Greetings from the “eastest” point of east, my new home in St. John’s, Newfoundland! I can still hardly believe I’ve managed to find a space for myself and my family in such a stunningly beautiful natural environment and such an old and gracious city. On my way to work, I look out over the Atlantic Ocean; when I’m downtown, I drink in the energy and vitality of jewel-toned century-old row houses; just outside of town we see whales, pick wild blueberries and cranberries and drink in the wind. I arrived here with my family in mid-June 2008 to take up a tenure track position in the Department of Women’s Studies, Memorial University. We’re a small, but cozy, department with only 2.5 full-time appointees and two per-course instructors... all of us located just around the corner from a series of mysterious locked freezers that belong to the biology labs.

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HOW TO FIND US
Interested in more information about Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University? You can visit us on the web at: www.sfu.ca/womens-studies.

If you're on campus you can come to our offices on the fifth floor of the AQ (directly above the East Concourse Cafeteria), the main office is AQ 5102A.

We have a brochure describing all the activities of the department, and more detailed booklets describing undergraduate and graduate programs which can be sent on request.

Phone: 778-782-3333 Fax: 778-782-5518

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

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“And let’s remember, children, that the Little Engine That Could was a locomotive of the female gender.”
© The New Yorker Collection 1991 Donald Reilly from cartoonbank.com. All Rights Reserved.
The CWSA recognition of Helen Leung and the thoughtful and positive keynote address Helen gave to the CWSA meeting were other affirmative events this year. After Helen’s well-received talk, twenty faculty and graduate students (and two former graduate students) met at a party hosted by former department members Meredith Kimball and Honoree Newcombe, to toast Helen’s speech and the extraordinary scholarly productivity of the faculty this past year, in particular the publication of three scholarly books.

Another celebration that must be mentioned was the departmental dinner for Roberta and John, where another festive gathering of twenty-six faculty, students, and partners partook of the usual cornucopia of foods associated with Women’s Studies’ potlucks, toasted and presented our wedding gift to Roberta and John. A good time was had by all.

Not everything that happened this year was positive, though departmental responses to the challenges of the past academic year were very constructive. New university and faculty initiatives to recruit high school students directly into departments caused some concern, since

Women’s Studies is not taught in high school. To address these challenges, the Department hired one of our undergraduate students, Robin Gilker, to research high school recruiting and contact university recruiters and high school teachers. The most concrete result was a new and more enticing departmental brochure to send to the high schools and to include in university-wide recruitment visits, but the final report also provided useful information about the high school recruitment process and about the new Social Justice courses in the high schools, which will offer opportunities for exposure to Women’s Studies.

Severe and sudden budget cuts for the university and the prospect of vertical or program cuts were sobering realities in the spring and summer. In response, the Department held a Revisioning Meeting that made several recommendations about enhancing enrollment and revitalizing the Department. So far, the main outcome has been an arrangement to update and add to our distance and on-line courses over the next three years. Other proposals, notably those to more clearly “brand” and rename the department Women and Gender Studies or Gender and Women’s Studies, were further discussed at the annual Advance held at the beginning of September. As we move into preparation for an external review of the Department next spring, we will continue these discussions.

As I write, the impact of the university’s financial situation is still unclear and unsettling. However, we are taking actions that will secure our future as a department.

~ Mary Lynn Stewart

Undergraduate Chair Report

Lara Campbell

Lara Campbell has replaced Helen Leung as undergraduate chair in the Department of Women’s Studies. Dr. Leung served as chair for four years, during which she initiated a curriculum review and developed the Gender Studies Minor. As the new undergraduate chair, Lara Campbell is responsible for working with the department chair to plan future courses at the Burnaby campus, Vancouver campus, and through the Centre for Online and Distance Education. She also sits on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Student Appeals Committee.

The Department of Women’s Studies offers a wide range of courses at the undergraduate level, and is currently expanding the number of courses designated as “B” and “Q.” Take a look at our website to see our newest offerings, including special topics courses taught by full-time and sessional faculty. New ideas for courses are always welcome, and students are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback.
The 2007-08 academic year has been a mixture of both good and bad news for Women’s Studies, and perhaps it is best to get the bad news over with first. As a result of a lack of faculty renewal since 2004, a university-wide freeze on hiring necessitated by a budget reduction in the provincial government’s funding, and the concurrence of faculty study and administrative leaves, the Women’s Studies Department decided in a departmental meeting in October, 2008, that it would be necessary to suspend admissions into our graduate program for the September, 2009 intake. It was agreed that the suspension was in the best interest of students who were considering graduate studies (both in terms of giving people information in time to make their decisions, and in saving them unnecessary expense and effort), and that the suspension would ensure that the department could continue to provide support for our current Doctoral and Master’s program still being quite new. We did get together on a few afternoons, but I imagine the bulk of our “free-time” was spent hitting the books. Many students successfully completed comprehensive exams, and defended thesis proposals and our first PhD student to graduate crossed the stage at the June Convocation. Sonja Boon, who somehow managed to become gainfully employed before her dissertation defense was the first recipient of PhD in Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser and is now working at Memorial University. More on that elsewhere in this publication.

We wish Dr. Boon all the best on the opposite end of the country, and are excited to see more students follow the path she blazed to the Women’s Studies doctorate. I am sure 2008-2009 will see as many, if not more, successes than this past year!
students. It may be worthwhile to note that admission to the graduate program in Women's Studies at the University of British Columbia was also suspended recently, and the suspension has since been lifted. Since the Department will be taking part in an External Review (currently scheduled for March, 2009) the goals of the Department for its graduate program in both the short- and long-term will be an important area to be brought forward to the Faculty by the reviewers.

On a brighter note, in September, 2008, we welcomed six new candidates in the Master's course-based option (Sasha Bennett, Sonya Chand, Giti Eghbal, William Keats-Osborn, Rahela Nayebzadah, Jenelle Thomas), and one into the Master's thesis-based option (Maryam Kiani). All were welcomed at an orientation/reception held on September 3rd, and are taking part in a mentoring project undertaken by fellow WS graduate students, in which each new student is matched with a current graduate student.

In the Master's research-options, five students successfully defended their thesis or extended essays:

♦ Cole Dodsley, “Beyond skin deep: an exploration of female to male transgender embodiment” and “Exploring Vancouver's queer and transgendered youth organizations”

♦ Bindy Kang, “A post-colonial Vaishki reading: Unveiling the Indo-Canadian Sikh identity through Canadian media”

♦ Ben Milne, “The scientific uncertainty of the harms and benefits of pesticides in organic and nonorganic food”

♦ Alieka Rudder, “Beyond marginality: exploring black women's labour market participation in the Greater Vancouver Regional District”

♦ Lisa Weeks, “Recalling our social movement origins: diversity and the shifting practice of contemporary midwives in BC,” and “Representing

Gardasil: a close textual analysis of print advertisements for the vaccine, Gardasil.”

In the Master's course-based option, four students successfully wrote their field examinations: Kelly Aujla, Pooneh Ehsani, Karen Kinsey and Iram Zaidi.

In the Doctoral program, there have been a number of achievements:

♦ Sonja Boon became the first student awarded a Doctorate from the WS program, successfully defending her thesis, “Staging the improper body: Suzanne anne Curchod Necker (1735-1794) and the stigmatization of the Self,” and has gone on to a tenure-track position, as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland.

♦ Two doctoral candidates successfully completed their thesis proposal defence, and both subsequently had course proposals accepted in the competition for sessional appointments (teaching their courses in the 2008-2 semester):

♦ Trish Garner [Stitching Up the Natural] taught GDST 300: Mapping masculinities: Queer masculinities


In terms of financial support, students who received scholarships, bursaries or other awards include:

♦ Maryam Kiani (entrance scholarship, CD Nelson; matched with a Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship for the next academic year)

♦ Mary Shearman (Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship)

List of TA, TM and RA Positions

Fall 2007

♦ GDST 200 TA: Beth Pentney, Mary Shearman

♦ WS 101 TA: Syeda Bukhari, Sarah Spear

♦ WS 102 TM: Mary Shearman

Spring 2008

♦ WS 101 TM: Syeda Bukhari

♦ WS 102 TA: Kaitlin Pelletier, Sarah Spear

♦ RW WP RA: Sarah Sparks

Summer 2008

♦ WS 101 TM: Kaitlin Pelletier

Fall 2008

♦ WS 101: Claire Askew, Mary Shearman

♦ WS 102 TM: Syeda Bukhari

♦ GDST 200: Rahela Nayebzadah, Kaitlin Pelletier

♦ RW WP RA: Jenelle Thomas

Finally, the Graduate Secretary (Kathryn Hunter) and I revised and updated the Graduate Handbook, which is now available online at the departmental website, and also (on request) in hardcopy format, with the first official versions ready in time to be presented to the new graduate students at the reception in September.

~ Marilyn MacDonald

“How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world . . .”

~ Anne Frank
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Maryam Kiani is working on her second Master’s Degree. She graduated in Mass Communication and Journalism in Iran. Working as a journalist in newspaper, magazine and news agency, teaching some courses in news writing, news featuring and interviewing had been her previous career. Her MA thesis subject is about prevalence of cosmetics consumption among Iranian women after the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Her general research interest is focusing on Muslim women in the Middle East and her specific research areas are body, body modification, beauty, religious studies and the image of women in mass media. She started off in Journalism and arrived in Women's Studies. She hopes to concentrate more on the progressive status of Muslim women in the Middle East.

Maryam was awarded the CD Nelson Memorial Graduate Scholarship for 2008-2009 and a Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship (PCGS) for 2009-2010.

Beth Pentney taught WS 205-3: Women and Popular Culture in the summer of 2008 at SFU, received a SSHRC doctoral fellowship, joined the Traveling Speakers Series circuit and published an article with Trish Garner, noted elsewhere in this publication.

Mary Shearman is a WS PhD Student who was recently awarded the Pacific Century Graduate Scholarship for the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. This is a renewal of the award she received during the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters.

Xinying Hu received the President Research Stipend and also the Boag Foundation Graduate Award in Women’s Studies.

Photos by Greg Ehlers
RWWP Black History Events

Department of Women’s Studies, Teck Gallery
and Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor Afua Cooper invite you to attend

Black Communities in British Columbia, 1858-2008
An exhibition to be held at Teck Gallery, SFU Harbour Centre Campus
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 - Sunday, May 10, 2009

The exhibit reflects the diversity of the Black communities in terms of gender, age, origins, and occupations. It will be organized into four broad historical periods:

• The Founders: 1858-1900
• The Centre of the Community Shifts to Vancouver: 1900-1945
• The Caribbean Arrives: 1945-1980
• Africa is Here: 1980-2008

Along with a grant from the BC 150 Heritage Legacy Fund, the Department of Women’s Studies and Teck Gallery wishes to thank the following partners, sponsors, and collaborators:

• the BC Provincial Archives in Victoria,
• the City of Vancouver Archives,
• the Salt Spring Island Archive,
• the Vancouver Public Library,
• the Victoria Black History Society,
• the BC Congress of Black Women,
• Hogan’s Alley Memorial Project,
• SFU Women’s Centre,
• SFU W.A.C. Bennett Library,
• The Department of History at UBC,
• the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness at UBC,
• the Centre for Culture, Identity and Education at UBC,
• The Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies at UBC
• University of Victoria Dept. of Women’s Studies and History Department,
• the BC Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts,
• the Royal BC Museum in Victoria.

***

The Photo Exhibit: Black Communities in British Columbia, 1858-2008
Reception and Black History Month talk
Room 1400 Segal Centre - SFU Vancouver - Harbour Centre
Wednesday, February 25, 2009 6:00 PM-9:00PM

***

Workshop: Knowledge Production and the Black Experience
Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2008
Segal School of Business, 2300 - 500 Granville St. Vancouver, BC

Academic Workshop (by invitation) SFU Department of Women's Studies, SFU Vice President Academic office, Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowment Fund, SSHRC, and Centre for Education, Culture, and Identity, UBC sponsored event which explores the trajectory of the study of Black peoples in Canada. The scholarly inquiry of the Black portion of the Canadian population has experienced much growth. Yet Black Studies in general has not received support, as is revealed in the fact that there has not been a workshop on the theme since 1990.

(Continued from page 1)

I’ve taught two courses this fall – a first year Introduction to Women’s Studies and a graduate seminar in Feminist Methodology. Both were learning experiences. Even with a pre-schooler at home, I’d forgotten just how young 18 was! My graduate students – a diverse bunch with backgrounds in English literature, sociology, political science and anthropology – are a high energy group committed to working and learning together, which is a real treat. I’ll continue next term with an upper level undergraduate course in feminist theory (my icing on the cake!) and another session of the introductory course.

I’m still taken aback when people call me Dr. Boon; I haven’t quite learned how to manage my time effectively yet (though I haven’t lost any assignments, and have managed to make a few journal deadlines) … my office is a mess and our house is chaos, but I’ve managed to accomplish more than I thought in the first few months, including starting a literary salon in a local pub! At this point, I’m ready for a long winter’s nap.

From coast to coast, from one side of the desk to the other…it’s all a big change, and yet, at the same time, part of a natural evolution that began when I first started my Women’s Studies degree at Simon Fraser. You’ve all prepared me well for this transition; now it’s up to me to take those next teetering steps on my own.

~ Sonya Boon
I have been volunteering with the “Multicultural Helping House Society” for various activities. This year, I attended a group meeting with the Mayor of Vancouver Mr. Sam Sullivan to discuss issues being faced by immigrant women in their respective communities. The group included women from various communities including Sri Lanka, Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc. We highlighted burning issues faced by the immigrant families including non-recognition of educational credentials and work experience of immigrants by the Canadian employers, increasing poverty among new immigrants and discrimination in hiring policies.

The mayor showed interest in the issues and assured the group members of his and his team’s efforts to uplift the condition of immigrant families arriving in Metro Vancouver.

The meeting with the mayor resulted in a conference presentation on June 3, 2008 at UBC.

The Department of Women’s Studies was pleased to invite Sitara Thobani as our guest at the Fletcher Challenge Theatre for a lecture as well as an expressive demonstration of Odissi (Classical Indian dance) on March 3, 2008.

Sitara began dance training in the mahari tradition of Odissi under Dr. Ratna Roy in 1997. Sitara has also undertaken intensive training in India at the esteemed Nrityagram dance school and with leading choreographers in Bhubaneswar, Orissa. She has performed at many cultural and art events in Canada, the United States, India, Tanzania and England. She completed her solo debut Rangapravesh performance in Vancouver, British Columbia in August 2005. Sitara has since received a Canada Arts Council Grant for Emerging Dance Professionals (2005), a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute scholarship for intensive dance training (2006-2007) and a British Columbia Arts Council grant for dance production (2007). Her performance highlights include the Second and Third International Odissi Conferences (Washington, DC, 2003; Bhubaneswar, Orissa, 2006), the Mahari Festival (Bhubaneswar, 2007) and her solo productions of Arpan (London, 2006) and Sthayi (Vancouver, 2007).

The theatre was filled to near capacity. Preceded by an informative lecture, it was a pleasure to observe Sitara’s expressive dance movements speak without words to the group.

Sitara Thobani is said to be one of Canada’s “top interpreters” of Mahari tradition of Odissi.
RUTH WYNN WOODWARD PROFESSORSHIP (2008-2009)

Welcome to Afua Cooper: Current Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor

Afua holds a PhD in history with specialties in slavery, abolition, and women’s studies. She is one of Canada’s premier experts and chroniclers of the country’s Black past. Dr. Cooper has done groundbreaking work in uncovering the hidden history of Black peoples in Canada. Her most recent history publication The Hanging of Angélique, the Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal cogently explores the life and death of Marie-Joseph Angélique, a Portuguese-born Black slave woman who was hanged in Montréal in 1734 for allegedly setting fire to the city. Since its publication in February 2006 Angélique has been reprinted twice; this has resulted in the book becoming a national bestseller.

Further, Afua is writing a series of historical novels for the young adult audience. These novels are based on the experiences of enslaved children from the Black Diaspora.

Afua is also a gifted poet who incorporates African riddims and the musical vibes of the Black diaspora in her poetry which has a strong sense of history and place, underscored by a feminist sensibility. She has published four books of poems including Memories Have Tongue, one of the finalists in the 1992 Casa de las Americas literary award. Her poems have been included in numerous anthologies worldwide, and have also been recorded on cassettes and CD’s.

Copper Woman speaks liberatory dub poetics which say equality and equity are possible and within reach. Afua’s poems invite us to cast off the chains and shackles that limit our insight, proclaim our freedom, and grasp a greater vision of the world. Copper Woman, now in its 2nd Printing edition (Jan 26 2007) is described as “incantatory, vivid, passionate, sensual and incendiary...a nourishment for the imagination.”

TRANSSomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Gender Embodiment
A Conference organized by Susan Stryker, Ruth Wynn Woodward Professor (2007-2008)

My tenure as Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor (RWWP) in the Women’s Studies Department at Simon Fraser University has been one of the highlights of my career thus far.

The major component of the public outreach portion of my RWWP tenure was organizing an international academic transgender studies conference, TransSomatechnics: Theories and Practices of Transgender Embodiment, which was held May 1-3 at SFU’s Harbour Centre Campus. The conference drew 194 registered conference attendees from North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia, in addition to dozens more local residents for a free public reception, and more than a hundred additional attendees at the performance night and closing party. We reached a total audience of approximately 300-350 people.

The conference received coverage in local print and broadcast media; it included members of local transgender communities and organizations both as audience members and as presenters; and it provided significant educational and networking experiences to Canadian students (who were admitted free of charge), undergraduate as well as graduate, who not only presented work but also actively participated in organizing and administering the conference. At the professional level, more than 100 transgender studies scholars from around the world engaged in 3 days of stimulating intellectual exchange that will undoubtedly advance and inform the burgeoning scholarship in this field.
**Books Published**


*Undercurrents* engages the critical rubric of “queer” to examine Hong Kong’s screen and media culture during the transitional and immediate postcolonial period. Leung draws on theoretical insights from a range of disciplines to reveal parallels between the crisis and uncertainty of the territory’s postcolonial transition and the queer aspects of its culture. Leung explores Hong Kong cultural productions — cinema, architecture, urban space, modern literature, popular culture icons, and community-driven radio programming — and argues that while there is no overt consolidation of gay and lesbian identities in Hong Kong culture, undercurrents of diverse and complex expressions of gender and sexual variance are widely in evidence. *Undercurrents* uncovers a queer media culture that has been largely overlooked by gay-lesbian critics in the West, and demonstrates the cultural vitality of Hong Kong amidst political transition. It will appeal to scholars and general readers interested in Asian studies, film studies, and sexuality and gender studies.


Introduction to Gender offers a broad interdisciplinary introduction to the themes and debates within gender studies, interweaving theory with application. Comprehensive and highly topical in its scope, it explores gender through the disciplines of history, sociology, social policy, anthropology, psychology, politics, pedagogy and geography. The authors also interrogate the gendered aspects of eight issues including health and illness, work and leisure and culture and media to provide a truly interdisciplinary insight into the role of gender in every aspect of life. Each chapter highlights the importance of studies on masculinity alongside a substantial body of feminist work, offering a genuinely integrated and cutting-edge investigation of gender studies.

Patton, Cindy, University of Minnesota Press Nomination Notice, *Cinematic Identity: Anatomy of a Problem Film* was nominated for the 2008 Society for Cinema and Media Studies’ Katherine Singer Kovacs Book Award.

Though largely forgotten today, the 1949 film Pinky had a significant on the world of cinema. Directed by Elia Kazan the film was a box office success despite dealing with the era’s most taboo subjects — miscegenation and racial passing — and garnered an Academy Award nomination for its African American star, Ethel Waters. It was also historically important: when a Texas movie theater owner showing the film was arrested for violating the local censorship laws, his case went to the US Supreme Court, which ruled the censorship ordinance unconstitutional. In *Cinematic Identity*, Cindy Patton takes Pinky as a starting point to meditate on the critical reception of this and other “problem films” of the period and to explore the larger issues they raise about race, gender, and sexuality. It was films like Pinky, Patton contends, that helped lay the groundwork for a shift in popular understanding of social identity that was essential to white America’s ability to accept the legitimacy of the civil rights movement.


This book is a history no university-level fashion collection should be without. It discusses high fashion trends, feminist history, and how the forces combined between the first and second world wars to create the new, modern French woman. The focus on which styles changed, and how, offers many specifics on how fashion trends are created and influenced, and uses thousands of magazine covers, ads, fashion columns and more as supporting evidence to a lively historical survey.
The staff in the Women’s Studies Department keeps the department running efficiently. The following individuals make up the Women’s Studies staff:

Roberta Neilson: Departmental Assistant & Undergraduate Advisor

Roberta Neilson (nee Rogers) is the Departmental Assistant and has worked at SFU for over 10 years. Roberta had an exciting summer as she got married in August. The wedding went smoothly which was a great relief! The honeymoon was an Alaskan cruise (inside passage) where the newlyweds saw various wildlife (such as humpback whales, eagles, and even a bear) and glaciers. It was their first time on a cruise and they both enjoyed it (except for the one night Roberta got seasick!)

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to Dolly’s House, a museum dedicated to Ketchikan’s most notable and colorful Madam “Big Dolly” Arthur (part of the historical Creek Street red-light district). Roberta would recommend cruising as an easy way to travel and is looking forward to planning her next cruise.

Kathryn Hunter: Chair’s Secretary & Graduate Secretary

Kathryn Hunter is the Department Secretary and has worked at SFU for just over 4 years. Previous to working in Women’s Studies Kathryn worked in various departments on the Burnaby campus including SFU International, Campus Security and Student Services. Kathryn is an alumnus who graduated in 2002, receiving a Bachelor of General Studies (Criminology Minor, Sociology Minor, and Psychology Minor). In her role as the Department Secretary, Kathryn provides clerical support to the Chair and Graduate Chair, and also helps with graduate scholarship applications, theses defenses and graduate student inquiries including answering the time old question: “what is the combination to the graduate student room again?”

When Kathryn is not at work you will find her with her two much-loved dogs, Milka, a Miniature Dachshund and Fergus, a small but very energetic Terrier cross. To keep busy Kathryn trains Fergus in agility and obedience, and relaxes by quilting and crocheting.

Esther Harrison: Secretary to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair

Esther Harrison is a recent addition to the Women’s Studies department. She is currently taking classes relating to the Humanities. She was working as a “temp” at Simon Fraser for the past three years, first in Continuing Online Distance Education, Research Ethics, then Registration and Records.

In her role as the Secretary to the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair, Esther assists the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair, the Department Chair and the Departmental Assistant in the provision of departmental outreach initiatives, which includes preparing posters and flyers to publicize outreach events. She is also responsible for developing and maintaining the departmental, professorial and event web pages and for coordinating the production of the department’s annual newsletter.

Outside of SFU, Esther enjoys dancing, her favorite dance is the Argentine Tango. Esther loves the spotlight and her most recent show was held at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre last April where she and her partner performed a group Foxtrot and a solo Swing number.
This past year has been a busy year of research and writing. Lara completed a book for the University of Toronto Press, entitled *Respectable Citizens: Gender, Family and Unemployment in the Great Depression, Ontario, 1929-1939*. It will be available in fall, 2009. She is also co-editor of a special edition of a leading American journal. This issue, entitled “Looking at the Same World Through Different Eyes: Postwar Canadian Women’s Activism,” is the Canadian edition of *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*, and is co-edited with Joan Sangster, Tamara Myers and Nancy Janovicek. It will be published in 2009.

Her new research project is on gender and draft resistance in Canada and the United States during the Vietnam war. This research has led to an SFU small SSHRC institutional grant and an article entitled “‗Women United Against the War‘: in *The Sixties‖ and the “Shaping of Global Consciousness” (Palgrave MacMillan and Black Rose Books, forthcoming, 2009). Her interest in the history of the 1960s has also led to a collaboration with two Canadian historians, Greg Kealey and Dominique Clément. Together, they are editing a collection of original articles for the University of Toronto Press. The book, *Debating Dissent: Canada in the Sixties*, brings together leading scholars in Canada to address topics ranging from the women’s movement to the history of LSD in Canada. Together they successfully obtained a SSHRC Workshop grant, and they all flew to Fredericton in the summer to spend an invigorating weekend debating the historiography of the 1960s.

Lara has also been busy with the Herstory Café, a regular public history series she co-organizes with local historical interpreter Jolene Cumming. They’ve hosted a variety of topics, including one on burlesque history by our own PhD student Mary Shearman. Held at the Rhizome Café, Mary’s talk attracted over one hundred very enthusiastic people.
FACULTY AND ASSOCIATE FACULTY RESEARCH

Helen Hok-Sze Leung

Helen is co-editing a special issue on “Chinese Cinemas as New Media” for the Journal of Chinese Cinemas; preparing a proposal for a volume in the “Queer Classics” series for Arsenal Pulp Press; and beginning research on two new projects:

(1) The Poetics of Pain: Cinema and Suffering: a book project that explores the relation between the aesthetic dimension of bodily pain on screen and the politics of rendering physical suffering—particularly that of sexual minorities—as cinematic spectacle.

(2) “Dissonance: Chinese Nationalism and Cultural Disarticulation”: a series of articles that critically examine the trope of “harmony” in contemporary discourse of Chinese nationalism, the role of new media in sustaining and disseminating this discourse through gender and sexual norms, and various forms of cultural and media activism against its consolidation.

Jacqueline Levitin

This has been a busy year following the completion of Jacqueline’s documentary, Mahjong & Chicken Feet. The film uses the story of her parents’ origins in China to talk about the 20th century Russian Jewish community in Harbin, China and the 1000-year-old Kaifeng community formed by Jews who arrived in this ancient capital of China via the Silk Road from Persia. The film has gone off to festivals – especially to Jewish and Asian American film festivals. She particularly enjoyed taking it to the “Internationales Frauen film festival” in Cologne, Germany. They did a special presentation on Chinese women filmmakers this year and it was fabulous getting to spend time with filmmakers whose careers she has followed for many years.

Jackie’s work this year on “Video Ethnography with Women of Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside,” a SSHRC grant-funded project on women and housing and health has been both interesting and challenging. Gentrification in the neighborhood is proceeding rapidly and the desire of property owners to ‘cash in’ has left a swath of emptied buildings with ‘For Sale’ signs tacked to them, especially in the area between downtown Vancouver and Main Street where relaxed city by-laws make conversions attractive. Meanwhile the former low-income tenants of the buildings scramble for housing in a neighborhood (and elsewhere in the city) where affordable housing is in essence unavailable. More and more Downtown Eastside residents find themselves forced to live on the streets. Such is the case with one of the women whom she had interviewed on a previous SSHRC project and whom she had intended to interview on the present project. In this changing climate, Jackie has been focusing her research on how policy changes have impacted the lives of the women she is following. Jackie is enjoying working with a number of student researchers on the project. Their goal is an interactive website with information, videos and links to scholarly articles that will make an interface with the Downtown Eastside.

Jen Marchbank

Jen’s work on “‘Mail Order’ Brides in North America: Causes, Experiences and Policy Responses” continues.

The majority of academic and journalistic attention on the issue of mail order brides focuses upon the potential for women to be exploited in this trade. It is vital that protective policies are developed to prevent the violation of women. However, her research seeks to understand the reasons why women choose to become mail order brides, their experiences coming as brides, their husbands’ experiences and reasons for seeking a bride in this way to inform potential policy.

Additionally, Jen’s work on “Students’ Experiences and Attitudes towards Women’s Studies, Comparative Study UK, USA” continues.
FACULTY AND ASSOCIATE FACULTY RESEARCH (CONT’D)

Mary Lynn Stewart

Mary Lynn Stewart continues to do research on Frenchwomen journalists in the daily press, 1906 to 1956. Her immediate project is a comparison of the women who were foreign correspondents whose bylines appeared on the front pages of two quite different newspapers, and the women identified, if identified at all, by initials or a familial or familiar pseudonym (e.g., Tante Alice, Francine) who wrote the women’s page, usually located on page four of the paper. The working title is “Front Page and Fourth Page Women in the French Daily Press, 1906-1956. The series of essays, which may be combined into a book, will explore issues such as the importance of family contacts and political affiliations, of higher education, personal mobility, and of networking between women journalists.

Habiba Zaman

Habiba’s current research explores racialized educated immigrant women’s experience in the labour market once they migrate to Canada. She plans to examine how these immigrants negotiate with different stakeholders (e.g., employers, educational institutions, governments, non-government organizations, regulatory bodies) to participate in the labour market. The study aims at assessing, through racialized immigrant women’s experiences, how the federal and provincial governments and regulatory bodies address the recognition of educated immigrant women’s skills in the labour market.

The report titled Workplace Rights for Immigrants in BC: The Case of Filipino Workers was published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in December 2007. Habiba is principal author and researcher with Cecilia Diocon, co-researcher and nationally acclaimed activist, and Rebeca Scott (WS undergrad student) who is currently studying for her PhD at Queen’s University. Both Habiba and Cecilia were interviewed by several media reporters. A summary of the report was published in Tagalog so that it was accessible to the Filipino community. In addition, the press release was translated into Tagalog, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese. This report has been well received by academics, policy analysts and the larger community. This is evident from the fact that it has been downloaded from the CCPA website (www.policyalternatives.ca) more than 6,400 times during the first four months (January-April 2008)—a very high number according to the CCPA office.

PUBLICATIONS—CONFERENCES—LECTURES

Published Articles


Workplace Rights for Immigrants in BC: The Case of Filipino Workers was published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in December 2007. Habiba is principal author and researcher with Cecilia Diocon, co-researcher and nationally acclaimed activist, and Rebeca Scott (WS undergrad student) who is currently studying for her PhD at Queen’s University. Both Habiba and Cecilia were interviewed by several media reporters. A summary of the report was published in Tagalog so that it was accessible to the Filipino community. In addition, the press release was translated into Tagalog, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese. This report has been well received by academics, policy analysts and the larger community. This is evident from the fact that it has been downloaded from the CCPA website (www.policyalternatives.ca) more than 6,400 times during the first four months (January-April 2008)—a very high number according to the CCPA office.

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Patriotism or Betrayal? Lust, Caution online journal of film & TV studies. Issue 10
Monsters in American Pop Culture, by Annalee Newitz.
Patterson, Natasha. Review of Pretend We’re Dead: Capitalist Living Dead.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS
Cohen, Marjorie Griffin. October 10, 2007 Invited paper, Economics Department, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Continental Integration of Energy.
PUBLICATIONS—CONFERENCES—LECTURES

Investigaciones Económicas, Mexico City. “Feminism and Public Policy in Canada after NAFTA.” [Conference sponsored by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada].


Cohen, Marjorie Griffin. June 6, 2008 “Gendered and Precarious Nature of Teenage Work,” CPSA Annual Meeting, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, UBC.


Kiani, M. and Sedaqat, M. “Pseudonym and Anonymity in Iranian political weblogs”, in Internet Research 9.0: Rethinking Community, Rethinking Place. 15-18 October, 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark.


Marchbank, J. July 2008 Co-organiser with LIDC Conversions on Interdisciplinarity 2,” SFU Presentation, Interdisciplinarity in Action, the Explorations Program.


Shearman, Mary. “Granny and Zoe” NeMLA, Buffalo, April 11, 2008.

Shearman, Mary. “Sex and the Second Life” at TransSomatechnics:Theories and Practices of Transgender Embodiment Conference held May 1, 2008, Harbour Centre Campus, Vancouver, BC.

Shearman, Mary. “(En)gendering (Mis)conception” CWSA, Vancouver, June 1, 2008.


Stewart, Mary Lynn. Invited to speak, “Modernity and Haute Couture: French Fashion in the 1920s and 1930s,” to the “Fashion,
Community, and Culture: Explorations of the Material World,” conference of the Material Culture Institute, the University of Alberta, May 2, 2008.


Co-Sponsored Events (by date)

Levitin, Jacqueline. Regulating Bodies Conference (Women’s Studies, SFU), “‘The Drugged Body’: Women, drug use, and the Downtown Eastside” (January 2008).

“The Morgentaler Decision: Before and Beyond,” co-sponsored with BC women’s Hospital & Health Centre, Elizabeth Bagshaw Women’s Clinic, Everywoman’s Health Centre, National Abortion Federation—Canada, Pro-Choice Action Network, West Coast Woman’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and Willow Women’s Clinic (January 28, 2008).

Showing of Deepa Mehta’s three films—Fire, Earth and Water co-sponsored with the South Asian Film Education Society (SAFES) (October 2008)

Challenging Militarism, Women, War and Social Justice, co-sponsored with Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Capilano University Women’s Studies Department and the Vancouver Status of Women (September 21, 2008).


Films, Videos and Media Interviews

Jacqueline Levitin. Mahjong & Chicken Feet. Experimental documentary, 47 min.

Jacqueline Levitin. CBC Radio (French), Rogers Cable, CTV, German television, radio and newspapers.

Lectures


Cohen, Marjorie Griffin. Sept. 18 2007 public talk on ‘run-of-the river’ project for public meeting on Municipal Matters, Heritage Hall, Vancouver.


Marchbank, J. March 2008. RWWP Women’s Studies Travelling Speaker Series, Quesnel Women’s Resource Centre and UNBC, Quesnel, BC, “Women’s Studies, Men’s Studies, Gender Studies.”

Shearman, Mary. Three separate lectures with the Traveling Speaker Series on “The History of Burlesque in Canada” at:
• UBC-O in Kelowna (March 4, 2008),
• North Island College in Campbell River (March 7, 2008), and
• Courtenay (March 8, 2008).


Research Grants


FACULTY MEMBERS

Lara Campbell, Women’s Studies - lcampbel@sfu.ca
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Helen Hok-Sze Leung, Women’s Studies - helen_leung@sfu.ca
Marilyn MacDonald, Women’s Studies - marilynm@sfu.ca
Cindy Patton, Canada Research Chair / Women’s Studies / Sociology - ckpatton@sfu.ca
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Habiba Zaman, Women’s -_hzaman@sfu.ca
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Janice Matsumura, History - janice_matsumura@sfu.ca
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Marina Morrow, Faculty of Health Sciences Assistant - mmorrow@sfu.ca
Lisa Shapiro, Philosophy Associate Professor - lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca
Ann Travers, Assistant Professor of Sociology - a travers@sfu.ca

PROFESSOR EMERITA

Meredith Kimball, Women’s Studies / Psychology - kimball@sfu.ca
Andrea Lebowitz, Literature - lebowitz@sfu.ca
Susan Wendell, Feminist social and political theory; ethics; epistemology; disability - wendell@sfu.ca

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Barbara Blakely, Dean of Arts Office - blblakely@telus.net

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A WS DEGREE?

√ Physician
√ Mental Health Counselor, Family Therapist
√ Sexual Assault Counselor
√ Lawyer
√ Policy Analyst, Gender Analyst
√ Equity officer, Parole Officer, Prison Warden
√ Librarian
√ University Professor, Teacher, Minister
√ Community Development Practitioner
√ Administrator or Business Owner
√ Environmental Technician
√ Any of the above and more

CONGRATULATIONS JEN & SYLVIA!

Married on 11th Oct, so each anniversary will be Thanksgiving weekend!
MARJORIE COHEN AND XINYING HU IN ITALY

MARJORIE

Over 250 scholars, policy advocates and activists from six continents attended the 17th International Association of Feminist Economics Annual Conference. This year Xinying Hu and I from Women's Studies at were able to present papers at the conference.

It is always especially exciting to meet many well-known feminist economists at the IAFFE meetings and to learn about women's economic issues from various parts of the world. But an added bonus this year was that it was held in Torino, Italy, in mid-June. We were often too hot, and too rushed with too many decisions to make about what to hear. The opening session featured five Italian feminist economists talking about women in Italy today. But generally the sessions were organized around specific themes dealing with issues such as the gendered nature of poverty, unpaid work, inequality, marriage and fertility, migration issues, education, and paid work.

I presented a paper on “The Gendered and Precarious Nature of Teenage Work.” This is a result of research that is a part of Economic Security Project, which is a five-year large-scale research initiative funded by the SSHRC through its Community-University Research Alliance grant. Two Women’s Studies students (Xinying Hu and Natasha Patterson) had helped me with the research on this project on teenage work. They were involved in conducting detailed interviews with high school and first-year university students.

It was a pleasure to hear Xinying’s paper as well. There were several papers on China and a great deal of interest in her work on the rise of paid domestic labour.

XINYING

On June 19-21, 2008, I attended the International Association For Feminist Economics (IAFFE) 17th Annual Conference in Torino, Italy. It was my great pleasure to take part in this international conference together with my senior supervisor Professor Marjorie Griffin Cohen. I was very thankful that she encouraged me to submit a paper for this conference.

The paper I presented was “The Social and Economic Security of Care Workers in China.” It was part of my doctoral research. Using the data I collected in Beijing last year, I first gave a close-up portrait of the precarious nature of paid domestic employment in China. The examination of working conditions focused on wages, hours of work, workplace safety, social benefits, and job stability. A key intent in the paper is to capture, as much as possible, the effect of the recent economic reforms on the lives of care workers in China. I also examined how the current legislation situation has denied these workers’ labour rights. In the last part, I tried to explore possible solutions to improve care workers economic and social security situation in China.

As women’s care work has received wide attention from feminist economists in recent years, my presentation at the panel Characteristics and Employment Conditions of was well attended. The discussion at the panel will greatly benefit the writing of my dissertation.
Undergraduate Students

WS 314 Race, Class and Gender Relations. Photo from Habiba Zaman’s class.

Graduate Students

WS 822 Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory. Photo from Helen Leung’s class.