

Southwest Institute for Research on Women Regional Newsletter

Ph.D. Students from the University of Arizona's Department of Gender and Women's Studies joined other graduate students and scholars at the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas (See page 4)



Gender and Women's Studies Ph.D. Programs in the Southwest

ASU, UA, and TWU offer doctoral programs in GWS

Since the first Women's Studies Ph.D. program in the U.S. was initiated in 1992 at Emory University, more than a dozen universities have developed doctoral programs to meet the growing desire of a younger generation of scholars interested in rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship exploring issues of gender, sexuality, race, nation, economy, and (dis)ability. The southwest boasts a concentration of three of these programs housed at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, and Texas Woman's University, and many more universities in the region are contributing to the professionalization of the field by offering

graduate programs and Ph.D. minor concentrations.

Arizona State University welcomed its initial cohort of five Ph.D. students in GWS fall 2007; a year later the University of Arizona commenced its program with a cohort of four. ASU and UA each currently support eleven scholars in these programs. These scholars have a wide-range of research interests including masculinity studies; queer transnationalisms; prison, academic, military, and non-profit industrial complexes; Latina and indigenous feminisms; science and technology studies; social movements; borderlands studies, public health; media studies and more. Texas Woman's University is the newest of the programs with its first cohort of nine students beginning in fall 2010.

These doctoral programs are implementing creative and holistic approaches

Continued on page 2

Highlights:

TWU's New Ph.D. Program	2
UT Black Queer Studies Collection	3
Frontlines Arizona	3
Triumph of UNLV Women's Studies	3
Tepoztlán Institute	4
UTEP Women's Studies Interns	4
Book: Gender Violence on the Border	5

No. 81
Fall 2010

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), established in 1979, is a regional research and resource institute within the Gender and Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona. SIROW's region includes Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, and Northwestern Mexico.

More information available online: <http://sirow.arizona.edu>

SIROW Mission:

To develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative research and education/outreach projects with regard to the diverse groups of women and children in the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico.

SIROW Goals:

To develop collaborative feminist research focusing on southwestern problems or populations of interest to scholars in the SIROW region.

- To identify and disseminate research on women, children, and gender differences.
- To provide advocacy for women and children by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers.
- To support equality for women in the workforce and conduct research on women and gender in the work environment.
- To carry out participatory action research on a wide range of health, legal, and educational issues.
- To support graduate, undergraduate, and K-12 education for women and children.
- To examine women's contribution to literature, the arts, and southwest heritage.

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to training critical feminist teachers and researchers who are encouraged to pursue their scholarly passions as artists, activists, and public intellectuals in addition to traditional forms of professional development. As the first cohorts of doctoral students in Arizona complete their comprehensive exams process, they continue to be engaged in activist struggles on the border, applied research projects, and international gatherings of scholars. Already they are publishing cutting edge articles about crucial topics in Gender and Women's Studies, contributing to regional oral history projects, and organizing interdisciplinary graduate student conferences.

These three programs are vibrant centers of international scholarship, attracting students from across the globe and supporting student research in the Caribbean and Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. These programs enrich feminist scholarship in the southwest and, as they continue to flourish, will change the future landscape of Gender and Women's Studies far beyond the region.

Ph.D. Program Application Deadlines and Information

Arizona State University
Women and Gender Studies
January 15th, 2011
<http://wgs.asu.edu>

University of Arizona
Gender & Women's Studies
December 1st, 2010
<http://ws.web.arizona.edu>

Texas Woman's University
Women's Studies
February 1st, 2011
<http://www.twu.edu/ws>



As a student in Korea, Bo-Myung Kim decided to pursue a Master's degree in Women's Studies after being active in feminist movements in the late 90s, particularly campus anti-violence organizations. Exposure to a wide-range of feminist theories to think about women's sexual embodiment and speech acts prompted her to pursue a Ph.D. in GWS, and she is currently conducting research on U.S. second wave feminism and its historical consciousness. As part of the first cohort of Ph.D. students in the UA program, Kim enjoys working with world renowned scholars who provide mentoring and interdisciplinary training as well as politically active grad students. "It's incredible to have so many committed and critically minded activist scholars in the same place."

Ph.D. Student Profile: Bo-Myung Kim, University of Arizona

Texas Woman's University kicks off its Ph.D. Program!

Effective this fall, the Department of Women's Studies at Texas Woman's University now offers a doctoral degree in Women's Studies. The Ph.D. degree in Women's Studies at Texas Woman's University seeks to produce new forms of knowledge through transdisciplinary and transformative dialogue among faculty and students in diverse disciplines.

The degree consists of a rigorous and flexible curriculum that includes required core courses, common colloquia on pedagogy and transdisciplinary studies, an area of concentration (American Studies, Health Studies, Multicultural Studies, Rhetoric/English, or Sociology), and research training. Graduates of the program will be prepared to meet the growing regional, national, and international needs for professors of Women's Studies and related disciplines and for leaders of nongovernmental, social service, and research agencies that address women's and other social justice issues.

Texas Woman's University is the largest public university primarily for women in the United States as well as one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the nation. Texas Woman's University has a longstanding commitment to Women's Studies, reflected by its many Texas firsts: the first freestanding women's studies program, the first university to offer full-time faculty positions specifically in women's studies, the first tenured faculty members in women's studies, and the first Department of Women's Studies. TWU offers the only M.A. in Women's Studies in the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex region and the only Ph.D. in Women's Studies in the South Central region of the U.S. For more information, please visit <http://www.twu.edu/ws/phd-program.asp> or contact Dr. AnaLouise Keating, Professor of Women's Studies, at akeating@twu.edu.

Center for Women's and Gender Studies Professor Assists UT Libraries' Creation of the Black Queer Studies Collection

The Black Queer Studies Collection is a virtual gathering of works now accessible through keyword search in the University of Texas catalog. Created through a unique collaboration between Assistant Professor Matt Richardson and the UT Libraries, the Black Queer Studies Collection (BQSC) is the first of its kind and indicates the importance of critical library interventions as scholarly tools.

Before this spring, a catalog keyword search for any phrasing of Black Diasporic LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) materials would not have located many of the materials now in or soon to be added to the BQSC. Though a keyword search scans the full text of catalog records, a search for "Black lesbian" would not have returned the record for "Watermelon Woman," the 1997 film about searching the archives for Black lesbian history in Hollywood, by Black lesbian filmmaking icon Cheryl Dunye. A search for "Black LGBT" would not return *What We All Long For*, the 2008 novel by the prolific Black Caribbean Canadian lesbian author Dionne Brand.

When Richardson, a faculty member of the English Department, the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS), and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CWGS), requested library purchases of Black Diasporic LGBTQ materials, he noticed that the catalog records did not always identify them as Black Diasporic or as LGBTQ, much less as both. The UT Catalog draws on catalog records from the Library of Congress and from the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center); this national library system continues to obscure access to historically marginalized materials through subject headings which are unevenly applied, outdated, inappropriate, or even missing. The new possibilities generated by tagging are limited by inconsistency (GLBTQ, LGBTQ, African-American, Black) and the impossibility of identifying complex materials with single-word tagging: the list of materials tagged LGBTQ is overwhelmingly by white authors, while the list of materials tagged Black is overwhelmingly by U.S.-based and straight authors.

Richardson's creation of bibliographies in his scholarship emphasizes the importance of visibility for conducting scholarship, for recognizing a field, and for validating users' lives. This practice of naming makes a particular claim, through language and

context, about the value and body of writings by and about Black Diasporic LGBTQ people.

The Black Queer Studies Collection improves access to materials in the UT Libraries Catalog by and about Black Diasporic LGBTQ people. The collection includes works in the circulating and archival collections, multiple formats, and multiple languages. The collection started as 50 items ordered by Richardson; the second phase of the collection, currently in progress, will add all of the materials listed in *Carry the Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books* (RedBone Press/Vintage Entity Press, 2007). Throughout this process, UT Libraries catalogers have also been revising some of the subject headings, thus further improving access to these materials. In the ongoing third phase of the collection, faculty will add currently-owned and new titles to the collection through an annual review process.

You can now use the UT Library Catalog to browse or search within the Black Queer Studies Collection. To browse the collection: in the [catalog](#), perform a keyword search for "Black Queer Studies Collection" (using quotation marks); this search will return all of the materials currently designated as part of this collection-in-process. For details, see the BQSC webpage: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/subject/gender/bqsc.html>



Triumph over Elimination of UNLV Women's Studies

Women's Studies students, staff, and faculty at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and our supporters around the nation did it! We convinced the administration not to eliminate our department this past spring.

Context is critical to understanding the threat of elimination as well as our victory. Nevada, and the Las Vegas valley in particular (which accounts for 70% of the state's population), have been first or second nationwide in unemployment and home foreclosure during this Great Recession. A mono-economy (tourism) and a political culture that espouses libertarian, Republican, and conservative religious values have created a state government which consistently

Continued on page 4

Frontlines Arizona

After the suite of racist legislation passed in Arizona in spring 2010, Women's Studies students, faculty, and staff in the state have taken on leadership roles in organizing for immigrant rights and the continuation of Ethnic Studies and its important contributions to education at both the K-12 and college levels. Here are some of the highlights:

Dr. Nicole Guidotti-Hernández, a regular contributor to the Ms. Magazine blog, wrote a piece titled "In Arizona, Both Racial Exploitation and Resistance Run Deep." The May 17th blog post is available online.

Dr. Sandra Soto presented an inspired commencement address to the UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences laying out the challenges faced by graduating students in Arizona. Her remarks on recent legislation made national headlines, and she has since traveled the country to talk about the politics of resentment in the state.

The first annual Ethnic Studies Week (October 1st-7th, 2010), initiated at the University of Minnesota, included a wide-range of events organized by ASU and UA Gender & Women's Studies.

UA GWS students organized a campus rally and walk-out on May 5th in addition to meeting up with students and other activists from across the U.S. on May 29th for the National Day of Action against SB 1070 in Phoenix, Arizona.

In addition to its ongoing work on immigrant women in detention facilities, UA-SIROW is part of a new collaborative research project within Arizona on the challenges faced by immigrant mothers with citizen children.



underfunds education and social services. The state has no income tax and thus attracts anti-government residents. After a special session of the state legislature in February 2010 increased cuts to our state-funded budget to 31% in three years, UNLV moved from horizontal to vertical cuts.

In late March, upper administrators announced a proposed elimination list, including Women's Studies (the only proposed cut in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and sciences, with the exception of the English Language Center). We were given less than two weeks (including spring break) in which to create a 4-page argument for retention. Dr. Charu Chausheela, Dr. Kelly Mays (English, a member of our Steering Committee), and I spent spring break researching, writing, and rewriting. Subsequently Anita Revilla and I had twenty minutes to testify to the faculty/administration review committee. We were complimented for our strong presentations, which noted the critical importance of WS to students and faculty alike. On a campus with virtually no ethnic studies (a single faculty person teaches Afro-American studies), WS is a center of activity, intellectual, political, and social, around issues of gender and race, and to a smaller extent, class. We noted that the university had no other mechanism to educate the 11,624 students who had met the general education diversity requirement by taking Gender, Race, and Class in the past five years. Furthermore, minimal savings would result from eliminating Women's Studies.

Meanwhile, our students, assisted by Lynn Comella, organized a teach-in and rally, faculty put out the word, and hundreds of emails poured in to our president. He announced his decision in May, after graduation, and cut departments in professional fields: education, engineering, therapy, and sports management.

While we are proud of our triumph, additional cuts are looming, as the spring 2011 session of our biennial legislature looms, and new proposals, which once again disadvantage Women's Studies, have been floated by the chancellor of NSHE (Nevada System of Higher Education).

—Dr. Lois

Helmbold

Professor and Chair of the Department of Women's Studies at UNLV. She recently shared her insights about facing threats of



elimination as part of the National Women's Studies Association webinar "How Your Women's Studies Program Can Survive and Thrive in Difficult Financial Times" with Dr. Mary Margaret Fonow (ASU) and Allison Kimmich (NWSA).

Instituto Tepoztlán para la Historia Transnacional de las Americas

Since 2003, transnational scholars of the Americas have converged in Morales, Mexico during the summer months for the Tepoztlán Institute. Frustrated by impersonal academic conference dynamics and the geopolitics that did not allow international scholars into the United States, founders Dr. Elliot Young and Dr. Pamela Voekel created a multilingual space of scholarly exchange that transgresses national and hierarchical divides.

For the past two years, professors in the UA Department of Gender and Women's Studies have served as rotating co-directors of the Institute. In this role, Dr. Laura Briggs and Dr. Nicole Guidotti-Hernández worked with an organizing collective of professors for the largest Institute gatherings to date. Nearly ninety participants poured into Tepoztlán in 2010 to discuss theory and unpublished works-in-progress on the theme of "Space, Place, and Memory," including three Ph.D. students from UA: Mari Galup, Adrián Flores, and Erin Durban.

The theme for the 2011 Tepoz Institute is "Colonial Complexes: Law, Violence, and Knowledge." Applications are due December 7th. More information available at: <http://legacy.lclark.edu/~tepo>.

UTEP Women's Studies Interns Make an Impact!

Over the past 2 years, the University of Texas at El Paso Women's Studies Program has developed, trained, and supervised 12 student Public Relations interns. Students who take on the internship, as volunteers or for class credit, do so because of their passion and commitment to women's issues.

For one volunteer, Emily Field, in addition to furthering the mission and vision of the UTEP Women's Studies Program and gaining valuable professional experience, her dedication and countless volunteer hours have

Continued on page 5



University of North Texas
Women's Studies
Program ...joins the SIROW
Regional Women's Studies and
Gender Research Network

The Women's Studies Program at the University of North Texas currently offers a minor for undergraduates and an Interdisciplinary Master's Program with a concentration in Women's Studies.

In spring 2010, one of the program's graduate students, Kristen Alder, was selected to participate in the U.N. practicum for twenty students to learn about the Commission on the Status of Women.

UNT Women's Studies recently conducted a Study Abroad class in Tunisia for Women's Studies credit. While there, the class interacted with local nonprofit enterprises and NGOs focusing on women.

In fall 2010, the program is cosponsoring a lecture by Pulitzer Prize winner Sheryl WuDunn, who will discuss *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* which she co-authored with her husband, Nicholas Kristof.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.wmst.unt.edu>

SIROW now has an
organization page on

facebook

Search for "Southwest Institute for Research on Women." From this page, click the "Like!" button in the top righthand corner, and you will be able to follow SIROW updates.

paid off; literally! In the Spring of 2010 the UTEP Women's Studies Program received funds through UTEP's on-campus employment grant funding to hire a paid intern for one fiscal year. Several students applied but Emily Field was the clear choice.



Field has been with UTEP's Women's Studies Program since August 2009 and involved with many projects, special events, and research such as continued outreach and education about Women's Studies and feminist issues, the Matthew Shepard Eliminate Hate Vigil, and the *Sexual Attitudes, Behaviors and Experiences Survey 2* which enables the Women's Studies program to better understand and focus on women's safety on college campuses. When asked about how Women's Studies has impacted her, Emily responded, "Working as an intern with the UTEP Women's Studies program has been an empowering experience. The skills, knowledge and mentoring I have received through Women's Studies courses and the internship have strengthened me as an activist, student and person. The Women's Studies courses I have taken have educated me on oppression, privilege and gender. The internship has given me the outlet to take this knowledge and transform it into activism both on campus and in my community."

—DeAnna Varela, MA

UTEP Instructor of Women's Studies

New Collection Broadens Analysis of "Violence at the Border"

A timely release by the University of Arizona Press, *Gender Violence at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Media Representation and Public Response* (2010) is a collection edited by Héctor Domínguez-Ruvalcaba and Ignacio Corona that delves into the longstanding construction of the U.S.-Mexico border in the media as a violent and dangerous place.

2011 Heads and Directors in Denver, Colorado

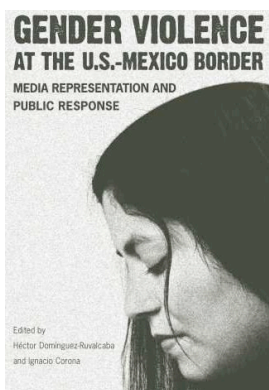
The annual Southwest Regional Heads and Directors Meeting for Women's Studies and women and gender research institutes will be hosted for the first time in Colorado by Metro State and the University of Colorado, Denver. Held on January 28th and 29th, 2011, this year's gathering is shaping up to be the largest to date with 25 participants from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Texas.

Topics slated for the gathering include the growth of Ph.D. programs and the relationships between Women's Studies academic departments and women and gender research institutes. Additionally, MSCD Professor of Women's Studies Dr. A.J. Alejano-Steele will present her work on feminist responses to human trafficking.

For decades, the border has been constructed as a topographic metaphor for all forms of illegality, in which an ineffable link between space and violence is somehow assumed. The sociological and cultural implications of violence have recently emerged at the forefront of academic discussions about the border. And yet few studies have been devoted to one of its most disturbing manifestations: gender violence. This book analyzes this pervasive phenomenon, including the femicides in Ciudad Juárez that have come to exemplify, at least for the media, its most extreme manifestation.

Contributors to this volume propose that the study of gender-motivated violence requires interpretive and analytical strategies that draw on methods reaching across the divide between the social sciences and the humanities. Through such an interdisciplinary conversation, the book examines how such violence is (re)presented in oral narratives, newspaper reports, films and documentaries, novels, TV series, and legal discourse. It also examines the role that the media has played in this process, as well as legal initiatives that might address this pressing social problem.

Together these essays offer a new perspective on the implications of, and connections between, gendered forms of violence and topics such as mechanisms of social violence, the micro-social effects of economic models, the asymmetries of power in local, national, and transnational configurations, and the particular rhetoric, aesthetics, and ethics of discourses that represent violence.



Send an article to SIROW News!

If you would like to highlight the accomplishments, ongoing research efforts, new scholarship, or student projects in your program, department, or institute, submit and article for the spring 2011 newsletter.

Stories and publications must be 350 words or less and showcase the depth and breadth of Gender and Women's Studies projects in our region. Submit stories in Microsoft Word via email by March 1st, 2010. To submit stories or for more information, email urban@email.arizona.edu or call Erin Durban-Albrecht at 520-626-4911.

Notes from the Editor:

Thank you to the SIROW editing team, Nina Rabin and Corey Knox, for their work on the newsletter.

We also appreciate submissions from the following people: Dr. Sandra Spencer, Dr. Lois Helmbold, Dr. AnaLouise Keating, Bo-Myung Kim, and DeAnna Varela.

The Black Queer Studies Collection article was reprinted with revisions from the UT-Austin English website.

Photo on page 3 is courtesy of Chris Summit, who has created an impressive photographic archive of the borderlands struggles of 2010. Visit: <http://www.chrissummitt.com>

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