



## Perspectives: Research Notes and News

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<http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/>

### Director's Notes

WGGP continues to work on human security and gender equity aspects of the biofuels debates, migration issues, especially migration for health care work, and challenges of the changing global labor market. We have conducted the annual competition for the Goodman Fellowship, Due-Ferber Award, and Yates Award and present the impressive award winners on page 6. In addition, we are pleased to announce a new donor-sponsored award, **The Evelynne Accad Award** (p. 2) for study on women's issues in North Africa and the Middle East. We are organizing a series of workshops addressing global and regional aspects of biofuels, sustainability, and gendered security beginning with the workshop in May (Details on p. 2.) In the fall, we are holding a symposium with the EU Center on the migration of healthcare workers, and for spring 2009, we have received a Hewlett International Conference grant to explore issues in Brazil and East Africa. Next year is the Center for Advanced Study Initiative on Immigration: History and Policy that I am co-chairing with Jim Barrett. We will have a series of speakers on global and area-specific issues starting with Alejandro Portes (p. 5) in September. This year it has been a pleasure to work with the new Council on Gender Equity (CGE) that is focusing on improving the underrepresentation of women faculty in many units. CGE is organizing the Provost Lectures on Gender Equity with upcoming talks by Souad Halila on May 7 and Evelynne Hammonds on Sept. 18 (p. 5). After an initial call for proposals for interventions addressing faculty imbalance, one intervention that CGE is supporting is a workshop to train the trainers in recruiting faculty organized by the College of Engineering. CGE plans to continue the seed grant program next year. We also have been working on data collection and presentation and on facilitating use of existing campus programs. \*\*\*\*\*



Gale Summerfield speaking at February roundtable on Bioenergy.

### Research Notes

#### Designing Disability Rights:

Understanding the Role that Disability Organizations Play in Transforming a Rights-Based Approach to Disability in South Asia

Jennifer Baldwin,  
Anthropology and School of  
Medicine, UIUC,  
2007-08 Goodman Fellow



My ongoing research assesses the formation of disabled subjectivities within the socio-political contexts generated by both local, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) serving individuals with disabilities, as well as the proliferation of international biomedical policies and discourse on disability and disability rights. As the provision of rights-based services for individuals with disabilities increasingly comes under the domain of local NGOs in South Asia, there is a growing need to understand how ideological and discursive practices associated with the international disability rights movement form and are informed by the physical bodies and everyday experiences of people with disabilities in non-western settings. My work explores how local efforts at rehabilitating disability and advancing disability rights in Nepal ground ideological, moral, and social conceptions of disability in the concrete physiological and anatomical functions of the body, as well as the lived experiences of personhood and citizenship for individuals with disability. I suggest that the processes of how disabled individuals' bodies, experiences, and subjectivities are made meaningful within different sociopolitical domains bear relevance to understanding everyday manifestations of health, citizenship, and disability rights.

In addition to this research, I also remain interested in Nepali women's mental health, particularly following the eruption of physical and structural violence throughout much of Nepal during the Maoist conflict. Currently, I am contributing to the analysis of a longitudinal assessment of mental health in the western Nepali community of Jumla. The principle investigator for this project is Brandon Kohrt of Emory University.

Jenn Baldwin is in the Medical Scholars MD-PhD program at UIUC, [jbaldw5@uiuc.edu](mailto:jbaldw5@uiuc.edu). \*\*\*\*\*

## Workshop on Sustainable Biofuels and Human Security: Critical Issues of Gender, Environment, and Food

May 12-13, 2008  
Heritage Room  
ACES Library, Information, and Alumni Center  
1101 S. Goodwin, Urbana

The workshop explores critical human security issues associated with the partial shift to biofuels in specific contexts around the world. These issues are best addressed at the early stages of policy and technology design and implementation. The needs of groups that are usually marginalized, such as women and the poor, will be examined with attention to costs of adjustment and creative involvement of these groups in the new processes. Our goal is to further the understanding of critical social dimensions of bioenergy, especially impacts on and involvement of poor women and men in countries around the world. With this workshop, we seek to inform our academic community, policy makers and other stakeholders about the national and international research on sustainable biofuels and stimulate discussion on ways to move forward.

### Presentations include:

Keith Wiebe, FAO: *Biofuels: Implications for Natural Resources and Food Security in Developing Countries*  
Irene Tinker, UC Berkeley: *From Biomass to Biofuels, From Cookstoves to Cars: Impacts on the World's Poor*  
Richenda van Leeuwen, Good Energies: *Renewables, Gender and Society*  
Kristiina Vogt, University of Washington: *Facts and Myths of a Sustainable Carbon Society*  
Amani E. Elobeid, Iowa State University: *The Global Impact of Biofuel Expansion: Accounting for Green House Gas Emissions from Land Use Changes*  
Madhu Khanna, UIUC: *Costs of Producing Bioenergy*  
David Zilberman, UC Berkeley: *Income Distribution Implications of Biofuels*  
Russ deLucia, s3idf: *The Need for Explicitly Pro-Poor Business Models for Sustainable Bio-Energy Development*  
Alex Farrell, UC Berkeley: *Towards a Climate-Friendly Biofuels and the Future of Agriculture*  
David Roland-Holst, UC Berkeley: *Food and Fuel Security from an Emerging Market Perspective: Tectonic Demand Shifts and Market Tremors*  
Siwa Msangi, IFPRI: *Food Security*  
Deepak Rajagopal, UC Berkeley: *Life Cycle Analysis: What Biofuels Mean to the Environment*  
Cliff Singer and Hadi Esfahani, UIUC: *Biofuels: What Are We After?*  
Jurgen Scheffran, UIUC: *Integrating Sustainability and Human Security into Bioenergy Futures*  
Gale Summerfield, UIUC: *Engendering the Biofuels Debate*

Co-sponsors include WGGP, Center for Advanced Bioenergy Research (CABER), Center for Arms Control, Disarmament, and International Security (ACDIS), the European Union Center, and Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) partners at UIUC and University of California at Berkeley

## NEW: EVELYNE ACCAD INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

For Research on Issues Related to Women in the Middle East and Northern Africa

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Tahreer Araj**  
(Human and Community Development)  
for research on Gender Identity in Grassroots Organizations in Palestine



## Engendering the Biofuels Debate

Gale Summerfield, Director, WGGP

As global warming and the rising price of oil compel us to look more for alternative energy sources, biofuels are currently at center stage. In 2007, ethanol accounted for 90 percent of global biofuel production, and the US and Brazil produced almost 90 percent of that, mainly from sugarcane and corn (IFPRI 2008). The EU dominated in biodiesel production, which accounted for the other 10 percent. Some serious issues have emerged from US and EU biofuel policies, notably the contribution to the rising prices of basic food grains which hit the poor especially hard. Competition for land to grow fuel instead of food is also heated and expected to get worse even with the move to different biofuel crops. Gender aspects of biofuels have rarely been discussed, but women as well as men are involved in production and consumption of bioenergy, and more research is needed in this area.

This year, 2008, is expected to see the urbanized world population reach 50 percent of total population, but poverty remains more heavily concentrated in rural areas. Biofuel production and rising prices of grains could potentially help poor farmers, many of whom are women. But there are many caveats. Poor women farmers are often consumers as well as



Poor tribal women raise *Jatropha* seedlings in Andhra Pradesh, India, earning desperately-needed cash.  
Photo Source: [www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/march2008.html](http://www.cgiar.org/monthlystory/march2008.html)

producers of grain, and therefore may be hurt by the higher prices. Under structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 90s, researchers observed that when women's subsistence crops became profitable export crops in Sub-Saharan Africa, control shifted to the men in the family. The same could be expected of biofuel crops for market production. Furthermore, women's land rights are typically less clearly defined than those of men, so they are particularly at risk of losing control of land when profits attract large companies to take over small farms. The expansion of biofuel production has already led to large plantations swallowing up small farms and fragile lands in some parts of the world.

Much of the sugarcane production in countries, such as Brazil, is done by men, though some is family based, involving women and children. Several hundred thousand people are involved in the sugarcane biofuel production in Brazil, but mechanization will phase out many of them. The direct and indirect impacts of this change and policies to ease the transition need to be examined through a gendered lens.

Small-scale production by poor farmers is an area where women are directly involved in biofuel production and could potentially benefit. The Brazilian government has promoted castor beans for small-scale biofuel production with a pro-poor policy bias in Northeastern Brazil. An unfortunate byproduct of the process, however, is the toxin ricin, making this a highly controversial policy. On the other hand, switching from traditional biofuels such as charcoal to safer forms of small-scale biofuel production may reduce indoor pollution that affects women and children more because they are exposed to it more hours per day.

This article has touched on only a few of the gender issues in biofuels as alternative energy sources. I hope it shows that there are many gender aspects that require more analysis in this relative early stage and more involvement of women in all stages of policy design and implementation.

WGGP is organizing a working group on alternative energy and human security. Working with others at Illinois, Berkeley, and other institutions, we have set up a series of workshops and conferences to examine some of these issues. The first will be held May 12-13, 2008, partly supported by EBI (Energy Biosciences Institute), and will discuss an overview of critical issues (Details on p. 2). In November 2008, we are hosting a networking meeting of Sloan industry affiliates to bring in the Asian context. In April 2009, we have received funding for a Hewlett International Conference that will examine the context of Brazil and East Africa. For more information, contact Gale Summerfield ([summerfd@uiuc.edu](mailto:summerfd@uiuc.edu)) or Kathy Martin ([kcmartin@uiuc.edu](mailto:kcmartin@uiuc.edu)). [Note: this article also appears in the IAFFE newsletter, spring 2008.]

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Cooking smoke can have devastating effects on poor people in developing countries.  
Photo Source: [www.ourplanet.com/imgversn/122/mishra.html](http://www.ourplanet.com/imgversn/122/mishra.html)

## NEWS from WGGP Associates and Affiliates

**Evelyne Accad**, French, published a book, *Coquelicot du massacre*, bilingual edition, English translation with preface by Cynthia Hahn, Poppy from the massacre. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2006 in addition to the following two book chapters: "S'(é)crire: des femmes francophones libanaises," *Problématiques identitaires et discours de l'exil dans les littératures francophones*. (sous la direction de Anissa Talahite-Moodley) Ottawa: Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 2007 and "Lebanon, summer 2006," *Of War, Siege, and Lebanon: Women's Voices from the Middle East and South Asia*, Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies, Turkey: WWHR, Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways, 2006 (now available online at [http://www.wwhr.org/yayin\\_3.php?detay=23](http://www.wwhr.org/yayin_3.php?detay=23)). Also on the internet: Creation and direction of a domain, "Women and globalization," with a world women network, on "Peoples and the World" is now open as [http://www.peuplesmonde.com/rubrique.php?id\\_rubrique=6](http://www.peuplesmonde.com/rubrique.php?id_rubrique=6). Recently published articles include: "The Importance of Music in my Writing and 'Engagement'," *Al-Raïda: Arab Women Writing in English*, Beirut: Institute for Women Studies in the Arab World (Issue 118-119, Summer/Fall 2007), pp. 8-13; "Mots et chants pour dire la douleur et la colère," *Publication actes des sixièmes rencontres internationales des écritures de l'exil, "d'Encres et d'Exil"* du Centre Pompidou, 2007; "Etel Adnan," *Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, Oxford University Press, 2007, editor in chief Bonnie G. Smith (Board of Governors Professor of History, Rutgers University); and "Gender, Conflict and Peace: Gender and Violence in the Lebanese War Novels," chapter 18, in *Empowering Women: Participation, Rights, and Women's Movements in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia* (Ed. by Valentine Moghadam) Syracuse University Press, 2007.

**Mary Arends-Kuening**, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, was awarded a Fulbright research fellowship to the Philippines from June to August 2008 for research about international nurse migration.

**Tutin Aryanti**, PhD Student, Architecture, received a WGGP Conference Grant to present her paper on "The Hidden Power of the Backhouse" for a panel on Gender and Agency at the Talking Across Borders Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference at the University of Washington, Seattle, Apr. 4-6, 2008.

**Ken Cuno**, History, published "Household: Comparative Practices," in the *Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, Ed. Bonnie G. Smith (4 vols.; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 2:486-491. He organized a panel entitled "Family, Gender and Law 18th-20th Centuries" for the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting in Montreal, in November 2007, which included his paper

"Restitution of Conjugal Rights/*bayt al-ta'a* in Egyptian law." He is continuing his research on the history of the family in Egypt, currently with a focus on changes in family law.

**Kristin Hoganson**, History/Gender and Women's Studies, published a book, *Consumers' Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920* (University of North Carolina Press), 2008.

**Paola Leon**, PhD GRID Student, Social Work/Latin America & Caribbean Studies, won a 2008 Graduate Scholars in Entrepreneurship Award from the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership for her proposal on "Asociación de Artesanos y Artesanos del Sur Andino: A Case Study of Social Entrepreneurship in a Peruvian Indigenous Community."

**M. Cynthia Oliver**, Dance, won a Rockefeller Multi-Arts-Production award, U of I Research Board and Creative Research awards for the production of new dance theatre work, "Rigidigidim De Bamba De: Ruptured Calypso," to premiere in Philadelphia's Painted Bride Arts Center in the fall of 2009. This performance work engages international artists and collaborators to examine calypso dancing as a galvanizer of Caribbean identity across national, geographic, and aesthetic boundaries. Oliver was also invited to perform with nationally renowned Bebe Miller Company on a new work entitled "Necessary Beauty" that will premiere at the Wexner Center in Columbus, Ohio and tour the country over the 2008/2009 season. She has been invited to contribute to the second book dedicated to Caribbean Dance, edited by Susanna Sloat (who also edited the award winning "Caribbean Dance from Abakua to Zouk: How Movement Shapes Identity" University Press of Florida, 2002). She is currently on sabbatical and revising her own book on beauty pageants in the US Virgin Islands entitled, "Queen of the Virgins: Black Womanhood in the Caribbean," (University of Mississippi Press).

**Gale Summerfield**, WGGP/Human and Community Development, participated in the roundtable discussion, "Bioenergy: Strategies for Mitigating the Food versus Fuel Controversy," on campus in February 2008. She also gave a talk with transnational discussion on "Gender and Changing Opportunities in China" as part of the WUN (Worldwide Universities Network) Teleconference on Contemporary China in October, 2007. She will present the results of the collaborative research project, "Gendered Employment in the Growing ICT Sector in China: Beijing and Wuhan," at the IAFFE (International Association for Feminist Economics) Conference in Torino, Italy in June 2008.

**Joy Williams-Black**, PhD GRID Student, History, received a WGGP Conference Grant to present her paper on "Social Rebels: Women, Rebellion, and Organizational Participation in Colonial Kenya" at the Wars and Conflicts in Africa Conference at University of Texas at Austin, March 27-30, 2008.

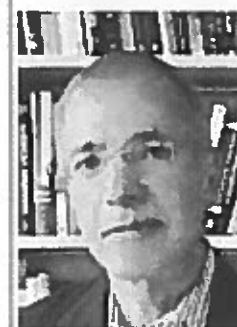
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## Center for Advanced Study (CAS) Initiative on Immigration— History and Policy



**Donna Gabaccia** (center), Professor of History and Director, Immigration History Research Center, Univ. of Minnesota, spoke on March 6 at a CAS Initiative Lecture on "Nations of Immigrants." CAS Resident Associates **Jim Barrett**, History (left), and **Gale Summerfield**, WGGP and Human and Community Development (right), are leading this initiative. The year-long project will bring together scholars in the social sciences, law, computer science, engineering and humanities to explore new approaches to immigration and its controversies.

## Coming in September 2008: Alejandro Portes



Professor of Sociology,  
Director,  
Center for Migration and  
Development,  
Princeton University

Watch for Details.

Photo Source: [sociology.princeton.edu/Faculty/Portes/](http://sociology.princeton.edu/Faculty/Portes/)

## The Provost's Spring Lecture on Gender Equity

### Advancing Women in Higher Education Souad Halila,

Professor of History,  
University of Tunisia, North Africa  
May 7, 2008

12 Noon, 314A Illini Union



Photo Source: [h07.cgpublisher.com/main\\_speakers.html](http://h07.cgpublisher.com/main_speakers.html)

**Souad Halila**, PhD, History from the University of Southern California, majored in American history & international relations, minored in US literature, taught English and Literature for eleven years at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, and presently is teaching US and GB history and culture at the University of Tunis and Sousse, Tunisia. She has a broad interest in environmental issues and green philosophy but her research focuses primarily on US intellectual, political, social, cultural, and religious history, particularly social and political movements, race relations, African American history, Arab American history, and multiculturalism.

## Coming September 18, 2008: The Provost's Fall Lecture on Gender Equity Evelynn Hammonds

Professor of  
History of Science and  
of African and  
African American  
Studies,  
Harvard University

Details forthcoming.



Photo Source: [aaas.fas.harvard.edu/faculty/evelynn\\_m\\_hammonds.html](http://aaas.fas.harvard.edu/faculty/evelynn_m_hammonds.html)

**Congratulations to  
WGGP 2008-09 Award Winners!**

**Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship:  
Maminirina Randrianandrasana (Entomology)**  
*for research on Silk Moth Ecology and Silk Production  
Involving Poor Women in Madagascar*

**Due and Ferber International Research Award:  
Monica Yanez-Pagans (Agricultural and  
Consumer Economics)**  
*for research on Ethnic and Gender Differentials in  
Human Capital Investments in Bolivia*

**Barbara A. Yates International Research Award:  
Emilie Bagby (Economics)**  
*for research on Understanding How Resource-Constrained Households in  
Developing Countries Make Decisions on Investing in Child Health  
and Education: Burkino Faso and Ecuador*

**Barbara A. Yates International Research Award:  
Marizel Dávila (Recreation, Sport and Tourism)**  
*for research on Marginalized and Incarcerated Women in Puerto Rico*

**Barbara A. Yates International Research Award:  
Aidé Acosta (Anthropology)**  
*for research on Latina/o Immigration and Community  
Formation in Rural Midwest*



**Women Legislators and  
Government Policies:  
A Global View**

**Michael Brün and Marianne A. Ferber**

Feminists and other believers in democracy have long advocated enfranchising women as a matter of fairness, and because it increases the pool of talented individuals for whom people can vote. Beyond that, numerous researchers who studied individual countries or jurisdictions within countries found that enfranchising women affected policies, notably increasing public expenditures. Lott and Kenny (1999) and Abrams and Settle (1999) specifically found that this was true in the U.S. and Switzerland. As good neoclassical economists they claimed that women support increased redistribution because they earn less than men and so tend to benefit from such policies, and hence were merely trying to improve their own wellbeing, just as men tend to do. We dispute this interpretation because there is clear evidence that there is a strong positive correlation between the proportion of women in the legislature and the share of Gross National Income spent on foreign aid and a definite negative relation with the use of the death penalty, policies that clearly do not particularly benefit women (Ferber and Brun, 2006).

Further, a strong argument can be made that shifting some income from men to women is likely to result in a higher growth rate because women spend more of their income on their children (and especially daughters) than men do (Blumberg, 1988; 1991; Qian, 2006).<sup>1</sup> Thus, the next generation may be expected to grow up healthier, better educated, and hence also more productive. Therefore it is not surprising that we found at least some suggestions that this may be true.<sup>2</sup> Specifically, our results showed that a larger share of expenditures going to women is associated with a more equal distribution of income, and that this in turn is at least slightly associated with an increase in income levels.

A higher growth rate is particularly important in very poor countries, which also tend to have an extremely unequal distribution of income<sup>3</sup> because it appears self evident that additional resources tend to be more valuable to poorer people.

Because the evidence that policies associated with a larger share of women in legislatures is not, however, entirely conclusive, we next turned our attention to a more specific and very important indicator of wellbeing for which adequate data are generally available,<sup>4</sup> namely life expectancy (Brün and Ferber, 2008). Specifically, we investigated whether there is an observable statistical association between the proportion of women in parliament and expenditures on health care and whether this, in turn is associated with life expectancy.<sup>5</sup>

Our main findings are that the proportion of women in parliament is positively related to the proportion of gross domestic product spent by the government on health care, which in turn is associated positively with greater total spending on health care. This implies that higher public spending adds to

rather than substitutes for private spending. Hence it is not surprising that the larger government expenditures on health are related to longer life expectancy when other factors are controlled for. It is also worth noting that the female-male life expectancy gap remains about the same.<sup>6</sup>

Much interesting work remains to be done concerning other policies that might be influenced by the proportion of women in legislatures. The exploratory work we have done so far suggests that, although there are no guarantees, what is good for the goose may also be good for the gander, and especially for the goslings.

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Qian reports that in China "increasing the mother's income increases educational attainment for all children, while increasing the father's income decreases educational attainment for girls and has no effect on boys' educational attainment."

<sup>2</sup> That would be consistent with Pictilä's (2001) "story how Finland has become a wealthy and women friendly country by building up the welfare society of Nordic model. Our story has been the process of interaction of economic growth and social development." (p. 1)

<sup>3</sup> While per capita income in the six countries with a Gini index of less than 27 ranges from \$16,100 to \$42,300, but ranges from \$800 to \$10,000 in the six countries with a Gini index of more than 70 (*CIA World Factbook*).

<sup>4</sup> From the World Bank, the Population Reference Bureau, the World Health Organization, and the International Parliamentary Union.

<sup>5</sup> Our study uses cross-section rather than longitudinal data and must therefore be considered tentative. Our results, including some not reported here are, however, consistent with what would reasonably be expected, suggesting that although rough, they point in the right direction.

<sup>6</sup> Women's life expectancy and hence the gap with male life expectancy does however, increase when restrictions on abortion are removed.

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