

Regional Newsletter FALL 2012

*Highlighting Gender & Women's Studies &
research institutes of the Southwest US, and
Northern Mexico*



Greetings from the University of Arizona - Southwest Institute for Research on Women. I hope that you are having an enjoyable and productive fall semester! At SIROW, we are busy with new project

start ups—including a national cross-site evaluation of the Reclaiming Futures/Juvenile Drug Court program as well as several more regional and local grant-funded projects. We are very pleased to have Dr. Monica Casper join us as the new Head for the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. She brings a great deal of excitement, her stellar research and scholarship, teaching excellence, and solid administrative skills. (See story in this issue).

Finally, SIROW is looking forward to the next Southwest Regional Heads and Directors Meeting which will take place January 25-26, 2013 in Tucson! If you are the chair or head of an academic women's studies program or research institute located in the southwest US and wish to attend, please contact Corey Knox at cknox@email.arizona.edu.

Casper is New Head of GWS at University of Arizona

The Gender and Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona has a new leader: Professor Monica J. Casper. Dr. Casper most recently taught at Arizona State University. Her research interests include gender, race, bodies, health, and sexuality, with particular expertise in reproductive technologies and politics.

Casper received her B.A. in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1988 and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, San Francisco in 1995. In 1996, she was a Fellow in Bio-medical Ethics at Stanford University and then joined the sociology faculty at UC Santa Cruz. In 2003, she served as Executive Director of the Intersex Society of North America and from 2004-2008 directed the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Vanderbilt University. She is author or editor of several books including *The Making of the Unborn Patient: A Social Anatomy of*



Fetal Surgery, which won the C. Wright Mills Award. She is also co-editor of *TRIVIA: Voices of Feminism* and is a member of the Editorial Collective of *The Feminist Wire*.

Professor Casper is currently involved in four collaborative research projects: 1) the biopolitics of infant mortality and maternal/child health in the United States; 2) sexuality and cultural politics of the HPV vaccine; 3) social and biomedical consequences of traumatic brain injury; and 4) parental child abduction. She also writes fiction and creative nonfiction and has been published in several literary journals. Currently a member of the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood Arizona, she is active in the reproductive justice movement locally and nationally.

For more information and to read some of Professor Casper's writing, visit www.monicajcasper.com. (See page 3 for an interview with Dr. Casper)

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The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), established in 1979, is a regional resource institute within the Gender and Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona. The SIROW 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.

NOTE: The opinions expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect the positions of SIROW or individual personnel. However, as a research and academic institution SIROW strongly supports the right of students, researchers and faculty to express their positions through academic products and public expression.

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New Faculty From Around the Region



Dr. Brigid Vance, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Department of History. Dr. Vance received her Ph.D. from Princeton University after completing her M.A. in East Asian studies at Stanford, Continuing Education courses at the C.G. Jung Institute in San Francisco, and her B.A. in Psychology at Carleton College. Her research and teaching interests include the history of science and medicine, East Asian intellectual and cultural history, women's history, and the history of dreams. Dr. Vance's current book project, tentatively titled *Dreaming in Chinese: Explanation, Exorcism, and Prognostication in a Late Ming Dream Encyclopedia*, examines the ways in which dreams

were interpreted and depicted in late imperial Chinese encyclopedia. Dr. Vance also examines the gendered dreamer; both dream interpretations and nightmare exorcist techniques varied for men and for women.



Jennie Luna, New Mexico State University, Women's Studies. Dr. Luna has a Ph.D. in Native American Studies from the University of California, Davis, with concentrations in Hemispheric/Intercontinental Indigenous Studies and Xicana Indígena identity. Her dissertation, "La Danza Mexica: Indigenous Identity, Spirituality, Activism and Performance," is also the subject of her current book project. Dr. Luna also has training in Mesoamerican history, migration, cultural production, traditional food-

ways, and reproductive practices. Dr. Luna is a first generation college student, obtaining her Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Chicana/o Studies and Mass Communications. Dr. Luna will join the Sociology/Women's Studies Department, and will teach courses on Women's Studies, Ethnic, Chicana/o and Native American Studies in Women's Studies and the Honors College.



Mark Kessler (Professor of Women's Studies) joined the Texas Woman's University Department of Women's Studies in Fall 2012. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Pittsburgh and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Pennsylvania State University in Political Science. Previously a Professor of Politics and the Chair of the Division of Social Sciences at Bates College, Dr. Kessler is the coauthor of *The Play of Power*, a winner of the Best Text Award given by the Women's Caucus of the American Political Science Association for its inclusion and analyses of women and racial minorities in poli-

tics. Currently, he serves on the editorial board of the *Law and Politics Book Review* and teaches graduate courses related to feminist, transdisciplinary research methods, community-based research, and law and social justice.

A Discussion with Monica Casper, New Head of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Arizona

We invited Professor Casper to share her thoughts about her new position and the future of gender and women's studies, both at the University of Arizona and more broadly:

"First, let me just say how thrilled I am to be here. This is an extraordinary program with a rich history and a very bright future. Although my professional training is in sociology, my intellectual home has always been gender and women's studies, and I can't tell you how exciting it is to again be part of a Ph.D.-granting department. With my fabulous colleagues in GWS, a few of whom are also new, I look forward to taking the program to the next level.

What does this mean? For starters, we're planning to reinstitute our terminal M.A. degree, with concentrations in sexual and reproductive health, migration, trans studies, and women's leadership. These are key growth areas for the field and they build on existing strengths in the department. My experience with ASU's Social Justice and Human Rights MA Program taught me that there are many ambitious, smart, young (and not so young) people who want an advanced degree—in this case, the M.A.—so that they can do good in the world. Our revamped degree will provide them with both a credential and a solid base of knowledge from which to go forth and effect social change.



We're also happily engaged in development efforts. Fortunately, and somewhat unusually, the GWS Department has a dedicated donor base, many of whom are members of the Women's Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC). We enjoy several endowed funds, including the Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy Endowment that funded our beautiful Women's Plaza of Honor and provides graduate student support. One development goal is to seek a major donor to fund a Chair in Women's Leadership. The chair would not be for an individual faculty member, as is traditionally the case, but rather for visiting scholars and practitioners who are expert in some aspect of women's leadership. These visitors could be from the U.S. or from other countries.

In addition to these "big ticket" projects, we're also engaged in several initiatives on a smaller scale. For example, we'll shortly be reorganizing our undergraduate and graduate curricula in order to

maximize our new and existing strengths. We're about to embark on the self-study portion of our first program review in several years, which will take place next academic year. Collaborating with colleagues from Sweden and Australia, we're also working to position GWS as a key player in the emerging field of somatechnics. And with the fairly recent arrival of faculty members Susan Stryker and Frank Galarte, we're now ideally situated to launch trans studies at the University of Arizona, in partnership with the Institute for LGBT Studies and other units.

From my vantage, gender and women's studies as a field is vibrant, dynamic, and essential—particularly when we partner with other fields and community members. If this year's election rhetoric has shown us anything, it's that we need to attend to the ways that gender and race (and their ugly kin, misogyny and racism) continue to structure our political system and the meanings we hold about certain groups of people. If ever there was a time that the field's unique blend of scholarship and activism is needed, it's right now. Especially in Arizona, where racism has run amok in anti-immigration discourse and legislation, and where women's health care and economic standing has been severely compromised."



(New Faculty from around the region, continued.)



Dr. Emily K. Hobson, University of Nevada-Reno, Women's Studies and Gender, Race, and Identity Program. Dr. Hobson received her Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California in 2009. She also has a background in community organizing for racial justice, gender equity, immigrant rights, and public schools. Her current book project, *Lavender and Red: Race, Empire, and Solidarity in the Gay and Lesbian Left* is under contract with the University of California Press. In addition, she is developing a primary source anthology, co-edited with Dan Berger, entitled *Finding the Struggle: Radical Movements in the Neoliberal United States, 1970-2001*. Her work has appeared in *The Journal of Transnational American Studies*, *make/shift: feminisms in motion*, *The People's Guide to Los Angeles* (ed. Pulido, Barraclough, and Cheng), and in the forthcoming volume *The Rising Tide of Color: Race, Radicalism, and Repression on the Pacific Coast and Beyond* (ed. Moon-Ho Jung).



News from WRIN, Women's Research Institute of Nevada

The Women's Research Institute of Nevada at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) celebrated its tenth anniversary of NEW Leadership Nevada. A partnership with Rutgers University, Center for American Women in Politics. We can proudly state that after a decade, we have begun to see the fruits of our program with dedicated alumnae throughout the city, state and country. In recognition of a decade of influence, one

of our alums, Kristin Guthrie, created *Voices* a video oral history on the program and the experiences of students, staff, and community members. It may be viewed at: <http://wrinunlv.org/new-leadership-nevada/voices-of-new-leadership-nevada/>

WRIN is a co-sponsor of the **regional Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA) annual meeting at UNLV** April 4-6, 2013. The theme: "Reinventing Realities: Creating Identity and Community through Oral History" highlights the groundbreaking work often done through oral history projects. The Conference always includes interesting panels & workshops with a focus on race, gender and ethnicity. For more information, see www.southwestoralhistory.org

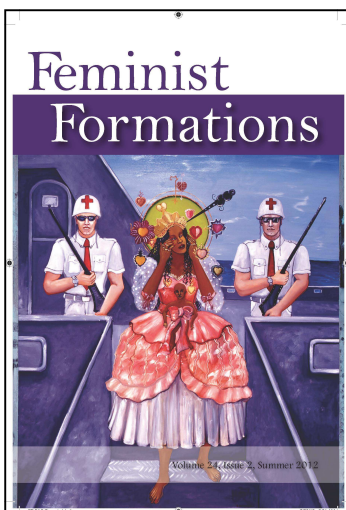
And lastly, WRIN's director, Joanne L. Goodwin, will have a chapter in the forthcoming publication *Oral History, Community, and Work in the American West*. The chapter, "Women at Work in Las Vegas, 1940-1980," examines the ways in which the history of the tourism industry and community in Las Vegas could not be written without the first hand accounts collected through oral history methodology. She also received the 2012 *Medal of Justice Award* from the State Bar of Nevada for the Black History Month issue of *Nevada Lawyer*. The *Medal of Justice Award* is given to individuals and groups who contribute to advancing the mission of the State Bar through exemplary programs and volunteer work. Recipients of this award are those who inspire by example, advance the administration of justice, and bring honor and integrity to the profession. Congratulations!



Colorado College forms Gender Studies Student Advisory Council

The Feminist & Gender Studies Program (FGS) at Colorado College (CC) is excited to announce the development of the Student Advisory Council. This student-led organization provides FGS majors and minors with opportunities to serve as leaders within the program: It is a space that allows students to represent the interests and concerns of the FGS student body to the faculty. The advisory council also plays an essential role in producing *The Monthly Rag*, a campus publication and active Facebook group that provides CC students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends with feminist news, interests, and ideas.

Students will continue to develop and maintain networks with other academic, intellectual, artistic, and activist organizations as local as the WEST Program at UCCS and as national as the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Any questions about the Student Advisory Council may be directed to its Advisor, Professor Heidi R. Lewis at Heidi.Lewis@ColoradoCollege.edu.



On September 6th, more than 200 people turned out for the *Feminist Formations* symposium at the University of Arizona to celebrate the new editorial team's first issue (24.2). Photos from the event with information about the presenters are posted on the *Feminist Formations* Facebook page. The next issue, to be released in December 2012, will feature a cluster of articles in tribute to Professor Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy's interdisciplinary feminist scholarship and tremendous work on behalf of women's studies.

<http://feministformations.arizona.edu/>



Southwest Scholars: New Publications



Chicana Power!

University of Texas Press
Maylei Blackwell, UCLA

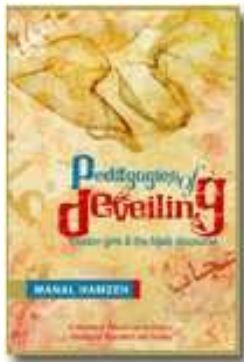
The first book-length study of women's involvement in the Chicano Movement of the late 1960s and 1970s, *Chicana Power!* tells the powerful story of the emergence of Chicana feminism within student and community-based organizations throughout southern California and the Southwest. As Chicanos engaged in widespread protest in their struggle for social justice, civil rights, and self-determination, women in *el movimiento* became increasingly militant about the gap between the rhetoric of equality and the organizational culture that suppressed women's leadership and subjected women to chauvinism, discrimination, and sexual harassment. Based on rich oral histories and extensive archival research, Maylei Blackwell analyzes the struggles over gender and sexuality within the Chicano Movement and illustrates how those struggles produced new forms of racial consciousness, gender awareness, and political identities.



Depression: A Public Feeling

Duke University Press Books (Forthcoming November 2012)
Ann Cvetkovich, University of Texas-Austin

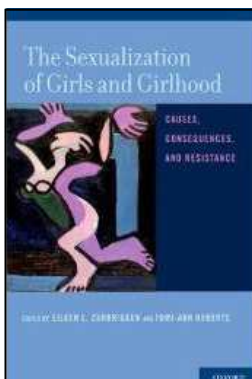
In *Depression: A Public Feeling*, Ann Cvetkovich combines memoir and critical essay in search of ways of writing about depression as a cultural and political phenomenon that offer alternatives to medical models. She describes her own experience of the professional pressures, creative anxiety, and political hopelessness that led to intellectual blockage while she was finishing her dissertation and writing her first book. Building on the insights of the memoir, in the critical essay she considers the idea that feeling bad constitutes the lived experience of neoliberal capitalism.



DeVeiling Pedagogies: Muslim Girls and the Hijab Discourse

Information Age Publishing
Manal Hamzeh, New Mexico State University

Pedagogies of DeVeiling: Muslim Girls & The Hijab Discourse, presents an exploration of a gendering discourse, the *hijab* (veil) discourse, and how it was negotiated by four girls who self-identified as Muslims. *Pedagogies of DeVeiling* emerged over a period of three years writing up a 14 months long study in which Hamzeh collaborated with four Muslim girls in two US southwestern border towns between October 2005 and December 2006. This book stems from the stories of these girls weaved with Hamzeh's stories and perspectives as *arabyyah-muslimah*, the main researcher in the study—an "insider/in-between" educator/researcher who is literate in the cultural/linguistic/historical nuances critical in working with Muslim girls and their communities.



The Sexualization of Girls and Girlhood: Causes, Consequences, and Resistance

Oxford University Press
Tomi-Ann Roberts, Colorado College

"The Sexualization of Girls and Girlhood: Causes, Consequences, and Resistance," brings a much-needed academic voice to the conversation. The book includes the best empirical research, theory, and practice stemming from the report of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls. The book, which Roberts co-edited with Eileen L. Zurbriggen of University of California, Santa Cruz, not only documents the scope of the problem and its consequences for girls' well-being, but also provides positive alternatives and suggestions for resistance. Published by Oxford University Press.



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