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Director's Commentary: CSW Research Scholars!

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CSW Research Scholars!

I AM DELIGHTED to be introducing CSW *Update's* special issue: CSW Research Scholars! The CSW research scholars are Los Angeles-based independent and/or public intellectuals publishing on topics pertaining to gender, sexuality, and women's issues. This CSW program gives us a connection to the feminist intellectual community in Los Angeles and gives these scholars a connection to UCLA. It originated with the CSW Affiliated Scholars program in AY 86/87. Inaugurated by CSW Director Karen Rowe, this program promoted research on women by bringing together UCLA faculty and researchers from the larger women's studies community to enhance research skills. Participation was open to scholars conducting research on women and gender-related subjects, with specific attention to independent California scholars and ethnic women early in their academic careers. The first year's

appointees researched areas ranging from Iranian women migrants and Sudanese women's labor, to classical Japanese tales and Black American playwrights, from nineteenth-century women free thinkers to contemporary anti-war activists. The appointees were independent scholars, women with part or full-time lecturers positions at other institutions, and one Assistant Professor, each of whom was paired with a faculty mentor and given Center assistance in completing and presenting their research projects. A related program, called the Research Associates Program, appointed scholars affiliated with UCLA staff research positions for a one-year term. In 1994, under Director Kate Norberg's leadership, the Research Associate and Affiliated Scholar programs were combined and became the Research Scholar program. Whichever date you choose, CSW has been cultivating engaged

and productive relations with the Los Angeles and California feminist community for two decades.

The articles in this issue describe the vital research produced by scholars in this program, from work on Los Angeles suburbs to organizational/activist/research on Los Angeles' topography and environmental issues; from violence in Iraq to women who misbehave; from transnational anti-militarist feminism to how stigma and secrecy operate in disease; from abortion and public health issues in Mexico to historians writing reference works. CSW is proud to support the work of our research scholars who through their books, articles, policy briefs, and reference materials are making substantial contributions to the knowledge and scholarship in many diverse fields. Enjoy!

- Kathleen McHugh