



Women's Studies News

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A Word From The Chair



“Oh spring time, oh spring time, how I love the spring time.” As we begin the spring quarter and plan for graduation, I invite everyone to reserve June 11, 2008 from 12-2 pm for the Women’s Studies graduation celebration. This event will take place in the Department’s conference room and will be open to Women’s Studies 2008 graduating class and their families.

Next, let me take this opportunity to formally welcome Dr. Sherine Hafez and Dr. Jane Ward – most recent faculty additions to our Department.

Dr. Hafez joins us from the American University in Cairo where she held an appointment in the Anthropology department. With a doctorate in Anthropology from UC Davis (2007), an M.A. from the American University in Cairo and a graduate degree from the Institute of Gender and Sexuality, Amsterdam University, Professor Hafez's interests center on women in Arab and Middle Eastern cultures, women's Islamic activism,

post colonialism, modernity and the female desiring subject.

Although Dr. Ward arrived at UCR in 2004, she recently transferred to the Department of Women’s Studies from Sociology. With a doctorate in Sociology from UC Santa Barbara (2003), Jane Ward’s recent research traces how queer politics takes form in relation to broader political-economic forces, including neoliberalism, the mainstreaming of “diversity,” and post-feminism. Her book on queer activism in Los Angeles, tentatively titled *Respectably Queer: Diversity Culture and LGBT Activism in Los Angeles*, is forthcoming from Vanderbilt University Press.

Furthermore, a big thank you Tammy Ho and Lan Duong for organizing the University of California Women’s Studies council meeting, which our department hosted in February 2008. Women’s Studies faculty from the diverse UC

from all UC campuses joined us in a day dedicated to discuss not only the innovative research of our junior faculty, but issues affecting Women’s Studies departments across the UC. Power relations between junior and senior faculty, tenure and promotion, collegiality, and plans for graduate programs, were among the topics discussed during the meeting.

We are fortunate that our faculty will continue to grow next academic year with the addition of a specialist in African feminisms. We are currently completing a national/international search for an open rank search in African feminisms construed in the broadest sense including Africa and the various locations that comprise the African Diaspora.

Watch out for the next newsletter in the fall 2008. In the meantime, take time to smell the flowers along the way.

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Jane Block

Jane Block Lecturer Series

Inaugural Jane Block Lecture

Thanks to a generous donation by Jane Block, Riverside social activist and feminist, the Department of Women's Studies now has an endowed Feminist Theory in Action Speaker Series. The first of these annual lectures brought Professor Antonia Castañeda to UCR. Professor Castañeda is a Chicana feminist historian at St. Mary's University with a long-term commitment to community organizing and activism. Her research focuses on gender, sexuality, and women of color in California and the Borderlands from the 16th century to the present. She is working on a cultural history of Tijuana farm workers and of Mestizas in Alta California in colonial times. She also serves as an "elder" advisor to the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Her very well attended talk at UCR was "Lullabies y Canciones de Cuna: Embodying Chicana History." She explored how women on historical borderlands have recorded and transmitted their memories, knowledge, and experiences through lullabies and related songs for children. Their historical memory is literally

as well as figuratively embodied as they hold, rock, and sing children to sleep, whether in at bedtime or when the child is afraid.

Our deepest thanks for this exciting inaugural presentation go to Jane Block, much-honored feminist, children's and environmental advocate. Among her many path-breaking and successful contributions toward social justice, she founded Alternatives to Domestic Violence and chaired the Riverside County Commission on the Status of Women; she has served on the boards of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium and the UCR Women's Resource Center.

--Christine Gailey



Antonia Castañeda

Welcome Professor Sherine Hafez



Sherine Hafez Assistant Professor of Women's Studies Ph.D., 2007, University of California, Davis Professor Hafez joins us from the American University in Cairo where she held an appointment in the Anthropology department. With a doctorate in Anthropology from UC Davis, an M.A. from the American University in Cairo and a graduate degree from the

Institute of Gender and Sexuality, Amsterdam University, Professor Hafez's interests center on women in Arab and Middle Eastern cultures, women's Islamic activism, post colonialism, modernity and the female desiring subject. Her published work includes, *The Terms of Empowerment: Islamic Women Activists in Egypt*, which critically inquires into liberal

feminist representations of women's engagement in Islamic activism in the region. She is currently at work on a manuscript for her new book focusing on the production of female subjectivity in Islamic movements through a consideration of the theoretical concomitance of religion and secularism.



Welcome Professor Jane Ward

Jane Ward recently transferred to Women's Studies from the Sociology Department at UCR. Since her arrival at UCR in 2004, she has taught courses that explore the social construction of gender and sexuality, social justice movements in the U.S., and new developments in queer and critical race theory.

When she's not teaching or writing, Professor Ward is an enthusiastic knitter and has been known to participate in queer performance art, boxing, and various forms of queer-femme rebellion.

Jane Ward's recent research traces how queer politics takes form in relation to broader political-economic forces, including neoliberalism, the mainstreaming of diversity, and post-feminism. Her book on queer activism in Los Angeles, *Respectably Queer: Diversity Culture in LGBT*

Activist Organizations, is forthcoming from Vanderbilt University Press in 2008. *Respectably Queer* reveals that queer activists are learning from the corporate management model to leverage their racial, gender, and socioeconomic differences to compete with other non-profit groups, enhance their public reputation or moral standing, and establish their diversity-related expertise. Professor Ward argues that this instrumentalization of diversity has increased the demand for predictable and easily measurable forms of difference, a trend at odds with queer resistance. While her analysis in *Respectably Queer* points to the misuses of diversity, it also reveals that some queer activists are interrogating neoliberal approaches to difference and producing defiant, queer, and intersectional alternatives. Her next book project,

tentatively titled *Dude Sex*, is a study of sex between white, straight-identified men and the scientific and popular narratives that have explained these practices since the 1950s. This study catalogues the multiplying logics that white men are offered for authenticating their sexual and racial normalcy in the context of having sex with other white men. In another study, Professor Ward examines the gendered tensions between transmen (FTMs) and their female partners, with focus on the gender labor that bolsters and naturalizes trans masculinity. This year, Professor Ward will be presenting this research in Los Angeles, Mexico City, Portland, Vancouver, and Boston. In the spring, Professor Ward will be teaching Women's Studies 152: *Theories of Gender Inequality*. She is excited to be in Women's Studies and invites students to stop by during her office hours or make an appointment to chat!

Honors and Awards



Professor Alicia Arrizón UC Riverside Professor Honored by the Modern Language Association National Award recognizes excellence in Latino and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies (December 3, 2007) RIVERSIDE, Calif. (www.ucr.edu) -- The Modern Language Association of America announced Monday, Dec. 3 that UC Riverside Professor Alicia Arrizón will share the fifth annual MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies for her book, "Queering Mestizaje: Transculturation and Performance," published by the University of Michigan Press. The prize is awarded for an outstanding scholarly study of Latina or Latino or Chicana or Chicano literature or culture. The MLA Prize in United States Latina and Latino and Chicana and Chicano Literary and Cultural Studies is one of eighteen awards that

was presented on Dec. 28 during the association's annual convention, held this year in Chicago. The members of the selection committee were Mary Pat Brady of Cornell University; Daniel Torres of Ohio University; and Silvio Torres-Saillant of Syracuse University. The committee's citation for Arrizón's book reads: "Alicia Arrizón's ground-breaking book deals with issues of mestizaje and queer studies in a powerful new manner. Covering Latino studies in its relations to Filipino culture as well as the continental United States Latino/a experience, this book opens many new avenues of research. It challenges the assumed boundaries of Latinidad, reimagines and reinvigorates the concepts of queer and mestizaje, and provides an abundance of provocative, thoughtful, and eloquent readings. Arrizón

incorporates an impressive range of literary and cultural texts as well as historical research and theoretical insight. Drawing brilliantly from several disciplines, Arrizón suggests the centrality of sexuality, gender, and race to the understanding of Latinidad. And given its wide-ranging attention in both geographic and linguistic terms, it is indeed a crucial and inspiring model for a new trans-American studies."

Photo Caption: Cover from Arrizon's book "Queering Mestizaje: Transculturation and Performance," published by the University of Michigan Press



Tracy Fisher

In 2007 Professor Tracy Fisher was awarded a Future of Minority Studies Mellon Fellowship. The Future of Minority Studies Research Project (FMS) is a mobile "think tank" that includes a

consortium of scholars and academic institutions with a primary interest in identities, education, and social transformation. In July-August 2007, she participated in the FMS Summer Institute at

Cornell University framed around the theme, "Intersecting Identities and Social Justice: Realist Explorations."

UCHRI AWARD: A NEW UCR-UCLA FEMINIST COLLABORATION

In February, Professors Tamara Ho and Vorris Nunley (English) received funding from the UC Humanities Research Institute to launch a new collaborative partnership with UCLA. In 2008-09, the UCR/UCLA/UCHRI Emerging Epistemologies Seminar will explore the future of transnational feminist studies by bringing together notable senior feminist

scholars and UC scholars. UCR's history of landmark international, multi-racial conferences attests to the faculty's commitment to challenge sedimented conceptual and racialized divides. UCLA co-organizers Purnima Mankekar, Kathleen McHugh, and Grace Hong (all Professors in Women's Studies) have been instrumental in UCLA's feminist interdisciplinary

nary collaborations. Emerging Epistemologies will structure cross-campus conversations between and within different scholarly communities to theorize and enact what Chandra Mohanty has imagined as our most expansive and inclusive visions of feminism and social justice. Additional funding comes from UCR's Center for Ideas and Society (CIS) and UCLA's



CIS Residential Fellowship - Winter 2008 Beyond Canonicity:
Dislocating Eurocentrism Through Encounters with Epistemological Otherness

How can sustained interdisciplinary engagement with knowledge formations outside of the European/Euro American canon reformulate conceptions of political, literary, feminist and religious life? In Winter 2008, Tamara C. Ho will be part of a research group that focuses on various bodies of minoritarian knowledge to rearticulate canonical understandings of political theory, religious studies, feminist theory, and cultural representation. Professor

Ho will be in residence at UCR's Center for Ideas and Society and working with Professors Farah Godrej (Political Science), Keith Harris (English and Media and Cultural Studies), and Setsu Shigemitsu (Media and Cultural Studies). Each faculty member's research project centers bodies of non-Western otherness as subjects of knowledge production and alternative ways of knowing and being. The group will collectively examine how encounters with otherness

may challenge the Eurocentrism of canonical boundaries and the directionality of translation. While in residence at CIS in Winter 2008, this collective will also collaborate with other ongoing UC-projects: Transnationalizing Justice, the Multi-Campus Research Group recently organized by Professor Gina Dent (UCSC), and the UCR/UCLA/UCHRI Emerging Epistemologies Seminar (see above).

Past and Forthcoming Events



Sponsored Event

The department sponsored the screening of "The Business of Being Born" (a documentary film executive produced by Ricki Lake and directed by Abby Epstein) on January 23rd in collaboration with the California Association of Midwives, the Women's Resource Center, and Women in Coalition. Approximately 180 audience viewed the newly Re-released

film, which explores the history, culture, and economics of childbirth and presents natural homebirth assisted by midwives as a viable option for many women. About fifty people stayed for a lively Q&A session featuring practicing and student midwives as well as mothers and a father who have had homebirths. The

response to the event was very positive. Many people walked away with a new perspective on childbirth.

Chikako Takeshita

Save the Date!

A Ghostly Film Festival at UCR in October 2008.

Professors Tamara Ho (Women's Studies), Lan Duong (Media and Cultural Studies), and Justin McDaniel (Religious Studies) have been awarded funding from the Pacific Rim Research Program, UCR's Center for Ideas and Society, UCR's Southeast Asia: Texts, Rituals, Performance (SEATriP) Program, and the Departments of Women's Studies and Media and Cultural Studies

to organize "The Supernatural in Southeast Asian Studies: From Manuscript to Film," a Southeast Asian film series and scholarly colloquium. In late October 2008, UCR will host a transnational film festival featuring works from Viet Nam, Thailand, and Burma that explore the supernatural through ghosts, hauntings, and spirit channeling. The conference will convene

Asian and Asian American film directors and scholars from various fields and disciplines to explore themes of trauma, history, memory, representation, and the spectral. The film festival and conversations with the film directors will be open to the public. Contact Professor Ho (tamara.ho@ucr.edu) for more information.

Congratulations to the graduate!

Women's Studies Graduate and Family
please join us for a graduation celebration

on June 11, 2008

Time: 12:00-2:00

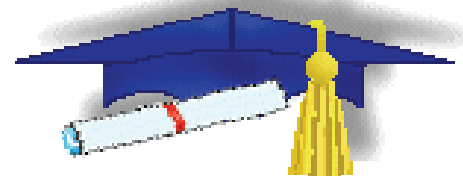
Place: INTN 2043

Please RSVP by May 30th

951_827_6427 or venee_deguyre@ucr.edu



Schedule of Ceremonies



SATURDAY, JUNE 14 - 6:00 P.M.

College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Group 1, including the following departments:

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Religious Studies
- Women's Studies