

Director's Message *by Alice Echols*

The faculty and staff of the Gender Studies Program and the Center for Feminist Research are just now catching their collective breath after two very busy semesters! The year began well with the news that the American Sociological Association had just announced that our own Michael Messner had been awarded the prestigious Jessie Bernard Award. There is no higher honor for a scholar of gender studies in Sociology, so kudos to Mike!

The first half of the academic year was crammed full of lectures and listening parties by faculty involved in Professor Karen Tongson's New Directions in Feminist Research seminar, "Gender, Race, Sexuality and the Politics of Popular Music." Fall semester also marked the re-launching of an old favorite, CFR's Noontime Lectures Series, with absorbing presentations by Dr. Jeff Solomon of USC English and Eileen Boris of UC Santa Barbara's Feminist Studies Department.

Spring semester witnessed an acceleration of activity with February's groundbreaking conference on human trafficking, which was organized by Professor Rhacel Parreñas of Sociology, with assistance from me. From Prosecution to Empowerment was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), the Sociology Department, and CFR. It drew a large audience that came away with a greater appreciation of the complexities of trafficking, the importance of listening to the people who are the objects of "rescue," and understanding the dialectic of choice and necessity that informs their lives. As speak-

ers noted, both popular and official depictions of trafficking routinely disallow victims' sexual knowledge and experience, and their own calculations, their own agency, say, to move away from home or make more money. All of this has meant that anti-trafficking efforts--even though well intended--can end up punishing the very people they were designed to help. This was beautifully illustrated in the staged reading of Erin Kamler's hard-hitting "Survive," a musical that opened the conference. Conference speakers also emphasized what is often absent from sensationalistic accounts of trafficking, that is, the very real structural factors that contribute to trafficking, particularly the fallout from globalization.

Less than three weeks after the conference on trafficking, CFR co-hosted an event with the English Department honoring one of the country's most significant scholars of gender, our own Tania Modleski. The symposium, "Writing with a Vengeance: The Legacies of Tania Modleski's *Loving With a Vengeance* and *The Women Who Knew Too Much*," featured Lynn Spigel, the Frances Willard Professor of Screen Cultures at Northwestern University; Victoria Johnson, Associate Professor of Film and Media Stud-



Tania Modleski

ies at the University of California, Irvine; Kara Keeling, Associate Professor of Critical Studies and American Studies at USC; Susan McCabe, Professor of English; and our esteemed colleague Tania Modleski, the Florence R. Scott Professor of English at USC. The event marked the 30th anniversary of the publication of *Loving With a Vengeance* and the 25th anniversary of the publication of *The Women Who Knew Too Much*. Before a full audience, and in a wide-ranging discussion, panelists discussed the field-changing quality of Professor Modleski's work.



*Lynn Spigel, Kara Keeling,
and Victoria Johnson*

Inside this issue

- 2 - Faculty updates
- 3 - Messner award
- 4 - New Directions seminar 2012-13
- 6 - A farewell to Gloria Orenstein
Streisand Professor Lecture Series
- 7 - Noontime Lecture Series
- 8 - Students in the community
- 10 - Welcome Allison Miller
- 11 - Gender Studies graduates
- CFR and Gender Studies online

Feminist Flashback

It wasn't until 1993 that all 50 U.S. states criminalized at least some form of marital rape. Some states continue to treat marital rape differently than non-marital rape, requiring higher standards, allowing shorter reporting periods, imposing lesser penalties, or excluding cases of "non-violent" coercion.

cont. on page 11...

Gender Studies Faculty Updates

Diana Blaine: Writing Program, Gender Studies

Diana Blaine has been very busy this year. In September, she spoke at a Queer and Ally Student Assembly event, examining queer vs. gay identity. She appeared on Trojan Vision in October as a featured guest for the Wednesday talk show "The Toast." Blaine was interviewed about her scholarship on representations of dead women. She was also interviewed for a Global Girl Media news feature on Body Image and Rape Culture last fall. In February, she did an interview for the documentary "After the End: A Documentary about Loss." Blaine then spoke on representations of dead women in advertising at the Center for Women & Men's women's leadership retreat in Malibu in March. In April, she moderated a panel at the Undergraduate Writers Conference. Most recently, Diana appeared as panelist on Advice and Assent: A Program to Mentor NTT Faculty and was re-elected to the Executive Board of the Academic Senate for the upcoming year.

Spring saw Dr. Blaine teach a new course she designed, Fatal Fantasies, which examines mainstream death narratives. Blaine argues that we channel death through six categories: forensic, sentimental, heroic, mystical, monstrous, and erotic, each of which is highly gendered, none of which represents death as natural. Blaine has also been working with a student on a conference paper for PAMLA in San Diego next November. In the paper, the co-authors compare the purported martyrdom of Cassie Bernall, Columbine victim, with Bella Swan, heroine of Twilight. Both flirt with vampires; both end up undead.

Alice Echols: English, Gender Studies, History

When she wasn't teaching or doing "admin," Alice Echols was writing and speaking about popular music, the political radicalism of the Sixties, and her current book project about a Depression-era banking scandal in Colorado. She contributed an essay to n+1, which devoted an issue to the legendary thinker/activist Shulamith Firestone, who died earlier this year. She also spoke about Firestone and the politics of the new left and women's liberation at the University of Michigan's conference, "A New Insurgency: The Port Huron Statement in Its Time and Ours." She took part in a senior scholars' panel at the annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music in Austin, Texas. She spoke about disco in the context of movements and music at Lehigh University this spring, and gave several interviews, including one broadcast on NPR, on the occasion of Donna Summer's death. Finally, Echols also won the 2012 GE Teaching Award in Category V.

Ange-Marie Hancock: Political Science, Gender Studies

Ange-Marie Hancock was awarded an ASHSS (Advancing Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences) sabbatical for Fall 2013. She also appeared on "The Melissa Harris Perry Show" to discuss rape culture, NBA player Jason Collins' coming out and public shaming of senators.

Katie Hasson: Sociology, Gender Studies

Katie Hasson had two articles that published in the fall: "From Bodies to Lives, Complainers to Consumers: Measuring Menstrual Excess" in Social Science and Medicine, and "Making Appropriation 'Stick': Stabilizing Politics in an 'Inherently Feminist' Tool" in Social Studies of Science. At the NWSA annual meeting last fall, Hasson was on the "author meets critics" panel for Chikako Takeshita's book *The Global*

Politics of the IUD: How Science Constructs Contraceptive Users and Women's Bodies. In March, she did a presentation as part of the Gender Studies & Center for Feminist Research noontime lecture series. This summer she will present at the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research, Somatechnics International Conference, and the American Sociological Association annual meeting. Next fall Hasson will be teaching two new courses: a graduate seminar on the sociology of gender and sexuality and an undergraduate class (with Megan Carroll) on LGBT families titled "Reinventing the Family: Beyond the New Normal." Dr. Hasson is also a member of next year's New Directions in Feminist Research seminar, which will be led by Rhacel Parreñas.

Joseph Hawkins: Anthropology, Gender Studies; Director, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

Joseph Hawkins has a new book contract with U. Hawaii Press for his Naked Festival book tentatively called *Sacred Striptease: A Rite of Renewal and Plenty*. ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives continues to flourish under Joseph's direction and recently received a Council on Library and Information Resources grant for two years (and in cooperation with the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society) for \$203,000. ONE also received a National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant (2 years) for \$133,000 and a Grammy Grant to preserve tapes of ONE's Mid-winter Conference Series from 1955-60, for \$10,000. Dr. Hawkins is the Principle Investigator on the first two, and Loni Shibuyama is Principle Investigator on the Grammy Grant. ONE will be putting on two Visions and Voices Events next year in a series called Queer in the Other Europe.

Chaitanya Lakkimsetti: Gender Studies, Center for Feminist Research, Sociology

Our Mellon Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, developed a new senior seminar on "Intimate Work and Intimate Lives" this year. In the spring, she presented her work at Harvard University and at a special presidential panel on sex work at the Pacific Sociology Association Conference. Lakkimsetti also participated in the "Intimate Industries in Asia Workshop" and developed a paper "From Bars to Streets: Moral Dispossession and Eviction in Mumbai." Her article, "HIV is Our Friend": Prostitution, Power and State in Post-colonial India," is forthcoming in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Additionally, Chaitanya is a member of next year's New Directions in Feminist Research seminar.

Mike Messner: Sociology, Gender Studies

Michael Messner (Sociology and Gender Studies) was given the Jessie Bernard Award from the American Sociological Association, a career honor in recognition of scholarly work that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to encompass fully the role of women in society. He was also given the article of the year award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, for his article, "Gender Ideologies, Youth Sports, and the Production of Soft Essentialism." Messner delivered the keynote address on the topic of men activists who work to stop gender-based violence for the Nordic Association for Research on Men and Masculinities, in Oslo, Norway, and for the Hawaii Sociological Association, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He also gave invited addresses at Boston College, Morehouse College, and The University of Nevada, Reno. Messner's new co-edited Rutgers University Press book series, "Critical Issues in Sport and Society," will publish its first volumes in 2013-14.

Karen Tongson: English, Gender Studies

In 2012-2013, Tongson was invited to deliver keynote and guest lectures at UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Scripps College, Carleton College, Macalester College, the University of Minnesota, and CUNY Staten Island, in addition to presenting at the American Studies Association Annual Conference in Puerto Rico and at the EMPLA. (Experience Music Project) Pop Music Conference at REDCAT. Tongson also spoke at the 11th Annual West Hollywood Book Fair and the 2013 Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. Her recent publications include an article on "Downton Abbey and the Fantasy of Structured Idleness" for Social Text's Periscope Dossier on "Work and Idleness in the Age of the Great Recession," and a feature article on "Filipino Working Musicians" for the debut issue of the Center for Art and Thought's online magazine. She completed two other articles this year that are scheduled to ap-

pear in print next year: one on "Apparatuses: Queer Karaoke and the Transnational Pop Repertoire" in *The Oxford Handbook on Queerness and Music* (Oxford UP), and the other on "The Queer Postmetropolis" for a volume on American Urbanism (Routledge). She continues to serve as the editor-in-chief for the quarterly *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, and the book series she edits for NYU Press, "Postmillennial Pop," has yielded five new titles this academic year. She directed the Center for Feminist Research New Directions in Feminist Research Seminar on "The Politics of Popular Music" and co-sponsored the EMPLA. Popular Music Conference, which brought together journalists, academics and musicians for a common dialogue about popular music at USC and REDCAT. Tongson also concluded her term as the Director of Graduate Placement for the Department of English in 2012-2013, as well as her tenure as events editor for the journal, *American Quarterly*.

Michael Messner Honored



Mike Messner with current & former students. From left to right: Chelsea Johnson (current USC Ph.D. student); Jeffrey Montez de Oca (University of Colorado, Colorado Springs); Faye Linda Wachs (Cal Poly Pomona, & current NASSS President); Messner; Cheryl Cooky (Purdue University); Michela Musto (current USC Ph.D. student); Jeff Sacha (current USC Ph.D. student).

Our colleague Michael Messner is the 2012 recipient of the American Sociological Association's prestigious Jessie Bernard Award. Given in recognition of scholarly work that has enlarged the horizons of sociology to fully encompass the role of women in society, the Jessie Bernard Award considers significant cumulative work done throughout a scholar's professional career. Within the discipline of sociology, it is the highest award that a gender studies scholar can receive. And it is much deserved. Professor Messner, the first man to receive this award, is among the best-known sociologists of gender and widely regarded as the leading figure in the study of gender and sports.

Much of Professor Messner's scholarship has been devoted to addressing a conundrum in the struggle for gender equality, one illustrated through the site of sports. Why is it that women's increased equality in every arena of sports has led to dramatic increases in participation at every level of sport, and yet failed to transform the public's relationship toward, and media coverage of, women's sports? Over the years, he has addressed all institutional levels of this quandary. *It's All for the Kids* (2009) focuses on women and men volunteer coaches of youth soccer leagues. *Power at Play: Sports and the Problem of Masculinity* (1992) assesses masculinities through the social

and physical hierarchies of sports. Both *Power at Play* and *Taking the Field: Women, Men, and Sports* (2002) won the Outstanding Book Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. He is the only scholar to have won this award twice.

Professor Messner has also focused on masculinities and contemporary men's movements. Examples include his 1997 book, *Politics of Masculinities: Men in Movements*, and his 2005 Signs article on the imagery of the "male loser" in beer and liquor ads shown at mega-sports events such as the Super Bowl. For years his writings have been central for feminist teaching; *Men's Lives*, published originally in 1989, has now gone through eight editions and remains one of the most widely used and valued feminist texts, very influential in interdisciplinary teaching on men and masculinity. His current research concerns the men who work with boys and men to prevent violence against women. Thus far, his research team has interviewed people ranging in age from 20 to 70.

Professor Messner's work also reaches beyond the academy; in addition to dozens of talks for community organizations, he has brought his expertise to the service of several community organizations, such as Children Now, a statewide child advocacy organization; the Women's Sports Foundation and the Men's Resource Center for Change, serving on Advisory Boards for both of these organizations; and the California Women's Law Center, for whom he served as an expert witness in a suit to provide equal recreation facilities for girls in L.A.

Professor Messner has received numerous professional recognitions. He has been President of the Pacific Sociological Association, President of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Chair of the Sex and Gender Section, the SWS Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, and a recipient of the Career of Distinguished Service Award by the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport. Named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Sports Educators by the Institute for International Sports, he has also served on the Editorial Boards of many key journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Gender & Society*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Men and Masculinities*, and the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*.

Those of us involved in the Gender Studies program and the Center for Feminist Research know Mike Messner as a passionate and committed teacher, whose effectiveness in the classroom has earned him several teaching awards. He is also a true trouper within the orbit of Gender Studies and CFR, having served as chair of the program and as director of our annual New Directions in Feminist Research seminar.

2012 - 2013 New Directions in Feminist Research Happenings

It was a pleasure and privilege to direct last year's Center for Feminist Research New Directions Seminar on "The Politics of Popular Music," with an impressive, interdisciplinary group of fellows: Edwin Hill (French & Italian, Comparative Literature), Kara Keeling (Critical Studies, American Studies and Ethnicity), Josh Kun (Annenberg, American Studies and Ethnicity), Shana Redmond (American Studies and Ethnicity), Mina Yang (Musicology) and Micha Cardenas (Interactive Media Arts Program). In addition to workshoping our respective research projects with one another on topics ranging from disaster relief anthems, to K-Pop, French hip-hop, music of the border and karaoke, we also hosted a range of public programs for undergraduates, graduate students and pop music aficionados in the greater Southern California region.

Partnering with the Popular Music Project at the Norman Lear Center in the Annenberg School for Communication (directed by Josh Kun) and USC Spectrum, we presented two listening parties in the fall during which we each presented our research through live DJ-sets and participatory storytelling. The first focused on "Love, Rage and other Emotions!" and included sets from Edwin Hill, Shana Redmond, Mina Yang and myself. The second program explored the vicissitudes of the term "Trans," and featured playlists from Micha Cardenas, Josh Kun, and a special guest from Rutgers and the popular music blog, Junebug vs. Hurricane, Taylor Black.

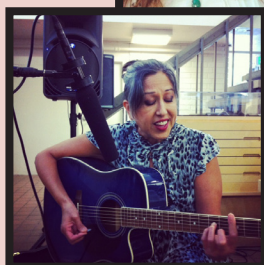
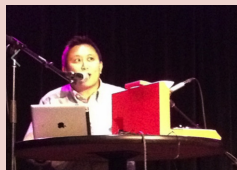
Our NDFRS on "The Politics of Popular Music" also hosted two other events curated for the public, and as extracurricular enhancements to my senior seminar in Gender Studies (SWMS 410) on the same topic. In October, L.A. punk legend Alice Bag came to USC and the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives to discuss her acclaimed memoir, *Violence Girl*, with Raquel Gutierrez (Butchlis de Panochtitlan, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts), and Nikki Darling, a writer and music and arts journalist based in Los Angeles who will be joining the USC Dornsife Ph.D. program in Creative Writing in fall 2013. In November, our Gender Studies colleague, J. Jack Halberstam, discussed his new book, *Gaga Feminism*, with scholars Uri McMillan from UCLA and

seminar fellow, Shana Redmond at the event, "Pop! Goes Feminism: Gaga, Minaj, Monae."

In the spring our efforts were focused on sharing our research within the seminar as well as co-hosting one of the most exciting pop music gatherings to come to Southern California in recent years: the Experience Music Project Pop Music Conference, aka EMP Pop Con. Over the last 10 years, the EMP Pop Con has become the most significant annual gathering of pop music scholars, journalists and artists in the country. This year, the Pop Con was a truly all-American enterprise, with five simultaneous gatherings in Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Cleveland and Seattle (the conference's original site). The theme for EMPLA. was "Locals Only: Pop and Politics in This Town," and the conference took place over the course of three days, in three different venues, throughout the City of Los Angeles.

In partnership with CalArts and the West Hollywood City Council, we hosted EMPLA.'s opening event and reception--*It All Dies Anyway: L.A., Jabberjaw and the End of an Era*--at the West Hollywood Public Library. This event featured authors, performers and musicians active in the independent music scene spawned by the all-ages venue Jabberjaw (1989-1997), formerly on Pico Blvd. in mid-city L.A. Moderated by musician Allison Wolfe (Bratmobile, Partyline, and a member of the EMPLA. planning committee), the panel featured: Michelle Carr, Jabberjaw co-founder and editor of the forthcoming anthology, *It All Dies Anyway: L.A., Jabberjaw and the End of an Era*; Raquel Gutierrez, a volume contributor and local performer, writer, community organizer and Jabberjaw-scenester; Eric Erlandson, a local writer, and co-founder of the band Hole with Courtney Love; and David Scott Stone, a local musician who was formerly a member of such bands as LCD Soundsystem and The Melvins. The reception was DJ'ed by Gabbie Strong of KCHUNG Radio.

CFR brought EMPLA. to our home turf on Friday, April 19, where we hosted four panels on topics as wide-ranging as the Long Beach music scene (which included members of the band Sublime), Black Queer Discos in Los Angeles, New Wave Pop, and Hair Metal. The final day of EMPLA., Saturday, April 20, was hosted in partnership with CalArts at REDCAT downtown, where female artists and musicians invited us to "Destroy More Monsters" before we listened closely to Kendrick Lamar's album, *good kid/m.A.A.d. city*, and went behind the scenes in the storied Krumpin' dance movement spawned in Los Angeles. EMPLA. closed with a rousing set of critical karaoke, featuring 11 writers, scholars and musicians from all over the country who had to present talks about particular songs for only the length of the song. An after-party was held at the Redwood Bar downtown, where conference participants and attendees were invited to DJ the open decks!





Immediately after EMPLA., CFR co-hosted one final event with the Annenberg School for Communication, featuring the legendary British journalist, feminist music critic and musician, Vivien Goldman. In her talk, "How Punk Freed Females," Goldman explored multiple generations of female punk activists while revealing the missing "transatlantic link"

in more contemporary punk movements.

As you can see from my recap and from some of the photographs documenting our various events, we had an incredibly active and productive year at CFR that reached well beyond our campus community. We generated national press coverage for EMPLA. while hosting some of the finest scholars and most prominent musicians and journalists working in and on popular music today--and I'm proud to say we did it all within budget, because we were able to partner creatively with other schools and organi-



zations not only across campus, but across the city of Los Angeles and (in the case of EMP) nationally. We thank the CFR Steering Committee and the Gender Studies faculty for supporting our projects this year and look forward to sharing the work we cultivated while we were a part of this year's group.

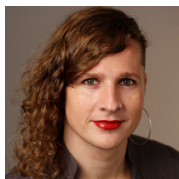


Images page 4: top right - J. Jack Halberstam; center top - Karen Tongson; center bottom - Josh Kun; lower left top - USC student La Tarrell Brown & Alice Bag; lower left middle - Nikki Darling, Raquel Gutierrez, Alice Bag; lower left bottom - Alice Bag; bottom right - EMPLA. opening night roundtable featuring (left to right) Allison Wolfe, Michelle Carr, Eric Erlandson, David Scott Stone, and Raquel Gutierrez.

Images page 5: top left - Erica Flores, Rock Camp for Girls; top right - Christopher "Lil C" Toler and Deidra "Krucial" Cooper-Jenkins; bottom - Kai Green, USC graduate student.

All photos courtesy of Karen Tongson.

2012 - 2013 New Directions in Feminist Research Seminar Members



Micha Cardenas, Ph.D. student in Interdivisional Media Arts and Practice (SCA). Her project, titled "Femme Disturbance," combines scholarship, poetry and performance components to explore how musicality and figures like Janelle Monae and Ke\$ha help foster antirationalist theories of genderqueer solidarity, politics and action.



Edwin Hill, Assistant Professor of French, Italian, Comparative Literature and American Studies and Ethnicity (Dornsife). His project "La Rage: Losing it in the French Peripheries," explores anti-colonial discourses of rage in French hip-hop culture and literature in order to offer a timely intervention into debates about the 2005 and 2007 riots in the French banlieus, or urban peripheries, and France's "ultra-peripheries"--its colonial territories in the West Indies.

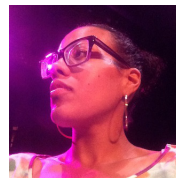


Kara Keeling, Associate Professor of Critical Studies in the School of Cinematic Arts (SCA), and African American Studies in American Studies and Ethnicity (Dornsife). Her project, "Electric Feel: Transduction, Errantry and the Refrain" ascertains what logics inherited from particular popular musics might offer ongoing efforts to renegotiate bonds, institutions and political possibilities shaped by the violences characteristic of capitalism, white supremacy, neoliberal multiculturalism and contemporary geopolitics.



Josh Kun, Associate Professor of Communication (Annenberg) and American Studies and Ethnicity (Dornsife). His project, titled "The World Begins Here: Love and Death and Music in Tijuana," tracks the transnational flows of culture from Tijuana's founding as a family-owned cattle ranch in the

aftermath of the 19th century creation of a U.S.-Mexico border, to its current state as a chaotic urban sprawl of well over two million people. In these histories, Kun hears what he calls the "aural border": a bi-national territory of sonic performance and listening, of melodic convergence and dissonant clashing.



Shana Redmond, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity (Dornsife). Her project, "Timing is Everything: The Feminine Antiphonies in 'We are the World'" revisits this anthem of global "relief"--particularly its redeployment in the wake of the 2010 earthquake disaster in Haiti--in order to expose the feminized musical tropes that organize conditions of aid and aid occupation which developed in post-disaster sites like Ethiopia in 1985 and Haiti in 2010.



Karen Tongson, Associate Professor of English and Gender Studies (Dornsife), New Directions seminar director. For the NDFR, Tongson focused her efforts on her new book project, *Empty Orchestra: Karaoke. Critical. Apparatus.*, which offers a critique of prevailing paradigms of originality and imitation in aesthetics and critical theory while exploring karaoke cultures, technologies, techniques and desires.



Mina Yang, Assistant Professor of Music (Thornton). Her project, "Dancing into Visibility: Asian-American B-Boys and the Hip-Hop Trans-Nation," situates her extensive research on b-boying in Asia and Asian America within the context of racial discourses in the United States and hip-hop history and against the backdrop of emergent transpacific economies and cultural geographies.

Gloria Orenstein Retires

"No therapist in 1961 could understand that a woman might feel fulfilled if she exercised her profession, rather than be a full-time homemaker," writes Gloria Orenstein on the Veteran Feminists of America web site (<http://www.vfa.us/Gloria%20Orenstein.htm>). To the benefit of hundreds of students, Orenstein decided to follow her passions for academics and teaching rather than restrict herself to the role of housewife at a time when such decisions were not easily made.

Orenstein completed her BA in romance languages and literature from Brandeis University followed by her MA in Slavic languages and literatures from the Radcliffe Graduate School of Harvard University. Orenstein received her PhD in comparative literature from NYU in 1971, publishing her dissertation as the book, *The Theatre of the Marvelous: Surrealism and the Contemporary Stage*. She founded the Women's Salon for Literature in New York, NY during the 1970s while teaching as an assistant professor of English at Douglass College of Rutgers University.

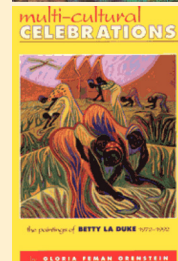
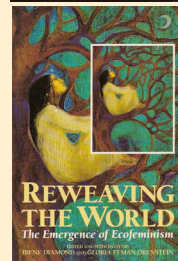
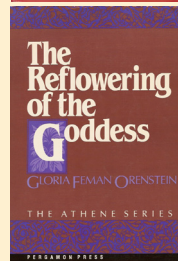
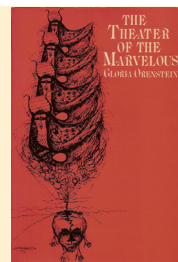


Gloria Orenstein joined the University of Southern California in the early 1980s. She was hired in both the Department of Comparative Literature and the Gender Studies Program, then called the Study of Women and Men in Society. Orenstein's pursuit of tenure was supported by none other than Simone de Beauvoir, who wrote a letter on Orenstein's behalf to USC administration. Over the course

of her career, Orenstein's work investigated such topics as surrealist and feminist art, ecofeminism, Jewish feminism, the Goddess in women's art and literature, salon women, and shamanism, often considering two or more of these areas at once. She published the book, *The Reflowering of the Goddess*, which offers a feminist analysis of the reclaiming of the Goddess in contemporary art. She also co-edited the volume, *Reweaving the World: The Emergence of Ecofeminism*, with Irene Diamond.

As a professor, Orenstein was known among students for her generosity of spirit and her fascinating stories. Her spiritual experiences with shamanism provided rich fodder for discussion, as did her work on feminist art. Currently, she is working on projects involving Jewish women artists.

After three decades of teaching at USC, Orenstein has joined the notable ranks of Emeritas Professors. She continues to exert her considerable influence in the world of feminism, helping to arrange exhibitions and writing articles. Orenstein's impact as a feminist scholar and activist is well-known, and it is with excitement that Orenstein's former colleagues and students look forward to her future endeavors.



Streisand Professor Lecture Series Updates

2013: Wendy Wood, "Love & Hormones in Modern Times"



Our esteemed colleague Wendy Wood, Provost Professor of Psychology and Business and Dornsife Vice Dean for Social Sciences, gave the Streisand Professor Lecture for 2013. A social psychologist, Professor Wood is well-known for her work on gender differences in behavior and why it is that gender-based habits can prove so difficult to break. In this fascinating lecture, she explored the shifting terrain of heterosexual romantic attraction in the

U.S. and beyond. Professor Wood showed that heterosexual partner choice in the U.S. increasingly pivots on similarity and not on gender role complementarity (as in men value beauty and chastity and women ambition and good financial prospects). Indeed, she showed that as sex roles become increasingly similar, so partner choice comes to hinge on similarity. She ended her talk with a discussion of hormones in which she suggested that human mating is a socio-biological process but one in which hormones can, in fact, be a downstream consequence of societal mating and reproductive choice.

January 27, 2014

Sociologist Eva Illouz on *Fifty Shades of Grey*

Celebrated sociologist Eva Illouz will be give this year's Streisand Professor lecture. Illouz is the author of numerous books, including *Cold Intimacies: The Making of Emotional Capitalism*; *Saving the Modern Soul: Therapy, Emotions, and the Culture of Self-Help*; *Oprah Winfrey and the Glamour of Misery*; and the recently published *Why Love Hurts*. In her most recent book, Illouz focuses upon the collective factors connected to the conditions of modernity to understand why it is that love hurts. Like earlier feminist work, Illouz's efforts to reveal the collective dimension of love's terrain –that is, to show that one's experiences in love are not simply one's own private experiences, but more broadly experienced – can have an almost liberatory effect. Laura Kipnis, the well-known author of *Against Love: A Polemic*, calls Illouz's recent book a "tour de force, a thrilling read...that etches a whole new emotional atlas." At USC Professor Illouz will deliver a lecture about the controversial novel, *Fifty Shades of Grey*.



Gender Studies Program & Center for Feminist Research

Noontime Lectures 2012-13

This year we focused our energy upon showcasing Gender Studies scholars -- both established and developing--from across the disciplines, from Sociology to Slavic Studies. Jeff Solomon, a recent USC English Ph.D. (and holder of a Gender Studies graduate certificate as well!) led off the series with his talk, "Kiss Me You Fool: Gertrude Stein and Theda Bara." Dr. Solomon showed that, improbable though it may seem today, Stein, in her own time, was often imagined through the figure of vampy film screen star Theda Bara. This understanding of Stein and Bara suggests, he argued, the extent to which both women's Jewish heritage became tangled up and conflated with Orientalist fantasies. In November, Eileen Boris, Hull Professor and Chair of the Department of Feminist Studies at UC Santa Barbara, spoke about her new book, *Caring for America: Home Health Care Workers in the Shadow of the Welfare State*, which she co-authored with Yale's Jennifer Klein. In her talk, Boris charted how state actions since the 1930s have turned poor women of color into care workers for the welfare state. She also argued that by making the invisible labor of care public, law and social policy opened an arena for political struggle, one that by the first decade of the 21st century has transformed the face of organized labor. And yet, as Professor Boris emphasized, the stubborn refusal to view care as *work* still challenges the efforts of personal attendants and home aides for recognition and dignity.

In the spring semester, two junior faculty members with appointments in Gender Studies spoke in the series. Michelle Gordon, assistant professor of English, examined understudied texts by leading African-American writers Lorraine Hansberry, Alice Childress, and Richard Wright that challenged stereotypical representations of black domestic workers. These texts met with considerable resistance, and Professor Gordon productively compared the resistance with which they met to the runaway success of the contemporary novel and film, *The Help*. As a nation, she asked, is America still invested in deflecting the ongoing reality of racism, sexism and economic exploitation? In "No Need to Bleed," Katie Hasson, who just joined our Sociology department as a result of a joint junior search with Gender Studies, talked about her first book project, which explores the role of everyday medical technologies in the production of gendered bodies and selves amid shifting configurations of medicine,

markets, and the state. In her talk, Professor Hasson focused on the ways in which menstrual-suppression birth control is changing our understanding of menstruation.

In April, Dr. Anastasia Kayiatos delivered the lecture, "Infectious Feminisms: Putin, Pussy Riot, and the Politics of Virality." Dr. Kayiatos, a first-year Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, situated the Pussy Riot phenomenon in the context of contemporary Russian and global protest culture. Riffing on the "infectious quality of the Pussy Riot's performances," she drew connections to earlier forms of what she called "viral intervention" by HIV/AIDS activists during the 1990s in an effort to draw greater attention to PR's radical queerness.

The series ended with UC Irvine Professor Kavita Philip (History, Anthropology, Informatics, and Critical Theory), whose impressive lecture, "Technoscience, Postcolonialism, and the Return of Difference," was empirically rooted and theoretically informed. Professor Philip examined the powerful resonances in secular modernizing India between the buzzwords of technological innovation and the dominant religious modes of representing religion, nation, nature and gender. She then articulated a framework through which we might interrogate the constitutive intersectionality of technoscience, postcolonialism, and lived histories of difference. And finally, she argued that while India is only one among many possible spaces from which to theorize, the issues of postcolonial technopolitics that are emerging across the post-colonial world are of central and practical importance to a range of issues that cut across the humanities and the social, computational and natural sciences.



Quotable Quotes

I've yet to be on a campus where most women weren't worrying about some aspect of combining marriage, children, and a career. I've yet to find one where many men were worrying about the same thing.

GLORIA STEINEM

Students in the Community

From Prosecution to Empowerment: Understanding Trafficking within the Context of Migrant Labor Rights & (Re)Considering the Role of Celebrities in Antitrafficking Discourse

Co-authored by: Vellore Adithi, Oriah Amit, Dylan Moxley,
Jade Peterkin, & Susanna Stone



Left to right: USC Faculty Members & conference organizers
Rhacel Salazar Parreñas, Manuel Pastor, and Alice Echols.
Photo by Pamela J. Johnson.

The interdisciplinary conference on human trafficking, *From Prosecution to Empowerment: Fighting Human Trafficking and Promoting the Rights of Migrants*, gave our Senior Seminar in Gender Studies class a unique opportunity to experience our course material come alive. There, we were able to synthesize our course readings with lively panel discussions and deepen our understanding of pressing contemporary issues—human trafficking and the exploitation of migrant laborers. From the opening panel parsing definitions of human trafficking to the closing plenary suggesting alternative solutions to rescue and prosecution in trafficking, we heard from a diverse slate of scholars, representatives from government bodies and non-profits, legal advocates, and community representatives who helped to situate human trafficking within a larger landscape of global migration, the exploitation of migrant laborers, and the fight to secure rights for migrants.

As undergraduates with an interest in popular culture; with a nascent-but-ever-developing understanding of the intersections of human trafficking, sex work, and migrant labor; and with questions about the accessibility of these complex social issues to laypeople outside the trafficking literati, we were struck, in particular, by the recurring conversation throughout the conference about the “celebritization” of the discourse on human trafficking—especially with regard to sex trafficking. Conference panelists characterized celebrity involvement in the fight against human trafficking as damaging to the public discourse about trafficking. Celebrities, they argued, typically conflate sex work and trafficking; reproduce harmful, moralistic distinctions between victims of trafficking who deserve state intervention and immoral prostitutes who do not; and, alarmingly, garner large swaths of public support from individuals with a superficial understanding of labor and trafficking.

This theme has continued to resonate with us after the conference, and back in our classroom we sought out examples of celebrities and public intellectuals weighing in on the problem of human trafficking. As we watched one of Nicholas Kristof’s five-minute exposés on sex trafficking, we were struck by the importance he placed on the notion of rescue, presumably at his own hands and those of his Western audience, as the solution to trafficking. Although it is clear that Kristof and celebrities like Ashton Kutcher and Ricky Martin—who have also contributed to popular anti-trafficking discourse—have benevolent intentions, their narrow perspectives on trafficking prevent both the advancement of public understanding about the issue and the implementation of measures that actually empower the survivors of trafficking. As Dina Haynes pointed out during the closing plenary of the conference, this misguided application of ‘star power’ may actually result in more harm to trafficked individuals than they would have faced had these celebrities done nothing at all.

The problematic coverage on sex trafficking circulated by American celebrities and popular journalists like Nicholas Kristof—who, one could argue, actually built his celebrity from his sensational coverage of trafficking-as-prostitution—underscores the difficulty of conveying information about human trafficking without reproducing popular myths and stereotypes. The “exposé” format Kristof uses to report on trafficking may be helpful in maximizing public attention in the issue, but it also makes a balanced and nuanced discussion of trafficking difficult. In a break-out panel on sex workers and curb demand campaigns, Kari Lerum provided us with a compelling narrative frame—a new mythology of the Garden of Eden—to understand Kristof’s work and underscore the problems that arise when stories of sex-trafficking are oversimplified. Sex workers, collectively represented by Eve, are cast as helpless victims who must be saved by the benevolent half of a bifurcated Adam, the Kristofs, Kutchers, and Martins of the world. The other face of Adam, the ‘bad’ Adam, represents the men who solicit sex workers’ services—the men who, according to Kutcher’s anti-trafficking campaigns, are not ‘real’ men.

As Rhacel Parreñas argues in the introduction of her book *Illicit Flirtations*, ‘flattening’ the experiences of sex workers and trafficked women into homogenous narratives of victimization at the hands of ‘bad’ men does not allow us to attend to the realities of labor exploitation and the needs of migrant sex workers. Sex workers’ rights activist and conference speaker Norma Jean Almodovar illustrated



Panelists Kate Francis of *The Asian Foundation*, Dina Haynes, professor at *New England Law*, and Janie Chuang of *American University*. Photo by Zhaoyu Zhou.

this point when she argued against anti-prostitution legislation, which increases the vulnerability of sex workers and subjects them to mistreatment by the very police officers who were given power to protect them. She also noted how an arrest record severely limits future social and economic opportunities for sex workers by labeling them as criminals and making public their culturally stigmatized occupations.

Another panelist at the conference, sociologist Kimberly Hoang, presented the findings of her research on sex workers in Vietnam, demonstrating the importance of accounting for sex workers' descriptions of themselves and their work rather than imposing an external narrative of victimization that erases the complexity of their experiences. Hoang found that, far from being women in need of rescue, the sex workers she interviewed were actually "shrewd entrepreneurs" who scorned low-paying factory work in favor of more lucrative opportunities in the sex industry. Her research captures how sex workers capitalize on the rescue fantasy of their Western clients by telling maudlin stories about struggling to support their children and taking them on tours of faux-impoverished villages to elicit their sympathy—and greater payouts. Her research challenges the easy conflation of sex work and trafficking, which is largely supported by the one-dimensional views being circulated by Western celebrities, journalists, and public intellectuals. Still, as Orlando Patterson pointed out during the closing plenary, celebrities occupy an incredibly powerful role in a society dominated by popular culture and arguably have more influence with the general public than academics. While it is important that we be selective in the type of celebrity discourse we endorse, though, we might still consider the importance of celebrity voices in reaching a greater cross-section of our global society. Perhaps we can achieve a happy medium wherein we encourage celebrities' engagement in a more sustained and nuanced trafficking discussion even as we critique the production of White male celebrity in the popular imagery of these men—"real" men—protecting 'brown women.' Celebrity attention on the trafficking issue might be beneficial if used in support of migrant rights groups instead of anti-trafficking efforts, for example. Such a solution would not only expand the discussion on trafficking to include other forms of coerced labor beyond the sex trade but would also shift the focus of trafficking discourse from the necessity of 'saving' its victims to the importance of empowering them.

The Making of a Heretical Intellectual: Sylvia Wynter's Early Intellectual Life in the Post-Independence/Post-Civil Rights Atlantic World

by Anthony Rodriguez

Ph.D. candidate, American Studies and Ethnicity



In the early twenty-first century increasing attention has been brought to the critical thought of Caribbean novelist, anticolonial humanist, and Black Studies professor Sylvia Wynter. Wynter's work from the 1960s onward is distinguishable in the ways that it has consistently advocated the need for cultural workers, intellectuals, and educators to establish a new set of political, social and cultural knowledge categories that can facilitate the creation of new conceptions of "the human" beyond

modern Western, bourgeois, liberal, capitalist humanism. My dissertation presents a socio-biographical account of Wynter's experience and participation in "decolonial" Black intellectual cultures in Britain, Jamaica, and the United States. It does so by reconstructing Wynter's early life as a professional writer, public intellectual, and educator between 1947 and 1984—this is a period that coincides with the emergence of historic Black/Third World social movements seeking antiracist, anticapitalist, and anticolonial transformation. Drawing from historian J. G. Pocock's contention that political discourse may be considered "the intellect's attempt to construct an intelligible world out of political experience," this dissertation situates Wynter's early body of work within the context of decolonizing intellectual communities that emerged specifically in the wake of West Indian national independence and the early post-Civil Rights Movement period of the United States.

Wynter's early intellectual life crosscuts the twentieth-century Black radical tradition's multiple articulations among decolonial intellectual communities across the post-World War II Atlantic world. Thus, more than just a project of intellectual biography, this dissertation elaborates on the transnational connections and interactions between decolonial cultures of the early postcolonial/post-Civil Rights Movement period between the 1950s and late 1970s. Wynter's intellectual life during this time presents a unique archive for exploring these trans-Atlantic decolonial intellectual communities because of her involvement in them and also because her migrations between the Caribbean archipelago, Britain, and the United States offer a vivid impression of the ways that the idea of "decolonization" as a process of transformative social and epistemic possibility found fertile ground in critical intellectual spaces created by structurally subordinated peoples across the boundaries of nation and between colonies and metropolises.

Among the radical Black/Ethnic Studies collectives covered by this dissertation are radical Black/Ethnic studies organizations such as the Black Matter Committee (BMC) and organizations like the Institute of the Black World (IBW) and the Third World College at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Also covered are the trans-Atlantic network The London-based West Indian artists who became central to the creation of the Caribbean Arts Movement (CAM), the New World Group (NWG) and University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (UWI-Mona). Covered also are those seismic events in the decolonial Atlantic world that are the cornerstone of Wynter's corpus of critical writings on the epistemological Western humanism, her critique of the disciplinary division of the humanities, and the decolonizing imperative of approaching the study of "the human" beyond the normative terms of modern, Western, liberal, bourgeois, economic "Man."

As scholarly engagement with Wynter's critical thought continues to grow throughout the humanities and social sciences, so too will the need to further engage those social movements that she witnessed and directly participated in during her early life. My dissertation aims to contribute not only to contemporary scholarship on Sylvia Wynter's life and thought but also to broader efforts in American Studies scholarship to shed light on twentieth-century decolonial intellectual movements which themselves deserve further inquiry. By engaging this relatively marginalized history of collective and collaborative decolonizing intellectual activity in the Atlantic world, this dissertation advances on questions regarding the relevance of Caribbean history (and in particular its radical intellectual history) to transnational American studies scholarship.

cont. on page 10..

Students (continued from page 9)

We Walk Through it Together

by Gretchen Heidemann Whitt

Ph.D. recipient, School of Social Work

I have previously worked at a reentry home for women who were being released from prison. So many of them had been caught up in the wide net cast by the so-called “war on drugs” (which would be more aptly named a war on poor people of color). These women’s chances at rebuilding their lives were often bleak. With drug convictions, they were unable to access CalWorks assistance, obtain student loans, or get a Section 8 housing voucher. Few employers were willing to consider them. A system set up to help women succeed, it was not.

But I witnessed something else in working with these women, something quite profound. And that was the sense of camaraderie and sisterhood they had with one another and the ways in which they were organizing to change the socio-political conditions that conspired to keep them entrapped. As an educated white woman whose job was to be of assistance, I learned quickly what limited role I could play in these women’s lives. Referrals, linkages, fund-raising, and behind-the-scenes work was important. But they gave something to one another—they were for one another—something that I could never be.

I began to think about other roles I might play and how I could help advance the agenda for which these formerly incarcerated women were fighting. I wanted to tell their stories. I wanted to humanize and legitimize their experiences for those decision makers and community leaders who had otherwise written them off. I wanted to utilize my privileged position as a conduit for their voices and their struggle.

I got an opportunity to do just that when I was accepted into the USC School of Social Work’s PhD program and when I subsequently received the Haynes-Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. From June to December 2012, I surveyed 104 formerly incarcerated women in Los Angeles and conducted in-depth interviews with 30 of them. I asked about what it was like the day they were released from prison. I asked what “success” would mean to them. I asked what barriers and challenges they’ve encountered and how they have gotten through those difficult experiences.

In my analyses, I looked specifically at social support: both the support formerly incarcerated women receive from others and the support they give back to others. My findings revealed that these formerly incarcerated women received more support from one an-

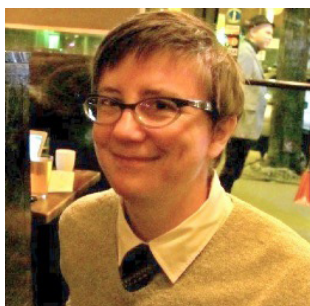
other and from helping professionals than they did from romantic partners, family members or friends. Of the various sources of support, only support from their peers significantly influenced their life satisfaction. In other words, it seems that there are few people whom formerly incarcerated women can turn to for the type of support that makes their lives feel manageable. Romantic partners often faced issues of their own, such as substance abuse and incarceration, and thus placed participants in jeopardy of recidivism. Bridges with old friends and family members had often been burned. These women were truly beginning their lives anew and found the peers (and sometimes staff) they encountered in treatment centers, reentry homes, and 12-step programs to be their most trusted sources of support.

Auspiciously, my analyses also revealed that these formerly incarcerated women were eager to “give back” and assist others like them. Those who were further along in the recovery/reintegration process often felt a sense of obligation to reach back and assist others, to act as a “wounded healer.” In doing so, a significant increase in their self-esteem was revealed. It seems that part of what helps formerly incarcerated women feel good about themselves and their lives is a mutual exchange of help and support. As one participant said in her interview, “We can do this together. We can recover together. We will hold hands and we just gonna walk through it together.”

These findings have important policy implications. The laws of the State of California prohibit persons on parole from associating with one another. Along with the barriers to external support such as income and housing, a critical element of formerly incarcerated women’s success—the ability to “walk through it together”—is specifically banned. Evidence from my and other studies illuminates the benefits for formerly incarcerated women of supporting one another. Women will continue to engage in these indigenous forms of healing and support, sometimes even at their own risk. An important role exists for researchers, academics, community leaders and policy makers to acknowledge their struggles and allow them the dignity of free association. We must do what we can to walk with them and work to diminish barriers and increase opportunities for successful reentry.



Dr. Allison Miller Appointed Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow by USC History Department



Newly minted Rutgers History Ph.D. Allison Miller will join USC this fall as a Mellon postdoctoral fellow in History. Dr. Miller, who studied with Professors Nancy Hewitt, Jackson Lears, Seth Koven, and Ann Fabian, has a strong background in gender/women’s history and U.S. cultural history. Her dissertation, “Boyhood for Girls,” is a cultural history of the tomboy that argues that tomboys are a critical link in the relationship between heterosexuality and normative gender expression as they took shape

between 1900 and 1940. Dr. Miller will give a talk this fall entitled “Ode to a Gym Teacher: Tomboys and the History of the Crush” as part of our Feminist Conversations series. Look for more information on this and other talks in this series on our website.

Director's Message (continued from page 1)

Our noontime series resumed in the spring with talks by Professors Katie Hasson and Michelle Gordon--in USC's Sociology and English departments, respectively. The semester closed with lectures by Professor Kavita Phillip of UC Irvine, and Dr. Anastasia Kayiatos, a USC Provost Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities. In April, Provost Professor Wendy Wood gave a thoughtful and empirically rich Streisand Professor Series Lecture, "Love and Hormones in Modern Times," to a full auditorium. Also in April, CFR helped sponsor the Experience Music Project's annual conference, which this year was a multi-site event in which NDFR fellows were involved.

CFR's first postdoctoral fellow, Chaitanya Lakimsetti, joined us in the fall of 2012, and she has proven herself a dedicated teacher and scholar. We look forward to having her with us this year as well! Rhacel Parreñas, Professor and Chair of Sociology, and Sunyoung Park, assistant professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Linguistics, will be joining the Gender Studies faculty next year. Professor Parrenas will hold a 25% appointment in Gender Studies, and Professor Park will hold a zero-percent appointment, as do all our many junior joint appointees. I am also delighted to report that Rebecca Zobeck



Chaitanya Lakkimsetti

(formerly Das) will now be working fulltime as the Associate Director of CFR. This will make a huge difference to CFR. With Jeanne Weiss in Gender Studies and Rebecca in CFR we have a terrific team!

Amid all the good news, it is with sadness that I report that Gloria Orenstein, Professor of Comparative Literature and Gender Studies, has retired. For decades, Gloria was a real inspiration and a stalwart in Gender Studies. Finally, it seems impossible that Professor Lois Banner of History and Gender Studies will not be teaching for us any longer, but that is precisely the reality we are facing. Lois will be retiring after fall semester 2013, and although I know retirement will involve lots more research and writing, we will miss her very much, and so will her students.

Congratulations to Our 2013 Graduates!

Undergraduate Students

MAJORS

**Oriah Amit
Jillana Bassan
Alma Bocanegra
LaTarrell Brown
Margaret Carroll
Keaton Flicker
Jade Peterkin
Stacy Syroka
Simbree Touchstone**

MINORS

**Lindsay Burglin
Jane Dentinger
Karla Guardado
Ingrid Messbauer
Susanna Stone
Adithi Vellore**

Graduate Certificate Students

Gretchen Heidemann, Ph.D. in Social Work
Dissertation: *Successful Reentry Among Formerly Incarcerated Women: A Mixed Methods Analysis*

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