

UCLA

CSW Update Newsletter

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Message from the Director

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fall 2014



ucla center for the study of women presents

THURSDAY

November 20

4 to 6 pm | YRL Conference Room

Sonia Henríquez

**Advances and
Challenges of
the Indigenous
Women's
Movement in
Panama**

**Women's Activism & International
Indigenous Rights**

FACULTY CURATOR SERIES

organized by Maylei Blackwell, Associate Professor,
Department of Chicana Studies at UCLA

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Latin American Institute, Dean of the Social
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Welcome to the New Year!



Welcome to the new academic year! I'd like to share news of some of CSW's activities with you. Our fall quarter events include a series of lectures on "Women's Activism and International Indigenous Rights," curated by Maylei Blackwell, Associate Professor of Chicano/a Studies and Gender Studies. The series focuses specifically on leaders in the Continental Network of Indigenous Women and explores the intersection of women's activism and indigenous rights. Margarita Gutiérrez Romero, a Nahuatl activist from Hidalgo, Mexico and

co-founder of the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of Abya Yala, spoke at UCLA on October 22nd. A second event in the series features Sonia Henríquez, an activist from the Guna Yala region along the Caribbean coast of Panama, and will take place on November 19 from 2 to 4 pm in the YRL. An overview of the series appears in this issue of the newsletter.

CSW Associate Director Rachel Lee continues to lead the Life (Un)Ltd research project, which on November 5th brought professors Banu Subramaniam (Associate Professor of women, gender, sexuality studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst,) and Deboleena Roy (Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology at Emory University) to campus for complementary talks. In "Surrogating the Cradle of the World: On the Onto-Epistemological Illusions of Matter," Dr. Subramaniam focused on surrogacy in postcolonial India. Dr. Roy spoke on "Germline Rup-

tures: Methyl Isocyanate Gas and the Transpositions of Life, Death, and Matter in Bhopal." The next event, on February 27, 2015, will feature Kath Weston, a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Virginia. Her current work focuses on political economy, political ecology and environmental issues, historical anthropology, and science studies. Her books include *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship* (Columbia University Press, 1997), *Gender in Real Time: Power and Transience in a Visual Age*, (Routledge. 2002), *Traveling Light: On the Road with America's Poor* (Beacon Press, 2009).

Visiting CSW Scholar Diane Richardson, Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellow and Professor of Sociology in the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University, UK, will be speaking on "Sexuality & Citizenship: Remaking Boundaries of Tolerance and Acceptance" on November 18th from 4 to 6 pm in Haines 279. Dr. Richardson's interdisciplinary research centers

message from the director

incandescent since 1990



thinking gender celebrates 25 years

on sexuality, gender, citizenship and social justice. Her latest book *Sexuality, Equality and Diversity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) focuses on LGBT equalities policy, examining what has been achieved by legislation and resistance to such developments. Please see the Q & A with Diane in this issue.

In addition to our public events and lectures, we have several publication initiatives in process this year, including several CSW Policy Briefs. Chris Tilly, Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, is partnering with us on a set of briefs featuring outstanding applied feminist scholarship by UCLA graduate students. Each brief presents research in support of a policy change that would substantially improve the health

and well being of women and their families. We are also are inviting submissions for a set of briefs on the topic “Women in the Informal Economy: Global Challenges, Local Solutions.” Three UCLA graduate students will be selected to work with CSW publications manager Brenda Johnson-Grau on the editing and publishing of their briefs for distribution to community partners, nonprofit and research organizations, and public officials. Selected students will receive a \$500 stipend and recognition at the CSW Awards luncheon in 2015. A longer brief highlighting research on best practices in supporting women faculty in STEM fields is also planned. As a supplement to this quarterly CSW newsletter, we are launching a new email newsletter highlighting recent gender-related research by facul-

ty at UCLA. The first issue, focusing on “Law and Human Rights,” will appear soon.

The call for presentations for Thinking Gender, our annual graduate student research conference, has just been announced. Chien-Ling Liu, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History whose dissertation looks at microbiological studies and public health work by the Pasteur Institutes in China between 1899 and 1950, is the conference coordinator. This year marks Thinking Gender’s 25th anniversary! The conference theme is “Power, Contested Knowledge, and Feminist Practices.” Proposals are due December 15, 2014, and the conference will be held April 23 and 24, 2015. Please help us spread the word. In this issue, you’ll also find an overview of the conference theme by Chien-Ling.

Read on in this issue to find “A history of the Lesbian Writers Series,” on the historic set of talks by lesbian writers and poets that took place at A Different Light Bookstore from 1984 to 1994, compiled by series founder Ann Bradley, and “Misogyny and manipulation in Mauritius,” a report by Nanar Khamo, graduate student in the Department of French and Francophone Studies.

– *Elizabeth Marchant*