



## Regional Newsletter SPRING 2012

*Covering gender & women's studies & research institutes of Arizona, New Mexico, Northwest Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah*

### Inspiring Southwest Regional Meeting Brings Together Researchers and Community Activists

This year we were fortunate to have received funding from the Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation to assist with expenses for our Gender and Women's Studies Southwest Regional meeting, which took place January 27-29, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas. The annual meeting, titled "Women's Health and Sexualities Conference," brought together scholars, researchers, and community activists: Our goal was to share information and strategies with regard to education, advocacy, service, and policy related to women living in the southwest United States and the U.S./Mexico border region. Among formal and informal discussions, the conference included two panel presentations. The first presenta-



tion addressed women, sexuality, and health disparities; the second covered gender, environmental justice, immigration, and the academy. In addition to sharing research findings and specific

content in formation, the conference also provided opportunities to discuss strategies for nurturing and educating future feminist scholars, researchers, service providers, political leaders, and activists who can continue to work on these important issues. The conference concluded with a discussion of the specific needs of the Southwest region and the ways universities, colleges and community organizations can work together to create dynamic, relevant community programs and research projects that address emerging issues pertinent to the lives of women and girls.

*Sally Stevens, Executive Director, SIROW, University of Arizona*



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No. 84

Spring 2012

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.

## Southwest Institute for Research on Women

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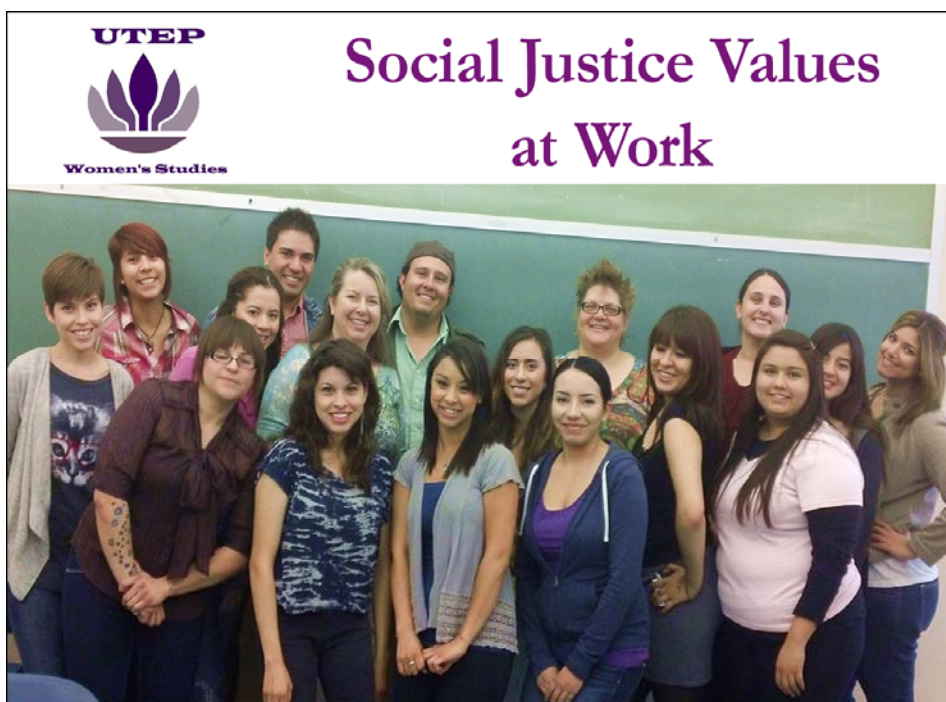
## UTEP Women's Studies Program Puts Social Justice Values to Work

Marshall Ganz, a Harvard University professor of public policy once said, "Grassroots organizing is about building power." The spirit and ingenuity behind grassroots organizing, fundraising and education is alive and well at the University of Texas at El Paso Women's Studies Program. As the head Public Relations intern I have had the opportunity to spearhead outreach both on and off campus. This has included promoting and taking donations for jewelry, tutus, and buttons proclaiming an end to misogyny and other social causes. All of the promotional items have been handmade by faculty and students for the love of crafting and the passion to raise awareness about women and gender issues.

Donations earned from these efforts have helped to fund a percentage of paid student internships at local community non-profits. In conjunction with the course *Social Justice Values Put to Work: Social Entrepreneurship, Non-Profits & Volunteerism* (SJV), the interns work in the community on putting feminists values and theories to work. SJV students are challenged to think innovatively and apply theory learned in the classroom within their internships all the while earning college credit, valuable work experience, and an hourly wage. Last semester, the UTEP Women's Studies Program collected enough money to sponsor a portion of ten paid intern positions in the El Paso area.

Some of the organizations that SJV students are working with this semester include *Volar*, a center for helping people with disabilities to live independently, and *Community Solutions*, which assists prison families as their loved ones are integrated back into the home and the community. The SJV course and internships have enabled UTEP students to not only further their education, but to gain valuable professional experience. Several SJV students have gone on to complete internships in Washington D.C., enter PhD programs, and gain permanent employment with our community partners. This is grassroots organizing, fundraising and education at its finest! More information about the UTEP Women's Studies Program and upcoming special events, please visit us at: [www.academics.utep.edu/ws](http://www.academics.utep.edu/ws)

Josh Espinoza, Head P.R. Intern, Women's Studies Program, UTEP



**Building and Sustaining Feminist and Border Scholarship:**  
*by Irasema Coronado, Vice Provost, UTEP*

*The following are excerpts from a presentation, at the Women's Studies Regional Meeting, January 27, 2012 in San Antonio, TX.*

As women studies comes of age and matures, what are the successes that we need to build on for the future? As our movement ages we need to reflect on what we have done well and build on that to move forward. We need to have a clear vision for the future, there is power in our articulation. We might want to take the time to revisit our mission statements. What do our mission statements say? Who develops our mission statement? Are our mission statements aligned with our colleges and universities' mission statements? Do our mission statements include a futuristic piece? As we develop or revisit our mission statements, we need to make sure that we are clear with our nomenclature: women's studies, gender studies, feminist studies, lesbian and gay studies, queer studies. This nomenclature issue also extends to border studies. For example, in the debate over border security, does security refer to national security, does it include economic security, human security?

There are plenty of research questions and areas that need our attention. We need to facilitate research locally, in our neighborhoods and communities. We also need to pay special attention to statewide politics in Arizona and Texas, What are our legislatures doing? Who are the champions of women's issues? How can we bring attention to these issues? Likewise, nationally and globally, there are a plethora of issues that we need to embrace. We need to

ensure that we do not privilege one sphere over another, we need to create mechanisms of support for scholars and researchers in all of these spheres. We also need to work with diverse groups of women—women in business, science, religion, etc. It is o.k. to work with people who do not think like you or believe like you. Lesson from Theda Skocpol working with the Tea Party Members or Carri Skogberg Eastman interviewing representatives from the Minute Men in Arizona.

Women's Studies needs to demonstrate relevance, and work on broader societal issues that cross over into multiple disciplines. We need to work with people with whom we have never worked with before. We have made some great strides, we have 15 PhD. Programs in women's studies in the country, however, we have more work to do. In closing, I want to thank what you have done, what you will continue to do in the future.

**Advancing Feminist and Border Scholarship: A Short To Do List**

- Mobilize
- Raise awareness
- Hold people accountable and seek their genuine inclusion of women and to be advocates for women in their fields
- Be a mentor and role model to others
- Cultivate future leadership
- Honor and pay tribute to a pioneer in women studies
- Reach out to a colleague in another discipline
- Research
- Write
- Take care of yourself

No Dejaré de Amarte...  
**("I Shall Not Stop Loving You...")**

*By Patricia Manning  
University of Arizona*

Bundles of hope and life  
corn tortillas fresh off the comal  
wrapped in bleached muslin squares  
emblazoned with hibiscus and macaws  
and sentimental slogans crooning  
"No dejaré de amarte,  
I shall not stop loving you."  
No icons of this desert  
embroidered on those table linens  
employing folk art to warn against the  
harms,  
or foreshadowing the hellish, hungry  
days  
of blood-and-sweat-stained napkins  
proffered as paltry funeral shrouds  
for faces blistered beyond recognition,  
or hung from the tallest thorny brush  
as desperate calling cards from lost  
souls  
seeking trails of milk and honey,  
streaming, flowing life lines  
to their shriveled children  
left behind in anguish,  
left smothered in kisses  
who commission their mothers to go  
north with  
those last, fresh, palm-printed tortillas,  
cloth-and-corn bundles of yearning  
to sustain a vanishing life.

"No dejaré de amarte--  
desde el otro lado.  
I shall not stop loving you--  
from the other side."







### Scholar Profile

#### **Dr. Heidi Lewis, Colorado College**

Colorado College is happy to announce their most recent hire in the Feminist & Gender Studies Program, Dr. Heidi R. Lewis. Dr. Lewis earned her Ph.D. in American Studies at Purdue University in August 2011. Her dissertation explores constructions of father-daughter relationships in black women's fiction, popular non-fiction, and autobiography in the Post-Civil Rights era. Her areas of expertise include feminism, gender and sexuality, popular culture, Critical Race Theory, African American literature and culture, as well as 20<sup>th</sup> century American literature and culture. Dr. Lewis' article, "Legacies Lost, Found, and Revised: Father-Daughter Relationships in Black Women's Popular Non-Fiction" will be featured in the upcoming special edition of the *Journal of Black Studies* examining contemporary black popular culture.

Prior to coming to Colorado College, Dr. Lewis was a Graduate Instructor in the Women's Studies Program and the African American Studies & Research Center at Purdue. She also taught writing and literature courses at Ohio University and various other colleges and universities in Ohio and Indiana.

This summer, Dr. Lewis will be presenting "Who's Afraid of the Big Black Bitch?: A Black Feminist Analysis of Reality TV" in Barcelona, Spain, at the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas conference. This project is a continuation of her research examining constructions of black gay men on 21<sup>st</sup> century television. KRCC Radio (NPR member station for Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico) featured Dr. Lewis conducting a micro-lecture on this topic for the "The Big Something," which can be viewed on their website (<http://tinyurl.com/6fqzxcv>).

In 2013, Dr. Lewis will be conducting a workshop titled "From 'How are you going to do this?' to 'How did you do it?': Overcoming Motherhood Challenges in Academe" at the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement-conference in Toronto.

### Research News from Metro State College of Denver

Dr. AnnJanette Alejano-Steele is a co-founder and Board Chairperson of the non-profit Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT) in Denver. One of LCHT's research efforts, the Colorado Project to Combat Human Trafficking is now in its third phase of a 3-year four phase project. In 2012, LCHT is focusing on the strengths and gaps in Colorado's anti-trafficking efforts and will sponsor a conference on the Metro State campus in 2013 to disseminate the findings of this research. The project has developed a unique campus-wide Human Trafficking Academic Response Team, which has supported over 30 survivors of human trafficking over the course of its 4 1/2 year history. This team of 10 academic units supports survivors in their long term survivorship goals. An undergraduate course, crosslisted across 6 departments is offered on Human Trafficking.

For more information on the project visit this website: [www.coloradoproject.combathumantrafficking.org](http://www.coloradoproject.combathumantrafficking.org)

Dr. Maurice Hamington, co-director of the Institute for Women's Studies and Services at Metropolitan State College of Denver has co-edited the volume, *Contemporary Feminist Pragmatism*, which will be published in late March. *Contemporary Feminist Pragmatism* is the first book to address the modern significance of the nexus of feminism and American philosophy (or what is often called "pragmatism"). Chapters of the volume include an exploration of the relationship between community and identity, particularly as it relates to gender and race, a discussion of political practice, as it relates to feminist pragmatist commitments, and chapters on education, sustainability movements, community gardens, ethics and inquiry, in Buddhism, and animal-human relationships. In addition to editing and anthology, Dr. Hamington contributed a chapter to the volume that explores the ethical potential of hospitality as a performative type of care theory.

For more information: [www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415899918/](http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415899918/)

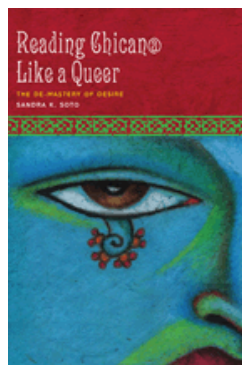


"Southwest Insitute for Research on Women"

## Immigration, Gender, Chican@ Literature and Borderlands in New Publications

While the state of Arizona continues to attract nationwide attention for attacks on Ethnic Studies; and the Tucson Unified School District has closed its Mexican American Studies classes, removing key texts of Chicana/o studies from K-12 classrooms, feminist scholars at the University of Arizona continue to produce important new knowledge in the fields of Chicana/o and Border Studies. In *Reading Chican@ Like a Queer: The De-Mastery of Desire*, Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) Associate Professor Sandra K. Soto re-reads a diverse range of widely discussed writers—from Américo Paredes to Cherríe Moraga—to demonstrate that representations of racialization actually depend on the sexual and that a racialized sexuality is a heretofore unrecognized organizing principle of Chican@ literature. In *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas Y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage*, Laura G. Gutiérrez, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and GWS affiliated faculty, examines the cultural representation of queer sexuality in the contemporary cultural production of Mexican female and Chicana performance and visual artists. And in her forthcoming book, *Zines in Third Space: Radical Cooperation and Borderlands Rhetoric*, Adela C. Licona, co-editor of *Feminist Formations*, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Composition and the Teaching of English and GWS affiliate, explores how borderlands' rhetorics function in feminist, and queer of-color zines to challenge dominant knowledges as well as normativizing mis/representations.

Meanwhile, the cultural and political struggles over immigration in Arizona are addressed directly in *Arizona Firestorm: Global Immigration Realities, National Media, and Provincial Politics*, edited by Celeste González de Bustamante, Assistant Professor of Journalism, and Otto Santa Ana, Associate Professor in Chicana & Chicano Studies at UCLA. This collection of essays, which includes contributions by UA faculty Anna Ochoa O'Leary, Assistant Professor of Practice in Mexican American Studies and Co-director of the Binational Migration Institute and Nolan L. Cabrera, Assistant Professor in the Center for the Study of Higher Education, among many other distinguished scholars, examines the political, economic, historical, and legal issues prompted by anti-Latino and anti-immigrant legislation and state actions. It also addresses the news media's role in shaping immigration discourse in Arizona and around the globe. *Miranda Joseph, University of Arizona*



Reading Chican@ Like a Queer: The De-Mastery of Desire

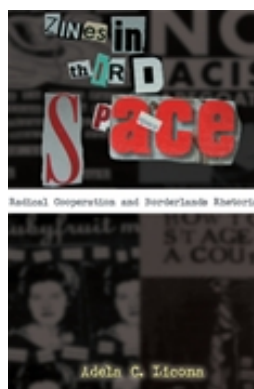
By Sandra K. Soto

University of Texas Press:  
<http://www.utexas.edu/>



Performing Mexicanidad:  
Vendidas y Cabareteras on  
the Transnational Stage  
By Laura G. Gutiérrez

University of Texas Press  
<http://www.utexas.edu/>



Zines in Third Space:  
Radical Cooperation and  
Borderlands Rhetoric  
By Adela Licona

Suny Press:  
<http://www.sunypress.edu/>



Arizona Firestorm: Global Immigration Realities,  
National Media, and Provincial Politics

By Otto Santa Ana and  
Celeste González de Bustamante

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers  
<https://rowman.com/RLPublishers>



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