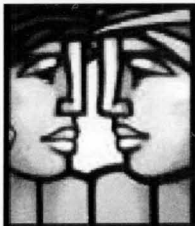


# Women's Studies

at Simon Fraser University

NEWSLETTER 2003-2004



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE, Marjorie Griffin Cohen

The 2003-2004 academic year was a very active one for the Women's Studies department. We began the fall term with a special event during Women's History Month, in which we honored Rosemary Brown's life and work. The 300 or so people who attended the celebration heard testimonials to Rosemary's life, listened to Caribbean music, and ate wonderful foods. It was a fine testimonial to Rosemary's contribution to Women's Studies (she was the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair in 1987/88) and to her work for social justice over her lifetime.



Meredith Kimball and Billie Korstrom both retired from the department last summer. Meredith was the department's very first appointment and was instrumental in overseeing the phenomenal growth in the department over the years. She was chair of the department twice, service that was well beyond the call of duty! Billie Korstrom came to the department first as a part-time secretary and then later became the departmental assistant. Both Meredith and Billie brought to the department strong commitments to feminism and to the education of students. Their wisdom, good humor, and leadership gave the department a firm foundation that will last for many years.

Sue Wilkinson, the Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair from 2002-2004, also left the department and returned to her home university in England. Sue taught courses for Women's Studies, explored the province on speaking engagements, and organized an extremely successful international interdisciplinary conference on *Gender, Sexuality and Health*.

During the past year, the department also conducted a search for a new permanent faculty member. The applicants for this job were exceptional and the chosen candidate, Lara Campbell, finally, will allow us to have a permanent faculty member teach our courses on Canadian women's history.

Another very positive change in the department is Mary Lynn Stewart's decision to shift her appointment from a joint appointment with History to one that will be entirely in Women's Studies. Currently, Mary Lynn is on study leave. She will move her office to women's studies when she returns to SFU next summer.

I also am pleased to say that the SSHRC application between SFU (with Women's Studies as the lead department) and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives was successful, and we were awarded a \$1 million Community/University Research Alliance (CURA) grant.

Finally, we were very successful in attracting a strong group of five Ph.D. students for our new graduate program, which began in September 2004. This new program is a development that reflects both the strengths of the teaching faculty and the strong need for Women's Studies graduates in Canadian universities. The new Ph.D. students in this program and in the M.A. program come from a wide variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary backgrounds and all have strikingly different and exciting programs of study.

This year has seen a great deal of stimulating activity and the diversity of the kinds of programs and teaching that Women's Studies undertake is a reflection of the interests of both faculty and students. Women's Studies is (and should be) a constantly changing area of study. I am particularly pleased to report that Women's Studies at SFU is keeping pace with this tradition of change.



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## WELCOME FROM PH.D. STUDENT, Natasha Patterson



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new Women's Studies graduate students. This year is especially exciting, as the first crop of Ph.D. students has entered the program, myself included. As the graduate student body continues to grow with each passing year, the work of the Women's Studies Graduate Caucus becomes more important than ever before.

The many changes I have seen over the past two years reflect the hard work and dedication of both the faculty and the graduate students in maintaining strong links between the academy and the community. The *International Gender, Sexuality and Health Conference* organized by the Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor Sue Wilkinson and supported by the Women's Studies Department was a perfect example of the efforts made by the department to support the contributions of graduate students, as well as of the community at large. A number of Women's Studies students had the opportunity to help out with the conference in a number of ways: as volunteers, as participants, and as committee members. I found that the experience I gained as a committee member making decisions about abstracts quite invaluable, and the work I did to help facilitate the conference proceedings proved to be extremely rewarding to me as well.

The Women's Studies Graduate Caucus met regularly last year, though finding a time when everyone could meet was always a juggling act! We focused on a number of issues over the year, from creating stronger relations between faculty and students, to creating an in-depth handbook to help incoming students navigate through the rocky terrain of graduate student life. We also took time out for more informal meetings through graduate socials, which are a great way to get to know each other and find out what others are working on.

Each year the Caucus elects new people for various positions. These positions are an excellent way to get involved with graduate student issues on a number of levels. As one of last year's graduate representatives, my job was to act as a liaison between the graduate students and the faculty. Each month, Jewelles Smith and I briefed students on faculty department meetings, and in turn, we brought student issues and concerns to the department. As a graduate representative you get to see how the department functions and gain insight on some very interesting issues, such as curriculum development and funding. For those of you who are planning to enter the academic profession, this position may be particularly worthwhile. Jewelles and I also participated in the hiring process for the new tenure-track professor and I am pleased to say that Dr. Lara Campbell is now a permanent fixture in the department. Welcome, Lara!

Finally, I would like to extend once more my warmest welcome to all the new students. I look forward to an interesting, fun, and productive year!

## FACULTY

### Lara Campbell

Ongoing Research:

- I am currently preparing a manuscript for publication entitled "Respectable Citizens: Gender and Family in the Great Depression." Future research will involve looking at Vietnam war resisters and women who immigrated to Canada in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This project will include an extensive oral history component.
- I also received a Vice-President/Academic research grant at Nipissing University to prepare an edited collection of letters written by Ontario citizens to the premiers during the Great Depression.

Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies - Canadian women's history and gender history; history of gendered welfare states; history of political protest and activism.



### Marjorie Griffin Cohen

Ongoing Research:

- Marjorie is the principal investigator of a Community/University Research Alliance (CURA) research project on economic security for vulnerable populations. This is a five-year grant focusing on public policy change in B.C. She is also involved in two book projects: one is on the restructuring of gender relations in semi-peripheral countries and the other is on electricity deregulation. Her research deals with women's work, the Canadian economy, international trade agreements, and electricity deregulation.

Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies & Political Science - Feminist economics; public policy; labour studies; social and political thought; international trade.

## Helen Hok-Sze Leung

### Ongoing Research:

- I am currently working on a book manuscript entitled "Undercurrents: Queer Reading in Hong Kong Culture," which offers a detailed study of Hong Kong's most vibrant cultural forms and an analysis of the ways in which cultural texts expose the ideological fractures of heteronormativity while providing queer subjects with possible avenues of identification and affective investment. The book also argues that undercurrents of queer meanings are especially intelligible under Hong Kong's current postcolonial predicament and that the queer subject is the paradigmatic figure of, as one critic calls Hong Kong, "a city on the edge of time."



### Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies - Queer Theory; cultural and literary theory; gender and sexuality in Hong Kong cinema and culture.

## Jacqueline Levitin

### Ongoing Research:

- My research over the last year has taken me in different directions and I have had the chance to work in some new areas. The award of SSHRC Small Grant for a project entitled Documenting the Beginnings of Canadian Feature Filmmaking - A Pilot Project encouraged one direction. This involves research into Canadian feature filmmakers of the '60s and '70s, the beginnings of independent feature filmmaking in Canada. As part of this project, on March 8 this year, I hosted Quebec filmmaker Mireille Dansereau with a show of her early work at the Pacific Cinematheque. Coming out of this project as well is a monograph on Vancouver, now Montreal filmmaker and feminist-before-its-time Larry Kent, which I am developing with two co-authors, one here and one in Montreal.



### Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies & School for the Contemporary Arts: Women and film; theory and production; women and popular culture; third world film and women.

## Marilyn MacDonald

### Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies - Utilizing concept formation and mapping to develop feminist critiques of science; feminist perspectives on science and environmental education; eco-feminism; science fiction and religions and scientific accounts of creativity.



## Cindy Patton

### Ongoing Research:

- *Homecare for Homeless People with HIV*: This is a multidisciplinary analysis of the development of housing and health services in the downtown eastside, examining the issues of continuity of health care, stability of housing, and multiply diagnosed people with HIV, with special attention to the social networks that have developed among women, Aboriginal people, men retired from resource-dependent jobs, and youth. Major funding has come through SSHRC Homelessness and Diversity Strategic Initiative and the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.
- *The Understanding Lipids Project*: "Understanding Lipids" is a study of the process of information flow between consumers and clinicians, with attention to consumers' practical application of information in further information-seeking, risk-management, and health decision-making. This project has been funded through SSHRC and the Steele Foundation Grant.
- *Global Science/Women's Health*: This is a collaborative project between media analysts and health policy analysts in the area of women's health. This project has received funds from the Discovery Parks program and SSHRC Research Development Initiative program.
- *The Adventure Racing Project*: In the past 15 years, adventure racing has emerged as a new outdoor race format. The Adventure Race Project, funded through the SFU President's Research Grant program, will characterize the racers, with attention to their understanding of the risk of racing and the use of body-technique to mitigate that risk.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Canadian Research Chair - Women's Studies / Sociology / Anthropology: Health, HIV/AIDS, Methodology & Methods Training, Social Study of Medicine, Community Based Research.

## Mary Lynn Stewart

### Ongoing Research:

- I am writing my book on French fashion between the two world wars, tentatively entitling it "Dressing Modern, Being Modern? The Democratization of Haute Couture, 1919-1939." First, I analyze couturiers and textile manufacturers' claims to artistic status, their business practices, their international and national marketing campaigns, and their relations with ready-to-wear clothing in a unit entitled "The Culture and Commerce of Haute Couture." In a second unit entitled "Modern Fashion, Modern Women," I address the roles of the large number of couturieres in the introduction of new styles and business practices and of the almost-exclusively female corps of fashion journalists and marketers in advertising and marketing haute couture. I consider the implications of the new slim silhouette for women's bodies (and the physical fitness and corset industries), of cultural criticisms of the straight lines of the chemise dress and Chanel-style suit as masculine and feminist on women's receptivity to the new styles, and of advertising claims that sportswear liberated women.



### Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies/History - The history of women in Europe, especially France.

## Habiba Zaman

### Ongoing Research:

- I am currently working on a book manuscript titled *Transnational Migration and Commodification of Immigrant Laborers in Canada*, where I investigate the processes of commodification and de-commodification of migrant and immigrant female laborers in Canada. Borrowing from the Marxian concept of commodity, I have used commodification in numerous ways in my manuscript, from the restructuring of public sectors in global capitalism to fundamental structural changes in the Canadian state, i.e., shifting from public to private sectors.
- I am also involved in one book project tentatively titled *Restructuring of Gender Relations in Semi-peripheral Countries*.



### Areas of Expertise:

- Women's Studies – Immigrant women in Canada; gender and development; globalization and women's work; feminist research methods; Third World and feminist activism.

## New Faculty Member & Departmental Assistant

**Lara Campbell** joined the Department as a new faculty member and began teaching at SFU in September 2004. Lara will teach our courses on Canadian women's history and will be teaching WS100, our introductory course, and revising the introductory distance course.



Lara Campbell

**Barbara Wepruk** has worked at SFU since 1988 and brings a high level of administrative and education management expertise to the Department of Women's Studies. Barb's interests, beyond currently completing her MSc in Environment and Management, include scuba diving here in BC (yes, drysuit), which is the best cold water diving in the world (and 3<sup>rd</sup> best diving destination in the world overall).

## RUTH WYNN WOODWARD PROFESSOR

In 1984, with a grant from Secretary of State and matching funds from private donations, an endowed professorship in Women's Studies was established. The professorship was named for Ruth Wynn Woodward, one of British Columbia's outstanding pioneer women. Through a lifetime of public service and personal accomplishment, she demonstrated the importance of the work of women to Canadian society.

The Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair enables us to make short-term appointments in areas where we lack faculty and to give courses in addition to those we are required to offer. As well, it provides the resources to host conferences and to invite high-profile speakers to address issues of current interest and concern.

**Professor Louise Chappell**, from the University of Sydney in Australia, will be the RWWP Chair for one term beginning in January 2005. She will be teaching a course on Human Rights and will be organizing a conference in April on 'Comparative State Feminisms'.



## RETIREMENT'S



**BILLIE KORSTROM** took early retirement in the spring of 2004. Billie has been an integral part of the growth of the department and an important ally and friend to students, faculty and other staff members.

Billie began working at SFU in 1982 in the English Department. In 1989, she moved to the Gerontology Program as its only staff person. She came to Women's Studies as its secretary in 1992, assumed the position of Departmental Assistant in 1993, and has been doing the job since then.

Billie is well known for her passion for animals. These include her horse, Virgil, three dogs -- Dutchess, Blue, and Jiggs -- who sometimes visited the department, and two cats. Billie has taken her menagerie to Powell River where her animals can roam on her acreage. For going-away presents, the department gave Billie a wheelbarrow and a lifetime membership to AA (Animals Anonymous).

Women's Studies will sorely miss Billie's sunny disposition and strong feminist presence.

## REFLECTIONS BY MEREDITH KIMBALL

I came to SFU 28 years ago this-fall, after a not very happy and not very successful stint at UBC. However, not all was bad at UBC. I made some very good friends, enjoyed my teaching, and was one of four faculty who wrote the proposal for a Women's Studies program, nurtured it through many hostile committees, and taught the first course there in 1973-1974. I published, but not in the quantity nor in the form that the Psychology Department recognized. As a result, I was denied tenure there in 1976. This forced some important decisions in my life. I knew I was going to stay in Canada and in Vancouver. Thus, I assumed that a career change would be necessary. This prospect seemed reasonable as after UBC I was not even sure what I wanted, or whether I was meant for academics. I took out Canadian citizenship and started taking all the sessional teaching work I could get at local community colleges. Then, in February 1976, a colleague and friend who had left UBC sent me a copy of the advertisement for a joint appointment in Women's Studies and Psychology at SFU, with a brief note that this looked to be right up my alley.

I did not immediately apply as I thought I really might not want to be an academic. However, it seemed, and many people told me, that I should not pass it up at least without applying. I applied and was interviewed. It was one hell of an interview. There was a full day and a seminar presentation with each department. The Women's Studies people were not concerned about my Women's Studies credentials—after all, I had devoted much of my time at UBC to founding and running the program there. I was, however, in the last stages of appealing my negative tenure decision, and they were concerned that I might well decide, if the appeal were successful, that tenure at UBC was better than starting over at SFU. The Psychology Department was concerned that I would not be as fully committed to the psychology part of my joint appointment as to the women's studies part. Any number of people who later became good friends and colleagues asked me if I thought of myself as a "real psychologist." I survived it all, and even enjoyed the interview process, which I might have taken as a good sign. I was wary, and when offered the job, took it with some apprehension.

However, there was not much time for reflection on my decision as I was teaching extra sections at UBC and community colleges all that summer and had to plunge right into teaching here in the fall. Then one very memorable October day, I drove here through a dense fog that blanketed the city. I drove up the Curtis hill with the Eagles' *Hotel California* tape filling the car with optimistic music; suddenly, half way up the hill, I drove straight out of the fog and into brilliant sunshine. This became my omen. SFU was going to be ok, and I should just get on with the job.

It has been a great deal more than ok. I have been part of Women's Studies growing from a minor program to a department with a minor, major, joint majors, an MA and a PhD. I have chaired both undergraduate and graduate studies committees in Psychology, chaired undergraduate studies in WS, served as WS chair several times, served as Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies when it was a faculty, and been on more committees than I care to remember. Through all of these, I have met and worked with many people whom I care very much to remember. I was surprised to find that I liked administrative work, although as my father's daughter, this perhaps should not have surprised me. I never welcomed the problems, but there was a special high to solving a problem, especially if a non zero-sum solution proved possible.



Motoko, Pei-Ching, Meredith & Jewelles

As a researcher, my joint appointment has proved an excellent intellectual fit. The research I was trained to do was hypothesis-testing empirical research. I have done a fair amount of this kind of research, but always found the operationalization stage very frustrating. No matter what methods one devised to look at a question, they always seemed so narrow and unsatisfying. Research became fun when there was data to play with and a story to write. So gradually throughout my career, I gravitated first to theoretical work, and most recently to historical research. In addition, I consider myself fortunate that I was supported and rewarded for all the scholarly work I have done by both of my departments and by my disciplines.

I have taught more than 100 courses over the years, served as senior supervisor for 30 PhD, MA, or Honors students, and been on the committee of more than 50 students. The courses have ranged from classes of 250 to classes of 5. Throughout all of these experiences, I have been nourished most by the interaction with students. Even in the very large classes, I always encouraged questions, and the lectures, from my point of view, went best when there were good questions. Seminars always were more nurturing for me because of the lively discussions that were possible. Moreover, working individually with honors, MA, and PhD students has developed over the years into my favored form of teaching. Here I have been privileged to see people grow in their analytical and writing skills. This teaching is free of the worst part of teaching—assigning grades. Basically, the work must be good enough and until it is, as all of my students can tell you, it is reworked, rewritten, and improved. Learning how to give feedback that is useful was a skill I had to learn, and the students all learned how to do good work. I have grown to like and respect all the students I have worked with. They have gone on to be professionals and make important contributions in their fields. Generativity could not have a better outcome.

I have always believed in the power of ideas to make a difference in individuals' lives and in the wider world of institutions and politics. Thus, all of my work has been motivated by the use of ideas to make a difference, to add to the process of creating a better world. At this year's Vancouver Folk Festival, I heard a statement of philosophy that fits my world view very well: "Lord, grant me the authority to change what I cannot accept." At Simon Fraser University, I have been granted the authority to change at least some of the things I could not accept. This has infused all I have done with meaning.

One could not ask for a better career!

**Women's Studies SFU and CCPA win prestigious SSHRC research grant**

Simon Fraser University led by Marjorie Griffin Cohen (Women's Studies/Political Science) and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) in British Columbia led by Seth Klein are launching a five-year project that will study changes to provincial public policies that impact the economic security of British Columbians. The project, which involves an alliance of 20 academic collaborators from four BC universities and 23 community organizations, will examine how changes to policy areas such as social assistance, employment standards and community health affect well-being. In particular, the project is concerned with the impact of these changes on vulnerable populations.

The joint project is called Re-defining Public Services in British Columbia: Challenges to Economic Security and Alternative Possibilities. It has been funded primarily by a five-year research grant totalling \$1 million. The Social Sciences and Humanities

Research Council (SSHRC) awarded this prestigious grant under its Community-University Research Alliance program. SSHRC is an arms-length federal agency that promotes and supports research and training in the social sciences and humanities.

SFU and the CCPA are undertaking the project because the scope of recent provincial policy changes has national and international relevance and makes BC an example for the study of social policy reform and the redefinition of public services.

In addition to bringing together more than 40 academics and community partners, the project will provide training opportunities for at least 23 university students, and will result in the publication of numerous studies, both from the CCPA and in academic journals, over the next five years (2004-2008).

*A summary of the project is available from the CCPA's website at: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca>.*

 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

 Canada

 CCPA  
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES  
BC OFFICE



**Vancouver Foundation Supports the Study of Asian Immigrant Women in BC's Labour Market**

Richard Mulcaster, President and CEO of the Vancouver Foundation, announced that their Health & Social Development Advisory Committee has approved a \$20,000 grant to help fund "Asian Immigrants in BC: What does government restructuring mean for immigrants in the labour market?" Habiba Zaman of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University will lead the project in conjunction with the Philippine Women Centre. The study is part of the Economic Security Project funded by SSHRC, a joint initiative of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and Simon Fraser University, which examines the economic security of vulnerable populations in British Columbia.

"This is a tremendously important study," said Zaman. "Immigrant women are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable

populations in the province, and we are hearing from the community that recent changes to employment standards and the loss of various labour market supports have made them even more so."

"The support from Vancouver Foundation will ensure that this project has real impact," said Cecilia Diocson, Executive Director of the Philippine Women Centre. "It will help bring people in our community together and give them a voice."

Policy changes will be documented and analyzed as they affect immigrant women's wages, working conditions, job security, and access to housing, transport and childcare. The project will then work extensively with members of the community to develop strategies for mitigating the effects of the policy changes and proposing alternatives.

VANCOUVER FOUNDATION



**Marjorie Griffin Cohen**

- \$1 million SSHRC Community/University Research Alliance
- \$10,000. SSHRC-Aid to Occasional Research Conferences & Intl Congresses in Canada: "International, interdisciplinary conference on 'gender sexuality and health'"
- \$10,000. Law Society of Canada [for project on labour and youth in B.C.]

**Mary Lynn Stewart**

- Three year grant from SSHRC, \$47,700, for project entitled "Dressing Modern Frenchwomen"

**Lara Campbell**

- Received a Vice-President/Academic research grant at Nipissing University to prepare an edited collection of letters written by Ontario citizens to the Premiers during the Great Depression.

**Cindy Patton**

- Homecare and Homeless People with HIV project: SSHRC Homeless and Diversity Grant (\$75K)
- Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (\$135K)
- Global Science/Women's Health: SSHRC Research Development Initiative (\$40K)
- The Michael Smith Foundation Senior Scholar Career Award (\$150K)

**Helen Hok-Sze Leung**

- SSHRC Small Grant. \$3000. 2003-4.

**Habiba Zaman**

- Vancouver Foundation Research grant for project entitled Asian Immigrants in BC, \$20,000, 2004-2006.

## GRADUATE NEWS

### Sonja Boon

- 2004 SSHRC Doctoral Canada-Scholarship
- 2004 SSHRC/SFU Graduate Travel Award
- 2004 Soloist, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Oregon, USA
- 2004 Soloist, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver

### Silke Frischmuth

- Anne Peters Pinto Graduate Scholarship in Women's Studies, Spring 2004.

### Xinying Hu

- 2004 SFU Graduate Fellowship

### Nicki Kahnemoui

- Sept 2004, CIHR-CGS Fellowship (Master's level)
- Sept 2004, Western Regional Training Centre
- July 2004, Women's Studies travel fund
- July 2004, Student Society travel fund
- June 2004, Nominated for YWCA Women of Distinction
- Oct 2003, Centre for Applied Science travel fund
- Oct 2003, Student Society travel fund
- Sept 2003, Partners in Community Health Research Training
- Research grant: May 2004 - present (Ellen Balka SSHRC INE funded project) - The Role of Technology in the Production, Consumption and Use of Health Information: Implications for Policy and Practice.



Clockwise from left: Mandy Kilsby, Xinying Hu, Leah Allen, Caitlin Holmes, Rahat Imran, Helen Loshny, Aynsley Calder & Marie Genevieve Lane

## OTHER NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON GENDER, SEXUALITY & HEALTH

(June 10-13, 2004, Vancouver BC)

The conference was a landmark event for social scientific research on health, providing a unique opportunity for Canadian researchers to engage with leading international scholars; to develop and extend their own research through dialogue and debate; and to develop networks and potential collaborative links. For the first time in Canada, researchers from the fields of Gender Studies and Sexuality Studies were brought together to address a broad health-related agenda. The conference provided an opportunity for the development of a research and policy agenda based on a creative synthesis of scholarship across these distinct fields, also an opportunity to consider the application of such an integrated agenda across a wide range of health issues that have previously been addressed only in a piecemeal fashion. In this way, the conference demonstrated and consolidated Canada's leading role in research on the social determinants of health, and helped to ensure that

bringing together senior and emerging scholars in this field provided a major professional development opportunity for graduate students and junior academics. Locally, the conference raised the profile of the Women's Studies Department and the Institute for Health Education and Research at Simon Fraser University, and provided an important impetus to the new Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU in its inaugural year.

The conference was organized by **Sue Wilkinson**, Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Professor of Women's Studies (2002-2004), Simon Fraser University. The conference attracted more than 200 delegates (2/3 of which presented their work) from over 20 countries. Approximately two thirds of the delegates were Canadian, representing the Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. There were 7 symposia, 8 workshops & 70 papers in 4-5 parallel sessions.



### ARTICULATION

The anticipated Bowen Island Meeting/Retreat was replaced (due to lack of numbers) by a meeting held April 30 at the SFU Burnaby Campus. Representatives presented reports from their college/university, discussed issues around transfer credits, the development of new Women's Studies courses, and strategies to ensure the survival of Women's Studies in institutions of higher learning in BC.

## ADVANCE

Every two years, Women's Studies instructors, staff, and student representatives meet together to discuss plans for the department's future development. Traditionally termed a "retreat," the Women's Studies biennial gathering is termed an "advance" because we see the political metaphor of moving forward rather than backward.

This year's advance was held on September 22 at Hart House in Burnaby Lake Park. Fifteen people attended. The day-long discussion included many topics, including discussion on what distinguishes Women's Studies from other academic departments, how we can appeal to students outside the department, and articulation of a common department focus, which includes interdisciplinarity, theory and method, distance education, gender studies, the 200-level course, and future directions of faculty teaching.

## ALUMNI – Meaghan Bullock (with Emma - baby girl chimp)

Things are good. Academically, I've discovered neuropsychology and we've got some interesting research upcoming this summer on (of course, non-intrusive) spatial mapping in the chimps (landmarks vs. topographical maps). We've completed a study on visual attention that's in the process of being edited and then will be submitted. My first publication! The Discovery Channel (our funding agency) has the last show of Keeli and Ivy coming out in September that we're all looking forward to. They've been filming for 5 or so years. I'm teaching Psych 100 next year and REALLY looking forward to it. One of the goals of Psych 100 is to "promote diversity".



## VISITING SCHOLAR – Deborah Torkko



The month of May 2004 saw a transformation in the order of my daily routine as an instructor in the English Department at Malaspina University-College

in Nanaimo. Uprooted by the generous support made available to me by Women's Studies, SFU's Community College and University-College Visiting Scholar Program, I settled into campus life atop Burnaby Mountain. This intensely concentrated and focused time of library research, reading, writing, and reflective wandering on the scenic mountain trails yielded significant growth in my research project.

Integral to my work as a feminist scholar is the attention I focus on writers whose work is often eclipsed by the literary critical mainstream. My research focuses on ideas of belonging and not belonging in the writings of three contemporary women writers whose works have inspired me and enriched my reading life. Penelope Lively, Janice Kulyk Keefer, and Janette Turner Hospital, respectively British, Canadian, and Australian, create fictional worlds that reflect the tension, dislocation, and displacement that result from moving within and between the complex social and cultural networks that constitute contemporary hybrid society. I examine ideas of belonging and not belonging within a transcultural context and offer substantial readings of texts by these writers whose fiction anchors the study in importantly different ways. All three writers

interrogate the organization of self, of community, of official (public) history versus personal (private) history, and, in the process, each reveals a distinctly different way of thinking about the world and one's place in it. Examination and juxtaposition of the authors' fictional worlds provide a kaleidoscopic lens through which to see a progression from realist to postrealist narratives of belonging.

My decision to study these writers as a group is based, in part, on their shared thematic affinity. Related to this is how each writer herself indexes a complex hybrid position: Lively's growing up English in Egypt; Keefer's Ukrainian ancestry; Hospital's nomadic life. Each author's lived experience of moving in and out of different cultures informs her literary preoccupations and illuminates a different conceptual framework underlying her exploration of belonging. Their works draw attention to the foreigner who is 'invisibly' Other and whose 'otherness' is not necessarily marked by racial difference. Race is indisputably one sign of the Other, but class, ethnicity, gender, politics, religion, accent, regional affiliation, being born elsewhere – all have the potential to stigmatise one as different and consequently mitigate against a rightful sense of belonging. The 'invisible' Other often exists on the periphery of social communities and experiences a profound sense of dislocation, alienation, and ambivalence at the heart of her existence. Moreover, these differences complicate the relations within families and between the larger social groups that comprise any given community. Fiction that foregrounds the perceptions of characters

who do not belong – characters who are 'in' a place but not 'of' it; characters who, in their unbelonging, are, both of and not of a place – offers the inevitable outsider's look at the human and natural particulars of place and the complex, often invisible network of order that manifests private, familial, and public social places. The fictional worlds imagined by Lively, Keefer, and Hospital reveal that belonging is frequently enigmatic, often paradoxical, and conceptually elusive and has less to do with being born into a place, a language, or a culture than it does with trying to orient oneself within a given social community. Their fiction draws attention to incommensurabilities and intractabilities both within and between cultures.

My appointment as Visitor to the Women's Studies Department provided me a month of reprieve from my usual responsibilities, a quiet space in which to read and write, and the resources with which to advance my research project. I benefited from ready access to newly published critical material on the transcultural theoretical context that informs my work. And, I also enjoyed other campus events, notably Visiting Professor Alison Light's captivating lecture entitled "Mistress and Maid: Virginia Woolf and her Servants", a Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation Lecture in the Liberal Arts. I am enormously grateful to SFU Women's Studies Community College and University-College Visitors' Program. For their generous spirit and warm welcome my special thanks to Marjorie Griffin-Cohen, Meredith Kimball, Kathy Mezei, Billie Korstrom, and Christine Goodman.



## NEW PH.D. STUDENT SONJA BOON RECEIVES SSHRC CANADA DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

In May 2004, I received the very welcome news that I had been awarded a Doctoral Canada Graduate Scholarship from SSHRC. My research interests focus on the role and identity of the eighteenth-century Parisian salon woman (and, by implication, her New French counterpart). In particular, I am interested in understanding how such women, positioned in socially conservative roles (and operating ostensibly within the domestic sphere), could manage to define autonomous voices and to create both publicly visible and politically powerful roles for themselves, while at the same time appearing to be severely restricted by legal and social conventions and the seemingly rigid rules of propriety that governed elite sociability during this period. As such, I am interested in the public performance of domesticity and in the ways in which these women appropriated the emerging narrative of sensibility (as promoted by Jean-Jacques Rousseau) in order to define their own lives.



My interest in the French eighteenth century comes from an extremely varied professional and educational background which includes 2 degrees and 2 post-graduate diplomas in Music from periods of study in Canada, the USA, England, and The Netherlands, and an MA (Liberal Studies) from SFU. As an historical flutist by profession, my musical soul belongs in the eighteenth century and I continue to work with a number of orchestras and chamber ensembles that specialize in the repertoire of this period.

### A PASSING - BARBARA GUTTMANN-GEE



Barbara completed an MA in Women's Studies as a student in the senior's program. She was born on June 28, 1914, in Birmingham, England, and passed away December 30, 2003, in New Westminster, BC. Barbara worked as a court reporter and supported her husband until she retired at 66. While tending to her ailing husband, Barbara enrolled in the Open Learning University to fulfill her life-long yearning for a university education and a degree. Barbara loved the correspondence courses offered through Open Learning. She also enjoyed the high-tech computers with the cut and paste function! After her husband's death, Barbara continued to work her way through the courses needed to finish her Bachelor's degree ten years after she began. While working to complete the requirements for her BA, Barbara was encouraged by a number of faculty members at SFU who guided her to complete a Master's thesis in Women's Studies entitled *Easing the Pang: Something Missed or Lost*.

## PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCES & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Scholarly Publications

#### Sonja Boon

- 2004 Francois Devienne: *Solos for a flute and a bass* (BECD002)- Sonja Boon, baroque flute with Claire Garabedian, baroque cello; recorded in Vancouver.

#### Lara Campbell

- "The Strong Ones Were Women: Women and the Great Depression in Canada." In *Unfolding Power: Documents in Canadian Women's History*. Eds. Pat Staton and Rose Fine-Meyer. Toronto: Green Dragon Press, 2004.

#### Marjorie Griffin Cohen

- "International Forces Driving Electricity Deregulation in the Semi-periphery: The Case of Canada," In *Governing Under Stress*, eds. M.G. Cohen and Stephen Clarkson (London/New York: ZED Press, 2004, pp 175-194).
- "Globalization's Challenge to Feminist Political Economy and the Law, A Socialist Perspective," *New Socialisms: Futures beyond Globalization*, Robert Albritton, Ed. (London: Routledge, 2004) pp. 33-49.
- (and Marcy Cohen), *A Return to Wage Discrimination: Pay Equity and the privatization of Health Care Service in B.C.* (Vancouver: CCPA, 2004).
- (and Stephen Clarkson) eds, *Governing Under Stress* (London / New York: ZED Press, 2004) 300 pgs.

#### Nicki Kahnemoui

- August 2004 - English to Farsi translation of: Millman, D. *The Laws of Spirit*. Tehran: Karavan Publishing.

#### Helen Hok-Sze Leung

- "Queerscapes in Hong Kong Cinema." Esther Cheung and Chu Yiu-Wai, eds. *Between Home and World: A Reader in Hong Kong Cinema* (Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 2004). 459-483. (Reprint)
- "New Queer Cinema and Third Cinema." Michele Aaron, ed. *New Queer Cinema: A Critical Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004. 155-167.
- "Yellow Earth: Hesitant Apprenticeship and Bitter Agency." Chris Berry, ed. *Chinese Films in Focus: 26 New Takes*. London: British Film Institute, 2003. 191-197.

#### Cindy Patton

- Chapter "Marginal," "Movements," and "Participation," *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, ed. Lawrence Grossberg, Meaghan Morris and Tony Bennett, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2004.

#### Mary Lynn Stewart

- "Marketing Fabrics and Femininity in Interwar France," *Textile History* 35:1 (2004).
- Review article: "Fashion, Politics, and Spectacle," *Journal of Women's History*, 16,2 (Autumn 2004).
- Review article: Martyn Lyons, Readers and Society in Nineteenth-Century France: Workers, Women, Peasants in *Labour/Le Travail* (2003)

#### Habiba Zaman

- 2004 Invited contribution: "Domestic Violence: South Asia", in *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures (EWIC)*, edited by Suad Joseph (University of California, Davis), pp. 89-91. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Academic Publishers.

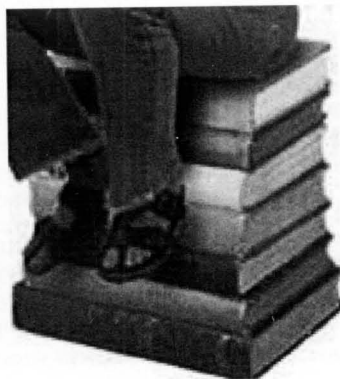
## Popular Publications

### Marjorie Griffin Cohen

- and Marcy Cohen, "Women's Healthcare Jobs Threatened by Privatization," in *Canadian Women's Health Network Magazine*, Vol 7, No. 2/3 (Summer/Fall 2004).
- "Putting Inheritance Tax in Perspective," *Halifax Chronicle Herald*, June 14, 2004.
- "Fuss over proposed inheritance tax is much ado about nothing" *Vancouver Sun*, op ed, June 7, 2004.
- "War in the Wards?" *Island Tides*, May 6, 2004
- "IWA Health Care Deals Betray Women Workers," *The Tyee*, April 29, 2004
- "How Privatization destroys Pay Equity: the example of Health Care," *Friends of Women and Children in BC Report Card* (Jan. 2004). [www.wmst.ubc.ca](http://www.wmst.ubc.ca)
- "U.S. Regulatory Imperialism: Consequences for Electricity in Canada," *Analysis in Global Political Economy*, No. 2, Feb. 2004.
- "Canuckistan Chained to Freedom," *Canadian Dimension*, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, Sept/Oct, 2003, 39-40.
- "Three Weddings and a Funeral," *The Times Colonist*, Friday, May 23, 2003. [This op ed also ran in the *McKenzie Times* and *The Province*.]
- "Victoria's policies bad news for B.C. women," *Guardian* (Spring 2003).
- "B.C. Hydro to be a shadow of former self once government restructuring is done," *The Vancouver Province*, 22 May 2003, Page: A18, Section: Editorial

### Habiba Zaman

- 2003 "Racism and the Struggle for Equality: Migrant Women Workers and Filipino Nurses in Canada: Looking at race, class, and gender dynamics of de-skilling," in Conference Proceedings: *Advancing the Rights and Welfare of Non-Practicing Filipino and Other Foreign Trained Nurses, the Filipino Nurses Support Group*.



## Conference Activities

### Sonja Boon

- 2004 *Machines, Automatism, Systems: Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* (Oct 20-24, 2004). "De la conversation: Louis-Gabriel's 'Conversations Galantes' (1743) as a Model for Polite Conversation";
- 2004 (Oct 1-3) *The Globalized Citizen: 7th Joint Graduate Liberal Studies Conference*. "Elle n'aura jamais l'art de plaire: Suzanne Necker and the Politics of Identity in Eighteenth-Century France";
- 2004 (Jan) *Mediations: Negotiating Cultural Landscapes*; UBC Arts Graduate Student Conference. "Happily Ever After: The Puss, the Boots and the Armani Suit";
- 2003 Brave New Wor(l)ds: Rethinking National Consciousness;
- SFU English Graduate Student Conference. "'Fields of Instantaneous Possibility': National Identity and the Case of Canadian Music".

### Lara Campbell

- "'If he is a man he becomes desperate': Husbands, Fathers and Unemployment in the Great Depression," paper presented to the Canadian Historical Association, 2004.

### Marjorie Griffin Cohen

- August 2004. Organized panel for International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE), St. Hilda's College, Oxford, England. Panel "Globalization: Remapping Gender in the New Global Order: Issues in the Semi-periphery."
- Paper, "Globalism, Gender and the Future of Collective Economics Rights: Are International Trade Agreements One Solution?" at IAFFE conference, Oxford, England, August 5, 2004.
- Invited Plenary Keynote Speaker, "Rights and International Trade Agreements in the Vacuum of Post-national Capital Controls." *The WTO and Beyond: Global Governance and State Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Vancouver, July 16, 2004.
- Organized Conference at SFU - Feb. 10, 2004. *Gender and Cross Border Issues for Health Care Workers*
- "Imperialist Regulation: US Electricity Market Designs and their Problems for Canada and Mexico," October 5, 2003 - Bergen, Norway - *Neo-Liberal Globalism and its Challengers*
- "The Return of Gender-Based Pay Discrimination," at York University, Feminist Political Economy Network, conference on *Rethinking Social Reproduction*, March 14, 2003.

### Nicki Kahnamoui

- Paper - Balka, E. & Kahnamoui, N. "Who's in Charge of Patient Safety? Work Practice, Work Processes and Utopian Views of Automatic Drug Dispensing Systems."
- Paper - Balka, E. & Kahnamoui, N. "Technology Trouble: Talk to Us. Findings from an Ethnographic Field Study of New Technology Implementation in the New Tower at Vancouver General Hospital. " Presented at The Society for Social Studies of Science, on July 30, 2004; The Society for Social Studies of Science, on July 30, 2004; The Society for Social Studies of Science, on Oct 19, 2003; and, The Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation, on Sept 15, 2003.
- *HC 2004: To Err is System - IT in Health Care: Socio-technical Approaches*. Conference in Portland, Oregon, USA, Sept 13-14, 2004.
- *Participatory Design* Conference Toronto, Canada. July 27-31, 2004.

### Helen Loshny

- Congress 2004, University of Manitoba, June 3 - 6, 2004. Session - *Gender / Race / Science / Technology: Inclusion/Exclusion* Session Coordinator: Sima Aprahamiam, Simone de Beauvoir Institute - Paper Title: From Birth Control to Menstrual Control: The Launch of the Extended Oral Contraceptive 'Seasonale'
- *Gender Sexuality and Health*, Simon Fraser University, June 10 - 13, 2004 - Paper Title: "Is it me or is it my PMS self": Narratives of the self in the PMS discourse.

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## Conference Activities (con't)

### Helen Hok-Sze Leung

- "Hot Gossip: Queer Iconicity and the Resignification of Canto-Pop." Panel on "Queer Approaches to Hong Kong and Japan." *Queer Matters* Conference, King's College, University of London, May 28-30, 2004.
- "Hot Gossip: The Queer Affect of Canto-Pop." Panel on "Gender, Myth and Cultural Icons." The British Columbia Tri-University Symposium. Chinese For Chinese Research, Institute of Asia Research, University of British Columbia, April 2-3, 2004.
- "Hot Gossip: Iconicity and Queer Resignifications in Canto-Pop." Panel on "Queer Diasporas and the Politics of Performance." Symposium on "Queer Diaspora." Department of Women's Studies, State University of New York at Stony Brook March 18, 2004.

### Cindy Patton

- *International, Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender, Sexuality and Health*, Vancouver, Canada. "From Wasting to Lumping: Women Managing the Side Effects of HIV Antivirals," Keynote Speaker (June 2004)
- Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS. "From Wasting to Lumping: Gay Male Body Image in the Context of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment" (March 2004).
- Concordia University School of Communication Colloquium Series. "Real Sports". (March 2004)
- University of British Columbia Science Studies Program Lecture Series. "From Wasting to Lumping: How Doctors and Patients Understand HIV Side Effects" (February 2004).

### Mary Lynn Stewart

- "(Ad)Dressing Modern Women in Interwar France," at the annual conference of the *Western Society for French History*, Newport Beach, California, November 1, 2003

### Angela Thachuk

- Keynote Graduate Student Address of "Midwifery, Informed Choice and Relational Autonomy" at the *Gender, Sexuality & Health* Conference June 10-13, 2004.

### Habiba Zaman

- Presented "Neo-liberal Policies and Immigrant Women in Canada" at the international conference titled "*The WTO and Beyond: Global Governance and State Power in the Twenty First Century*", Harbour Centre, Simon Fraser University, July 15-16, 2004
- Presented "Transnational Migration in a Globalized Economy: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Class," to the Congress (Canadian Women's Studies Association) in Winnipeg, May 30 - June 1, 2004.
- Seminar at the University of Technology, Sydney, "Transnational Migration and Commodification of Immigrant Female Labourers in Canada", February 11, 2004.
- Presented "The Feminization of Transnational Migration in a Globalized Economy: Quantity or Femininity?" at the conference titled *Neo-liberal Globalism and Its Challengers: Re-claiming the Commons in the Semi-periphery - A Comparative Study of Mexico, Norway, Australia and Canada*, Bergen, Norway, October 4-7, 2003.
- Co-chair of Workshop titled "Women and Globalization in the Semi-periphery: Changing Social Forces for Women in Mexico, Norway, Australia and Canada", Neo-liberal Globalism conference in Bergen, Norway, October 4-7, 2003.

## Community Activities

### Sonja Boon

- 2002-4 Chair, Membership Committee, Kaslo Gardens Housing Cooperative

### Lara Campbell

- Newsletter editor and secretary of the Ontario Women's History Network until summer of 2004.
- Treasurer of the Canadian Committee on Women's History.
- Member of the Gender Equality Alliance of Nipissing.

### Marjorie Griffin Cohen

- Mediation with Industry Canada - on Human Rights Complaint regarding system discrimination in the Canadian Research Chair's program. (October 2003 - Ottawa)
- Talk to BC Civil Liberties Association: "SFU Affirmative Action Policies!" October 2003.
- Talk, "Gutting A Power House: What the BC Government is Doing to BC Hydro," Parksville Community Centre, October 2003.
- Talk, Political Science, University of Alberta, "Imperialist Regulation: US Electricity Market Designs and their Problems for Canada and Mexico" Nov 2003.
- TSSU talk (equity/CRCs) Sept. 2003
- Consultation on Foreign & Defence Policy, Monday, March 22, 2004
- House of Commons, Panel on Trade and Development

### Helen Hok-Sze Leung

- Presentation of "Women and Queerscapes in Hong Kong Cinema" at University College, Terrace, B.C., as part of the Women's Studies Travelling Speakers Series, October 30, 2003.

### Jacqueline Levitin

- Created a video environment for Tooba, a physical theatre company's production of Smitten, and a version of A Midsummer's Night Dream.
- Board of Directors - Vancouver Jewish Film Festival.

### Helen Loshny

- Volunteer on the working committee of Women in Science, Engineering Trades and Technology - WinSETT Building Communities project - an initiative of the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology.

### Cindy Patton

- Team member, Coquitlam Search and Rescue
- BC People with AIDS Community Based Research Advisory Group
- Patroller, First Aid Ski Patrol (Cypress)