MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR  
Marjorie Griffin Cohen

The 2004-05 academic year marked the very successful beginning of Women’s Studies Ph.D. program. The five people who entered the program in the founding year have very diverse interests and programs of study.

* Sonja Boon - Mentors and Mothers in 18th Century France and New France.
* Yuuki Hirano - A cross-cultural study of the role immigration plays in gender construction.
* Xinying Hu - Women’s Labour and Casual Labour
* Helen Loshney - Women’s Health: Menstruation
* Natasha Patterson - Horror films and Women as Audience.

As we suspected when plans were originally made for this program, there is a great need for it: we admitted an additional six people to the program for September 2006 and, unfortunately, had to turn away many other qualified candidates. Our major challenge in the future will be to help students find adequate funding for pursuing their degrees.

Each term some Women’s Studies courses are taught by Sessional Instructors. This enables us to provide a wide range of courses in different areas of specialization. I would like to particularly thank those who worked for us this year: Barbara Blakley, who taught in Women’s Studies for almost 30 years, brought an important expertise initially on Women and Religion and then in overseeing our distance education course. Barbara’s contribution has been significant and Women’s Studies will miss her as 2005 has been her last year of teaching for us. Others teaching in the department this year were: Ningping Yu (The Writing of Cultures), Cara Camcastle (Feminist Ethics), Diana Ambrozas (Women and Food), Miriam Eguchi (Introduction to Western Feminism), Karlene Faith (Auto-Biography of Imprisoned Women).

The department very much enjoyed having Dr. Louise Chappell, from the Dept. of Economics, University of Sydney in Australia, as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair for the 2005 spring term. Her course, Women’s Rights and Human Rights: Activities, Institutions and Issues, attracted many students, including those from other departments and universities. She also organized a one-day conference on State Feminisms for about 80 people, ‘Working Inside and outside governments: Women’s Strategies for Change.’

As this newsletter shows, the professors and students in Women’s Studies are actively engaged in research and community activities. This combination of study and action is a powerful one and, we hope, is what defines the department.

Helen Beynon with her own portrait of Emily Carr. See the full story on pg. 6-7, Women’s Lives in Pictures and Words.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Women’s Studies Events 3
Upcoming Events 5
Undergraduate News 6
Graduate News 9
Faculty News 11
RWWP 12
Faculty Research 13
Community Events 19

How To Find Us
Interested in more information about Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University? We are located on the fifth floor of the AQ, and the main office is AQ5102A.

Phone: 604-291-3333
Fax: 604-291-5518
Mailing Address:
Department of Women’s Studies
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6
Website: www.sfu.ca/womens-studies

Women’s Studies Staff
The staff in the Women's Studies Department keep the department running efficiently. The following individuals make up the Women’s Studies staff:

Jen Chang the new Departmental Assistant & Undergraduate Advisor who joined us in July 2005. Jen has been with Simon Fraser University for more than 15 years. She is a permanent member of the Centre for Experimental and Constructive Mathematics where she has spent the last decade looking after its operations. During her tenure, she has managed a number of research initiatives and has presented posters at several conferences. Her research areas include

You can contact the following for more information on different programs:

Chair
Marjorie Griffin Cohen
mcohen@sfu.ca
604-291-5526

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604-291-4404

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Mary Lynn Stewart
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Departmental Assistant & Undergraduate Advisor
Jen Chang
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604-291-3593

Chair, Department & Graduate Secretary
Christine Goodman
cgoodman@sfu.ca
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scholarly and advanced publishing with a focus on scientific publishing, online learning and mathematics education.

She has been designing websites and publications since 1995 with some cited in periodicals including “Science” and “Scientific American.” She has organized numerous conferences and outreach activities and looks forward to putting her knowledge to use for future Women’s Studies events.

The Departmental Assistant, manages the budgets for the department and the Ruth Wynn Woodward endowment, advises Women’s Studies majors, joint-majors, and minors about their program requirements, works with the Undergraduate Chair on curriculum design and revisions, and provides organizational support for all of our community events.

Christine Goodman, the Receptionist/Department Secretary/Chair’s Secretary and Graduate Secretary, as you can imagine, Christine with four positions in the department juggles very well.

Amanda Shaw, the Ruth Wynn Woodward Program Assistant assists the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor with outreach initiatives, is responsible for the Women’s Studies website, and coordinates Women’s Studies events.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...


Rahat Imran (WS Ph.D. Student): who received a Graduate Fellowship.

Natasha Patterson (WS Ph.D. Student): who received the Anne Peters Pinto Scholarship in Women’s Studies in Spring 2005 and her 2004 nomination for the Grace Woodworth MacInnis Award.

Beth Pentney (WS Ph.D. Student): who received the 2005 Grace Woodward MacInnis Graduate Award in Women’s Studies from Simon Fraser University and The Nipissing University Travel Grant in March 2005.

Abby Wener (WS Ph.D. Student): who received the C.D. Nelson Scholarship and was accepted to the UCLA's Thinking Gender conference.

WOMEN’S STUDIES EVENTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 2004
The annual Christmas party held in the Women’s Studies department brought together faculty, staff, and graduate students. Jacqueline Levitin taught a Jewish gambling game with a dradle, which captivated everyone’s attention.

REPORT BY LOUISE CHAPPEL ON HER SYMPOSIUM: ‘WORKING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT: WOMEN’S STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE’
March 18, 2005
Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor
Spring 2005

On 18 March I organized a symposium which brought together policy activists, practitioners and academics interested in questions related to the role of government agencies in addressing women’s policy needs and concerns. The symposium consisted of 10 panelists from within BC and across Canada who addressed a range of questions including:

- How well have women’s policy agencies been able to translate women’s activist demands in policy?
- What factors shape the success or failure of women’s agencies in terms of crafting women’s policy and influencing policy debates more generally?

Jacqueline Levitin
Are women’s agencies a long term and viable strategy for translating women’s interests into policy?

What effort should feminist activists put into maintaining these agencies?

What comparative lessons can be drawn from the experiences of women’s activists and policy agencies at different levels of government?

The symposium, held at SFU Harbour Centre, was well attended with over 60 registrants. Many members of the audience came from grassroots women’s organizations and many young women were in attendance. Audience engagement with the panelists and their evaluation of the day suggests that they found it enjoyable, engaging and useful to their work.

The symposium was also very successful from an academic perspective. Panelists are keen to continue and broaden the discussion on this topic. Plans are now being made to hold a similar event in 2006 in Sydney, Australia and to publish an edited volume on the topic.

The success of the symposium was due in large part to the efforts of Nancy McCuaig, the previous Assistant to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair who helped organize the event.

Cindy Patton delivers President’s Lecture
May 23, 2005

Cindy Patton, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, and of Women’s Studies, delivered a President’s Lecture titled “Conceiving Global Disease: How Journalists Use Science to Imagine the Pandemic AIDS,” on May 23, 2005. The lecture focused on individual experience of disease vis-à-vis the experience of disease as “epidemic” or “pandemic” and how individual experience is transformed into “data” for use by researchers/media and provides basis for laws and resource allocation by policy makers. Scholars whose work addresses significant academic and social issues are chosen to give President’s Lecture. Cindy has been involved in the AIDS epidemic as an activist and researcher. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Community, Culture and Health and directs a lab that conducts collaborative research with community groups. The lecture was co-sponsored by Burnaby Mountain College, an initiative to promote intellectual life on campus.

EVENING WITH DAVID DIVINE
July 25, 2005

The James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies is a national senior academic post covering all of Canada, based at Dalhousie University in recognition of the unique historical presence of Black people in the area.

Women’s Studies and the National Congress of Black Women Foundation sponsored a special event: An Evening with David Divine, James R. Johnston Chair, Black Canadian Studies. The event took place at SFU, Harbour Centre.

ECONOMIC SECURITY PROJECT
CONFERENCE: ‘IMAGINING PUBLIC POLICY TO MEET WOMEN’S ECONOMIC SECURITY NEEDS’
October 13-15, 2005, Harbour Centre Campus

Women’s Studies was the catalyst for a major conference on public policy issues for vulnerable women on October 13-15, 2005. About 280 people attended the conference entitled, Imagining Public Policy to Meet Women’s Economic Security Needs.

The innovative aspect of the conference was the participation of activists and analysts from community based organizations as well as students and teachers from academic communities. Women’s Studies’ involvement stemmed from its support of a multi-year CURA (Community-University Research Alliance) research project on Economic Security that the department has co-sponsored with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. The project’s director is WS Chair, Marjorie Griffin Cohen and involves 20 academic researchers and 24 community-based organizations in BC.

WS students, Jewelles Smith and Whitney Borowko were on the planning committee of the conference, as were staff members Amanda Shaw and Jen Chang. Amanda provided very able website design and smoothly managed registration, food, and other conference logistics. Jen’s considerable artistic talents were used to generate a spectacular conference poster and conference kit. The organizing team, with CCPA’s Thi Vu, was a marvel of efficiency and professionalism.

The conference began with an evening speaker, The Honourable Monique Bégin. Her work as both a feminist and a strong supporter of keeping health care in the public sector was the basis for the talk. This talk was free and open to the general public. The two full days of the conference featured speakers on plenary panels from BC, throughout Canada and also from the US, UK, and Sweden. Many people from SFU were panel chairs or presenters on panels, workshops or plenary sessions. These included Jane Pulkingham (SA), Charmine Spencer (Gerontology), Lilian Zimmerman (Gerontology) Arlene Tigar McLaren (SA), Olena Hankivsky (Pol), Marina Morrow (FHS), Stephen McBride (Pol), Kathy McNutt (Pol), Jewelles Smith
The main point of the conference was to ‘imagine’ and analyze effective public policy for women in three main areas. These areas were 1) employment standards and barriers to labour force participation; 2) social assistance and social policy; and 3) community-based health care. The focus in each area was on women who are most vulnerable to changes in public policy initiatives and to try to understand the kinds of program initiatives that are needed to meet the needs of these women.

This conference was particularly important for both B.C. and Canadian research because there have been very few arenas in recent years, either nationally or in the province, for the discussion of women’s public policy needs. This was the first time in many years that a broad spectrum of people dealing with women’s economic security needs were brought together in Canada.

This conference was funded by a variety of sources, including SFU Women’s Studies, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, SFU’s 40th Anniversary Fund, and SFU Dean of Arts. Status of Women Canada provided a subsidy for people from throughout BC to attend, and funding for refreshment breaks was provided by the B.C. Government and Services Employees’ Union, the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation, the Canadian Auto Workers, and the Health Sciences Association.

Please check for updates about post-conference information at www.sfu.ca/espconference2005.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**WOMEN’S STUDIES 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE:**

‘TRANSFORMATIONS’: THE POLITICS OF WOMEN’S STUDIES

**February 10, 2006**

8:30am – 4:00pm, SFU Vancouver

In February the Women’s Studies Department will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. In celebration they are putting on a one-day conference. To register please email rwwchair@sfu.ca or check out the website at: [http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/Transformations.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/Transformations.htm)

The tentative program is as follows:

**Opportunities and Challenges:**
Research & Teaching: 9:00 – 10:30am
- Helen Leung - Gender Studies/Sexualities
- Marilyn MacDonald - Science/Interdisciplinarity
- Bobby Noble - Anti-racist Whiteness and Female/trans Masculinity
- Natasha Patterson - Distance Learning Pedagogy
- Liz Philipose - International Human Rights

**Academic Activism:** 10:50 – 12:30pm
- Caelie Frampton - Student Activism
- Andrea Lebowitz - Living Through Getting WS established
- Wendy Robbins - Traditions of Academic Activism
- Mary Lynn Stewart - Women’s Studies at SFU

**Battles & Triumphs:** Women’s Studies in the University:
1:30 – 3:30 pm
- Audrey Kobayashi - Accessibility & Disabilities
- Jen Marchbank - The Politics of WS
- Sneja Gunew - ‘Surviving the Corporate University’

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**Maggie Benston Lecture Series**

**Presents: Leslie Feinberg**

February 10, 2006

Vancouver Public Library

7:00 -8:30pm

Feinberg is well-known in the U.S. and many other parts of the world as an activist who works to help forge a strong bond between the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. As a trade unionist, anti-racist and socialist, Feinberg also organizes to build strong bonds of unity between these struggles and those of movements in defense of oppressed nationalities, women, disabled, and the working class movement as a whole. Feinberg has worked for more than 25 years in defense of the sovereignty, self-determination and treaty rights of Native nations and for freedom of political prisoners in the U.S. Leslie is an internationalist and has been part of the anti-Pentagon movement since the U.S. war against Vietnam.

Please reserve a seat by going to the website: [http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/Transformations.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/Transformations.htm) or email rwwchair@sfu.ca.

**Publications:**

1998 Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue (Beacon Press)
1997 Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman (paperback, Beacon)
1996 Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul (Beacon Press)
1993 Stone Butch Blues (Firebrand Books)
WOMEN’S STUDIES SYMPOSIUM:
GENDER, RACE, ISLAM AND THE “WAR ON TERROR”
MAY 11-13, 2006
SFU Vancouver

Gender, Race, Islam and the “War on Terror” is a symposium that includes public lectures and workshops with academics, community organizers and students to develop socially just, transnational and critical race theory responses to claims for cultural and religious self-determination, made by either minority or majority Muslim populations within Western and non-western states. The symposium will be held from May 11-13, 2006 at SFU Vancouver, with a panel discussion and speakers throughout the weekend.

Contact Liz Philipose, Department of Women’s Studies, SFU, for further information: Elizabeth_Philipose@sfu.ca

The following course’ titles have been revised:
WS 201: Colonizing Women: Canadian Women in Historical Perspective, 1600-1870s
WS 202: Modernizing Women: Canadian Women in Historical Perspective, 1870s-1970s
WS 208: Feminist Research Methods
WS 308: Women in the Economy: Paid and Unpaid Labour
WS 309: Gender and International Development
WS 412: Women & Film: Films & Theories

The following new courses will be added to the curriculum:
WS 305: Conceiving Creativity (Breadth certification)
WS 315: Gender, War & Health (Breadth certification)
WS 398: Feminist Currents (Writing certification)
WS 399: Numeracy, Genders & Cultures (Quantitative certification)
WS 316: Disciplining Sex: Feminist Science Studies & Sociobiology (certified as Breadth course for Humanities, Social Science, and Science)
GDST 300: Mapping Masculinities
GDST 301: Queer Genders

The following courses will no longer be offered:
WS 203: Female Roles in Contemporary Society
WS 400: Methodology

There will no longer be a breadth requirement for majors or joint majors. Additionally there will be an additional lower-division requirement of either WS 207 (Feminist Theory) or WS 208 (Feminist Research Methods) for majors and joint majors. There will be more flexibility in upper-division course choices for both majors and minors.

COMMUNITY WORK: DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
Jennifer Jarvies - Fourth Year WS Major

As undergraduate students are we really aware of the difficulties and constraints of conducting feminist research? I certainly was not until I embarked on a community based research project for a housing program in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. After having just completed a feminist research methods course I felt equipped to take on community based feminist research and as a directed study I volunteered to create and conduct a client satisfaction survey for a housing program for substance abusing mothers and their children. Despite the knowledge I had gained in my undergraduate courses the project proved to be the most challenging and enlightening experience of my undergraduate career.

As an undergraduate researcher, I experienced many constraints within this project. Initially I struggled with the location. I had never worked in the Downtown Eastside and I was afraid, especially since the majority of my research was conducted in the evenings. The power dynamics were daunting. I was treated with indifference by the tenants who took one look at me with my backpack, glasses and ponytail and rolled their eyes. I found myself caught between staff members who did not get along amicably. I struggled writing a report for a program that did not even have tangible guidelines.

I even discovered the housing program's supervisor was basically despised by all the tenants! Never did I anticipate feeling as helpless and confused as I did.

By the end of the semester, I managed to work my way through these constraints and began to discover what these struggles were worth. Through my literary review of the current research relating to issues of poverty, substance abuse, parenting and women, I discovered very little evaluative research exists on programs such as the one I was
researching. As I transcribed the women’s words into my report I began, to see the power of their responses and their agency in providing feedback to the housing program. When I handed in my report to the community group, I realized that for the first time my research was actually making a difference. I was able to help a non-profit women’s group and through this research I was able to voice the perspectives of women living in the program to ensure its capacity to meet their needs. This project turned out to be an enlightening experience that opened my eyes to the real constraints and difficulties involved in feminist research. At the same time, it offered me the opportunity to participate in something real, and gave me an incredibly rewarding experience.

**WOMEN’S LIVES IN PICTURES AND WORDS, MARCH, 2005**
Dr. Lara Campbell - WS 202 Instructor

In March, students from WS 202-3 (Women in Canada, 1920-present) organized and presented a public display on the history of women in Canada and British Columbia.

This display took place in the Academic Quadrangle at SFU, and students’ presentations ranged from oral histories of mothers and grandmothers, to South-Asian immigration, to the development of second wave feminism in Canada. Many students also created “Top-ten Canadian Women” lists, in order to counter the lack of female representation on CBC’s “The Greatest Canadian” Series.

**WOMEN’S STUDIES SESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS**

Sessional instructors form an important part of the Women’s Studies’ teaching program. Over the years many people have taught in the department, either bringing an expertise to the Women’s Studies classroom that is not represented among the regular WS faculty, or teaching a regular course when faculty are on leave. The department advertises regularly throughout the year for sessional instructors. The minimal qualification is usually an MA degree and some teaching experience. If you would like to receive our job advertisements, contact the Departmental Assistant, Jen Chang (wsda@sfu.ca).

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Teaching assistants and tutor markers are an important component of the Women’s Studies instructional staff. Both first year courses, Introduction to Women’s Issues in Canada and Introduction to Western Feminisms, have tutorials taught by teaching assistants. In addition both of these courses are offered by correspondence and tutor markers in these courses are the main contact students have with SFU. During the past year, Natasha Patterson, Silke Frischmuth, Caitlin Holmes, Rahat Imran, and Jewelles Smith have worked as either teaching assistants or tutor markers.

**The Experience of a TA in Women’s Studies**

We gave the four Fall 2005 teaching assistants in Women’s Studies a short questionnaire about their experiences of teaching first year Women’s Studies students. The teaching assistants, Trish Garner, Xining Hu, Tasha Patterson and Ben Milne are all graduate students in the department.
Question #1 – How do you find teaching first and second year students, many of whom are very young students who have come to university directly from high school?

Trish: The students are mainly enthusiastic and ready to learn, though sometimes it is hard to draw them out in tutorial discussions because many lack confidence in their ideas. Many find it difficult to deal with ambiguity. I have noticed that Popular Culture is the one topic which brings all the students out and makes for the most lively discussions.

Tasha: Sometimes students who have come straight from high school are somewhat resistant to feminist ideas about gender and sex, for example. Also, it appears that many are not prepared for the transition from high school levels of learning and writing to undergraduate levels of the same.

Xinying: They learn new knowledge very quickly and they dare to challenge textbooks with new perspectives.

Ben: Many students lack some of the necessary skills. However, it is reassuring that many of them are willing to ask for help.

Question #2 – Are your students responsive to new and perhaps shocking information and ideas?

Ben: Many react immediately without actually thinking through new ideas and information but often when the same idea are presented in different contexts it will strike a chord.

Tasha: Some groups are more responsive and excited by new ideas than others. I am often surprised at how unphased they are by some ideas, intersex and transgender, for example. On the other hand, I think we sometimes underestimate their intelligence, and/or what they can bring to the classroom.

Trish: Most of the students have been eager to engage with new ideas, and have been respectful in discussions dealing with ‘shocking’ information (at least, to them), such as the existence of transgender and intersex individuals. I have been pleasantly surprised by this. I’m not sure if it is a sign of the times, or a particularly progressive group, or if those students who have more conservative views are not speaking up.

Question #3 - Has teaching young people and introducing them to what in some cases may be a new world, or a new way of looking at an old one, changed your views/analyses or prompted you to refine your analyses?

Xinying: The young people provide me with new perspectives on questions and teaching often gives me new ideas about questions I have already considered.

Ben: The biggest challenge is to make the ideas more accessible to first year undergraduates. Also, the overview structure of a first year course forces us to think of things in terms of the bigger picture.

Trish: I don’t think my views have changed substantially but they have definitely shifted. Revisiting concepts that I take for granted because they are familiar to me and devising ways of teaching them have provided me with a fresh perspective which is enlightening.

Tasha: My particular academic interest is the media/popular culture, and, if anything, teaching has reinforced my view of the importance of media and its place in the classroom. It seems that for many students media and popular culture is the primary mode of interaction and access to social and political issues. I learned that we shouldn’t come to the classroom with any preconceived ideas about the impact of media on students. Secondly, teaching is much more taxing, exciting and rewarding than I imagined.

Question #4 - Xinying, how are you finding teaching young Canadian students?

Xinying: These students are quite active in learning. They think about what they learn and like to discuss their ideas and give their opinions on questions. This is different from my country where students are quite passive. From early childhood they are taught to respect knowledge and authority and not to question. So much of the learning is memorizing what teachers and textbooks tell them.

Ben: No problems have arisen. The students don’t seem to have a preconceived notion about what Women’s Studies courses comprise. It isn’t as difficult as it could be or as I thought it could be.

Questions #6 - Do you think there will be life after graduate school?

Tasha: I certainly hope so! After I graduate I plan to look for a job in a university.

Trish: At the moment I’m pretty sure that there is, but then again, this is my first semester. Ask me again next year.

Ben: I’m sure there is, but after having been in school for almost 20 years straight, it will be weird.

Xinying: Graduate study may lead to a career but it doesn’t guarantee a future. Students should cultivate other skills such as teaching, research, administration. Now, as people realize, more and more, the importance of gender equality, it should be easier for Women’s Studies students to find positions to show their abilities and talents.
Xinying Hu, is a 2nd year doctoral candidate from Beijing. Her research is on the precarious nature of many women’s work, specifically Canadian and Chinese casual labour. She is the tutor marker for WS 102 – Introduction to the History of Western Feminisms.

Tasha Patterson, is a 2nd year doctoral candidate whose research focuses on feminist cultural studies, criticism of popular television and its audiences, and hopes to uncover unique insights about the ‘gendering’ of genre as well as the audience. She is a teaching assistant for WS 101 – Introduction to Women’s Issues in Canada.

Trish Garner is a 1st year doctoral candidate whose research interest is in exploring the relationship between the material body and symbolic body by analyzing the nature of transgender embodiment and the practices that transgender individuals use to create, maintain and express their gender identity. She is the teaching assistant for Gender Studies 200 – Thinking About Gender.

Ben Milne is an MA student currently working on his thesis proposal investigating the nutritional aspects of organic food through an ecofeminist perspective of lay/expert status. He is a teaching assistant for WS 101 – Introduction to Women’s Issues in Canada.

**WELCOME TO THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS IN FALL 2005**

**MA Women’s Studies:**
- Mignon Alphonso – University of Victoria
- Sarah Berry – McMaster University
- Cole Dodsley – Laurentian University
- Pooney Ehsani – Shaheed Behesti University, Tehran
- Byron Lee – Simon Fraser University
- Mary Shearman – Ottawa University

**Ph.D. Women’s Studies:**
- Abby Wener, UBC
- Beth Pentney - Nippissing University
- Abhar Husein - University of Connecticut
- Silke Frischmuth - SFU
- Rahat Imran - SFU

For information on the Women’s Studies Graduate Program go to:

**MA Program:** [http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/ma_prog.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/ma_prog.htm)

**Ph.D. Program:** [http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/phd_prog.htm](http://www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/phd_prog.htm)

**GRADUATE REPORT**

Mary Lynn Stewart – Graduate Chair

In 2003, the Full Program Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Women’s Studies was approved. Discussion of a joint PhD program with the Universities of British Columbia and Victoria had begun in 1992, seven years after the initiation of a MA program in WS. Although we wished the other programs well, we decided to focus on adding a major program to the minor and joint majors at the undergraduate level, which we did in the mid 1990s.

In the late 1990s, we resumed discussion of a joint Ph.D. program with the University of British Columbia, but ultimately, both parties decided to proceed alone, with the understanding that doctoral candidates could take courses from either institution.

The degree requirements for the Ph.D. are three graduate courses, comprehensive examinations in three fields, and the completion and defense of a Ph.D. dissertation. Unless the doctoral candidate has taken parallel courses elsewhere, we recommend that they take the graduate WS course in methodology and the graduate WS course in feminist theory, each of which is offered once an academic year. Often students arrange graduate reading courses in WS or take graduate courses in cognate disciplines such as Sociology or History for their third course. Under no circumstances are doctoral candidates allowed to take masters-level courses “added on” to senior undergraduate courses. The three comprehensive fields are not coterminous with the three graduate courses. Students and appropriate supervisors must prepare reading lists of forty-five important works per field. Because WS is an interdisciplinary field, we allow projects like films, to be submitted for comprehensives. Most comprehensives will take the form of a written and oral examination. We are presently preparing basic reading lists for several possible comprehensive fields.

Even before the PhD program was approved, we had four applicants who were prepared to start the program in advance of formal approval. We accepted one of these applicants, who decided, in these circumstances, to go elsewhere.
The next year, 2004, there were thirteen applicants, of which we accepted five, and all came. In 2005, twelve people applied, we accepted six, and once again, all came. Acceptance is based on the students’ record but also upon our ability to supervise their proposed dissertations. Everyone has to have a faculty supervisor to be admitted. We have had many inquiries from international students, most of which we have had to discourage, because we do not have faculty expertise, such as linguistic skills, in their areas of research.

Our first two classes of doctoral students are a diverse and interesting bunch. They include students from China, Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Germany, as well as students with backgrounds in Liberal Studies, Philosophy, Literature, and Sciences. Their dissertations topics range from a critical study of the reality show “The Swan” and its blogs to hormonal prescription practices and use in British Columbia.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS:

Caelie Frampton (WS MA Student): Is currently writing her thesis on Social movement theory, anarchist theory and ACT UP!

- Publications:
  She is also working on editing a book project entitled "Sociology for Changing the World: Political Activist Ethnography" with Gary Kinsman, Andrew Thompson and Kate Tilleczek. They anticipate it will be released in the spring of 2006.

- Community:
  Last year as the At-Large Graduate Representative for the Simon Fraser Student Society she negotiated a new graduate health and dental plan which begins this fall. She is also currently the Coordinator for the Teaching Support Staff Union on campus.

Rahat Imran (WS Ph.D. Student):

- Her current research is Muslim Women Filmmakers
- Publications:
  "Illegal Injustices: The Zina Hudood Ordinance of Pakistan and its Implications for Women.” Her paper investigates the Islamic laws that govern women’s sexual conduct, and their implications for women seeking justice in rape cases in Pakistan. Date of Publication: November, 2005 in Journal of International Studies. JIWS@bridgew.edu

Natasha Patterson (WS Ph.D. Student):

- Her research focuses on feminist cultural studies criticism of popular television and its audiences. For her dissertation, she plans to conduct an audience ethnography of female and male viewers of Reality TV, in order to challenge gendered assumptions about audiences and media texts. She notes that recent explosion of Reality TV poses new questions and challenges for feminist television researchers, because it breaks down and blends together traditionally gendered genres such as the (masculine) game show and the (feminine) talk show. Specifically, she is interested in text-audience relations and by studying Reality TV and its audiences, she hopes to uncover unique insights about the ‘gendering’ of genre as well as the audience. The working title for her dissertation is: ‘Gendered Audiences and Reality TV: Re-visioning Feminist Television Criticism for the Twenty-first Century.’

- Publications:

Beth Pentney (WS Ph.D. Student): She is currently researching women and reality television, with a focus on the sub-genre of makeover shows. Beth is interested in examining women as participants in, and viewers of, reality television, and the issues of agency and empowerment that surround these subject positions.

- Publications:
  “‘It was as if she trod on knives’: Violence, Beauty and the Natural in Fay Weldon’s The Life and Loves of a She-Devil.” McGill University English Graduate Symposium. Montreal, Quebec. March 2005.

- Conference Attendance:
  Silke Frischmuth (WS Ph.D. Student): Presented the paper "The discourse of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Indigenous Women" at the “Indigenous Women and Feminism: Culture, Activism, Politics” conference at the University of Alberta on August 25 -28, 2005. The conference was hosted by the Department of English and Film Studies.
Xinying Hu (WS Ph.D. Student):

Xinying with her daughter

Natasha Patterson (WS Ph.D. Student): Presented on “Reading Race and Gender in Reality TV Contest Shows” for Dr. Zoe Drueick's Understanding Television course, School of Communication SFU, as part of a guest speaker panel on Reality TV, March 31, 2005

Habiba Zaman & fellow prisoners

Beach, Adelaide Australia

BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE WORLD AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 2005

Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Habiba Zaman are involved in a 5-year (2000-2005), $1.4 million dollar SSHRC-MCRI (Major Collaborative Research Initiative) grant that focuses on a multi-country research project entitled Neo-Liberal Globalism and Its Challengers: Sustainability in the Semi-periphery. The Globalism project is a network of eighteen international academics from Australia, Canada, Mexico and Norway to work on issues of globalization for countries on the semi-periphery of the world power. The project, based in Parkland Institute at the University of Alberta, organized three international conferences in Mexico City (2002), Bergen (2003) and Adelaide (2005). The Adelaide conference titled Building an Alternative World in Adelaide was organized by Ray Broomhill of the University of Adelaide, South Australia and was held from April 18-21/05.

Four members of SFU- three faculty (Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Habiba Zaman of Women’s Studies, Stephen McBride of Political Science) and one Ph.D. student (Randi Drevland of Political Science)- took part in the Adelaide Conference. The conference dealt with a range of issues including two sessions on Reconfiguring Gender on the Semi-Periphery, Global Social Movements and Human Rights, and Voices from Below. SFU Women’s Studies participants presented papers in all these sessions.

The conference organized a number of academic and fun-loving events. The Don Dustan Foundation of Adelaide in collaboration with the Globalism Project presented a public forum on The Contradictions of a New Global Empire? US Power and Its Challengers. One of the keynote speakers was Professor Stephen Clarkson, Professor of Political Economy of the University of Toronto. A post-conference Wine Tour was organized by two Aussies (Ray and his friend), which included free sampling of wine in several wineries and purchase of fine wine. Habiba, Marjorie and her partner Michael also visited the magnificent long and clean sea beach in Adelaide and got glimpses of the golden sun at the end of the day!

FACULTY NEWS

SUE WILKINSON & CELIA KITZINGER AND THEIR BATTLE FOR MARRIAGE RECOGNITION IN THE UK

Sue Wilkinson was the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor in the department of Women’s Studies from 2002-2004. During her time at SFU she put on a very successful Gender, Sexuality and Health Conference and taught several Women’s Studies courses. She currently is a Professor of Feminist and Health Studies in the Department of Social Sciences, at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, UK. Recently, Sue and her partner Celia have been in the news for fighting for same-sex marriages to be legally recognized in Britian. The following is the BBC article that features their story.

SUE WILKINSON & CELIA KITZINGER AND THEIR BATTLE FOR MARRIAGE RECOGNITION IN THE UK
Lesbian couples’ high court test

A lesbian couple are launching a High Court battle to get same-sex marriages legally recognized in Britain.

Sue Wilkinson and Celia Kitzinger on their Wedding Day August 26, 2003 in Vancouver.

Celia Kitzinger and Sue Wilkinson were married while living in Canada in 2003 and now want a legal declaration of the validity of their union in the UK.

The couple, from North Yorkshire, said a failure to recognize the legality of their vows breached their human rights.

UK same-sex civil partnerships will become legal in December but the couple said they were a "lesser substitute".

Their application was filed at the High Court on Friday and their case is expected to be heard in 2006.

The new Civil Partnership Act will allow the couple to register their relationship as a civil partnership but not a marriage.

Full equality
This means they will receive several legal benefits available to heterosexual married couples. In a statement they said their case was fundamentally about equality. "We want our marriage to be recognized as a marriage, just like any other marriage in Canada," it read.

"It is insulting and discriminatory to be offered a civil partnership instead."

"Civil partnerships are an important step forward for same-sex couples, but they are not enough. "We want full equality in marriage."

Marriages legalised
The High Court is being asked to recognize their Canadian marriage in the same way it would recognize the overseas marriage of a heterosexual couple.

The women intend to argue that failure to do so would constitute a breach of their human rights to privacy and family life and their right to marry.

For an overseas marriage to be recognized in the UK, it must be proved to be legal, recognized in the country in which it was carried out and shown that nothing in the country's law restricted their freedom to marry.

Ms Kitzinger, 48, a professor at the University of York and Ms Wilkinson, 51, a professor at Loughborough University, said their marriage met all requirements.

The couple were married in British Columbia while Ms Wilkinson was living and working in Vancouver.

Civil liberties organization Liberty are providing legal representation for the women in the case, which is also being supported by the national lesbian and gay campaigning group Outrage!!

Their high court case will be heard in June 2006 and you can look at Sue’s website for updates on the case http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/ss/depstaff/staff/wilkinson.html.

Welcome to Elizabeth Philipose, The Current Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor: Fall 2005 - Summer 2006

In August 2005, Elizabeth Philipose joined the Women's Studies Department for a one year term as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (RWWP). She is teaching Introduction to Feminist Theory in the first semester and Feminism and International Human Rights in the second term. Her background is in global politics with an emphasis on international law, human rights, gender and militarism and contemporary social theory. Her current project is to develop a theoretical framework for understanding the role of emotions in global politics, illustrated through the use of torture for military ends, recruitment of foreign-born soldiers for national armies and the growing uses of prisons in the "war on terror".

During her tenure as the RWWP, Dr. Philipose has a number of plans for public events. She is organizing a Spring symposium on "Race, Gender and Islam in the 'War on Terror" with local, national and international participants. This is being organized in collaboration with Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality/Equity (RACE). Additionally, Dr. Philipose will present her research at the Centre for Research on Gender and Society, UBC, in October, and at a public lecture in January at SFU. More public presentations will be scheduled.
REPORT BY LOUISE CHAPPELL:

Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor, Spring 2005

My appointment to the RWW Chair was for the Spring term, commencing January 2005. During my time in the position I have taught a course on Women’s Human Rights, given talks and interviews at SFU and at the University of Victoria as well as run a day-long symposium on the topic ‘Working Inside and Outside Government: Women’s Strategies for Change’. This brief report outlines each of these activities and evaluates their success.

Teaching: Women’s Rights as Human Rights: Activists, Institutions and Issues

One of the main responsibilities in my role as the RWW Chair was to teach a senior undergraduate class on Women’s Human Rights. This course introduced students to the central activists, institutions and issues involved in framing women’s international human rights and critically analyzed mainstream human rights discourse from a women’s rights perspective. Students were asked to consider the role of transnational feminist actors in shaping and enforcing international human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Criminal Court. Attention was given to the experiences of women in western and non-western countries in accessing right and to the role that religion and culture play in the process. Specific women’s rights issues relating to war and conflict, refugee status and trafficking were also discussed.

The 45 students in the class have been eager to learn and responsive to the subject matter of the course. In regard to assessment, the students were asked to engage with and analyze the issues from an activist perspective. For one talks, they worked in groups to study the effectiveness of CEDAW in selected countries and presented their finding to the whole class. A second task required them to individually prepare a research report directed to the Canadian federal government on a specific human rights issues of their choosing. Student feedback suggests that they learnt a lot from their in-country CEDAW analysis and, although many were initially daunted by the prospect of writing a report, the majority of the class did an excellent job of applying their analytical and writing skills to this task.

I was fortunate to have had Rahat Imran as a tutorial assistant throughout the term. Rahat supported me with tutoring, student marking and consultation.

Research Presentations

During my time at SFU I have had the opportunity to present my research to a number of different audiences. On 16 February I gave a presentation in the Women’s Studies Seminar program on ‘Expanding Women’s Rights Under International Law: Developments at the International Criminal Court’. I was also invited to the University of Victoria to present a public lecture on this topic 22 March. While I was at UVIC I gave a workshop to graduate students in the Social Policy and Practice Program on my policy-related research.

I have been interviewed by campus radio both at SFU and UVIC as well as by the SFU Campus News about my research on international women’s rights and women and policy issues.

My time at SFU has been busy but immensely rewarding. I’ve been made feel very welcome by the Department of Women’s Studies and have enjoyed my contact with members of the department through departmental meetings and social events. I look forward to maintaining contact with the department members on my return to Sydney University and hope to be able to return their hospitality on their future visits to Australia.

FACULTY RESEARCH:

Lara Campbell:

Ongoing research for Respectable Citizens of Canada: Gender and Family in the Great Depression (current book manuscript, under consideration at University of Toronto Press) and Letters to the Premiers: Citizenship, Welfare and Social Protest (book manuscript). My new research project is “Female War Resisters in Canada: The Vietnam Years.” From 1965 to the early 1970s, historians have estimated that approximately 25,865 male American draft dodgers or war resisters and 26, 804 female resisters arrived Canada in protest against the Vietnam war. While there have been several studies on the politics and background of male war resisters, little research has been done on the thousands more women who also arrived in protest against the draft and the war. This project is a detailed examination of the women who accompanied draft dodgers to Canada, and looks at the political and personal reasons for immigration, the impact of immigration on women’s personal relationships, and their reception upon their arrival in Canada. Since many women who arrived were politically active in the United States, I will also look at their involvement in and impact on Canadian political and social movements, specifically the women’s, student and anti-war movements, and the
development of women’s studies courses and programs in the Canadian university system.

**Research Grant:** President’s Research Grant, 2005-2007

**Marjorie Griffin Cohen:**

Currently I am working on four research projects; Employment conditions and employment standards - Implications for young women, editing a book with Janine Brodie on Reconfiguring Gender in the Semi-Periphery for Routledge Press, editing a book with Jane Pulkingham on Public Policy and Women and writing a book with John Calvert on Electricity Restructuring in North America.

**Helen Leung:**

I am at work on a book manuscript entitled Undercurrents: Queer Culture and Postcolonial Hong Kong which I hope to complete by early next year. I am in the initial stages of two new research projects: 1) a study of inter-Asian queer cultural politics and the role of the diasporic critic; 2) a study of representations of sex work in Chinese cinema and literature.

**Jacqueline Levitin**

I am currently on Study Leave. I spent the summer (2005) in China, first presenting my research on women in the sword fight film (e.g. Hero, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, and House of the Flying Daggers) at a major conference in both Beijing and Shanghai celebrating the centennial of the Chinese Cinema. I then stayed on in Shanghai to lecture at Shanghai University on Film and Television production. Students are very changed in the five years since I last lectured in China and the experience of the effects of the one-child policy (single children now of university age) was enlightening. In August, I attended the Visual Evidence Conference in Montreal, presenting my research working in video in the Downtown Eastside. It was an amazing conference of international scholars all engaged in issues in documentary film. In Montreal, I also took the opportunity to continue my interviews with Mireille Dansereau and Larry Kent, two early (60s and 70s) independent Canadian feature filmmakers.

The year has been very interesting creatively. In the Spring I did “live video art” – video that was projected as the backdrop to a choreography by Jennifer Mascall to Glenn Gould’s Goldberg Variations (re-composer, Michael Vincent). Using computers, I combined processed images of the dancers as they danced with images that I had previously shot – five variations in video to accompany five variations in the dance performance. The learning curve was steep, and I am not sure I have the nerves to continue to be so technology dependent in a live performance, but the process and results were exciting.

**Marilyn MacDonald**

Over the last year, I’ve been on a combination of study leave (from September, 2004 to April, 2005) and research (May to August, 2005), initially with the goals of completing a chapter for a book, publishing the results of my research on the impact of academization on social justice movements, and completing work on community-generated narratives as a means of conceptualizing environmental health. As with the best-laid of any plans, these goals were sidetracked, to a large extent, by the ongoing development of a new undergraduate curriculum initiative, now commonly referred to by the acronym, WQB (standing for Writing, Quantitative, and Breadth, and translating...
as of the fall of 2006 into a requirement for all new undergraduates to have approximately two writing-skills-intensive, two quantitative-skills-intensive, and six courses spread across the Humanities, Social Sciences, Contemporary Arts and Natural/Applied Sciences).

As part of the administrative support for this initiative, the university has provided funding for course development, particularly in the area of Q-courses, and B-courses which can be considered as Natural/Applied Science for Humanities students, or Humanities for N/AS students. This seemed like a good opportunity to develop courses in Women's Studies for students from a wide range of disciplines, as well as for WS majors and minors who will also be facing these new requirements. Certainly, WS – with a commitment to interdisciplinary, inclusivity in academic/community linkages – had already been practicing much of what WQB was/is proposed to accomplish. Also, WS at Simon Fraser University has been unique in its initial and ongoing commitment to the development of Feminist Science and Technology Studies, as evident in the work of faculty such as Margaret Benston and Meredith Kimball, Ruth Woodward Chairs such as Hilda Ching, graduate students beginning with Ellen Balka and continuing in the present, with Ben Milne.

One B course which I’ve developed, and which was offered in a pilot version this semester, is entitled, "Conceiving creativity: exploring feminist studies of science and religion using women's science fiction". This course was first offered in 1998, with the science fiction (then four novels) intended to provide a space for dialogue between students in the natural/applied and social sciences, and humanities, and was based on a discussion that had been published in the National Women's Studies Association Journal in 1992/93, amongst several FSTS scholars (including Anne Fausto-Sterling, Nancy Tuana, Ruth Hubbard, Sandra Harding and Sue Rosser) who were concerned at the continuing separation between what might be considered as "working in the system" (to get more women into science, for example) and "working outside the system" (to change the practices and outcomes of science). As many of the concerns raised about scientific knowledge, professional identity, communities of practice and systems of innovation seemed to overlap with feminist critiques of philosophy and religion, the course was expanded (thanks to support from the Centre for the Study of Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, and the Center for Theology and Natural Science, Berkeley). This course has as yet only been certified as a B-Humanities course for science students, but I will be applying for the additional B-Science for humanities designation.

Another B course in the works is entitled, "Disciplining sex: feminist critiques of sociobiology". It has been offered once as a special topics course, and will be developed further next summer.

The Q course which is being developed, and being offered in a pilot version next semester, is entitled, "Numeracy, gender and cultures", and is intended to provide quantitative skills and knowledge within the context of social change. The course begins with an investigation of societal constructions of functional numeracy (what Margaret Eisenhart and Dorothy Holland have referred to, in another context, as the underlying power relations involved in, and revealed by, social construction of the educated person). It seems particularly appropriate to be offering this course in the beginning phase of the United Nations' Decade for Sustainability Education (2005-2015), when the combination of an increasing emphasis on the importance of quantitative knowledge in ecological numeracy and a continuing struggle to provide mathematics education for girls and women seems likely to marginalize women's participation in environmental decision-making.

Mary Lynn Stewart
I am currently completing the manuscript for my book entitled Dressing Modern Frenchwomen: Democratizing Haute Couture, 1919-1939, which I will send to publishers in the fall. I am simultaneously writing a paper on attitudes toward aging women in the feminine press in France in the same period, which I will present at a conference this October. This paper may launch my next major project. I am also beginning to prepare an entry on women and the welfare state for the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Women's History.

Habiba Zaman
I have completed a book manuscript tentatively titled Transnational Migration and Commodification of Laborers in Canada: Intersections of Gender, Class and Race. Currently, I am working on a paper titled Asian Immigrants in BC: What Does Government Restructuring Mean for Immigrants in the Labour Market? This paper deals with two major aspects with regard to some significant changes in the Labour Market Policy in 2002: first, it investigates how the recent policy changes have impacted immigrant women in British Columbia; second, analyzes effects of changes on wages, working conditions, job-security, access to housing, transport and child care subsidy. The paper is product of a collaborative research with Cecilia Diocson, an activist and one of the founders of the Philippine Women Centre (PWC) in BC. Under her supervision, the PWC conducted surveys of the research. Becky Scott, a Women’s Studies upper-level undergraduate student and a research assistant funded by the diligently tabulated the survey findings.
**ASSOCIATE FACULTY RESEARCH INTEREST:**

**Brian Burtch:** (Criminology)

Currently I am working in support of mature students interested in degree completion. I am the Academic Director of SFU’s Integrated Studies Program (www.sfu.ca/integratedstudies) and will co-present a paper on lifelong learning at the 2005 conference on lifelong learning through the Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRLl) at University of Stirling, Scotland.

**Arlene McLaren:** (Sociology & Anthropology)

During the past year, I have been working on several projects. I am currently analyzing focus group and individual interviews to determine the impact of restructuring in the BC home support system on community health workers, clients and family caregivers. This research is funded as a CURA project by SSHRC (Principal Investigators: Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Seth Klein; SFU-Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) Collaboration, 2004-2008, $1,000,000). Recently I submitted a paper “Family Class and Immigration in Canada: Implications for the Study of Sponsored Elderly Women” to the Working Paper Series of the Vancouver Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis (RIIM), 1 January 2005 – 31 March 2006, $13,684.

**Parin Dossa (Sociology & Anthropology)**

*Review of her book “Politics and Poetics of Migration”*

On the cover of Parin Dossa’s new book, *Politics and Poetics of Migration*, a delicate ficus tree hangs in mid-air, ripped by its vulnerable roots from some rich but unseen soil.

It will either wither or thrive – depending on how successfully it can be transplanted. Dossa, an associate professor of anthropology and the SFU bookstore author of the month for March, knows first-hand the fragility of a transplant.

She is a Ugandan refugee who fled Idi Amin’s brutal regime in the 1970s. And it was that experience of “displacement and rupture” that ultimately led her to her recent publication documenting the resettlement stories of Iranian women living on Vancouver’s North Shore.

Dossa, who completed a masters degree in England, had already been planning to attend graduate school at the University of British Columbia when her country fell into chaos. She arrived in Vancouver with her sister in 1972.

“That experience of displacement and resettlement made me think closely about my social location in society. I became very politicized in my understanding. I am a Muslim woman raised in an Asian enclave created by the British colonial administration. I felt deprived of my own heritage.”

“I learned British history, geography and literature all in English – the only time local culture was brought into the classroom was to show that we had a lot of catching up to do. As a south Asian Ugandan Muslim I was entitled to learn Arabic, Urdu, Farsi and Swahili, but this was not the case.

“In graduate school, I had the space and time to reflect on how larger social issues impact on our lives, and how in many cases there are other ways of knowing and being that have been suppressed. I decided to pursue anthropology because it helped me to see how lived reality is informed by larger social and political developments.”

After completing a PhD that looked at the experiences of her own displaced community, Dossa expanded her research to other ethnic groups. In the late 1980s, while living in North Vancouver, she noticed growing racism towards the many post-revolution Iranian immigrants. “I wanted to document their experiences of migration and settlement,” she says, “and tell the stories of a community of women who were displaced owing to circumstances not of their own making.”
The moving testimonials collected in her new book “tell of the process of building new lives while confronting profound social barriers. Women have a lot to say about larger societal issues, and one woman’s story can capture the voice of a larger group.”

Although “not an activist in the conventional sense,” Dossa is committed to exploring the issue of social justice by exposing institutional and systemic racism.

“I feel there’s still a lot of work to be done, and I encourage my students to engage in critical thinking and to explore avenues for progressive change. My goal with this research has been to help create a more just society by documenting what one group of people from the margins have to say about the fault lines of society, and the directions for positive change.”

Article from SFU News by Julie Ovenell-Carter

**Faculty Publications**


**Conference Papers and Academic Presentations**


“NAFTA and Social Justice Issues for Canadian Women.


COMMUNITY TALKS


Levittin, Jacqueline. 2005 Talk on current housing issues in Vancouver’s DTES and presentation of Building Bridge (Women’s Directorate, Whitehorse, April 15).
TRAVELING SPEAKERS’ SERIES

One of the community programs associated with the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowment is the Traveling Speakers’ Series. A list of speakers and topics is circulated to women’s centers throughout BC and the Yukon. These groups then request a speaker for a local event. When a speaker can be matched up with a local event somewhere in BC or the Yukon, the department pays their airfare and accommodation and the local group handles advertisement and local arrangements. These events are very well received and people are very enthusiastic about speakers traveling to their community rather than their needing to travel to the Lower Mainland. For further information about the Traveling Speakers’ Series, please contact Amanda Shaw (rwwchair@sfu.ca).

The Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (RWWP) is one of the main participants in this series. In addition faculty and associate faculty in Women’s Studies can participate, and sessional instructors in the department may participate after they have taught two courses for the department.


Topics Covered Include:

- Opportunities and Challenges: Research & Teaching
- Academic Activism
- Battles & Triumphs: Women’s Studies in the University

There is no fee to attend, but registration is required.

Email: rwwchair@sfu.ca
Phone: 604-291-4023
Website: www.sfu.ca/womens-studies/Transformations.htm
ATTENTION:
WRITING CONTEST

$600 PRIZE FOR WOMEN’S STUDIES & GENDER STUDIES STUDENTS

This contest is in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Women’s Studies Department.

The TASK: Write a 1,000 word essay on “Why Women’s Studies” or provide an artistic equivalent (photo essay, painting, poetry)

PRIZES: $300 (Undergraduate Work)
$300 (Graduate Work)

Eligibility: All WS and Gender studies majors, minors, and students enrolled in WS or GDST courses & all WS graduate students.

DUE DATE: Tuesday, January 31st, 2006
Drop off submissions to the WS Office: AQ 5102A

Winners will read their essays at the February 10th, 2006 Women’s Studies 30th Anniversary Conference
Transformations: The Politics of Women’s Studies