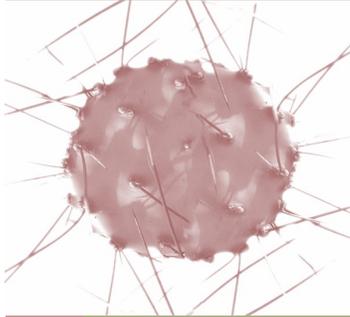


April 2010

No. 80



SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

SIROW

The Contributions of Gender and Women's Studies to Higher Ed Regional Heads and Directors of Gender and Women's Studies and Research Institutes Meet at UNLV

Fourteen representatives from Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) departments and research institutes converged at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for this year's annual Southwest Heads and Directors Meeting on January 29th and 30th, 2010. UNLV Women's Studies and the Women's Research Institute hosted a lively meeting as participants from Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming shared resources and information, brainstormed creative solutions to current challenges in higher education, and envisioned new ways to collaborate regionally as programs and departments continue to grow.

An exciting highlight of the two-day meeting is that despite the recent economic climate, GWS and research institutes are receiving local, regional, and national recognition for significant contributions to higher education and improving the lives of those from marginalized communities.

In November, Dr. Mary Margaret Fonow from Arizona State University and Dr. Laura Briggs from the



Heads and Directors at UNLV

University of Arizona were invited to Washington, D.C. with approximately a dozen other GWS department heads from around the country to consult with the White House Council on Women and Girls. The National Women's Studies Association coordinated the visit, which focused on applying the cutting-edge research produced by academic departments and institutes to inform policy recommendations that benefit marginalized communities in the U.S.

The noteworthy achievements of GWS in terms of retention, particularly among underserved student populations, has had

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Highlights in this Issue:

- Gender and Women's Studies and research institutions recognized for contributions to higher education
- Gender and Women's Studies empowers girls to attend college and pursue careers in STEM fields.
- Classroom to community connections: Innovative Entrepreneurism at UTEP.

Look for our next issue of SIROW News in the fall of 2010.

Contributions (cont.)...

multiple positive outcomes: it has led to colleges and universities promotion of GWS course development across the region; proliferation of GWS degree options at community and state colleges as well as universities; increasing international research opportunities for GWS students; and growth of many GWS programs and departments that offer supportive educational environments that foster innovative scholarship.

Heads of GWS have been commended by university administrators for their creative solutions, not only to student retention, but also to the necessary transformations that take place during times of economic crisis. GWS spearheaded efforts across the region to work collaboratively between programs, departments, and colleges. Dr. Mary Margaret Fonow is the new director of the ASU School of Social Inquiry, while Dr. Mary Stewart at the University of Nevada, Reno successfully led efforts to implement the Gender, Race, and Identity Program. SIROW and UA Gender and Women's Studies made a similar proposal for inter-unit collaboration to create a Consortium for Critical Analysis and Social Change.

Two research units in the Southwest were awarded for their groundbreaking and effective research by the National Council for Research on Women in 2009. The Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) earned national recognition with the Emerging Center Award, while SIROW was honored with the Diversity and Inclusion Award for research and services to improve the lives of marginalized women and girls for the past thirty years.

Finally, heads and directors discussed ways to share resources in the region

for teaching and research and planned to collectively submit at least one grant for further collaboration in these areas: a National Institute of Health grant to organize a regional conference on health and sexuality.

In 2011, the Heads and Directors annual meeting will be hosted for the

first time in Colorado by Metro State and the University of Colorado, Denver on the Auraria campus.

*Contributed by: Erin Durban, MA and Sally Stevens, Ph.D.
University of Arizona*

Gender and Women's Studies Conferences Support Girls to Pursue Higher Education

While women are attending and graduating from college in ever increasing numbers, many girls from marginalized communities still do not perceive college as a viable future option, and many less consider degrees in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Two conferences in the Southwest organized by GWS and affiliated departments and programs have been working to address gender inequity in colleges and encourage girls to pursue higher education.

On November 4th, 2009, Colorado State University-Pueblo hosted the 6th Annual Young Women's Real World Conference, which was coordinated by Dr. Carol Loates, CSU Pueblo's former Women's Studies program director. More than 70 girls from Pueblo area high schools attended the

conference, offering exposure to a college environment and assistance in creating goals for their future and concrete strategies to reach those goals. Loates says that the conference helps girls realize their potential and feel empowered to transform their own lives, as well as the world.

On March 6th, 2010, the University of Arizona's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program hosted the 28th annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Conference, coordinated by November Papaleo, a Gender and Women's Studies Ph.D. student. EYH introduces girls in middle and high school to STEM fields through exciting workshops with applied projects, mentoring relationships with WISE college

Continued on page 4...



WISE Volunteers at EYH Conference, 2009



Featured Unit: The Women's Studies Program at University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP)

UTEP Women's Studies Program Recognized for Entrepreneurship Program and Making the "Classroom to Community Connection"

In the fall of 2008, Dr. Brenda Risch, and DeAnna Varela from the UTEP Women's Studies Program, with the assistance of Azuri Ruiz from the UTEP Center for Civic Engagement, were granted funds from Kauffman Campus Initiative (KCI).

The Kauffman Campus Initiative at UTEP was established in 2004 through Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation funding to enhance the economic development of the region. The goals of KCI are to contribute to the body of knowledge on entrepreneurship, with an emphasis on Hispanic entrepreneurship; to educate and provide professional development to students, faculty, staff, and members of the community from a broad range of disciplines on entrepreneurship; and to promote entrepreneurship in the university and the region.



UTEP Women's Studies Minors

The UTEP Women's Studies Program researched and developed a new course entitled "Social Justice Values at Work: Social Entrepreneurship, Non-profits, and Volunteerism" in concurrence with a paid internship, which was offered to twelve extraordinary students from the University in the Spring of 2009. The course focused on practical skills workshops such as board development, public speaking, and starting a business or non-profit along with academic theory surrounding social justice issues and activism. Students were placed with non-profits in the El Paso area to apply what they learned in a "real world" setting. In May of 2009 faculty and staff presented the results of the course at the *Celebrating Hispanic Entrepreneurship Conference* sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In honor of its innovative initiatives and programs on entrepreneurship, UTEP's KCI was recognized in *Fortune Small Business* magazine and received attention in *The New York Times*.

Contributed by: DeAnna Varela, MA
University of Texas, El Paso

Find more information about UTEP Women's Studies Program at the program's website. Dr. Brenda Risch's spring 2010 newsletter highlights exciting program successes including expanding course offerings, new core and affiliate faculty, and a proposed major in Women's Studies at UTEP.



Triota comes to UTEP!

In fall 2009, the Women's Studies Program at UTEP established a chapter of the National Women's Studies Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota, informally known as *Triota*. With Dr. Lee Ann Westman as academic advisor, the chapter began holding monthly meetings in January 2010. Upcoming Triota activities include reading groups featuring significant texts such as Gloria Anzaldua's *Borderlands: The New Mestiza*. Triota also plans to attend and present at local and national academic conferences. The organization will sponsor professional development opportunities for students and social events as well as host speakers for Women's History Month.

Did you know?

Iota Iota Iota was initiated in the Southwest —at Metro State in 1992. You can find information about other chapters in the region, as well as how to start your own, at the Metro Institute for Women's Studies and Services website: <http://www.mscd.edu/women/>



students, and career panels of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and other fields where women continue to be underrepresented due to gender-based discrimination. Papaleo noted, "The high level of attendance at EYH each year [participation can exceed 300 students and their parents] is testament to the continued interest in and importance of exposing girls to STEM and other fields and showing that they can have fun and be successful."

Information on CSU Conference reprinted from Jessica Miller's article with permission from CSU-Pueblo TODAY. The full article can be found at <http://csupueblotoday.com>

Southwest GWS Scholars Write Provocative New Books

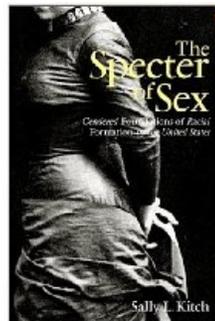
The selection of books by GWS faculty at SIROW-affiliated institutions in 2009 reflects the controversial, challenging, paradigm-shifting, and stimulating interdisciplinary work that has come to mark GWS as cutting-edge. The following four monographs are just a sample of the visionary work being produced by feminist scholars in the region:

The Specter of Sex: Gendered Foundations of Racial Formation in the United States
Dr. Sally Kitch,
Arizona State University
SUNY Press, 2009

In *The Specter of Sex*, Sally L. Kitch explores the "backstory" of intersectionality theory--the historical formation of the racial and gendered hierarchies that continue to structure U.S. culture today. Kitch uses a genealogical approach to explore how a world already divided by gender ideology became one simultaneously obsessed with judgmental ideas about race, starting in Europe and the English colonies in the late seventeenth century. Through an examination of religious, political, and scientific narratives, public policies and testimonies, laws, court cases, and newspaper accounts, *The Specter of Sex* provides a rare comparative study of the racial formation of five groups--American Indians, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and European whites--and

The Social Philosophy of Jane Addams
Dr. Maurice Hamington,
Metro State College of Denver
University of Illinois Press, 2009

Exploring Jane Addams' contribution to epistemology, ethics, and feminist theory, Maurice Hamington sets the intellectual framework for Addams' social philosophy by discussing her influences, her particular brand of feminism, and finally her unique analytical perspective, which she described as "sympathetic knowledge." The book also investigates how Addams applied her social philosophy to issues of politics, women's rights, prostitution, business ethics, education, and religion.



Continued on page 5...


The National Women's Studies Association's annual conference is coming to the Southwest region.
Denver, Colorado
November 11th-14th, 2010
For more information:
<http://www.nwsa.org>

Send an Article to SIROW News!

SIROW would like to thank those programs that contributed stories to this edition of SIROW News and for the editing support of Alison Greene and Corey Knox! We are proud to feature the achievements of programs around the Southwest in our newsletter. SIROW would appreciate submissions for our Fall edition.

Stories and publication submissions must be 350 words or less and showcase the depth and breadth of GWS projects in our region. Submit stories in Microsoft Word via email by **October 1st, 2010**. To submit stories or for further information you may e-mail urban@email.arizona.edu or call Erin Durban at 520-621-2167.

SIROW News
E-Delivery!



Email urban@email.arizona.edu from the address where you would like to receive the SIROW regional newsletter, and have the next issue sent straight to your inbox!

Provocative Reading, Cont...

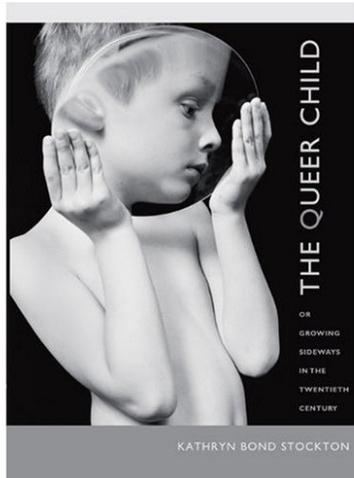
reveals gendered patterns that have served white racial dominance and repeated themselves with variations over a two-hundred-year period.

**The Queer Child , Or
Growing Sideways in the
Twentieth Century**
Dr. Kathryn Bond Stockton,
University of Utah
Duke University Press, 2009

Children are thoroughly, shockingly queer, as Kathryn Bond Stockton explains in *The Queer Child*, where she examines children's strangeness, even some children's subliminal "gayness," in the twentieth century. Estranging, broadening, darkening forms of children emerge as this book illuminates the child queered by innocence, the child queered by color, the child queered by Freud, the child queered by money, and the grown homosexual metaphorically seen as a child (or as an animal), alongside the gay child. What might the notion of a "gay" child do to conceptions of the child? How might it outline the pain, closets, emotional labors, sexual motives, and sideways movements that attend all children, however we deny it?

Engaging and challenging the work of sociologists, legal theorists, and historians, Stockton coins the term "growing sideways" to describe ways of growing that defy the usual sense of growing "up" in a linear trajectory toward full stature, marriage, reproduction, and the relinquishing of childish ways. Growing sideways is a mode of irregular growth involving odd lingerings, wayward paths, and fertile delays. Contending that

children's queerness is rendered and explored best in fictional forms, including literature, film, and television, Stockton offers dazzling

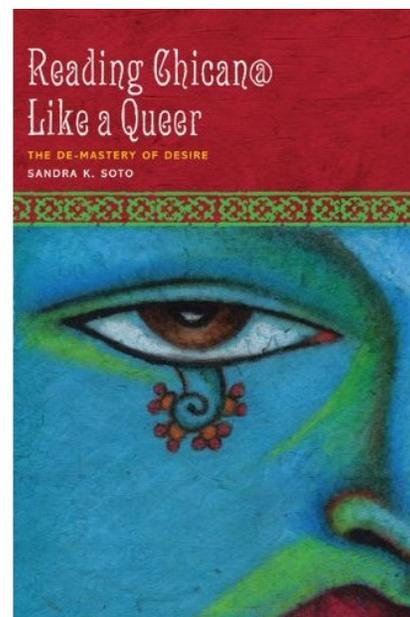


readings of twentieth century novels and films. The result is a fascinating look at children's masochism, their interactions with pedophiles and animals, their unfathomable, hazy motives (leading them at times into sex, seduction, delinquency, and murder), their interracial appetites, and their love of consumption and destruction through the alluring economy of candy.

**Reading Chican@ Like a Queer:
The De-Mastery of Desire**
Dr. Sandra K. Soto,
University of Arizona
University of Texas Press, 2009

A race-based oppositional paradigm has informed Chicano studies since its emergence. In this work, Sandra K. Soto replaces that paradigm with a less didactic, more flexible framework geared for a queer analysis of the discursive relationship between racialization and sexuality. Through rereadings of a diverse range of widely discussed writers--from Américo Paredes to Cherrie Moraga--Soto demonstrates that representations of racialization actually depend on the sexual and that a racialized sexuality is a heretofore unrecognized organizing

principle of Chican@ literature, even in the most unlikely texts. Soto gives us a broader and deeper engagement with Chican@ representations of racialization, desire, and both inter- and intracultural social relations. While several scholars have begun to take sexuality seriously by invoking the rich terrain of contemporary Chicana feminist literature for its portrayal of culturally specific and historically laden gender and sexual frameworks, as well as for its imaginative transgressions against them, this is the first study to theorize racialized sexuality as pervasive to and enabling of the canon of Chican@ literature. Exemplifying the broad usefulness of queer theory by extending its critical tools and anti-heteronormative insights to racialization, Soto stages a crucial intervention amid a certain loss of optimism that circulates both as a fear that queer theory was a fad whose time has passed, and that queer theory is incapable of offering an incisive, politically grounded analysis in and of the current historical moment.

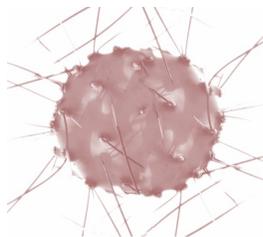


All of the books are available at Amazon.com or by order from your local (feminist) bookstore!

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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 the Northwestern Mexico border.

SIROW Mission:

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