

participating in a panel on Iraq that features the women's radio station, Almahaba (p.8). We continue to address migration/immigration issues in different venues (p. 8, 9). The symposium on transnational care work and migration appeared in the September issue of *Globalizations* (p.19), and I have been working with colleagues on land rights, health policies and internal migration, and ICT in China (p. 17, 18). These activities are discussed in more detail as noted in the following pages. In addition, WGGP is involved in revising and creating new courses to bring these current issues to more students and promoting gender equity in faculty recruitment and retention. Our affiliates and associates are helping us expand the efforts in creative ways and add much to what we can accomplish.

Congratulations!

Earl Kellogg was honored as a recipient of the Humanitarian Relief Award at the 2006 Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Awards ceremony



on Sept. 18. Dr. Kellogg is a Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Economics at UIUC. He is the former Assoc. Provost for International Affairs and former Director of International Programs and Studies at UIUC. Currently, he is Chair of the advisory board for the Partnership to

Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. He has managed international projects in forestry and natural resource management and has worked to protect the environment, while increasing rural employment and agricultural productivity. He is an advocate for international women's issues and is an Associate of Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program. We wish him well as he continues to travel and work in international areas.

for the Middle East, only on Israel; and in Asia, there is no data on India, one of the most important countries in the world in terms of information technology. For Latin America there is data on only five countries, which are the richest in the region- Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela.

However, a recent study by ORBICOM gathered both qualitative and quantitative data from a widely scattered variety of sources to paint a detailed picture of the gender digital divide (Huyer, Hafkin, Ertl and Dryburgh, 2005). Among its findings were that women's participation in the information society does not go hand-in-hand with overall information technology diffusion and development. Countries with higher "infostates" don't necessarily have smaller gender gaps and vice versa.¹ In general, it is no surprise to find that the gender divide is generally more pronounced in developing countries. Among countries with a low penetration of information technology and high gender gaps are Guinea, Djibouti, Yemen, Nepal, and India. Although the gender gap has vanished in a few countries with high Internet penetration (in the US and Canada, for example), there are still inequities in usage and participation in the information technology profession in these countries. But countries with a high degree of information technology development vary greatly in the extent of women's participation. High infostate countries—France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and the UK—have rates of female Internet users equivalent to those of low infostate countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Zimbabwe, and Tunisia. Italy's gender gap is similar to that of Kyrgystan, with 10 percent the Internet penetration. Greece and Portugal, with relatively high infostates, are close to the bottom on the percentage of female Internet users, but Mongolia and the Philippines, with low infostates, are close to the top.

All of this disputes the argument that you don't have to take care of gender and information technology because it will take care of itself as information technology penetrates the society. One of the latest examples of this view of information technology as gender neutral came from the Department of Trade and Industry Study in UK (2005) that said that the digital divide is self repairing: all that you need to correct it is time; problems of inclusion are self-correcting, and no special interventions are necessary. The ORBICOM study results show that specific efforts are indeed needed to ensure that women enjoy the benefits of information technology.

¹ "Infostate" is a conceptual framework developed by the International Telecommunication Union to measure the degree of a country's "ICT-ization." It combines measurements of the country's capital and labor stocks in ICT with measurements of the country's consumption of ICT. Measuring infostates for Development, 2003. (G Sciades, ed). Orbicom. <http://www.orbicom.uqam.ca>.

Cross-cutting themes in women and gender and information technology

One of the important reasons to do this is to connect gender analysis from other sources with information technology. As Gale Summerfield points out, "gender analysis from one field is rarely connected to another or linked to broader trends or policy goals."

There are at least three important intersections between women/gender and information technology and international development issues. The first two I would characterize as women/gender *and* IT; the third I see as women/gender *in* IT. All have their separate literature, and large amounts of work have been done on each. When people talk about women in the *information* society, they talk mostly about 1 and 2. When people talk about women in the *knowledge* society, they talk mostly about 3.

1. Women, information technology and globalization. Information and communications technologies (ICT) – the huge increase in speed and ease of communications, the discounting of distance- is a major enabler of globalization. Among the gender issues of globalization are issues of feminization of the labor force, falling salaries, informalization of work and expansion of informal economy, and universalism about women's 'superior' abilities to undertake repetitive and precision work. Among the specific women/gender issues in this area are the greater access to international markets for women producers (especially in SMEs), women workers in the electronics industry and globally-distributed work in information processing. This includes such topics as call centers and other ICT-enabled service industry employment, teleworking, home working, virtual secretaries and assistants.

Of late we have seen much literature on call centers, one well publicized aspect of what has been variously termed Cross Border Sourcing in Services-CBSS; Business Process Outsourcing-BPO; and ITES-information technology enabled services. Call centers evoke cultural issues for women, as the women working there are asked to change their names and identities (online) in order to better serve their clients from North America or Europe. Women workers in call centers also experience difficulties with working hours- often working at night to accommodate daytime customers in the US; burnout rates are high because the work is repetitive, stressful, and tedious. Salaries are lower for women than men, and women are usually found in less skilled jobs. But these jobs pay better than most anything else available for women in developing countries, although the pay is far less than their counterparts in developed countries receive. These remote service industry jobs are spreading from Asia and the Caribbean to Africa, but the jobs are insecure and subject to technological change.

2. Information Technology for Development (ICT4D). This looks at how women can use ICT to improve lives and well being- i.e. using information technology to meet the challenges of economic and social development. This involves women's access to information technology, a wide variety of applications, and also hardware and design so that the technology is accessible to poor women with low levels and rates of literacy, who lack computer skills and are unlikely to know major international languages that dominate the Web. Putting emphasis on poor women in both urban and rural areas, it asks how women can improve their lives and those of their families through use of information technology, looking at both social and economic applications, including advocacy, education, communication, health, citizen's participation. An area of increasing interest, but one with many challenges, is the use of ICTs to increase productivity and quality of women's existing non-ICT based enterprises and to link them with global markets. This field recently received a great deal of attention with the awarding of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize to Mohammed Yunus, known best for his founding of the Grameen Bank. It is his more recent Grameen VillagePhone company, however, that brings the focus on poor rural women gaining empowerment as small-scale entrepreneurs using ICTs. Through Grameen VillagePhone in Bangladesh poor women with very little education rent mobile phones in underserved areas, increasing income, status, and self-esteem.



Photo Source: www.grameenphon.com

ICT4D is concerned with information sharing, women's indigenous knowledge, knowledge creation and management, content for women, use of alternate (e.g. community radio) and mixed technologies (e.g. Internet and community radio). The ICT applications most commonly associated with women and ICT4D are in health, education, enterprise development and citizen's participation in governance.

Since India is generally regarded as the laboratory of best practices in ICT4D, it is interesting to look at Indian examples of women participating in ICT4D there. In the field in India, there are multiple sponsorship models,

including social entrepreneurship (Taraaat and Gyandoot); state sponsorship (Kudambashree in Kerala); public-private partnership: E-Seva in Andhra Pradesh; private sector: the ITC e-choupal; and labor unions-SEWA.

TARAhaat Information and Marketing Services Ltd (TARAhaat) delivers a broad spectrum of services and products for the rural and semi-urban citizens of India through a network of franchised community and business centers owned by individual entrepreneurs. Its applications focus on education, communication and e-governance.

Gyandoot in Dhar district is a system of rural cyber cafes catering to the poor. Among its products and services are a commodity marketing information system, assistance in securing caste certificates, landholder's passbooks of land rights and loans, and driving licenses. It also has a rural matrimonial service.

Kudambashree in Kerala- with support from the state of Kerala, women run self-help groups that establish microenterprises in IT, among other areas. Existing enterprises provide data entry, digitization services, IT training to local schools and organizations, and assemble personal computers.

E-Seva has almost 9000 telecenters that provide information services and computer training for rural India. Many of its telecenter managers are women.

E-choupal is a system for agricultural information and product marketing for farmers initiated by ITC.

The **Self-Employed Women's Association**, a unique labor union of women working in the informal economy, has been a pioneer in using information technology with and for poor women with low levels of literacy. Its first ICT venture was training its members in video use and editing. It has introduced banking and enterprise management accessibly to those with little education and

has Technology Information Centres in Gujarat to provide computer awareness training and basic computer skills for their "barefoot managers." A major concern within ICT4D is securing content that is accessible and of interest to poor and rural women in developing countries. Among examples of content that has been created specifically for women are:

Village Knowledge Centres: Pondicherry, India;

Women's Information Resource Electronic Service;

Feminist International Radio (FIRE)- Costa Rica;

Nutzij – Mayan women in Guatemala;

Khwezi FM in KwaZulu Natal; and

CD Rom "Rural Women Earning Money-Uganda

The **Village Knowledge Centres, Pondicherry, India**, run by the Swaminathan Foundation, are information shops operated by women volunteers to give information on markets, healthcare and agriculture-related information and to teach computer skills.

Women's Information Resource Electronic Service

(WIRES, www.ceewauwires.org.) provides women entrepreneurs in small-scale business in Uganda with

information on markets, prices, credit, and trade services repackaged in simple, ready-to-use formats, preferably in local languages.

Feminist International Radio Endeavor (FIRE), (<http://www.fire.or.cr/> and <http://www.radiofeminista.net/indexeng.htm>) based in Costa Rica, is women's Internet radio that supports community media with content on women's rights.

Through video production and using the Internet, the **Nutzij** ('my word', in Maya) project run by a collective of young Mayan women in Guatemala helps women develop skills to preserve their community's cultural heritage on video and market the content to the world via the Internet.

The **Khwezi FM** in KwaZulu-Natal community radio station promotes community radio content in Africa directed particularly at women who are 60 percent of the staff and most of the listeners. Among its programs is 'Mothers Desk' that deals with issues on children's health, HIV/AIDS, and outreach.

The **CD-ROM 'Rural Women earning money'** produced by the International Women's Tribune Center in English and Luanda for illiterate or newly literate women farmers in Nagasake region of rural Uganda uses local language and incorporates a strong visual component to be able to reach women with limited literacy.

3. Science and Technology (S&T). Women in information technology is a subfield of women/gender and S&T. This is the area that deals with girls and women in the field of information technology, their participation



Anastasia, aged 77, from Uganda, travels through her district to promote awareness on how new information technologies can improve well-being.

in the design of hardware and software and the gendered use of computers. It includes issues relating to computer science, to labor force participation in the computer industry in formal employment in computer-based jobs (both salaried and self-employment). The questions it asks are: To what extent do girls and women participate in this? How do they fare? It deals with gender issues in the teaching of computer science- especially how to attract and retain women students who enter the field. This field includes discussions of the knowledge society, the knowledge economy, and innovation systems. This has been the primary focus of developed country literature on women/gender and information technology, particularly within the US, but it is a major focus in developing countries as well, particularly through the concern to attract girls to study science and technology including computer science. The establishment of the Knowledge Commission in India is an example of this topic in a developing country setting.

Information technology: silver bullet or latest problem for women?

The three areas described above are all areas of opportunity for women from information technology. International development discourse is very much rooted in the conviction that ICTs are empowering for women in poorer countries. Such a view is congruent with the writings of Amartya Sen on development as the process of realizing human capabilities, potential, and freedom as a basic component of development. Sen himself has written positively on the possibilities for women in developing countries through IT. Women in developing countries suffer from lack of choice, limited horizons and limited possibilities, as a result of poverty as well as patriarchal norms and traditions. ICTs offer possibilities to expand this choice, widen horizons and open possibilities. Given the constantly growing ubiquity of information technology in modern life, it is vital for women to be on the inside looking out rather than on the outside not even looking in. This is the theme of a recently published book that I co-edited with Sophia Huyer- *Cinderella or Cyberella: Empowering Women in the Knowledge Society*, Kumarian, 2006. (More information about book on p. 19).

At the same time, there is no question that information technology is fraught with dangers for women worldwide. These include the increase in accessibility and quantity of pornography, its use as a tool to facilitate trafficking, and its association with increased domestic violence and assertions of patriarchy. Recent research particularly in Africa is showing that as women take up new information technologies, in particular mobile phones and accessing the Internet at cybercafes, men think that they are using them to contact boyfriends and arrange illicit liaisons. This has resulted in an increase in domestic violence and divorce (and threats thereof).

In my view, women need to seize the opportunities that the new technologies bring, at the same time as finding ways to manage the threats that they pose. If they do so, I hope that women as well as men, at all social levels and in all countries, can beneficially access and use emerging information technologies and that we will see women globally in all aspects of ICT- as users, workers, managers, and designers.

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Nancy Hafkin and Sophia Huyer (2006). *Cinderella or Cyberella: Empowering Women in the Knowledge Society*. Bloomfield CT: Kumarian.

Nancy Hafkin is principal of Knowledge Working, a consultancy on information technology and international development. Dr. Hafkin has been working to promote the development of ICT in Africa for thirty years. She can be reached at nhafkin@comcast.net.



Anthony Mendes, Director, Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership; Amy Aidman, Assoc. Prof., Communications Research and Library and Information Science; Dr. Nancy Hafkin; and Gale Summerfield, Director, WGGP.

From My Field Notebook: A gender dimension of an ongoing dissertation

Isidore Lobnibe

Since colonial occupation up till the early 1980s, migrant agricultural laborers to southern Ghana were mainly men from the savanna region to the north who migrated seasonally to work on short-term contracts and returned to their families after a few months. In the past three decades, this pattern of migration has witnessed significant transformation; the century-old seasonal migration of Dagara young men from northwestern Ghana is giving way to a more sedentary type of small farm holder migration in which the men are now compelled to migrate with their wives and other family members in search of rural livelihood. In my dissertation, I explore the ways in which both past and current socio-economic processes affect the welfare of rural migrant farmers in the food production belt by raising questions related to rural inequality and emerging new forms of rural patriarchy within migrant households. One question I pose is, what broader socio-cultural implications does the new pattern of migration hold for the migrating and receiving areas, the individual migrant; and what especially is the role (food production, non-agricultural income, meal preparation and child care, etc) and status of women in this new institutional setting in terms of obligations and privileges?

The influx of migrants in the south, who are searching for farmlands in lieu of the hitherto seasonal wage labor, has not only placed new demand for access to farm land, but also resulted in conflicts and debates over access to land, community citizenship, including who in the host communities has the right to allocate use rights of land to the individual migrant. The participation of women in the current migration also poses novel challenges to northern women's

historic role in agricultural labor, their conjugal or reproductive rights, and how they negotiate with their husbands over these rights in the remote farming villages where kinship support systems previously available to them in managing their households in the home region are absent.

In a chapter, I propose that an understanding of the larger political and economic context affecting the social universe, of which migrant women are now more or less a permanent part, requires that we closely examine how both macro and micro social processes inform migrants' daily experiences and living conditions, as well as gender relations at the household level. Anthropological analysis has some special strength for the study of micro-social and face-to-face relations and linking them to broad theoretical ideas and I have drawn on this disciplinary tradition to highlight women's unique experiences in the dissertation.

Preliminary analysis of my ethnographic data suggests that women's participation in farm labor migration to the south has tended more to the commoditization of their labor; their lives and those of their children revolve around helping their husbands to earn wages and cash from surpluses from their farms. Unlike the home region, husbands

insist they cannot afford to allow their wives to waste farm hours visiting markets, or give out piece of farm land for women's agricultural activities. This they blame on the high cost of rent for farmland. Thus even if women manage to cultivate vegetables on their husbands' field, the produce counts

first as men's farm crop. The fabric of northern migrants social support

system in the south has been weakened, leaving wives more vulnerable to new capitalist challenges as they become more involved in the rural production. The adjustment constraints for newly married women are especially challenging since most of them are deprived of crucial support from their



Women carrying yams after work



Women roasting yams for their husbands

mothers-in-law to help with managing their new households in the south.

My dissertation thus contributes in filling the lacunae in our knowledge and information about what is happening with respect to women's transition problems in the remote sections of the Afram basin in Ghana. There women lack not only social facilities, but institutional and cultural support systems, as they relate to the adjustment problems that are specific to them. In the migrant home region, for instance, women customarily reserve the right to cultivate (with help from their sons or other young men around) their own groundnuts or vegetable fields either on plots belonging to their husbands or besides them. From such fields, vegetables and other food condiments are harvested, which they either use in meeting their kitchen needs, those of their children, or their own special needs. In addition to processing food for sale, northern Ghanaian women generally depend on money generated from their side fields, which they use to socialize with friends on market days. These rights are virtually non-existent in the rural south where most of the market centers are out of reach for women and can be attended only by men riding bicycles. Women's inability to participate in the market activities has additionally deprived them of control over the household kitchen which traditionally is a no-go area for men, thus further accentuating forms of rural patriarchy among migrants.

Notes from the field:

When Der of Kyerediesu village was traveling to his home village in the north, he could afford to visit Nkoranza market alone. As part of his preparation toward the journey, he bought some dried fish (*amani*) which he rationed out to the wife for the use of the household until his return in two weeks time; the rest he kept hidden, awaiting his return. While in the north, Der unfortunately could not return as planned, so his house ran out of fish. When he returned his wife complained that she and the children had been without meat and other ingredients to cook for the past one and half weeks. She had no means of visiting the distant market to buy fish since the husband left no money behind and she had no income of her own. It is difficult to conceive of such a situation for a young woman in the village in the north, for a husband to manage so closely the affairs of the kitchen.

Isidore Lobnibe is a GRID doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at UIUC. He is the recipient of the 2006-07 Cloud Award. His contact address is lobnibe@uiuc.edu.



Isidore sharing some palm wine with migrants in the yam fields

WGGP Fall 2006 Activities and Co-Sponsored Events

Aug. 24, *Globalization, Women and the Reform Movement in Iran*, Roksana Bahramitash, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Montreal.



Una Osili

Aug. 29, *Institutions and Financial Development: Evidence from International Migrants in the U.S.*, Una O. Osili, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, sponsored by the Department of Economics and others.

Sept. 6, *Culture and Politics in Mexico*, Larissa Adler Lomnitz, Applied Mathematics Systems, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, sponsored by Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies and others.

Sept. 29, *Electing Healthcare: A Look at Medicaid and the Mid-Term Elections, Live Program WILL-TV*. Panelists included: State Senator Dale Righter, Republican spokesperson; Barry Maram, Director, Illinois Healthcare and Family Services, Democratic spokesperson; Robert Kaestner, Economics and Institute of Government and Public Affairs; Robert F. Rich, Director, Institute of Government and Public Affairs; and Noreen Sugrue, WGGP.

Oct. 2, *Women's Access to and Use of Information Technology in Rural India*, Prof. M. Suriya, Professor, Library & Information Science, Annamalai University, India.

Oct. 10, *The Impact of Information Technology on Women Globally*, Gale

Summerfield, WGGP.

Oct. 11, *Latina/o Immigration: Local & National Challenges*, Panel sponsored by CAS Initiative on Immigration, La Casa Cultural Latina, and others.

Oct. 18, *Why the World Isn't Flat Enough: Bringing more women contributors and beneficiaries into the information society*, Nancy Hafkin, (see article. p. 1).

Oct. 19, *The Globalization of Energy Resources*, Jonathan Elkind, Former Director, Russian, Ukrainian and

COMING EVENTS:

Nov. 2, Ms. Bushra Jamil, Radio Almahaba (Voice of Iraqi Women) and panel on **Breaking Down the Wall of War: Iraqi Women's Radio**, moderated by Valerie Hoffman, Religious Studies at Levis Center, 7-9 pm. with Gale Summerfield, WGGP; and Marilyn Booth, South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Nov. 9, **Panel on Mid-Term Elections: Global and Local Implications** with Jorge Chapa, Democracy in a Multiracial Society; Arlene Torres, Latina/o Studies; Brian Gaines, Political Science and Institute for Gov't and Public Affairs; and Noreen Sugrue, WGGP; 12-1 pm, Christopher Hall, Room 1009, 904 West Nevada.

Electing Healthcare

As part of our commitment to gender equity in global human security, WGGP is cosponsoring a series of televised discussions of health care issues in U.S. elections. The first of these *Electing Healthcare* programs aired on September 29th on WILL-TV (see Fall Activities above). On November 9 a WGGP-sponsored panel discussion will follow-up on health care policies of the different parties and explore issues such as how the policies would meet needs of poor families, women and children, and immigrants (see Coming Events above). The next *Electing Healthcare* program will be televised in Spring 2007.



Radio Almahaba staff at their station in Iraq.

**Call for Papers:
Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership**

***Entrepreneurship Can Change the World:
The First University of Illinois Symposium
on Entrepreneurship and Global Culture
June 7-8, 2007 - Levis Faculty Center***

**Deadline for submission:
Wednesday, November 1, 2006**

For more information: www.business.uiuc.edu/acl/index.htm

**Annual Meeting for Sociologists for Women in Society:
Solidarities Across Borders:
Race, Class and Gender
in Post-Disaster Reconstruction
February 1-4, 2007**

New Orleans

**Post-Conference Dialogue at UIUC
Feb. 5, 2007**

For further information, see www.socwomen.org.

**Building for the 2008-09
Center for Advanced Study
Initiative on Immigration**

**Jim Barrett, History
and
Augusto Espiritu, History**

**will give a talk on
historical aspects
of immigration policy**

in Spring 2007.

Further details will be forthcoming.



**UN Millennium
Development Goals**

**Keep the promise
Millennium Development Goals**



**UN Millennium Development Goals Update:
High-Level Dialogue on Health**

On September 18, 2006, UNICEF, the Prime Minister of Norway, and The Lancet hosted a by invitation only United Nations High Level Dialogue on Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Number 4. The meeting, held at the U.N., coincided with opening meetings of the U.N. General Assembly. As part of the High Level Dialogue on MDG 4, *The Lancet* is producing three special issues focusing on maternal health, infant health, and children's health. The fourth MDG is to reduce by two-thirds the number of children who die before their fifth birthday. Approximately, 29,000 children daily or about 10.5 million children per year die before their fifth birth; the overwhelming majority of these deaths are preventable.

The focus of the meeting was to assess how well countries are doing in terms of reaching MDG 4, the goal defined as a litmus test for countries being able to reach other Millennium Development Goals. The data were discouraging: "few of the countries with high child mortality levels are on track to reduce under-five mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015."

Attending the meeting were about sixty-five health and policy experts from around the world, along with about twenty-five dignitaries, including heads of state, ambassadors, and ministers of health and finance. **Noreen Sugrue**, representing Women and Gender in Global Perspective Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, participated in the High Level Dialogue meeting as well as in a smaller working lunch co-hosted by Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway and Anne Veneman, Executive Director, UNICEF.

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WELCOME!

Linda Katehi, Provost



Photo Source: News Bureau, UIUC; Courtesy Purdue Univ.

Linda Katehi is the new Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UIUC. She is a native of Greece and earned a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering from the National Technical University of Athens in 1977. She came to the U.S. in 1979 and received master's and doctoral degrees in

electrical engineering at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1981 and 1984. She began her academic career in 1984 as a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Michigan, where she stayed for 18 years. She served in a succession of administrative roles in the College of Engineering, culminating with the position of associate dean for academic affairs. In January 2002, she became the engineering dean at Purdue.

“What I’ve learned is that a lot of great things can be accomplished when the disciplines work together,” Katehi said. She hopes to foster an environment that encourages interdisciplinary research, innovation in the education of students, and diversity in a broad sense (intellectual, racial, cultural, gender, etc). “I’ve always felt that diversity is an attribute of quality, and the lack of it in a number of disciplines, at the end of the day, really harms the ability of those disciplines to achieve the quality they aspire to,” she said. Katehi’s honors include a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation and a Humboldt Research Award. In 1995, she was named a fellow in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), and in 2002 received the Distinguished Educator Award from the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society. She has received five best paper awards, including the Marconi Premium Prize in 2001 from the Institute of Electronic Engineers. She holds or has applied for 19

U.S. patents and has graduated 37 doctoral students. In 2004, she received the Leading Light Award for Women in High Tech from the state of Indiana. This year she was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering.

Source: Craig Chamberlain, News Bureau, UIUC.

We enthusiastically welcome Provost Katehi to UIUC and as a Faculty Affiliate with WGPP.

William Brustein, Associate Provost for International Affairs

Professor William Brustein will join our campus in January 2007 as the Associate Provost for International Affairs and Director of International Programs and Studies at UIUC. Professor Brustein has served as the Director of the University of Pittsburgh’s University Center for International Studies since 2001, and holds appointments as Professor of Sociology, History and Political Science. Dr. Brustein is recognized for his leadership and innovation



Photo Source: Research Review, Univ. of Pittsburgh

in expanding global interdisciplinary research and educational activities, for increasing participation in study abroad programs, and for developing the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies (CERIS), enhancing access to knowledge and resources on Islamic Studies to a range of institutions. Dr. Brustein will be instrumental in facilitating the campus strategic agenda in research, education and engagement in global arenas. He brings a remarkable record of accomplishment to our campus and we look forward to working with him to achieve our goals in international research, teaching, and public engagement.

WGGP Annual Award Opportunities

A Full Fellowship is available to new and continuing graduate students in any program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: RITA AND ARNOLD GOODMAN FELLOWSHIP: A full scholarship of \$12,000 plus tuition and service fee waiver to support graduate students working on such issues as literacy, reproductive rights, political participation, economic security, child welfare, and environmental protection with preference given to students whose work promises to make a significant practical contribution to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the developing world.

Grants are also available to new and continuing graduate students in any program who select the multidisciplinary graduate minor, Gender Relations in International Development (GRID), offered by WGGP [see GRID enrollment details below]*: DUE AND FERBER INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH: Grants of up to \$1,500 for travel expenses related to dissertation research addressing international issues of women, gender, and development for international students from developing countries whose work promises to make significant contributions to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the developing world.

KATHLEEN CLOUD INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH GRANT: Grants of \$1,000 or less for travel expenses related to doctoral dissertation research addressing international issues of women, gender, and development.

BARBARA A. YATES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD: Awards of up to \$500 to support graduate students focusing on policy-oriented research on socioeconomic issues related to women and gender in developing countries for study on campus, conference presentation, or research abroad.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANT FOR GRID STUDENTS: Up to three \$100 travel grants will be awarded for GRID students making conference presentations at academic conferences.

***TO ENROLL IN THE GRID MINOR:** Submit the one-page GRID minor form available at the WGGP office, or you can download the form at <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/Griddoc.html>

TO APPLY FOR WGGP AWARDS: Submit the application form available at the WGGP Office or at <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/grantfund.html>. A student can submit a single application form to be considered for one or more awards. To apply for the fellowship or grants, submit the application and required materials (listed on the form) by the **deadline of February 15** to: Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, 320 International Studies Building, 910 South Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (phone: 217-333-1994; fax: 217-333-6270); WGGP website: <http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/>.



*2006 GRID Graduates: back, l to r:
Christobel Asiedu, Isabel Scarborough, Rose Korang-
Okrah, Suzana Palaska-Nicholson, Abdulai Iddrisu;
front: Jessica Horn and Mansi Sachdev*

*Award Recipients at WGGP 2006
Spring Reception with donors
and Gale Summerfield, WGGP
Director, and Jesse Delia, Interim
Assoc. Provost for International
Affairs*



The following op-ed piece first appeared in the July 17, 2006 edition of the *Christian Science Monitor*.

American-born children shouldn't be deported

Immigration reform must ensure that the best interest of American children determines the fate of their undocumented parents.

By Noreen M. Sugrue, Champaign, IL.

As the US government urgently seeks a unified policy to deal with illegal immigrants, law-enforcement officials seem to be paying more attention to enforcing current laws. In June 2006, for example, more than 2,400 undocumented workers from across the country were seized. They are currently awaiting deportation hearings. Their legal status in this country is one thing. But the status of their children is another. The overwhelming majority of those arrested in June are parents of American citizens - children born in the US - and the majority of those children are under the age of 10. These children are US citizens; they're no different from my child or the children of most of you. But because of the possible deportations of their parents, these children will probably be deported, too, if they want to stay with their parents. If they find a way to stay, they will become policy orphans; that is, citizens with no parents in the US to care for them and no place to live except foster care or in the home of some generous community members.

One of the children affected by this June raid is Sylvia; she was fortunate to be born in a country where "children and families first" is an enshrined value. She also has the misfortune of being born to parents who are undocumented workers in a country determined to rid itself of all such laborers. Sylvia is an American citizen. She is happy learning, listening to music on her iPod, playing with her friends, and wondering what she will do all summer. Like millions of other American children, she has plans and ideas of how to spend her free time. Yet last month, Sylvia's life changed forever. Unlike most other American children, her family does not have control over where they live. The US government will decide where Sylvia's parents will live, and she will be forced to go with them or live without her parents. Sylvia's parents are undocumented workers who were apprehended in one of many government-led raids. Ostensibly, they were arrested to protect our economy, our borders, our sense of fairness, and our moral right to determine who lives in the US.

What is not clear is how Sylvia or any other of the hundreds of thousands of American citizens and their working parents are a risk to each of us. Illegals are usually arrested for their crimes while at work. The crimes committed by Sylvia's parents are hard work and an attempt to make a better life for their children

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and grandchildren, coupled with a willingness to work at whatever jobs are available to achieve it all. Yes, Sylvia's parents are undocumented workers, or people working in the US illegally. They would have gladly come here legally, but they are not highly educated, have no special training and skills, and do not have millions to invest in the US. They also have no other family living in the US. Current immigration law allows only those with family members already legally in the US or those with significant education and/or investment dollars to enter this country on a permanent basis and move toward citizenship. The rest who come are here temporarily, and their path to citizenship is almost nonexistent.

Regardless of the lives undocumented workers have built in the US or their contributions to the economy and community, family status, and the needs of children - especially American-born children - are not paramount considerations in deciding who will be able to stay in the US and who will have to go. Laws that de facto deport American citizens create immediate and long-lasting social, moral, and political problems for each of us personally and the nation as a whole. As adults, Sylvia and most exiled children are likely to come back to their country of birth. However, they may return bitter and less able to compete economically than if they, along with their parents, had been allowed to stay in the US. When they return needing social assistance, each of us will pay the economic price. We also pay a moral price for having turned away our own citizens; American children born to undocumented foreign workers are often robbed of life opportunities because of US social policies that ignore their needs and interests.

Immigration reform must contain two key provisions currently not under consideration. One ensures that the best interest of American children determines what happens to their undocumented parents. The other includes allowing noncollege-educated and nonwealthy investor immigrants to legally enter the US and acquire citizenship.

Noreen M. Sugrue is a faculty member in the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, nsugrue@uiuc.edu.

Shaping Government Policies: Do Women Make a Difference

Marianne A. Ferber and Michael Brun

Introduction

There are several reasons why feminists and other believers in democracy have advocated for women's right to vote and for their expanded representation among public officials. One reason is fairness: all adults should have the opportunity to participate in governing, and in determining who governs, commensurate with their capabilities. Another is that arbitrarily excluding some groups from standing for office reduces the pool of talented individuals among whom voters can choose.

Some, however, also believe that women bring a different perspective to public policy issues. As Carrol (2001b) says "Most feminists view the election of more women as a means for social change and not merely an end in itself" (p. 3). In fact, there is evidence that women are more concerned with interpersonal relationships and tend to emphasize the importance of caring for others (Gilligan, 1982) and are generally "less militaristic, ... more often opposed to the death penalty, more likely to favor gun control, more likely to favor measures to protect the environment, more supportive of programs to help the economically disadvantaged, less critical of government, [and] more critical of business" (Carroll, 2001a, p. xiii). The reason most often suggested for these differences is that women are more involved with raising children as well as caring for the sick, the disabled, and the elderly, and are therefore likely to have different priorities for social and economic policies.

The first two reasons for enfranchising women are no longer in dispute in most parts of the world, but there is little agreement on the third. Critics can and do cite women who have been heads of state during the last half century, such as Indira Gandhi, Golda Meier and, most particularly, Margaret Thatcher, who are not noted for their advocacy of generous social policies, nor for being pacifists. On the other hand, prime ministers Gro Harlem Brundland of Norway, Virginia (Vidgis) Finnbogadottir of Iceland, and Jenny Shipley of New Zealand, not as well known as the three "women warriors" mentioned above, were much closer to the ideal "woman ruler" feminists envision. As for the three most recently elected women, Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia, and Michelle Bachelet, president of Chile, it is too early to determine the direction they will follow. In any case, we would argue that women who have succeeded in becoming heads of state in a world still largely dominated by men are hardly representative of most women. As Burk (2005, pp. 65-66) suggested about women who at the top in the business hierarchy, they have managed to rise because they are more interested in accumulating power than in remaining loyal to their earlier values. Therefore we believe that it is more useful to examine the considerably larger number of women in the legislative branch of government in order to gauge the effect of women likely have in government.

Useful information is provided by studies at the level of the general electorate of the effect of the enfranchisement of women on government expenditures. More than two decades ago Meltzer and Richards (1981; 1983) demonstrated that as the income of the "decisive voter" declined relative to the mean, the size of the government increased. More recently, Abrams and Settle (1999) and Lott and Kenny (1999), building on these results, showed specifically that the enfranchisement of women (in Switzerland in 1971 and in the U.S. in 1920 respectively), whose income is lower than that of men and who therefore presumably "benefit more from various government programs that redistribute income" (p. 1164) had this effect. Not surprisingly these good neoclassical economists further concluded that women were merely acting in their own self-interest.

Many feminists, however, while readily acknowledging that female legislators have had considerable impact by promoting policies to help women (Carroll 2001b), reject the view that this is their sole concern. Not only do many of the policies women support also benefit many men and particularly children, some do not even favor women. For instance, women are more inclined than men to oppose capital punishment (e.g. O'Reagan, 2000) although a substantially larger proportion of people who are executed are men and are less likely to support militarism, although women are rarely drafted. Further, in households where husbands and wives are in control of their own incomes women spend a substantially larger share on children than men do (Blumberg, 1988). Such evidence supports the view that women have greater empathy for others, especially the weak and the destitute.

Hypotheses and Results

There is by now a substantial literature that examines the effect the increasing proportion of female legislators has had in the U. S., in jurisdictions within the U.S., as well as some other countries. We however go further in this paper and, within the limitation that all data are not available for all countries, systematically examine the effect of varying proportions of women legislators on a number of policies in countries throughout the world.

For countries with two chambers, we examine only the lower house in order to make the data more comparable to those from countries that have only one chamber. ² The proportion of representatives in parliament

who are women ranges from zero in eight countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the United Arab Emirates) to 35% or more in six countries. Five are in Northwestern Europe (Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) but Rwanda is in Africa. Countries where more than 25% but less than 35% of legislators are women include Spain from southern Europe, Bulgaria from Eastern Europe; Mozambique, Namibia, the Seychelles and South Africa from Africa; Costa Rica, Cuba and Grenada from Central America, Argentina from South America, and East Timor from Asia. (Summary data by region may be seen in Table 1). This enables us to examine the effect of the percent of women (W) on government expenditures on education and health care in 108 countries with a very wide range of representation of women.

We selected two key policies that tend to loom large in government budgets for special attention: expenditures on education and health (EH), and military expenditures (M), each as percentages of gross national income (GNI). Originally we investigated expenditures on education and on health care separately, but found the two so highly correlated that we thought it advisable to combine them for the purposes of our study.

Two other variables were included to enable us to better separate the impact of the representation of women from the effect of other variables. One is per capita GNI, expressed in dollars calculated according to purchasing power parity (PPP), which serves as a rough indicator of the wealth and level of development of the country; the other is the percent of total income received by the top 20% of earners (TT), which serves as a rough indicator of the distribution of income.

Our interpretation of the results of a regression with EH as the dependent variable (see Table 2) is that even after the higher percent of GNI/capita spent on education and health as GNI/capita rises is accounted for, a greater representation of women in parliament leads to a larger share of expenditures going to health and education. As to the magnitude of the effect, our calculations suggest that if women occupied an additional seventh of the seats in parliament, then *ceteris paribus* an additional one percent of GNI would go to public spending on health and education. On the other hand, there is no evidence that the top 20% of earners (TT) or military expenditures (M) have any significant effect.

Percent of Women in Single House or Lower House	
Nordic countries	40.1%
Europe Excl. Nordic	15.4%
Asia	15.4%
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.6%
Pacific	11.4%
Middle East and North Africa	6.4%

Data compiled March 28, 2003
by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
Based on information provided by National Parliaments.

$EH + 4.014 + 0.0000154 * GNI + 0.0739 * W + 0.0124 * TT + 0.103 * M$				
t-value:	6.38**	2.64**	0.42	0.64
	N = 108	Adjusted R-square = 0.432		

Not surprisingly, an equation of the type used above proved useless for explaining variation across countries in M (see again Table 2) and all but one of the variables in this regression fail to achieve statistical significance. Most likely geopolitical considerations trump the social and economic factors of the type we examine. In fact, the only variable that is statistically

significant in an equation where it is the only independent variable is the percent of women in parliament, thus providing at least some evidence that a higher percentage of women in the parliament leads to a lower percentage of GNI spent on the military, in marked contrast to the results for spending on education and health care.

We then go one step further and reverse the implied causal relation between per capita GNI (again in dollars adjusted for PPP) and all the other variables in our model. In effect we are exploring the impact of the other variables on the average income of a country.

Our results may be interpreted as showing that if women were to win an additional seventh of the seats in parliament, *ceteris paribus*, GNI/capita would be expected to increase by almost \$3000; if the share of total income going to the top 20% of earners were to drop by ten percentage points, GNI/capita would be expected to increase by almost \$4000; and finally, if public expenditures on education and health were to rise by one

percentage point of GNI, GNI/capita would be expected to increase by almost \$2000.³ The share of military spending, however, appears to have no impact one way or the other.

Of course, it is risky to draw policy conclusions for individual countries about effects over time from cross-section studies. Even so, it is noteworthy that our results are consistent with the conclusion that public expenditures on education and health are investments in human capital contributing to higher incomes rather than diversions that lead to lower incomes, and that higher income inequality does not lead to higher but rather to lower average incomes. Hence, to the extent that a larger representation of women in parliament leads to greater expenditures on these items and greater income equality it may well be conducive to higher average incomes.

The results of these investigations shed a good deal of light on the effects a larger proportion of women legislators has on the economy but they do not help to answer the question whether women are simply concerned with improving their own economic position as neoclassical economists would claim. Even women's lesser enthusiasm for military expenditures can be viewed either as selfishly feeling less need for the best possible weapons systems because they are less likely to be involved in fighting, or perhaps as simple disinterest in an institution with which they feel no great involvement although it could equally well be seen as selflessly opposing military ventures even though they are not likely to be drafted and therefore not likely to bear as much of the cost as men.

In order to resolve the question whether women are more likely than men to support legislation that clearly benefits primarily others rather than themselves we first investigate whether they favor more foreign aid (FA) than men do. For the purpose of determining the relationship between W and FA⁴ (in U.S. cents per capita per day) we use a far smaller sample of 21 countries that have been giving significant amounts of FA.

We find that for a given level of per-capita GNI adjusted for PPP, a ten percentage point increase of women in parliament leads to a roughly \$7.30 increase in FA per capita per year; and for a given percent of women in parliament, a \$2000 increase in per capita GNI (adjusted for PPP), leads to a roughly \$3.65 increase in FA per capita per year. For the U.S. this would add respectively 85% and 43% to the current annual foreign aid per capita of \$8.54; it would add just under 10% and 5% to the current annual foreign aid per capita of Norway of \$76.79 or around 18% and 9% to the current annual foreign aid per capita of Sweden of \$43.21. Naturally since the predicted increase is in the form of a lump sum, the proportional increase predicted will be greater in countries currently offering lower levels of per capita foreign aid.

Next we investigate whether women are more inclined than men to oppose the death penalty, although the vast majority of people who are executed are men. When we divide countries into "abolitionist" (those that have abolished the death penalty entirely, have abolished it for all ordinary crimes, plus countries that have not executed anyone for at least 10 years), and "retentionist" (those that retain and practice the death penalty), we find that the average percent of women in the parliaments of the 80 abolitionist countries is 22.2, while it is only 15.0 in the 40 retentionist countries.⁵

Conclusions

In this paper we first investigate whether the relationship between a larger proportion of women legislators and increased government spending, previously found for a limited number of countries, and for some jurisdictions within countries, also holds across countries throughout the world and obtain results corroborating those of the earlier studies. Then, however, we go further than earlier studies did and show more specifically that public expenditures on health and education tend to increase as the proportion of women in parliament increases, while there is some evidence that the opposite is true for military expenditures. Next, we show that higher expenditures on health and education, higher levels of representation of women in parliament, and lower levels of income inequality are all associated with higher levels of GNI/capita. Hence the policies women favor, presumably to achieve greater equity, so far from doing this at the expense of efficiency, apparently succeed in promoting both.

Finally, while there can be no doubt that female legislators often support programs and laws that are favorable to women, we also provide evidence that they support some legislation on humanitarian grounds rather than merely programs that serve their own interests. If neoclassical economists and other devotees of unfettered private enterprise who admire Adam Smith's famous dictum that individuals who only intend to pursue their own gain nonetheless promote the good of society as if "led by an invisible hand" would expand their horizons by also reading his *Theory of Moral Sentiments* they would not find this so difficult to accept, even if they do not think that women are inclined to be more altruistic than men. For there Smith ([1759] 1996) says "How selfish soever man may be supposed, there are evidently some principles in his nature, which interest him in the fortune of others, and render their happiness necessary to him, though he derives nothing from it, except the pleasure of seeing it."

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Appendix

	Canada	France	Germany	Japan	Switzerl.	UK	U.S
Health Spending As percent of GDP (1)	9.9	10.5	10.9	8.0	11.6	8.3	15.3
Life expectancy for women (2)	82.8	82.7	80.5	83.4	82.3	80.2	79.7
Life expectancy for men (2)	76.1	74.8	74.0	77.0	75.8	74.7	73.0.
Infant mortality Per 1,000 births (2)	5	4	4	3	5	5	7

Sources: (1) OECD Health Data 2006, June 2006. (2) Internet, Differences in the life expectancies of the sexes in various countries in the world.

Notes

¹ Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the full paper that is to be published in *PolicyMatters* and differs from this one mainly because it includes a great many more references may request one from m-ferber@uiuc.edu.

² While in countries with two chambers the representation of women in most cases is somewhat higher in the lower chamber, the average for the two is not very different, 15.2% for the former, 14.2% for the latter. (The data we use were compiled by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the basis of information provided by National Parliaments no later than March 2003.)

³ A plausible explanation for this is that in these instances public expenditures are, to a great extent, substitutes for private expenditures and apparently are more efficient. Appendix Table 2 provides evidence that this is the case when we compare the U.S., which spends far more on health care per capita than any other country, but where 55% of health expenditures come from the private sector, with a number of other economically advanced countries where health expenditures are largely publicly financed. To this we would add that when compared to all countries for which data are available, the U.S. ranks 26th in life expectancy for women, 94th in life expectancy for men, and for infant mortality is tied for 36th place with Hungary, Poland, and the United Arab Emirates.

⁴ Source for data on foreign aid: Rasmusen Weblog: Countries' Generosity with Foreign Aid: Drezner Post (www.rasmusen.org/x/archives/000368.html), last accessed 9-26-06.

⁵ Data for the death penalty were obtained from the internet. ENCARTA, Capital Punishment Worldwide. If we excluded six countries where there are relatively large percentages of women in parliament (Rwanda 48.8%, Cuba 36.0%, Afghanistan 27.3%, Iraq 25.5%, China 20.3%, and North Korea 20.1%), but the parliament clearly has no real influence, the contrast would be even more striking.

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WGPP ASSOCIATE NEWS

Stella Abunow, PhD GRID Student, Educational Policy Studies, successfully defended her dissertation on Female Education and International Representation focusing on United Nations in August 2006.

Christobel Asiedu, PhD GRID Student, Sociology, successfully defended her dissertation on Information and Communication Technology in October 2006. She presented a paper on "Using Information Communication Technologies for Gender and Development in Africa" at the American Sociological Association Conference, Montreal, Canada, Aug. 11-14, 2006.



Christobel Asiedu with Visiting Speaker, Nancy Hafkin

Marilyn Booth, Comparative and World Literature, Gender and Women's Studies, is the new director of the Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Her recently published translation of *The Loved Ones*, by Alia Mamdouh (Al-Mahbubat, London and Beirut, 2003), Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2006 is the Winner of the Naguib Mahfouz Prize. She has also just published "On Gender, History... and Fiction." In *Middle East Historiographies: Narrating the Twentieth Century*, edited by Israel Gershoni, Amy Singer, and Y. Hakan Erdem. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2006.

Alma Gottlieb, Anthropology, is on sabbatical/research leave in Lisbon this year. She received a 2006 National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Faculty Award for starting a new fieldwork project among Cape Verdean immigrants in Lisbon. New publications are: 2006 "Our Village Needs Chairs" (coauthored with Philip Graham), in *Bridges to Friendship: Narratives on Fieldwork and Friendship*, ed. Bruce Grindal and Frank Salamone. Second, revised edition: Waveland Press, and 2006 "Ethnography: Theory and Methods," in *A Handbook for Social Science Field Research: Essays & Bibliographic Sources on Research Design and Methods*, ed. Ellen Perceman and Sara Curran.

Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishers. She presented two talks: "Packing a Cultural Suitcase: Anthropological Perspectives on the New African Migration to Europe and the US," at the conference on "New Contexts of Migration: When the Origin Transforms the Destination," Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e das Empresas, Lisbon, Oct. 2006 and "What Could an Anthropology of Infants Look like if We Thought Babies Have Culture?" presented at Rutgers University, Sept/Oct 2006.

Stephanie Hilger, Comparative and World Literature, Gender and Women's Studies, published "Epistolarity, Publicity, and Painful Sensibility: Julie de Krüdener's Valérie." *The French Review* 79.4 (March 2006); Ondaatje's *The English Patient* and *Rewriting History.* *Comparative Cultural Studies and Michael Ondaatje's Writing.* Ed. Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2005; "The Private, the Public and the In-Between." Review of *Engendering the Republic of Letters: Reconnecting Public and Private Spheres in Eighteenth-Century Europe* by Susan Dalton, *Women's Utopias of the Eighteenth Century* by Alessa Johns, and *Privacy: Concealing the Eighteenth-Century Self* by Patricia Meyer Spacks. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 39.3 (Spring 2006). She gave a presentation on *Painful Revolution: Therese Huber's Die Familie Seldorf, Crossing the Boundaries: Writing by German-speaking women 1780-1918* at a Conference organised by Germanic Studies and Centers for Gender Studies in Europe and Nineteenth Century Studies at Tipton Hall, University of Sheffield, UK. April 19-21, 2006.

Dianne Pinderhughes, Political Science, has joined the faculty of the University of Notre Dame. Her appointments are in Political Science and African Studies and she has also been asked to join Gender Studies there. She is also President-Elect of the American Political Science Association.

Gale Summerfield, WGPP and Human and Community Development, published a chapter with Nahid Aslanbeigui, *Globalization, Labor Markets and Gender: Human Security Challenges from Cross-Border Sourcing in Services in Globalization and the Third World*, ed. by Ghosh and Guven, 2006, Palgrave. She was elected to the board of International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE) and she attended the IAFFE annual conference in Sydney, Australia in July 2006 (see report on next page).



IAFFE Conference Report

At the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) Conference in July 2006 in Sydney, Gale Summerfield and Ruth Pearson, Leeds, organized a session on cross-border trade in China and Southeast Asia. Gale, Xiao-yuan Dong, University of Winnipeg and an organizer of the Chinese Women Economists Research and Training Program at Beijing University (CWE), and Gunseli Berik, University of Utah, organized a panel on gender issues in China with papers from the special issue of *Feminist Economics* that they are guest editing. Four faculty members and three graduate students from the CWE program made presentations at the conference on topics such as income distribution, household resource allocation, health, and aging. Xiao-yuan Dong presented her work on women faculty in economics in China.

Cross-Country Comparisons of Gender Issues for Women Faculty in Economics

Xiao-yuan also contributed a paper on this topic that appeared in the July 2006 issue of *Feminist Economics* in "Explorations: the Status of Women Economists" guest edited by Joyce Jacobson.

In this explorations section, eight authors examine the current status of women in economics in China, Canada, the US, and the UK, stressing academia. In her paper, Prof. Jacobson observes:

"It is interesting to note the similarities in women's status across these four countries. In all four, the proportion of women among academic economists is lower than among academicians in general. Another commonality is the representation of women decreases as one moves up the academic ladder, with women most heavily represented among the least secure, non-tenure-track positions. It appears that this is not simply a cohort effect, because the US project, which offers the longest time series of cross-sections, and the UK's, which includes studies that track particular departments in a balanced panel over time, display lower transition probabilities for women than for men in moving up in rank. A notable difference in China relative to the other three countries (which have very similar percentages of women at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced rank levels) is the higher proportion of women at all ranks as well as their more similar representation to the numbers of women found in academia as a whole. This may



Xiao-yuan Dong and Nancy Folbre

reflect the relatively lower status of academics - and academic economists - in China, but it may also reflect real opportunity for women to enter and prosper in this profession as it potentially expands along with China's economy at large. We hope this discussion will stimulate groups in other countries to monitor women's progress in their academic institutions and to report on this progress." [As noted below, WGGP is working on a project examining gender equity for faculty in a variety of fields in several different countries.]

The next IAFFE conference will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, June 29-July 1, 2007. For more information, check www.iaffe.org.

Report Finds Gender Bias in Science Jobs: Academia Urged to Tackle Gap

A study released in September 2006 by the National Academy of Science, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine found that women are being filtered out of high-level science, math, and engineering jobs in the US - for no good reason. The lower representation of women does not appear "to be based on productivity, the significance of their work, or any other performance measures," the Academies said in a statement. The study found that "compared with men, women faculty members are generally paid less and promoted more slowly, receive fewer honors, and hold fewer leadership positions." The panel members said the discrepancies are costing the country many talented leader and researchers and recommended immediate and far-reaching changes. (Source: *Maggie Fox, Reuters, Sept. 19, 2006*)

WGGP is also looking at gender balance in faculty of universities in different countries in areas of technology and engineering sciences, social sciences and humanities. In addition, we are looking at educational opportunities for young women and men going into fields of information and communications technologies.

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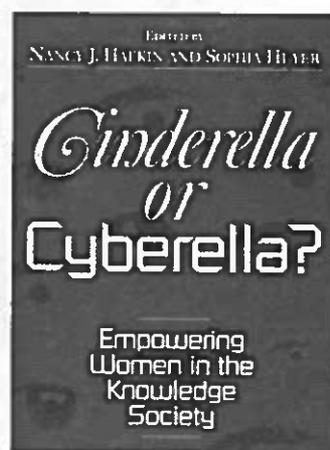
**A New AWID Report:
Achieving Women's Economic and Social
Rights:
Strategies and Lessons from
Experience**

The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) has just published a report that synthesizes and analyzes examples and lessons that emerged from interviews of over 50 activists in diverse settings around the world regarding efforts to improve economic and social rights for women. Strategies included the use of litigation and judicial processes, making and reforming policy, engaging with budgets, drawing on UN mechanisms, using fact finding and research, and organizing campaigns and popular mobilizations. The report reflects on some of the challenges as well as the strengths of using different approaches and highlights what we can draw as lessons for our own advocacy work. For more information and to download the report, see www.awid.org/go.php?pg=eswr_report.



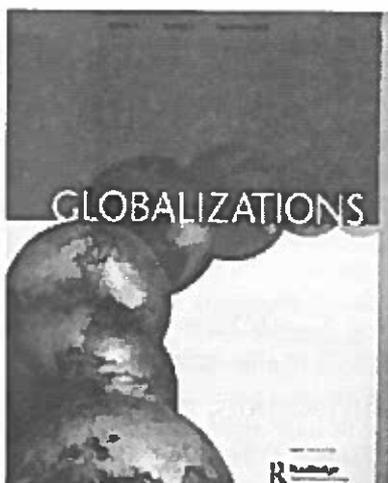
**Cinderella or Cyberella?
Empowering Women in the Knowledge Society**
Kumarian Press, 2006

Nancy J. Hafkin (see article on p. 1) and Sophia Huyer are editors of this collection depicting "the ways ICTs provide opportunities for women to improve their incomes, gain awareness of their rights, and improve their own and their families' well-being. Illustrative case studies from Africa, Asia and Latin America show the global possibilities for women's empowerment through technology."



Just Published:

Globalization, Transnational Migration, and Gendered Care Work,
a symposium in *Globalizations*,
September, 2006, Volume 3, Number 3.



This journal issue "presents five papers by specialists who explore key gender issues of transnational care work. The papers were initially presented and discussed at the WGGP symposium at UIUC in October 2004 and then revised for this collection."

**NCRW Releases New Book:
Taxes Are A Woman's Issue:
Reframing the Debate,**
Feminist Press, 2006

In this book, the National Council for Research



on Women (NCRW) focuses attention on the ways we live together as a society, the role of government, and how we together can support and protect our shared civic, social, and economic life. Julianne Malveaux writes, "Women pay for much more than we get, and get much less than we deserve, given the essential contribution – paid and

unpaid—that we make to the nation's economy. Given the ballooning deficit...and the systematic shredding of our nation's safety net, this critical analysis could not come at a more crucial time." Gale Summerfield, Director of WGGP, was on the Advisory Committee that read drafts and provided input in the writing of the report. For more information, see www.ncrw.org/researchforaction/index.htm



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***Perspectives:
Research Notes & News***

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WGGP welcomes your input in the form of news and articles for our newsletter as well as financial contributions of any amount. Please contact us at address and email below:

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