

**A report on the activities of  
The Center for the Study of Women and Society**

**From the Director:  
Women for Women Against the "Contract with America"**

As I write the "Director's Letter" in the Spring of 1995, I can't help reflecting that we are living in an era in the U.S. marked by unprecedented meanness and venality. The 1994 election, decided by the smallest of margins by a minority of the electorate, seems to have created a unidimensional message emphasizing attacks on women, children and the poor, in particular. The onslaught includes all levels of government: local, state and national.

The messages that continue to be pounded away in the media and by public officials emphasize cutting spending for the poor; the tactics include savage attacks on social service programs and tax savings for all other groups. Many of the cuts are targeted specifically at the poor, including abolition of nutritional programs for mothers and children and public housing; some explicitly affect women, such as the efforts to deny welfare benefits to unmarried mothers under 18 and curtailment of benefits after one

or two years to welfare mothers. Others are gendered in their impact. For example, proposed cuts in day care and long-term home health care for the elderly under Medicaid, would disproportionately affect the lives of women who remain primary caregivers in our society. Still other attacks are directed at affirmative action, and have an explicitly anti-feminist and anti-minority cast. Finally, the thrust of anti-regulatory programs which often emphasize bloc grants to the states are designed to erode national standards and responsibility in such key areas as the environment and health protection. Of course, those of us at CUNY and the community concerned with access to public higher education for all are concerned with the fate of our institutions, faced with current threats from the state.

What can we do to affect what seems to be an inexorable tide of reaction and even repression? First, we must seek to break what some have referred to as a "press barrier"--

through op ed pieces, articles from sympathetic journalists, and through a coverage of events that we hold such as the "Speak Out" against the "Contract for America" held on March 8th by our Women's Studies faculty and friends. We must give voice to another perspective - one which opposes the new right wing "conventional wisdom." Second, we must not accept the "Contract for America" and other more localized "contracts" - like initiatives, as a given, to which we must submit. We must join with other groups, such as women community activists and welfare rights groups to create coalitions to oppose the "new politics" and to provide alternative approaches. Every kind of tactic, from discussion, to dialogue, to lobbying, to direct action and protest, must be utilized, in conjunction with other groups. No individuals or parties should be "written off" in terms of targeting;

(Continued on page 2)

**CONTENTS**

- 1... From the Director
- 2... From the Deputy Director
- 3... Spring Calender
- 4... Fall Course Listings
- 5... Talks Around Town
- 6... Book Party
- 7... NGO Forum, Beijing
- 8... Conferences
- 9... News Around the Nation
- 10.. Feminist Directory

**Director: Joyce Gelb**  
**Deputy Director: Patricia Laurence**

**Editors: Patricia Laurence, Heather Dalmage**  
**Staff: Robin Isseries, Manjula Giri, Frances Madeson**

**The Center for the Study of Women and Society**

**The Graduate School and University Center  
The City University of New York**

**Mailing Address:**

**33 West 42 Street, New York, NY 10036  
Tel: 212 642-2954 Fax: 212 642-1906**

**Location:**

**25 West 43 Street, Room 410  
New York, NY**

# Fall 95 Course Listing

## WOMEN'S CERTIFICATE STUDIES PROGRAM

**U717 - Proseminar in Women's Studies**  
Prof. Kachuck and O'Neill  
GC: M, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.05 - Selected Topics: Early English Novels by Women: 1660-1800**  
Prof. Rizzo  
GC: T, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 3 credits

**U808.01 - Major Feminist Texts**  
Prof. DiSalvo  
GC: T, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.02 - Selected Topics: History of Feminisms**  
Prof. Anderson  
GC: M, 4:15-6:15 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.04 - Selected Topics: Re-writing Womanhood: Victorian and Early Modern Literature**  
Prof. Timko and Laurence  
GC: T, 4:15-6:15 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.03 - Selected Topics: Third World Women**  
Prof. Mencher  
GC: W, 4:15-6:15 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.01 - Selected Topics: Gender and Public Policy in Comparative Perspective**  
Prof. Gelb  
GC: Th, 4:15-6:15 p.m., 3 credits

**U810.05 - Selected Topics: Feminist Epistemology: Feminist Research - A Debate**  
Prof. Silver and Katz Rothman  
GC: W, 2:00-4:00 p.m., 3 credits

---

### ON LINE...The Intersection of Internet and Women at CUNY

The growing world of internet can be quite helpful in studying women's lives. In this age of electronic communication and interaction many newsgroups are centered on topics important to women. Anyone with an e-mail address may subscribe to a number of newsgroups such as **soc.women**, **soc.feminism**, and **soc. gender-issues**. In addition individuals can subscribe to other lists such as: **ECOFEM** which focuses on women and the environment (to subscribe enter: [listserv@csf.colorado.edu](mailto:listserv@csf.colorado.edu)), **QSTUDY-L** which focuses on queer theory (to subscribe enter: [listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu](mailto:listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu)). Also available is a **FILE RETRIEVAL** service which can be used to access current happenings in women's studies and the **WORLD WIDE WEB** through which information about women internationally is available.

Much more is available through internet. The Center has obtained a copy of "Electronic Access to Research on Women: A Short Guide," by Judith Hudson and Kathleen Turek. If you are conducting research about women in any country or facet of life you may want to consult this resource. Call (212) 642-2954 if you are interested.

In order to enhance our own feminist network we are in the process of establishing a newsgroup. We encourage you to obtain an E-mail address as soon as possible. We also hope to put the Feminist Directory, the Center Newsletter and other current information on-line sometime next year.

---

### From the Deputy Director (Continued from page 2)

groups to organize about women's issues in the workplace:

But after all the imagination is largely the child of the flesh. One could not be Mrs. Giles of Durham because one's body had never stood at the wash-tub; one's hands had never wrung and scrubbed and chopped up whatever the meat may be that makes a miner's supper...One sat in an armchair or read a book. One saw landscapes and seascapes, perhaps Greece or Italy, where Mrs. Giles or Mrs. Edwards must have seen slag heaps and rows of slate roofed houses...Bakers and butchers did not call for orders. They did not sign a cheque to pay the weekly bill, or order, over the telephone, a cheap but quite adequate seat at the Opera. If they travelled it was on excursion day, with string bags and babies in their arms. They did not stroll through the house and say, that cover must go to the wash or those sheets need changing. They plunged their arms in hot water and scrubbed the clothes themselves.

Though dated in some of its imagery, the passage makes a point. We as public intellectuals have to speak in a collective voice with the women who will suffer the brunt of economic hardship, and with our students who will struggle with the denial of their education given the tuition hike, and cuts in TAP funds and student loans. But we also need to allow community women and students to speak for themselves and to create opportunities for expression of their half-hidden voices in academic forums. To underline Joyce Gelb's call, the Center seeks suggestions for ways to create a forum for the collective voice of women in the coming year.

Patricia Laurence  
Deputy Director

# Talks ...

## ...At the Center

### Brown Bag Series Spring 1995 Feminist Scholars Abroad International Perspectives

Thursday, March 16, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
**The Vitality of Feminism in India**  
Florence Howe, Graduate Center; Director of the  
Feminist Press CUNY  
Meena Alexander Graduate Center and Hunter College

Thursday, April 27, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Women and the Latin American Church: From  
Bastions of Humility to Religious Activism**  
Electa Arenal, Graduate Center and College of Staten  
Island  
Audrey Glynn, College of Staten Island  
Bernadette Desmond, M.M., Borough of Manhattan  
Community College

All events are free and open to the public. Events are held in the Center for the Study of Women and Society, 25 West 43rd Street, Room 410. For more information call (212) 642-2954

## ...Around CUNY

### Workshop on Women and German Colonialism March 1995 at the CUNY Graduate Center

Cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Women and Society

Friday, March 3, 1995, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
**Theory, Methodology, and Historical Background**  
Saturday, March 4, 1995, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.  
**Colonial Policies and Colonizers and Colonized**

### The Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies 4th Annual Research Seminar on the Dominican Republic

Friday, March 24, 1995, 4:15 to 6:00 p.m.  
**Dominican Women: Approaching the 21st Century**  
Magaly Pineda, Director of the Centro de Investigacion Para la Accion Feminina (CIPAF) in the  
Dominican Republic. Location: Room 1700-B, City University of New York Graduate Center, 33 West  
42nd Street. Seating is limited, R.S.V.P. (212) 642-2950

### Society for Women in Philosophy CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd St.

Thursday, April 6, 1995, 5:00 p.m.  
**"Are Feminist Critiques of Reason Rational?"**  
Linda Alcoff, Department of Philosophy, Syracuse  
University  
Location: Room 1400

Friday, May 5, 1995, 5:00 p.m.  
**"Nomadic Subjects"**  
Rosi Braidotti, Department of Women's Studies,  
University of Utrecht  
Location: Room 4000 A & B, Grace Building

# Talks...

...Around the City:

## Rutgers University Institute for Research on Women

March 2, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Rey Chow,  
University of California, Irvine, *The Dream of a Butterfly*  
4:00 p.m.

March 28, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Carroll Smith-  
Rosenberg, *Black Gothic: Profits, Pestilence and the*  
*Production of the Middle Class American* 4:00 p.m.

April 1, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Deborah E.  
McDowell, University of Virginia. *Negotiating Identities*  
*in the American: Race, Class, Gender*

April 12, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Claudia Tate.  
Washington University, *W.E.B. DuBois: Desire and*  
*Propaganda* 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

April 18, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Lynne Segal,  
Middlesex University, *Feminism and the Politics of*  
*Pleasure* 4:00 p.m.

May 23, 1995

\* INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN,  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick.  
*13th Annual Celebration of our Work Conference:*  
*WOMEN AND EDUCATION*

Contact Information:

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN  
27 Clifton Avenue  
Douglass College Campus  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903  
(908) 932-9072

### Graduate Students Needed to Review or Summarize Books for Our Newsletter

The Center for the Study of Women and Society is proud of our growing library and journal collection. We would like students to review recent publications in our bi-annual newsletter. Please contact us at (212) 642-2954 if you would like to review/summarize a book.

### Come to Our Book Party! In Honor of 1994 Women's Studies Faculty Publications

**When:** Wednesday, May 17th  
**Where:** Center for the Study of  
Women and Society  
25 West 43rd St, Rm 410  
**Time:** 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
RSVP (212) 642-2954

### NINA E. FORTIN MEMORIAL FUND DISSERTATION PROPOSAL AWARD

\$300 plus tuition to a student at the Graduate Center.

Deadline: **April 1, 1995**

Contact: Ms. Elizabeth Small, Women's Studies Certificate Program, Room 40-07

CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd Street

NYC 10036 (212) 642-2247

Congratulations to this year's recipient, Ara Wilson of the Anthropology Department.

---

---

UNITED NATIONS NGO FORUM, BEIJING

August 30 - September 8, 1995

**NGO FORUM ON WOMEN: BEIJING, AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 8, 1995**

The NGO Forum on Women is the Non-Governmental Organization program parallel to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, August 30-September 8, 1995. This Forum overlaps the UN Conference on Women, September 4-15. It has two goals: to influence the document called the Platform of Action that UN member states will adopt in Beijing; and to hold a Forum that highlights women's vision and strategy for the world in the 21st century. The Forum's theme and challenge is to "look at the world through women's eyes." The Forum will take place at the Beijing Workers' Sports Services Center.

Anyone interested in attending the NGO Forum must register with the NGO Forum on Women Office. Official registration form, \$50, 2 passport size photos must be mailed to the NGO Office by April 30th, 1995. No registration will be taken on site. Travel arrangements are being handled through Koelzer Travel. Contact: Ms. Karen Koelzer  
10061 Talbert Avenue, Suite 200  
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8298  
(800) 858-2742 Fax: (714) 842-8247

NGO Forum on Women

211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1500 New York, N.Y. 10017

(212) 922-9262 or (212) 922-9267 Registration for the Forum does not give NGO's access to the UN Conference.

To obtain observer status to the UN Conference, NGO's have to be accredited. For information on the accreditation for the UN Conference, contact: NGO Accreditation, UN Fourth World Conference on Women, 2 UN Plaza, Room 1204, New York, N.Y. 10017 or Fax: (212) 963-3463

There are three panels connected with the **Center for the Study of Women and Society** for the NGO Forum on Women in Beijing.

\*Professors **Joyce Gelb** (Women's Studies), **Sue Zalk** (Psychology) and Ms. Emma Broisman have proposed a panel on "Women in the Urban Environment: Creating Sustainable Working and Living Conditions"

\*Professor **June Nash** (Anthropology) has proposed a panel on "Collective Action: Redefining Work."

\*Professor **Patricia Laurence** (Women's Studies) has proposed a panel "Identity and National Goals: Twentieth-Century Chinese Women's Literature," Prospective panelists, please send to Patricia Laurence, Center for the Study of Women and Society, 25 West 43rd, New York, N.Y. 10036.

---

---

\* The Center for the Study of Women and Society has received a \$5,000 grant from the **New York Foundation** for a conference entitled "**Expanding the Activist Agenda: Women, Power and Politics in New York City.**" The Conference has been rescheduled to **October 1995.**

**\*CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PATRICIA LAURENCE!**

Patricia Laurence will receive the 1995 Mina Shaughnessy Writing Award at the College Composition and Communication Conference in Washington in March.

# Conferences...

## ...In the Area

March 31 - April 2, 1995

\* **Civil Liberties and Public Policy**, Hampshire College. *Fight for Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom*. (413) 582-5645

May 19-21, 1995

\* **Beyond Difference As a Model For Studying Gender: In Search of New Stories to Tell**, Radcliffe College. (617) 495-8140

April 1, 1995

\* **National Institute for the Psychotherapies**, Ethical Culture Society. *The Oedipus Complex: New Perspectives in the Treatment of Children and Adults*. (212) 582-1566

July 9 - July 16, 1995

\* **21st Annual Feminist Women's Writing Workshops, Inc** P.O. Box 6583, Ithaca, NY 14851  
Ruth Stone, author of numerous books, including In an Iridescent Time, and Who is the Widow's Muse?, will offer a multi-session writing workshop for participants.

## ...At CUNY

### ***The New World (Dis)Order and International Political Economy: A Gender Perspective*** Organized by Roslyn Wallach Bologh

**Friday, May 12, 1995 8:30-5:00 p.m.**  
**Graduate School and University Center**  
33 West 42nd Street, Room 1700  
New York, New York

#### **The Economy in Crisis: Demystifying Debt, Credit and Austerity**

Keynote Speakers: *Ilene Grabel*, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver  
*Mariamanna Williams*, Department of Social Sciences, Fashion Institute of Technology

- \* **Questions and Commentary with CUNY Faculty and Graduate Students**
- \* **Complimentary Lunch**

#### **Rethinking Theory in Light of the New World Order**

*Marnia Lazreg*, Department of Sociology and Women's Studies, Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY

#### **Break-Out Groups with CUNY Faculty and Graduate Students**

Creating a Curriculum for the Twenty-First Century that includes the Global Political Economy  
Creating a Manifesto on "The Wealth of Nations: A Feminist Analysis and Alternative"

\*\*\*\*\*

To register for CUNY Conference on *The New World (Dis)Order and International Political Economy: A Gender Perspective*, detach and return by **May 1** to Roslyn W. Bologh, Center for the Study of Women and Society, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 33 W. 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEWS...

## ...From Albany

### Letter Writing Campaign

The proposed budgets cuts, if adopted, will mean \$162.6 million cut CUNY-wide with as much as \$11.4 million being cut from the Graduate Center. President Frances Degen Horowitz is asking for all our help in a letter writing campaign which is taking place CUNY-wide. All program offices should have a list of representatives by zip code. Letters should be addressed:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Assemblymember \_\_\_\_\_:

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

## ...From Washington

The U.S. Congress allocated \$2.1 million for the International Labor Office's International Program for the Elimination of Child Labor. The grant will affect up to 200 million children globally.

"International Labor Standards and Women Workers," an information kit created by the International Labor Office, contains information and items aimed at increasing women worker's awareness of their rights and improving their status as workers. Contact: ILO Publications Center, 49 Sheridan Ave, Albany, N.Y. 12210 (518) 436-9686.

### Join us in Washington:

#### **RALLY FOR WOMEN'S LIVES**

**- We Won't Go Back -**

**A mass mobilization to End Violence Against Women**

**April 9, 1995 in Washington, D.C.**

**Assemble: 12:00 noon**

**The Mall in front of the Capital.**

**Call 202-331-0066 for more info.**

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **THE POLITICS OF CARING III: CREATING SAFE AND HEALING ENVIRONMENTS,**

a conference to be held November 10-12, 1995 seeks interdisciplinary solutions to the problems that disrupt women's lives. Contact: Rose B. Canon, Planning Committee Chair, Nell Hodgson, Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University, 531 Asbury Circle, Atlanta, GA 30322 (404) 727-1374. Deadline: March 15.

### **WOMEN TO WOMEN: 19th-CENTURY AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS in the 21st CENTURY,**

a conference to be held May 30, 1996 to June 1, 1996 seeks innovative formats for sessions, and individual papers. Send a one-page proposal and a one-page c.v. to Jo Blattit, Director, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, 77 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105. Deadline: May 15, 1995

---

# THE FEMINIST DIRECTORY

The Directory is a comprehensive list of CUNY Women Faculty members who are engaged in work about and for women. We have included the courses, research interests, and scholarship which reflect the incredible breadth and diversity of talent throughout the CUNY community. In addition there is a brief description of the many impressive Women's Studies Programs throughout CUNY.

Suggested contributions of \$10.00 faculty, \$5.00 students are requested for the development of the Center library.

**ORDERS SHOULD BE PRE-PAID**

Please fill out the form at the bottom to reserve your copy and mail along with contribution to:  
The Center for the Study of Women and Society  
Graduate Center of the City University of New York  
33 West 42nd Street, Room N410  
New York, NY 10036 (212)642-2954.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00                      Faculty: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Center for the Study of Women and Society  
City University of New York  
33 West 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10036