvement in conflict situations. Security Council resolution 1325, adopted in 2001, changed the image of women from that of exclusively victims of war to that of active participation as peacemakers, peace-builders, and negotiators, as noted by Rachel Mayanja, the Special Advisor on Gender Issues. Indicators should track numbers of women in peacekeeping missions, peace negotiations, and in refugee camp administration.

Sociologists for Women in Society is an American non-profit scientific and educational organization of sociologists dedicated to improving women's lives and creating feminist social change. Through our teaching, research, publications, and activism, we educate and sensitize the sociological profession, other scholars, and the public to the social, political and economic situation of women. We publish a highly regarded professional journal, Gender & Society, and engage with a network of sister organizations on several continents through our Global Feminist Partnership program. Three of our Feminist Partners contributed to this statement, the Center of Women’s & Family Studies at Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences in Hangzhou, China, the Centro di Studi Interdipiplinari di Genere in Trento, Italy, and the Genova, Italy editorial collective of About Gender: International Journal of Gender Studies.


4) Evans, Ruth. 2002. "Poverty, HIV, and Barriers to Education.”


Putting Transnational Feminism into Action

By

Esther Ngan-ling Chow  Jinling Wang and Ping Wang

American University, USA  Zhejiang Academy of Social Sciences, China

SWS’s Global Feminist Partnership program (GFPP) epitomizes the ideal and spirit of transnational feminist knowledge and practice. The program exemplifies the slogan “think globally, act locally,” by connecting thought and action at the global and local levels across borders, nations, and cultures. GFPP’s immediate goal is for SWS to offer a forum, a transnational space, by which Global North-South partners can mutually share feminist knowledge, research expertise, skills, activism, and experience. The ultimate goals of these collective efforts are to advance feminist scholarship and practice; transform society; and build an equal, just, peaceful, and humane world in which to live.

The Center for Women’s and Family Studies (CWFS) of China was one of the first Global Feminist Partners (GFPs) selected in 2008. This article first reflects on SWS’s and our experience of participation and documents our significant exchanges and interactions over the past several years. It discusses parties’ contributions in this transnational process and ends with suggestions for future international collaboration between SWS and GFPs.

Background and Formation

Public discussion of women’s issues in several reform and cultural movements that took place in the mid-1890s and early 1900s gave rise to the first-wave women’s movement in modern China. Internal conflicts and wars resulted in the women’s movement becoming dormant until its revival in urban areas around mid-1980s. Although state ideology in China has officially endorsed gender equality (i.e., ‘women holding up the half sky’) from the Maoist as well as Marxist perspectives since 1949, research on women was limited in early years. As the influences of the western second-wave women’s movement and feminism intensified in the early 1980s, women’s/gender studies began to attract scholarly interest. The 1995 U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women (UNFWCW) and NGO Forum held in Beijing, China gave strong impetus to feminist consciousness-raising, challenging of patriarchal ruling relationships, gender mainstreaming, and discipline-building, thus bringing forth a new generation of feminist scholars, researchers, and practitioners.

From the late 1990s to early 2000s, relaxation of state surveillance, new resources, and increasing international support enabled the establishment of women’s/gender studies in diverse institutional settings. However, multiple roadblocks such as the dialectic interplay between Marxism and feminism, essentialism in sex differentiation, commercialized femininity, misogyny, fragmentation in the women’s movement, over-emphasis of pragmatism, and a top-down approach of state control have hampered the development of this new field over time (Chow et al. 2004). Now this field has grown into a multi-disciplinary and action-oriented one that has generated not only strong interest in feminist theories and research methodology, but also a surging number of women’s NGOs to articulate their concerns regarding discrimination and inequality in the state’s development process and lack of recognition of rights. Mainstreaming has occurred mostly in social sciences and humanities, and has been somewhat marginalized in science, politics, morality, and philosophy. Recent research trends toward political participation, employment, rural women, body and GLBT/queer issues, women and environment, gender politics, human rights, and violence against women drive the intellectual horizon of this field to a new level.

The CWFS, a research center at the Zhejiang Academy of Social Science (ZASS) in Hangzhou of China, was developed at this historical juncture. Established in 1996, CWFS was organized to promote disciplinary building of women’s/gender studies (particularly in sociology), women’s activism, and advancement of sustainable development in China. It has multiple disciplinary foci and cross-affiliates with the Zhejiang Uni-
versity and other research institutes. More specifically, it is designed to develop theory, indigenize research on women and gender, promote marriage and family, inform policy concerning practical solutions to pressing social problems, and exchange social knowledge and research with international communities. It claims NGO status and has received funding from various international donor organizations. CWFS also takes on the role of public sociology by using the media to address major issues related to discrimination and gender-based violence against women, gender power relationships, and women’s struggle for equal rights and social justice inside China.

Under the leadership of Jinling Wang, the Center’s Director and subsequently also the Director of the Sociology Institute at ZASS, CWFS flourished, accomplishing several important projects that have received national attention and wide scholarly recognition. Among them, the findings from the “Women Sex Workers” study (1991) and the “Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children” study (2005) were incorporated into the national plans of action by the central government. New legislation to prevent commercial exploitation of women sex workers that took effect in 1998 stipulates that men patrons of sex services should be punished by law. The first health hotline in this precarious employment was established in 2000 to protect against health risks and crime faced by these women workers. Another national initiative for anti-trafficking in women and children was implemented in 2005 to provide security, rescue missions, and human services for them. Also, CWFS’s “Women’s Pregnancy and Childbirth” project, though conducted in 1986, eventually impacted national policy to some extent in that it led the central government to establish a “Women Workers’ Reproductive Fund” in 2010 to procure health insurance for their protection and health wellness.

Supported by the Ford Foundation, J. Wang and other feminist scholars set up the “Network for Women’s/Gender Studies” (NWGS) in 2006. The “Network” consists of nearly 2,000 members from universities, academies of social sciences, the party schools, and the All-China Women’s Federation systems. It includes 25 sub-networks—13 disciplinary and 12 regional ones. Besides Chinese Women’s Research Society (CWRS), it is one of the two largest women NGOs in China. Among many activities, it initiated a curriculum program combining research, teaching, and social activism (see www.chinagender.cn). Its series of Reports on Women and Development in China has become one of the authoritative documents used as textbooks in this area.

Despite the roadblocks mentioned previously, the sociology of women has been accepted as an academic entity by a number of universities and research institutes since 1998. J. Wang was one of the early pioneers in offering women’s/gender studies in sociology at ZASS. Encountering resistance initially, J. Wang lobbied successfully to form “The Committee on Women’s/Gender Sociology” (comparable to ASA’s Sex and Gender Section) to mainstream this field within the Chinese Sociological Association (CSA) in 2009. Therefore, some key and hotly debated issues relating to women and gender can be presented in this forum at the CAS’s annual conference.

SWS Initiatives and Contributions

Recognizing the paramount importance of global feminisms, SWS in the early 1990s established its International Committee (IC), chaired by Judy Lorber, on which E. Chow served as a member. By then, E. Chow had engaged with several vibrant groups of scholars and researchers in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China (including J. Wang), who were working to develop women’s/gender studies in their respective regions. SWS no doubt legitimatized E. Chow’s role as one of its four official observers at the NGO Forum and the UNFWCW in Beijing, thus further widening her exchange circles in China. In 2008, her nomination of CWFS as a SWS’s GFP was not just a coincidence.

More specifically, SWS has significantly contributed to GFPP with China in four major ways, resulting in mutual benefits to both parties:

SWS has provided relevant articles and books to help some Chinese research institutions build up a database in women’s/gender studies over time. Observing the dearth of publications in this field at these institutions, E. Chow strategically began book drives for several key women’s research centers within China. Since 2006, she has continued to donate numerous books in English to ZASS and Jiangusu
Academy of Social Science. ZASS alone has received more than 50 books that greatly enriched its library and curriculum on women, gender, sexuality, work and development.

SWS spread feminist knowledge and research in China. In 2008, E. Chow, as a liaison of GFP, participated in the inaugural meeting of the Committee of Women/Gender Sociology of the Chinese Sociological Association. She gave two special lectures in Hangzhou, one at the ZASS and the other at Zhejiang Commercial University, and subsequently spoke at the WSIC of the All China Women’s Federation in Beijing. These lectures related to various aspects of developing critical feminist sociology in the context of globalization and its framework of multi-level analysis. While Chinese researchers showed great interest in feminist theories from western countries, students marveled at the public debates interrogating women’s reproductive rights, one-child policy, and a recent trend toward romantic love in mate election. Sharing our top-ranked journal Gender & Society with CWFS as well as other GFPs is another means by which intellectual food for thought was offered, consumed, and appreciated.

As one of the 12 organizational co-sponsors of the “International Conference on Gender and Social Transformation: Global, Transnational, and Local Realities and Perspectives,” 16 SWS members participated in this meeting where cutting-edged feminist scholarship, research methodology, and praxis were presented, debated, and advanced. For example, in the plenary session, Myra Marx Ferree’s paper about framing of feminist research and its discourse politics in relation to gender inequality and intersectionality and Judith Lorber’s paper focusing on strategies of feminist research in a globalized world stimulated much intellectual interest and dialogue.

4. SWS created an opportunity for us to document the development of women’s/gender studies and the sociology of women in China and to share our experiences and accomplishments with others internationally. In 2004, “Promising and Contested Fields: Women’s Studies and Sociology of Women/Gender in Contemporary China,” co-authored by Esther Ngan-ling Chow, Naihua Zhang, and Jinling Wang was published in Gender & Society. An expanded and revised version of this article was reprinted in Global Gender Research: Transnational Perspectives, co-edited by Christine Bose and Minjeong Kim (Routledge, 2009).

Commitment of CWFS to SWS

The transnational exchanges between SWS and CWFS are simultaneously interactive; CWFS has reciprocated SWS’s openness and inclusiveness with their share of contributions:

CWFS facilitated the process to disseminate feminist scholarship from the global South and North. First, we engaged in various translation projects to overcome initial language and cultural barriers. In 2004, J. Wang and associates first translated Women, the Family, and Policy: A Global Perspective, co-edited by Esther Ngan-Ling Chow and Catherine White Berheide. It was published by a prestigious press and widely used as a textbook in major universities and research institutes in China. The joint article by Chow, Zhang, and Wang published in Gender & Society (2004) not only documents how women’s and gender studies and the sociology of women developed in China, but also shares our research ideas, skills, experiences, critical self-reflection, and collaborative spirit working in this field. J. Wang later translated this article and two other articles written by SWSers (with permission) into Chinese, which were reprinted in the Zhejiang Academic Journal. Her translation work, along with other translation projects on feminism from different countries done by the Chinese Society of Women’s Studies, Inc. (CSWS, a US-based NGO) greatly enriched curriculum development and discipline building in the women’s/gender field of the contemporary China.

CWFS offered various assistance and coordination for projects in China. For Instance, center staffers utilized their network system to help E. Chow and a few other SWS members to facilitate their academic trips and to set up affiliations for lectures, teaching, and research. J. Wang was also involved in coordinating local researchers’ participation in the International gender conference held in Beijing in 2009. This transnational interaction might seem mundane, yet it was intellectually and administratively challenging as E. Chow and J. Wang searched for NGOs that advocated for human rights and justice
for women in China.

We appreciate that SWS has created opportunities to generate collective wisdom jointly with GFPs. In 2012, CWFS provided input relating to domestic violence against women and girls in the context of China when SWS invited GFPs to comment on SWS’s statement for the UN Committee on the Status of Women. We suggested that various forms of regional and sub-regional multilateral cooperation should be developed to promote anti-trafficking efforts worldwide. In 2013, we offered suggestions regarding SWS’s UN Statement on challenges and achievements in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, particularly in education.

Challenges and Suggestions

Transnational feminist practice and process in this case have not been problem-free however; our partnership faced some challenges, which were eventually resolved. To begin with, differences in language and culture need to be overcome for effective communication to take place among partners. This interaction is further accentuated by geo-political factors, although these are somewhat compensated for by advanced technology (e.g., Internet and telecommunication).

There seems to be an implicit assumption that scholars, researchers, and practitioners from the Global South need to know more about those in the Global North than the other way around. This results in a lopsided, unequal exchange, with transmission of feminist knowledge and information flowing primarily from the west. Moreover, we should recognize that stages of development in the women's/gender studies vary greatly among countries, which have different needs, foci, and priorities. An early start, resource availability, and a favorable academic environment put western feminism in an advantaged position. However, various types of feminism in the Global South are potentially rich lodes, gold mines yet to be explored.

Note that most of the feminist/gender literature introduced to China has been written by western scholars, especially those in the USA. The unilateral information source generated the public misunderstanding that equates feminism with the western model. Recognizing the marginalized scholarship and activism from non-western regions as an indispensable component of global feminism, we aspire to articulate women’s voices from the Global South, taking at least a step to introduce Chinese research on women and gender to the outside world. Hence, we suggest the followings for consideration:

- SWS and GFPs should examine effective strategies and concrete channels for promoting equal exchange of feminist knowledge and its production multilaterally. Some examples include individual exchanges in GFP’s host institution aboard, sponsorship of GFPs for US visits, mentoring of young scholars, and exchanges of teaching syllabi and materials, funding resources, and ways of grant-making.

- GFPs of SWS may consider building a transnational network among members from different continents, as to establish contacts and extend scholarly exchanges beyond their tenure of association with SWS.

- SWS and GFPs should explore jointly ways to develop collaborative projects. CWFS would welcome an opportunity to translate and edit a Chinese volume based on selected articles from *Gender & Society*. If such an opportunity is available, then the CWFS will search for ways to cover possible costs of such a publication in China.

- CWFS proposes that an international conference or research seminar/symposium be sponsored by SWS and other GFPs in Hangzhou, one of the beautiful cities in China.

As the world becomes globalized, focusing on women’s and gender issues in just a single discipline or country is a myopic way to advance feminism. Today, our daily lives are intimately connected to the work performed by women and men elsewhere on the globe, whether by our clothing, our food consumption, or our household appliances. Issues affecting these women and men (e.g., low wages, illiteracy, poverty, sexual
violence) are, directly or indirectly connected to our concerns, for we cannot long enjoy advantages purchased at the cost of other's disadvantages. SWS is moving to the right direction to establish the GFPP with organizations on different continents, but this represents barely a beginning. The question is how well we are going to enrich our relationships between SWS and GFPs and cultivate those among the GFPs themselves multi-laterally and systematically. More energetic global efforts are needed to fully understand women's pressing issues and their need for empowerment; at the same time, more resources should be devoted to promoting the diversity of global feminism.


GO/NGO are contested terms in China and their differences are often blurred. Note that central government controls development of the civil society sector and the state promotes a certain version of feminism that is subject to different interpretations (Chow added).

AG—AboutGender

AG—AboutGender, international partner with SWS, is an online journal on gender studies born in 2012 with the aim to create forums and networking both in Italy and all over the world. We, as AboutGender (from now on AG), asked for SWS mentorship since in Italy a feminist organization of scholars does not exist yet.

In the opening essay of the first issue of AG, Michael Kimmel recounts with acumen and irony his first encounter with Women's studies. It was in the early eighties, and the photo shows a young Kimmel, the only man in a small group of women discussing sisterhood and identity in a biographical way, starting from the self: what do I see when I look at myself in the mirror? What do you see? Do you see a woman? Do you see a coloured woman? Does gender or race come to your mind first? And what does a (white) man see? Simply a person?

In these few exchanges, some of the themes can be perceived that were to characterize the debate in the ensuing forty years are already in play – the concept of intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989) for instance, but also the neutrality of the masculine (Bourdieu 1998). But perhaps one of the aspects that most struck our imagination here at AG is a sentence in which the author stresses that “forty years ago, there were no women’s studies courses in colleges or universities, no women’s studies lists at university presses across the country.” Forty years ago. How can one not think, by contrast, of the vacuum still that exists in the Italian academy? How can one not reflect on our delay?

The delay certainly does not concern scientific production, we publish many many papers and they are of very high quality. But rather, there is still so little visibility of feminist debate. It remains poorly institutionalized and hardly accessible to young scholars not already within the appropriate networks – as well as the fields of knowledge. Very briefly, and therefore not exhaustively, the vacuum in feminist debate in the
Italian academy can be connected particularly to three dimensions: a widespread sense of uneasiness, especially among the younger generations in relation to feminisms. People tend to distance themselves from feminist scholarship pre-emptively. Second, Men’s studies have only recently been introduced. Finally, we have seen a timid and late opening of LGBTQI scholarship, still perceived as marginal. The distance from feminisms very often seems to concern what the concept feminism evokes in imagination, rather than critical reflection on the positions expressed by a given line of thought. The very word “feminism” produces uneasiness in the new generations, perhaps an outcome of backlash (Falaudi 1991). The media – press, television, films – and political speeches show deeply ‘antifeminist’ and hostile to female autonomy in life choices representations of women, that include vulgar and strident use of women’s bodies (Zanardo 2010) – bodies exhibited, humiliated, violated, cut up into pieces – accompanied by a silent but systematic process of repression of memory and demonization of feminist movements. On the other hand it is not clear how young women/men can take up a critical stance towards feminist thought, when access to the thinkers that matter is not contemplated by the mainstreaming processes of formation.

Thus there are many differences compared to feminist academic experiences the North America and elsewhere, exists in the: gender distribution of scholars. Gender studies in Italy has long been reductively read as synonymous with studies on women, and historically it is women that have dealt with gender. After all, the masculine, in the prevailing symbolic dominion, has no gender, it is neutral (Bourdieu 1998), since, being dominant, it needs no explanation (Jacose 1996). So why should genderless subjects ever have dealt with gender? But over Women’s studies has allowed the masculine to recognize itself and name itself, and some men, in Italy too, have approached Gender studies. Gender studies, however, remain a female-dominated field – which would explain their scarce institutional importance.

In the case of LGBTQI studies, the delays are even more evident, as academic resistances are strong and explicit. Throughout the nineties, Italian sociology, for instance, never dealt with homosexuality (Abbatecola 2002 and 2008) and, as Silvia Antosa denounces in an unequivocal way, still today “penetrating into queer critical territory means first of all arming oneself with patience and starting abroad” (2011, p. 25).

Feminisms are not much debated in the mainstream. Men’s studies are still in a minority, though welcomed and appreciated; LGBTQI studies as social, conceptual and narrative outliers. This is the state of Italian feminism that we lived as we decided to set out to imagine AG-AboutGender as a space to be made available, in which there could converge the reflections and the many forms of knowledge that are produced on genders, for the purpose of recognizing and exploring their cultural specificities.

The AG project has produced enthusiasm exceeding all expectation and, around this initiative, strength and energy have merged creating collaborations. When we began to talk about how we imagined this journal, we discussed at length the format we hoped for, and the structure. To understand what we wanted and what we didn’t want, we discussed things and thought about the styles and contents of the numerous international periodicals that deal with gender. The discussions always led us to converge particularly on one point: going beyond boundaries regarding discipline, theory and concepts to construct forms of knowledge and reflections. (continued on page 39)
For this reason, AG was born as a journal characterized by an interdisciplinary agenda which values dialogue between different interpretative approaches and analytical perspectives. Its aim is to promote an international debate based on the sharing of some specific objectives:

- gathering and furthering scholarship to build a fruitful debate on Feminist and Gender Studies;
- spreading a gender culture that could combine historic memory and interpretative innovation;
- fostering intergenerational dialogue and valuing young researchers’ contributions;
- promoting the development and diffusion of as yet underexplored trends within our cultural and academic context, such as LGBTQI and Men Studies.

Therefore, AG adopts a perspective of permanent dialogue and confrontation, favouring openness and diversity.

AG is published every six months in Italian and English and includes theoretical and empirical original articles, essays and papers. Besides articles, reviews of national and international publications, research papers and doctoral theses presentations are welcomed, so as to stimulate an ever updated debate about current studies, involving younger generations.

More specifically, About Gender consists of seven sections: a) Editorial, that is drawn up by those who edit the journal issue, even when there is no thematic call; b) Thematic Articles, that answer an open call from the editors, so in order to submit a contribution in this area it is necessary to follow all guidelines given in the call itself; c) Open Section, which accommodates any contributions freely sent to the editors outside the thematic calls. All such articles undergo a blind peer review process; d) Round Table, which is a chaired forum about themes that relate to the central topics of the monographic issues or to relevant current questions; its purpose is to get different points of view to engage in a dialogue, comparing a variety of disciplinary perspectives; e) Portraits, which is a space devoted to the depiction of characters to be remembered, celebrated and valorized because of their contribution to gender-related issues; people whose value and work in this field have not always been recognized; f) Work in Progress, devoted to the abstracts of gender-oriented BA Honours, Master’s or Ph.D. dissertation/theses, independently of their specific topics. The main objective of this section is to give visibility to those students who have developed their degree theses and research projects adopting theoretical perspectives and approaches connected with the construction of social gender; g) Reviews, which includes short reviews of national and international publications, selected by the editorial board, depending on the scientific level of the publications and on their relevance with respect to the aims and contents of the journal.

With regards to publishing policy, AG accepts contributions, both in Italian and in English, that are selected through a double blind peer review process.

Until now, AG has provided readers with free access to all published content, because we believe that to make scholarly and scientific content openly available on the Internet is a way to improve knowledge exchange on a global level.

Emanuela Abbatecola, Editor, & Isabel Fanlo Cortés, Luisa Stagi, Co-Editors, University of Genova, Italy
Programs of The Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion:

www.uccs.edu/matrix

The 15th Annual White Privilege Conference: March 26-29, 2014 in Madison, WI.

The WPC has become a venue for fostering difficult and critical dialogues around white privilege, diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social & economic justice, and intersecting systems of privilege and oppression. The conference is unique in its ability to bring together over 2000 participants including students, youth, teachers, university faculty, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, and members of both the spiritual community and corporate arena (from across the nation and beyond). Issues of race, addressed from a comprehensive, intersectional perspective, bring in dynamics of gender/gender identity, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, ability and class. Features: High School Youth Leadership Conference; Day-long, Pre-Conference Institutes on Wednesday, and other Institute options on Saturday; Film Series; More than 100 concurrent workshops; Caucuses for: People of Color, White Anti-Racist Activists and support groups; Undergraduate, graduate credit in Sociology or education available; Continuing Education units available.

Keynotes: Jacqueline Battalora, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Saint Xavier University; Daniel Beaty, Award-winning Actor, Singer and Writer; Rosa Clemente, Community organizer, independent journalist, and hip-hop activist; Joe Feagin, Professor of Sociology at Texas A&M

The Knapsack Institute: June 12-14, 2014 in Colorado Springs

The KI supports educators across the nation as they create curriculum and pedagogy to build inclusive classrooms and organizations. The KI provides participants at the beginning and intermediate stages of their journey with a framework for teaching about the matrix of privilege and oppression. Participants spend three intensive days in an intimate setting with a team of highly trained and skilled facilitators.

The Knapsack Institute is a forum for sharing ideas and strategies emphasizing pedagogical approaches to teaching diversity and creating inclusive learning environments. The KI provides professional growth and development, including CEUs & academic credits; mentoring and leadership development; hands-on activities, tools and practices that can be replicated to build inclusive classrooms; strategies for dealing with resistance; tools for creating institutional change on campus and resources and networking opportunities to support on-going change.

Journal: Understanding and Dismantling Privilege:

Online, open access, peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal focusing on the intersectional aspects of privilege, bridging academia and practice, highlighting activism, and offering a forum for creative introspection on issues of inequity, power and privilege. Sign on as a reviewer, and/or submit your work to one of four sections: research, tools and strategies, personal reflection, and youth voices. www.wpcjournal.com

For more information about these items, contact Abby L. Ferber at aferber@uccs.edu.
West Virginia State University: College of Business and Social Sciences
(In collaboration with the National Center for Human Relations)

21st CENTURY AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THEORY AND PRACTICE

Call for Papers
April 10-12, 2014
Institute, West Virginia

WVSU's College of Business and Social Sciences, in collaboration with the National Center for Human Relations, is requesting student poster proposal submissions for the Human Rights Conference scheduled for April 10-12, 2014. Students are encouraged to submit their proposals for consideration by January 15, 2014.

The conference will focus on “21st Century Agenda for Human Rights Theory and Practice.” Interdisciplinary abstracts, papers, presentations, posters, roundtables, workshops and panels that directly or indirectly address the conference theme are eligible for submission.

Potential topics include the following:

- Business compassion
- Economic, social, and cultural freedom
- Interfaith relations
- Human trafficking
- Poverty and economic equality
- Immigration
- Race relations
- Social justice
- International relations
- Human rights legislation
- Violence against women and children
- Human rights and globalization

To submit an abstract, please email darthur2@wvstateu.edu or sde@wvstateu.edu. Students should consult with their academic advisor or upper-division course instructor about which topic matches their academic interests.

Poster Competition Judging:

Each poster will be judged by a panel of conference track chairs. There will be 3 prizes awarded to graduate student posters and 3 prizes awarded to undergraduate posters. Presenting a poster at the Human Rights Conference is a perfect opportunity for students to hone their communication skills and network with their future colleagues.

If you have any questions about the process or submitting an abstract please contact:
Suvayan De, Ph.D. or C. Damien Arthur, Ph.D.
Undergraduate Student Poster Coordinators
WVSU’s College of Business and Social Sciences
1st Floor Hill Hall
darthur2@wvstateu.edu or sde@wvstateu.edu
Phone: 304-766-3180

Each accepted poster must fit into a space of 4 feet by 4 feet. Students are responsible for printing their own posters. The following links will give some examples:

https://phdposters.com/prices.php#prices
http://www.scientificposterprint.com/

It is with great honor that I’m passing the torch down to Sancha Mewinter, our newly-appointed student representative. In these two years as student representative, I had the opportunity to learn a lot in many different areas. First, my experience as part of the SWS council was an extraordinary opportunity to learn the operational structure of an organization such as SWS, particularly, I am so grateful to the level of comradeship from all council members. Second, I had the opportunity to expand my professional networks through the coordination of events such as Breakfast with Scholars and roundtables co-sponsored with ABS during the summer meetings. Last but not least, I had the opportunity to meet great scholars who became very supportive through the last two years of graduate school. I am very grateful to Bandana Purkayastha, Patricia Yancey Martin, Tracy Ore, Joya Misra, and Tiffany Taylor, and all other SWS members who became a fantastic second family to me. Special thanks to Denise Segura who not only introduced me to SWS but most importantly who thought that I would be a good fit to serve as student representative in 2011.

Also I want to take this opportunity to invite all graduate students to what has already become a well-established tradition during our winter meeting, our Breakfast with Scholar event. This event came out as student initiative discussed at the SCC meeting during the 2011 winter meeting in San Antonio, TX. The first BWS was held on 2012 in St Petersburg, FL. This event is aimed to provide an opportunity to graduate students to have breakfast and informal conversation with esteemed scholars in a variety of research areas of interest. In the following month, Sancha will make an invitation to those students who might be interested in participating in this event. For these roundtables, students do not need to submit papers as the aim of this event is not to provide one-to-one mentorship but rather it is an opportunity for student to engage in a more intimate conversation with esteemed scholars.
Announcements, Celebrations, Accomplishments, and More!

Jenny Korn, scholar of race, gender, and online identity, spoke to National Public Radio (NPR) on Twitter reaction to the first Asian American Miss America in September. If you are going to the National Communication Association conference or the Rhetoric Society of America conference, please feel free to contact Jenny Korn. She would love to grab coffee with you.


Mary Virnoche, Humboldt State University, was elected as the Pacific Sociological Association Vice-President Elect. Veronica Montes joined the University of Southern California as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in a joint position with the USC Department of Sociology and with the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration this fall.

Welcome New SWS Chapters!!

Since the Summer Meetings, several new chapters of SWS have been founded. The SWS Membership Committee would like to officially welcome our First International Chapter, SWS Canada (Calgary) and the following local chapters: California- CSU-Fullerton and Tennessee: University of Memphias and Vanderbilt University. We are excited that these chapters have been established to build and foster relationships among scholars and activists who reside in these areas. We encourage the new chapters to hold events and look forward to learning about your activities in the coming year.

Thank you to our existing local and regional chapters for all of your hard work and dedication to the mission and goals of SWS National. Please continue to send updates to Network News in order for us to learn more about the activities and events that you sponsor in your local communities and around the country.

If you are interested in developing a space for intellectual exchange, mentoring, networking and doing more for women in society, we invite you to consider establishing a SWS Local or Regional Chapter. For more information e-mail: Kecia Johnson: kjohnsonlists@gmail.com
Assistant Professor - Technology and Social Change

The Department of Sociology at St. Lawrence University invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor to begin August 2014. We seek an individual with primary teaching and research interests in the Sociology of Technology and Social Change. Teaching load is 3 courses per semester. Regular contribution to the department’s introductory level courses is expected as is the teaching of capstone seminars in rotation with other department faculty and regular contributions of elective courses that serve majors, minors, and the general student body. Opportunities also exist to collaborate with and mentor student research. Department aims and goals include encouraging the development of the “sociological imagination” in students, the teaching of skills to articulate this, and providing opportunities for students to engage in praxis. There is opportunity to participate in the university’s interdisciplinary First Year Program and to contribute to the university’s area studies programs. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed the Ph.D. by the time of appointment.

St. Lawrence University provides a dynamic liberal arts environment and strong support for teaching and research interests. Applicants should also demonstrate excellence in teaching, active scholarship, and a strong commitment to undergraduate education at a liberal arts college.

St. Lawrence University is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and diversity. The promotion of such a commitment ensures an atmosphere that is diverse and complex in ways that are intellectually and socially enriching for the entire campus community. Recent incoming classes at St. Lawrence consist of 25 percent US students of color or international students. About 18 percent of each class receives Pell grants. We seek candidates from under-represented groups and/or those who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through their research, teaching, and/or service. St. Lawrence University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interested candidates should submit, electronically, a current CV, a detailed statement of teaching philosophy in a liberal arts setting, three letters of reference, and any supporting documents (syllabi, student evaluations of teaching, samples of scholarship, etc.) to Leah Rohlfsen, Search Committee Chair, at lrohflsen@stlawu.edu. Review of applications begins January 13, 2014 and will continue until the position is filled.

For additional information about St. Lawrence, please visit SLU’s homepage at http://www.stlawu.edu. St. Lawrence University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

All offers of employment are subject to the applicant successfully passing a background (including criminal records) check.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona - Tucson</td>
<td>Cindy Cain</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ccain@u.arizona.edu">ccain@u.arizona.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melissa Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mswright@u.arizona.edu">mswright@u.arizona.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Bay Area</td>
<td>Katrina Kimport</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu">kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State Univ - Fullerton</td>
<td>Jessica Moronez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jcmonoroez@csu.fullerton.edu">jcmonoroez@csu.fullerton.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida - Tallahassee</td>
<td>Melissa Bamford</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mbamford@fsu.edu">mbamford@fsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anne Barrett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abarrett@fsu.edu">abarrett@fsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>In need of leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa - Iowa State University</td>
<td>Anastasia Prokos</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aprokos@iastate.edu">aprokos@iastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan - MSU, Lansing</td>
<td>Stephanie Nawyn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nawyn@msu.edu">nawyn@msu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota - Univ of Minnesota</td>
<td>Teresa Swartz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tswartz@umn.edu">tswartz@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada: UNLV</td>
<td>Jennifer Keene</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ikeene@unlv.nevada.edu">ikeene@unlv.nevada.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio - University of Akron</td>
<td>Kathy Feltey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:felteyk@uakron.edu">felteyk@uakron.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio - Kent State University</td>
<td>Tiffany Taylor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ttaylo36@kent.edu">ttaylo36@kent.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
<td>In need of leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina - Southeastern</td>
<td>Jean Anne Sutherland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sutherlandj@uncw.edu">sutherlandj@uncw.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Memphis</td>
<td>Brittany Campagna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bckmpgna@memphis.edu">bckmpgna@memphis.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina</td>
<td>In need of leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>Anna W. Jacobs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna.w.jacobs@vanderbilt.edu">anna.w.jacobs@vanderbilt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS Calgary</td>
<td>Lucy Taylor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:luciataylor79@yahoo.ca">luciataylor79@yahoo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS - Midwest</td>
<td>Sue Wortmann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swortmann2@gmail.com">swortmann2@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS - East</td>
<td>Laura West Steck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lsteck@ycp.edu">lsteck@ycp.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS - South</td>
<td>Shannon Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sdaviso@gmu.edu">sdaviso@gmu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS - NCSA</td>
<td>Kathy Feltey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:felteyk@uakron.edu">felteyk@uakron.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWS - West</td>
<td>In need of leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past-President</td>
<td>Patricia Yancey Martin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pmartin@fasu.edu">pmartin@fasu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Bandana Purkayastha</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bandana.swspresident@gmail.com">bandana.swspresident@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Mary Bernstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.bernstein@uconn.edu">mary.bernstein@uconn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Treasurer</td>
<td>Kristen Myers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmyers@niu.edu">kmyers@niu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Wanda Rushing</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Wandarushing.treasurer.sws@gmail.com">Wandarushing.treasurer.sws@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer-Elect</td>
<td>Sharon Bird</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sbird@iastate.edu">sbird@iastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Officer</td>
<td>Joey Sprague</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swseo@ku.edu">swseo@ku.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Tiffany Taylor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ttaylo36@kent.edu">ttaylo36@kent.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Trina Smith</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smit1603@umn.edu">smit1603@umn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Representative</td>
<td>Veronica Montes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veronicamontes@umail.ucsb.edu">veronicamontes@umail.ucsb.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All the above are the members of Executive Council*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Editor</th>
<th>Joya Misra</th>
<th><a href="mailto:gendsoc@soc.umass.edu">gendsoc@soc.umass.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Network News Editor</td>
<td>Angela Lewellyn Jones</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ajones5@elon.edu">ajones5@elon.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>Wendy Christensen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christensenw@wpunj.edu">christensenw@wpunj.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A list of current committee chairs is available on the www.socwomen.org website.
If you are interested in contributing material for upcoming issues of Network News, please be aware of the publication schedule listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Submission Deadline</th>
<th>Mailed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Issue:</td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Issue:</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Issue:</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Issue:</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I welcome all submissions, and would love to highlight the achievements and scholarship of our members. Pictures are always a nice addition, too. If you send me pictures, please note who is in the image, so that I can include a caption. Thanks for your contributions that help create a great Network News!

Angela Lewellyn Jones
ajones5@elon.edu