



The Center for the Study of

Women and Society

The Graduate Center

City University of New York

The Graduate School and University Center, known as The Graduate Center, was founded in 1961 as the doctorate-granting institution of City University of New York (CUNY). Today 3,500 students and 1,600 faculty scholars, drawn from throughout the CUNY system and New York City's leading cultural and scientific institutions, join in the shared enterprises of teaching, learning, researching, and expanding the boundaries of knowledge. In this environment of intellectual discovery and exchange, 31 doctoral programs in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences are augmented by 30 research centers and institutes focused on areas of compelling social, civic, cultural, and scientific concerns. The National Research Council's most recent assessment placed more than a third of the school's rated Ph.D. programs among the nation's top 20.

The Graduate Center is located at 365 Fifth Avenue in midtown Manhattan. It moved in the fall of 1999 from its longtime home on West 42nd Street to a new campus, which is housed in a landmark building redesigned to meet the specific needs of a 21st-century institution of advanced learning.

City University of New York, the nation's largest urban university, consists of ten senior colleges, six community colleges, a technical college, a law school, a medical school, and The Graduate Center.

The Center for the Study of Women and Society

The Center for the Study of Women and Society has promoted interdisciplinary feminist scholarship since its founding in 1977. The eighty faculty associated with both the Women's Studies Certificate Program and the center have expertise in a wide range of disciplines and fields. Among these nationally and internationally known scholars are:

Mimi Abramovitz, Social Welfare

Meena Alexander, English

Mary Ann Caws, English, Comparative Literature, French

Blanche Wiesen Cook, History

Hester Eisentein, Sociology

Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, Sociology

Michelle Fine, Psychology

Viginia Held, Philosophy

Kristin Booth Klen, Law

Jane Connor Marcus, English

Nancy K. Miller, English, Comparative Literature, French

Leith Mullings, Anthropology

Frances Fox Piven, Political Science

Barbara Katz Rothman, Sociology

Natalie Sokoloff, Criminal Justice

Joan Tronto, Political Science

Michele Wallace, English

Gloria Jean Watkins (bell hooks), English.

Director: Patricia Ticineto Clough



The Center for the Study of Women and Society

Speakers' Series

With the participation of its renowned faculty, the center hosts intellectual exchange, symposia and lectures that are all part of the annual Women's Studies Speakers' Series.

Major Projects

A number of projects are underway that address the ways in which differences of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class and nation shape the experiences of women and men in societies around the world.

College and Community Fellowship Program (CCF).

CCF, which is funded through a generous grant from the Racollin Foundation, addresses in the New York City Area, two national problems: first, the issue of college education for ex-offenders, some of whom have begun college work while incarcerated; and second, the need among ex-offenders for community support. CCF assists ex-offenders to continue their college education by providing a wide

range of services that are needed during the transition period, including scholarships, academic counseling and individual mentoring. Each of these CCF students has a mentor who may be involved in a number of activities including tutoring for entry exams, assisting with application and financial aid forms, offering advice with regard to student loan arrangements, teaching study skills, and giving some instruction on using the computer. *CUNY graduate students who participate in the mentoring program receive monetary compensation for their work.*

CCF Speaker's Bureau

CCF ex-offender students, under the auspices of the center, also run a speaker's bureau which aims, through formal and informal conversation, to contribute important new information that could affect public policy and enlarge the wider community's understanding of prison and post-prison experiences.

CCF Conviction Project Seminar and Research

CCF provides a site for research on the impact of higher education on those in prison as well as on those in transition from prison to the outside community. Michelle Fine, Professor of Social Psychology at The Graduate Center/CUNY, has been engaged in research on whether taking courses has any effect on recidivism rates among those who pursue a college education while serving their prison terms.

The Conviction Project Seminar, composed of faculty and students, meets twice a month to explore ideas for further research. The seminar focuses on a single theme during each semester. Examples of themes that have been or that are presently being addressed are: Conviction in the Postmodern Age, Prisons With/Out Walls, Guilt, Discipline and Control. The seminar explores the experience of physical, mental and spiritual imprisonment, both within and outside prison, especially in relationship to race, age, ethnicity, gender, class and sexuality. The participants focus particularly on the issues of silencing and censorship,

traumatized memory and bodily discrimination, and abjection or abuse. The seminar also studies the conditions of education inside and outside prison. *Course release for faculty and stipends for graduate students are available for participation in the seminar.*

Rockefeller Seminar, 2002-2004 — Facing Global Capitalism, Finding Human Security: A Gendered Critique

This interdisciplinary seminar for faculty, graduate students, policy makers, activists and visiting fellows from around the world is funded by a Rockefeller Foundation Resident Fellowships in the Humanities Grant and hosted in collaboration with the National Council of Research on Women.

Human security is an emerging paradigm in the international community. The aim of the seminar is to address questions about human security, especially for women. In seeking to understand women's need for security, it is hoped that the idea of 'national security' might come to include concerns about social, cultural and economic well-being. Seminar members address the changing relationship of state, civil society, family and kin groups. They closely examine non-state actors such as non-governmental organizations, labor, religious and grassroots organizations, and evaluate their potential as sites of accountability for women's security. *Course release for faculty and stipends for graduate students are available for participation in the seminar.*

Future Matters: Materialist Analysis and Politics Seminar

The Future Matters Seminar is an ongoing research seminar for faculty and students. The aims of the seminar are: to develop a feminist perspective for addressing systems of surveillance, discipline and control in the context of global expansion of technoscience and telecommunication systems; to evaluate political economics in the context of the global mobility of capital; and to explore new strategies for a materialist analysis. Some of the questions we address are: How can we better understand the impact of

information or communication networks and surveillance or control technologies on the lives of women? What are the critical issues for women regarding the development of genetic technology, war technology and scientific experimentation? What forms of history and genealogy can capture the ongoing transformation of memory, cognition and perception produced by the expansion of technoscience and telecommunication?

The Activist Women's Voices Oral History Archive

Under the direction of Professors Joyce Gelb and Patricia Laurence, this project documents the voices of unheralded activist women in community-based organizations. The Activist Women's Voices Oral History Project, funded by AT&T, the Ford Foundation, the Ms. Foundation for Education and Communication, and the New York Council for Humanities, has documentation on a number of activists.

Among them are:

Alice Cardona (Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs)

Alisa Del Tufo (Family Violence Project)

Essie Duggan (Wayside Baptist Church)

Annie Ellman (The Center for Anti Violence Education)

Peggy Shepard (West Harlem Environmental Action Committee)

Deborah Zimmerman (Women Make Movies).

For further information

See <<http://web.gc.cuny.edu/womencenter/>> or contact pclough@gc.cuny.edu.

Patricia Ticineto Clough is Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at The Graduate Center and Queens College, CUNY. Among her publications are *Autoaffection: Unconscious Thought in the Age of Teletechnology* (Minnesota: U. of Minnesota Press, 2000); *The End(s) of Ethnography: From Realism to Social Criticism*, 2nd Ed. with new Preface (NY: Peter Lang, 1998); and *Feminist Thought: Desire, Power and Academic Discourse* (Cambridge: Blackwell 1994).

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