



WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM (WGPP)

Perspectives:

Research Notes & News

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Director's Notes

Gale Summerfield, Director



Welcome to the new electronic format for the WGPP newsletter and our new website. We're off to a busy academic year, and I hope that you can join us for our symposia, seminars, and other events. Working with new WGPP and Philosophy faculty member Colleen Murphy (see p.4), we've begun a new annual lecture with Philosophy. This year's speaker was Prof. Margaret Urban Walker who addressed issues about reparations.

The participants in our Food Security and Public Health in East Asia Symposium spoke to some of the key themes in human security. The symposium was held on Oct. 4-5 and was sponsored together with CEAPS (see our webpage for a full list of participants and cosponsors). Speakers from Beijing, Hong Kong, Canada and the US focused on pressing elements in food security and food safety in Asia.

Changes in the Middle East, land grabs in Ghana, and ethics and engineering in today's global setting are a few of the other areas featured in our activities this year.

I encourage grad students to apply for the Goodman Fellowship and the international awards graciously sponsored by faculty from UI: Due and Ferber, Yates, and Accad. We will give the Cloud award again this year. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15, 2013. If you are a professor, let your students know about these possibilities for supporting their research on important topics of our time. ■

Alumni Spotlight:

**Zakia Salime, Assistant Professor,
Department of Sociology and Women's and
Gender Studies, Rutgers University**

How to understand the complicities and cross-fertilizations of the discursive regimes of war and terror and neoliberal globalization? What are the gendered spaces in which states and neoliberal economic forces intersect to produce gendered subjectivities, desires and agency? How does this interplay of classed, racialized and gendered forces create marginalization and subordination but also spaces for participation and contention? How has the mobilization of the discourse of gender equality, religious identity, and citizenship rights shaped movements and state transitions in North Africa and the Middle East?

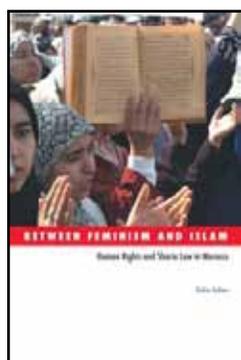


These questions locate Salime's research and teaching at the zones of frictions and tensions between universalist regimes and racialized categories of development, democratization and rights, and their gendered configurations.

Now an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University, and formerly on faculty at Michigan State University, Salime feels that her minor in Gender Relations in International Development (GRID) has contributed to her success. *(cont'd on p. 2)*

(Salime cont'd) She notes that as a GRID student, she had the opportunity to meet other students in the area of International Development and learn from their experiences. The GRID program offered the chance to network, meet wonderful people, and form connections to increase the interdisciplinarity of work. Additionally, Salime notes that being a student in the program made it possible to essentially start her academic career while still a student, through publication and participation in conferences as well as working with faculty already in the discipline. The research grants available at Illinois, she considers particularly valuable as the funding allowed her to focus on her work and gain visibility on campus. Salime feels particularly grateful to have been the recipient of the Goodman Fellowship. She wishes to offer many thanks to the Goodman family as the fellowship allowed her to continue her work, even in the midst of personal challenges, and feels that it would not have been possible without such generous support.

Salime's recent book, *Between Feminism and Islam: Human Rights and Sharia Law in Morocco* (Minnesota, 2011) illustrates the interplay of global regimes of rights and local alternatives, by looking at the interactions among the feminist and the Islamist women's movements.



The book shows how these interactions have transformed the state gender policies, the public discourse about women's rights and the movements themselves. Salime's ethnographic analysis illustrates the importance of certain 'movement

movements' as entry for understanding continuities and ruptures in these movements' strategies, discourse and forms of organization. Locating her analysis at the intersection of feminist and Islamist politics, Salime shows how these negotiations of rights and democratic participation has led to the feminization of the Islamist movement on the one hand, and the Islamization of the feminist movement on the other. Her book shows how these movements endeavor to influence the state legislation of women's rights, and how their transnational forums, and their effective use of the media and political alliances have led to some of the most spectacular forms of protest by women in North Africa and the Middle East.

Between Feminism and Islam critically re-assesses fissures in liberal feminist theory, which has primarily looked at Muslim women as objects of a discourse of liberation rather than as agents negotiating global policies and building alternative understandings of rights. Salime is currently working on a second book manuscript on urban youth movements of cultural expression and the gendered spaces in the context of the revolutionary Middle East.

Salime will return to the University of Illinois campus this October to present at the conference on The New Middle East: Social and Political Change in the Twenty-First Century, which is co-sponsored by WGGP, among others. ■

Zakia Salime can be contacted at zsalime@rci.rutgers.edu



Research Notes

How Can Networks Improve Women and Children's Lives in Rural North India?

Eeshani Kandpal, 2009-10 Goodman Fellow, and Kathy Baylis

Research by economists has highlighted the many ways in which peer networks can influence people's behavior. Networks can affect everything from migration decisions to whom to marry, and which technologies to use. However, this literature by and large ignores the mechanisms through which peer networks affect individuals. While impact evaluations provide a wealth of useful information, mechanisms provide the most important information for policy-makers: how do networks interact with policy? How can they enhance the effectiveness of existing interventions? What can we learn about the mechanisms that we can apply to other contexts and countries? These are some of the questions that we attempt to answer in our questions.

The Indian caste system restricts women's interactions to members of their own caste, which limit women's access to information and their ability to challenge often-restrictive social norms. Isolated and prevented from choosing their friends, women spend their lives in the domain of the household, very much dominated by their fathers, in-laws, husbands, and often sons. In Uttarakhand, which is nestled in the Indian Himalayas, a government intervention called Mahila Samakhya aims to empower women through education. This program provides formal, informal, and

vocational education, and organizes support groups with the explicit aim of empowering women to have a greater say in their households and communities. We surveyed 487 women in Uttarakhand communities and collected data on women's networks and on participation in Mahila Samakhya. While economists have studied learning from friends, our field tests quickly showed us that there were other ways in which peer networks can have an effect on individual behavior. Not only do individuals *learn* new information from their friends, they also adopt certain behaviors because they are influenced by their friends, particularly in support group-like settings (*social influence*), and sometimes are simply happier by behaving like their friends (*identity*).

We collected data on a series of empowerment measures such as ability to leave the house without permission and participation (*cont'd on p. 4*)



(Kandpal cont'd) in off-farm employment, as well as a variety of proxies for the mechanisms of learning, influence, and identity. We use these data to ask how friends' participation in this program might empower a woman to have greater decision making abilities with respect to household resources. To get causal estimates, not just correlations, we account for the fact that women choose their friends (within their caste) and also choose whether to participate in Mahila Samakhya. In a paper co-authored with Dr. Mary Arends-Kuenning, we find that Mahila Samakhya empowers women—controlling for their own participation status—to engage in outside employment opportunities, and to leave the house without permission. Then, we decompose this overall effect into a peer effects, and its component mechanisms. Our results also suggest that that social learning and social influence increase participation in the Indian National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, as well as a woman's ability to leave the house without permission. We also look at how social networks might influence others in

the household, and find that social learning can significantly improve children's food intake, in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

Female empowerment and child nutrition interventions may thus benefit from accounting for peer networks. For example, programs to inform mothers on the importance of immunization, or meetings to discuss coping mechanisms for victims of domestic violence might benefit from social learning, while interventions aimed at women's employment, may work best if they target clusters of villages to build groups that increase women's utility from associating with the group and increase friends' influence on each other. ■

Eeshani Kandpal was the 2009-10 Goodman Fellow and a doctoral candidate in Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois. She can be contacted at ekyeesh@gmail.com. Kathy Baylis is Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She can be contacted at baylis@illinois.edu

WGGP welcomes faculty member Colleen Murphy

WGGP is excited to have Colleen Murphy, associate professor, Department of Philosophy, join the faculty. Dr. Murphy has already been instrumental in organizing the lecture, **The Expressive Burden of Reparations: Why Compensation Can't Be Enough**, given by Margaret Urban Walker in September 2012 and just finished hosting **Engineering Ethics for a Globalized World**, both of which WGGP was happy to be involved with. Murphy feels that the overarching aim of her research is to identify the distinctly moral dimensions of those instances of political upheaval that arise from civil wars,



repressive rule, and natural disasters. Her research to date has focused on political reconciliation and transitional justice, as well as on the ethics of risk. She recently published *A Moral Theory of Political Reconciliation* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010). We are happy to welcome her to the Women and Gender in Global perspectives program. ■

Colleen Murphy can be contacted at colleenm@illinois.edu

WGGP 2012-13 Award Winners

CONGRATULATIONS!

We thank our donors who have generously set up a fellowship and grants to support UI graduate students' research on issues facing poor women in developing countries.

Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship



Aparna Saligrama (Department of Architecture) *for research on social value creation, the role of the built environment in aiding the same, and its benefits for women and children from an environment-design perspective*

Due and Ferber International Research Award



Rachel Storm (Educational Policy Studies) *for research on Andean Women Organizers in Ecuador Utilizing Feminist Pedagogies in Community Education*

Barbara A. Yates International Research Awards



Pamela Pei-Ling Chiang (School of Social Work) *for research on how state policies in immigration and child welfare affect services and interventions for immigrant women in the United States*



Koeli M. Goel (Institute of Communications Research) *for research on NGO Participation in public policy formation in India in areas of gender discrimination legislation, maternal health benefits, citizenship rights of migrant workers and urban development.*

Kathleen Cloud International Research Awards



Michelle Jimenez de Tavarez (Department of Kinesiology and Community Health) *for research on health disparities shaped by socioeconomic, cultural, and gender inequalities among Dominicans.*



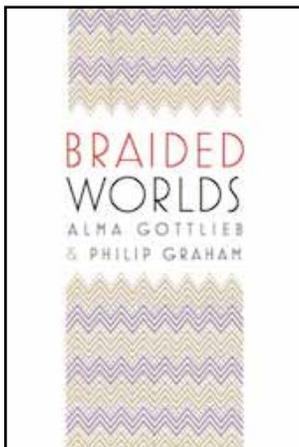
Ida Salusky (Department of Psychology) *on research on pathways to womanhood among Dominican Haitian adolescents in the Dominican Republic.*

NEWS FROM WGGP ASSOCIATES

Evelyne Accad, French/Comparative Literature, presented the following papers/lectures: Not Just Girl Talk: The Women of Africa (April 2012), “Voix de femmes, voix de luttes dans les printemps (tempêtes) arabes” at the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris (May 2012); and Voices of Women in the Arab (springs) Tempests (or storms) at WGGP (November 9, 2012).

Keera Allendorf, Sociology, has two recent publications entitled “Marital Quality from a Rural Indian Context in Comparative Perspective.” published in the Journal of Comparative Family Studies 43(4): 527-544 and “Women’s Agency and the Quality of Family Relationships in India,” [2012.in](#) Population Research and Policy Review 31:187–206.

Alma Gottlieb, Anthropology, published two books. The first is *The Restless Anthropologist: New Fieldsites, New Visions* which she edited and which will be the focus of a session at the American Anthropological Association conference in November 2012 with talks by nearly all contributors. The



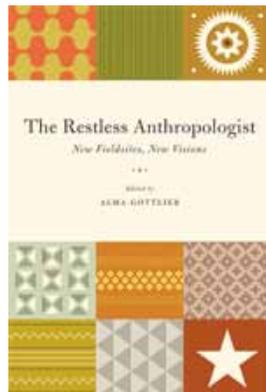
second is a memoir co-authored with Philip Graham entitled *Braided Worlds*, a sequel to *Parallel Worlds* (which won the Victor Turner Prize in 1994). All proceeds of this new book are

being devoted to the Beng community, who are currently trying to get back on their feet after the disastrous past nearly-two decades of intermittent civil war in Côte d’Ivoire.

Rachel Storm, PhD GRID Student, Educational Policy Studies, has received the National Women’s Studies Association’s *Women’s Center’s Emerging Leader Award* which is given to an individual new to the field of Women’s Center/Gender Equity Centers who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the issues that affect women on campus, in their community or globally.

Zakia Salime, GRID alum, Sociology at Rutgers, will be speaking on the University of Illinois campus as part of the fall conference The New Middle East: Social and Political Change in the Twenty-First Century (October 18-20, 2012). She recently published *Between Feminism and Islam: Human Rights and Sharia Law in Morocco* (Minnesota, 2011) and is featured in this issue’s Alumni Spotlight.

Gale Summerfield, WGGP Director, has the following recent publications: León, P., G. Summerfield, and M. Arends-Kuenning. 2012. “Exploring Latina/o Migrants’ Adaptation to the Economic Crisis in the U.S. Heartland: A Capability Approach,” *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*; May, A.M. and G. Summerfield. 2012. “Creating a Space where Gender Matters,” *Feminist Economics*; and Summerfield, G. Forthcoming. “Ester Boserup: 1910-1999.” In N. Smelser and P. Baltes, eds, *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Oxford: Pergamon (updated from 2001).



WGPP'S FALL 2012 EVENTS AND CO-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Sept. 28, 3-5 pm, 223 Gregory Hall
The Expressive Burden of Reparations: Why



Compensation Can't Be Enough
Speaker: Margaret Urban Walker (Marquette University)
Co-sponsors: Philosophy, WGPP

Oct. 4-5, 3057 Lincoln Hall
Food Security and Public Health in East Asia
Sponsors: WGPP, CEAPS
Co-sponsors: Sociology, Human and Community Development, Social Work, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, CIBER, and the Office of International Programs (ACES)

Oct. 8-9, iHotel
Engineering Ethics for a Globalized World
Information: www.engineeringethics.illinois.edu
Sponsors: Engineering, Philosophy, WGPP
Funding provided by: NSF Workshop Grant

Oct. 18-20, Levis Faculty Center
Conference on The New Middle East: Social and Political Change in the Twenty-First Century
Sponsors: CSAMES, WGPP



Nov. 1, 5:30pm, Krannert Art Museum
China Today Gallery Conversation; Rising Dragon: Contemporary Chinese Photography
Speakers: Gale Summerfield, Ying Chen, Terri Weissman, and Gary Xu

Nov. 9, 12pm, 101 International Studies Building
Voices of Women in the Arab (springs) Tempests (or storms)

Speaker: Evelyne Accad
Registration: <https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/1197899>
Co-sponsors: WGPP, CSAMES



Jan 2-12, Morocco
Environmental Issues, Health, and Global Justice in the Developing World
Faculty: Noreen Sugrue
Registration: <http://app.studyabroad.illinois.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&ProgramID=10906>
Co-sponsors: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Study Abroad Office



WGGP's Food Security and Public Health in East Asia Symposium was a success! Wonderful information was shared among participants and new ideas explored. Thanks to all who attended!



Craig Gundersen engages with the audience



l to r: Fiona McPhail, Nancy Chen, Sidney Cheung, Poshek Fu, Gale Summerfield, Tim Liao, Mary Arends-Kuenning



Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program
 320 International Studies Building
 910 S. Fifth Street
 Champaign, IL 61820
 Phone: 217-333-1994
 Fax: 217-333-6270
 Web: <http://www.ips.illinois.edu/wggp/>



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Perspectives

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WGGP welcomes your input in the form of news and articles for our newsletter as well as financial contributions of any amount. Please contact us at the address and email listed:

Director.....Gale Summerfield
summrflld@illinois.edu
 Program Coordinator.....Anita Kaiser
arkaiser@illinois.edu
 Editor and Office Support.....Jennifer Stanuch
stanuch2@illinois.edu