

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT SAN DIEGO
CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2001
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Critical Gender Studies Program 2000-2001
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<http://www-muir.ucsd.edu/instructional/critical-gender/index.html>

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Rosemary George, Literature
Steve Epstein, Sociology
Yen Espiritu, Ethnic Studies
Ellen Seiter, Communication
Stephanie Smallwod, History
Trudy LaDue, Administrative Officer
Nancy Hatch

FACULTY DIRECTOR MESSAGE

I am delighted to announce that the Critical Gender Studies Program has just submitted an ambitious "Charting the Course" (three year plan) document to the UCSD administration that should very significantly improve our program's course offerings and staff support over the next few years. This spring, we bring you three popular and dynamic courses that represent the range of gender issues covered in our program: gender, war, and militarism; sexual identities, subcultures, fan cultures, youth cultures; legal treatment of reproductive rights. Next year, CGS will offer our most expansive set of course offerings yet : over and above our core curriculum, we will offer courses on feminist theory; masculinities; queer theory; women and sports; and on comparative perspectives on gender.

In Fall 2001, I will be teaching CGS 190, the honors seminar. I strongly urge those CGS majors who qualify (or would like to petition to qualify) for the honors program next year to come speak with me this quarter or next quarter. Doing an honors thesis can be the most meaningful academic work that you do as an undergraduate. It reflects positively on your maturity as a scholar, intellectual curiosity, ability to think critically-- all impressive attributes to have as you step out into the real world or apply to graduate school. So if you are considering doing an honors thesis, come discuss it with me. I can be reached at rmgeorge@ucsd.edu

Please take note of the exciting events planned for CGS majors and all UCSD undergraduates this quarter and in the spring. I would like to invite you to participate in the conference organized by a group of CGS majors who have gathered under the label W.I.S.C. (Women Incite Social Change) at the Price Center on April 11th , 2001. This conference, titled "Exploring "Feminine" Bodies," will feature UCSD faculty and students and should lead to spirited discussion and debate. Or keep an eye out for announcements for our highly successful CGS Film Screening and Discussion Series. Join us.

Rosemary Marangoly George

CGS SPRING QUARTER COURSES

(The QUARTERLY LIST of applicable/petitionable departmental courses will be available in the CGS office and at our website beginning February 12.)

CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES 2B INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES: GENDER AND INSTITUTIONS/GENDER, WAR, MILITARISM

LISA YONEYAMA, DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

Lecture T, Th 3:55-5:15

Section: W 11:15-12:05

W 12:20-1:10

The course examines the dimensions of gender, race, sexuality, nationalism and colonialism that have shaped the histories and representations of wars, the military institutions and cultures of militarism.

CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES 105 QUEER THEORY/ GENDER AND SUBCULTURES

JUDITH HALBERSTAM, DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

Lecture: W 4:40-7:30

In this course we will read widely in the theory of subcultures and examine the relations between gender and sexual identities and subcultural membership. While subcultures are most often theorized in relation to young white males, we will look at subcultures, fan cultures and youth cultures which are female and/or queer.

CRITICAL GENDER STUDIES 107 GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

LORI CHAMBERLAIN, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION AND POLICY

Lecture: T, Th 9:35-10:55

Explores the legal treatment of gender, reproductive rights, and the family, particularly as evolving law has created conflicting rights, roles, and responsibilities. Topics may include abortion, fetal rights, surrogacy, marriage and child custody.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CGS Film Screening and Discussion Series will feature "NOT ONE LESS" dir. Zhang Yimou, 1999. With Discussion led by Hellen Lee, Graduate Student, Literature Dept., UCSD. At the Women's Center. On Wednesday February 28th, At 6 pm. Snacks served.

Exploring "Feminine" Bodies: A feminist conference organized by W.I.S.C. [Women Incite Social Change] April 11th, 2001. Price Center, UCSD. Featuring Prof. Judith Halberstam as Keynote Speaker. Detailed program to be announced.

SUMMER WORK OPPORTUNITY

Representatives of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, New York are hoping that UCSD students will be interested in becoming involved in the Center's outreach opportunities, perhaps as counselors for high school students in the Girls Leadership Workshops held each summer. Information is available in the CGS office, 2073 HSS.

HONORS PROGRAM

Participation in the honors program is highly recommended for those students who are considering graduate school or other forms of postgraduate work in which research is involved. To be eligible for the program, a student should be a WS/CGS major and have senior standing by Fall Quarter 2001 with a 3.5 grade-point average in the major's upper division courses. Interested and committed students who do not quite meet the grade requirement may be admitted at the discretion of the Critical Gender Studies Steering Committee.

Preparation begins during Fall Quarter in Critical Gender Studies 190, an honors seminar, and in CGS 196A, through which students research and identify thesis topics and find thesis directors. Work continues in Winter Quarter's CGS 196B: the production of the thesis itself. At graduation the identification of their Critical Gender Studies majors on diplomas and transcripts will include the notation "with distinction." Students interested in entering the program or learning more about it should see CGS director Rosemary George or Nancy Hatch (2073 HSS).

GRADUATING MAJORS

Each spring we honor our graduating majors at a luncheon at the Faculty Club. If you plan to graduate after Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall Quarters, please get in touch with Nancy Hatch as soon as possible.

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

The Pacific Southwest Women's Studies Association solicits proposals for workshops, panels, or presentations from women and men who are students, teachers or staff or friends of women's studies. The conference will take place at San Diego State University on Saturday, April 21st. Information can be found at: <http://www.pswsa.org/>

Submit proposals to:

Women's Studies Department
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-8138
or call Professor Susan Cayleff, 619-594-5943
Deadline: Thursday, February 15, 2001

CALL FOR PAPER

Call for papers for proposed panels on intersections of the Social Sciences and the Arts/Humanities, to be held at "(Dis) Junctions," UC Riverside's 8th Annual Humanities Conference on April 5, 6, and 7.

Papers may address a broad range of topics involving intersections or relations between the social sciences and the arts and humanities.

Possible panel topics include:

- *Anthropology of dreams, storytelling, and rituals
- *Pseudoevolutionary theories (or evolution) in literature and/or society
- *Imperialist race theory in European society and/or literature
- *Aspects of the social sciences in film (for example, the historical accuracy of films such as *Braveheart*)
- *The information age and its effects on literature and the arts
- *Gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender issues, or gender issues (any culture or era)
- *Historical or political approaches to literature
- *Literary approaches to history or politics
- *Ethnic images in art, literature, or film
- *Period studies of specific forms of the visual or performing arts

For conference information, please visit the conference web address:

<http://www.geocities.com/disjunctions>

One-page abstracts should be e-mailed to bkjones@citrus.ucr.edu (text should be in the body of the message; no attachments, please) by Monday, February 15, 2001.

Abstracts sent by regular mail should be addressed to:

(Dis)Junctions Conference Committee
Department of English
UC Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521-0323

ALUMNAE NEWS

1993 marked the first year that UCSD students graduated with a major in Women's Studies. To satisfy our curiosity about how our graduates have fared, recently we sent out inquiries. The voluminous and interesting responses have been gratifying. One is included here, and future issues will offer more.

DEBORAH JAMES:

After I graduated in Spring of 1993, I moved to the Bay Area in search of a more progressive community. I realized that I had made a mistake however, because none of the community based contacts I had built up from various internships and political work transferred from one city to the other. Eventually I was able to get an entry-level position at Global Exchange, a San Francisco-based human rights organization. Although I didn't study much international politics at UCSD, I found that my well-rounded political education through my Women's Studies degree prepared me to do the independent study necessary to move ahead in my job.

Three years later I became the Director of the Fair Trade Department, which is my current position. I have been active in anti-sweatshop campaigns including those against Nike and the GAP, and in the Seattle protests against the WTO. I participate regularly in the strategic planning of all of the Economic Rights campaigns of Global Exchange as well as the organization as a whole. My primary work is to coordinate a national campaign to promote Fair Trade coffee, which means a living wage for coffee farmers. Our most dramatic effort included the successful pressuring of Starbucks to carry Fair Trade coffee in all their stores nationwide, which they began doing October 4.

Additionally, I got involved with solidarity work around Cuba, and developed a particular interest in women and gender in Cuba. I lived in Cuba twice for four months each time to both become fluent in Spanish and to lead delegations for Global Exchange. Because of this work, I was asked to serve on the Board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, an 85 year old women's peace organization. And I have continued my studies a little, having taken several graduate classes at SFSU, including both Women's Studies and international political economy. I presented my work on Women in Cuba at the 1998 National Women's Studies Association conference.

I have found my Women's Studies degree to be useful in that it was multi-disciplinary and gave me a feel for various useful paradigms for approaching study of the world and its inhabitants. In retrospect, it prepared me to learn how to be a professional campaigner, but didn't actually teach me the campaigning skills I needed, which might be appropriate considering it's an academic degree rather than a training institute....

One of the major lessons of working in an NGO has been the disconnection between academia and the activist world. I have found that undergraduates and graduates alike seek out those active in changing the world to interview us, write articles on us, and never return their documents to the benefit of the movement. I have found that many people believe that the idea that studying and writing is political means that they don't have to do any community social change work. Universities have deep and profound resources that could be available to students that could frame research topics that movements for social and economic justice could actually use. NGOs do not have the capacity to do very much original research. It's not that students should write theses that agree with our campaigns, but to try to ensure that a research protocol is developed in a way that an NGO can actually put the research to work in a way that benefits the community. This is something I have prioritized in the Fair Trade coffee campaign; finding grad students doing theses on Fair Trade, and getting them to research issues about which coffee cooperatives have identified that they need information.