



FRIENDS OF THE  
**IGS**  
(INCORPORATING CCCRW)  
**NEWSLETTER**

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**International Gender Studies Centre** (formerly The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women at QEH) at Lady Margaret Hall has a broad international research agenda and fosters its overseas links through Visiting Fellows, workshops and its cooperation with a wide network of development agencies, NGOs, and research groups. The Centre's teaching and publications address current issues in gender, feminism and development.

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**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:** We are concluding an eventful anniversary year marking 30 years of IGS (we couldn't get enough of celebrating!). Also IGS moved into a new period of institutional consolidation with LMH, our home since 2011. Moreover, we successfully started our Gender in Burmese Studies Programme, welcoming Dr Daw Mar Mar Khin Kyi as the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi JRF at LMH/IGS. Daw Swe Swe Hlaing, an activist researcher, for whom IGS secured a research grant from Body Shop Foundation, arrived in March from Burma. Visits by the Director of IGS to Burma advanced the collaborative women's oral history project with Yangon University. IGS/LMH hosted visitors from The 88 Generation, one of Burma's prominent activist networks; Yangon University; and provided seminar venues for researchers engaged in Myanmar projects.

30 years of IGS anniversary events included workshops, conferences, lectures, and seminars as well as concerts and artistic occasions. This commenced with the distinguished feminist philosopher Professor Rosi Braidotti giving the 2013 Commemorative Lecture, an intellectual *tour de force*. Trinity and Michaelmas Term's seminar series emphasized gender research across disciplines and cultures. In November IGS/LMH hosted the anniversary event, attended by friends, supporters and members of the University. We showed a film documentary of IGS members' research and introduced the Burma Programme with the arrival of Dr Daw Mar Mar Khin Kyi. Dr Michael Marett-Crosby a DASSK Board Trustee delivered an impassioned speech on IGS involvement in Burma. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC (Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford) gave a powerful keynote speech on 30 years of feminism in Britain.

Professor Paula Gilbert (George Mason University, Washington) reflected on her term as Visiting Research Fellow at IGS/LMH.

Anniversary Lectures were given by Professor Davina Cooper (Kent Law School) and Dr Patricia Daley (Geography), whilst Professor Susan Wollenberg (LMH) and students recreated the musical culture of early LMH with an afternoon of Music and Words. Our Anniversary Year ended with the 2014 Commemorative Lecture by Ms Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of OXFAM International, speaking on 'Inequality, Women's Rights and Inclusive Growth'. This was received by a large audience and greeted with an enthusiasm that resonates still. Impossible to do justice to the year! I must stop but not before thanking all who contributed in many ways to our celebrations and particularly to QEH for a generous grant supporting the events. We anticipate another productive 30 years at IGS! **Maria Jaschok**

**Professor Linda McDowell**, IGS Advisory Council Member, was recently elected Chair of the British Academy Research Awards Committee.

**WORKSHOP/BOOK LAUNCH**

IGS at LMH hosted the DSA Gender and Policy study group workshop entitled 'How can women influence current development paradigms? Validating knowledge and reclaiming spaces'.

This was followed by the Book Launch *Aid, NGOs and the realities of women's lives: a Perfect Storm*, Eds. Tina Wallace & Fenella Porter with Mark Ralph-Bowman Practical Action. 2013

## NEW IGS RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

**Dr Angela Raven-Roberts** was a VRF at IGS last academic year. An anthropologist, she worked with the UN and as Academic Director of the Feinstein International Famine Centre at Tufts University. Formerly Regional Chief of Emergencies for Central and Eastern Europe at UNICEF she now organises the Diploma Course on Child Protection in Emergencies for the University of KwazuluNatal. She is conducting research on pastoralist education in the Horn of Africa with the Dept. of Education, University of Oxford.

**Dr Basma Al Mutlaq** (VF 2005) and

**Dr Paula Heinonen** will convene a workshop in Hilary 2015 entitled 'Universal gender rhetoric and Islamic orthodoxy: accomplishments and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and women in the creative arts in Saudi Arabia and Gulf State Countries'.

**Dr Caroline Sweetman** with Nitya Rao published 'Introduction to Gender and Education' in *Gender and Development* Vol. 22 no 1. 2014.

**Dr Deborah Bryceson** continues research on livelihood and lifestyle changes linked with Africa's mining boom. Her paper 'Prostitution or Partnership - Wifetypes in Tanzanian Artisanal Gold-mining Settlements' is in *Journal of Modern African Studies* 51(1). Routledge published her edited volume *Mining and Social Transformation in Africa: Mineralizing and Democratizing Trends in Artisanal Production*, 2014. Deborah's keynote address at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh 'Mining and Political Transformation in Africa' conference, was entitled '21st Century Mineralizing Africa: Multi-disciplinary Lens on the Continental Shift'.

**Dr Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh**, Senior Research Officer at ODID, leads a Leverhulme-funded project exploring the experiences of Middle Eastern Stateless Diasporas in the EU and MENA region. Her recent publications include *The Ideal Refugees: Gender, Islam and the Sahrawi Politics of Survival*, Syracuse University Press 2014, and 'Transnational abductions and transnational responsibilities? The politics of 'protecting' female Muslim refugees abducted from Spain' in *Gender, Place & Culture*, 21(2), 2014.

**Dr Fenella Porter** was recently appointed to Womankind Worldwide Board of Trustees. Her paper 'Looking back at a woman's right to choose: reproductive and sexual health and rights 40 years

on' is published in *Women: A Cultural Review* Vol. 24, Issue 2/3 2013. She co-authored with Jasmine Gideon 'Unpacking women's health in public-private partnerships: a return to instrumentalism in development policy and practice?', UNUWIDER Working Paper 2014/009. At the Social Policy Association Conference 'Social Policy in Challenging Times' Fenella presented a paper on 'New Partnerships for Women's Health in Development: a critical analysis'.

**Professor Janet Momsen** published 'Caribbean Agriculture and Migration' in *The Encyclopaedia of Global Human Migration*, ed. I. Ness, Blackwell, 2013. Janet is pleased to announce the publication of *Women and Empowerment in the Global South*, eds. Amriah Buang and Janet H. Momsen, Penerbit University Press, Kebangsaan, Malaysia 2013. A chapter entitled 'The Sustainability of Sexual Behaviour Change amongst a Zambian Community affected by HIV/AIDS' is authored by **Janette Davies**. One of Janet's chapters is on 'Patriarchy in Absentia: Women and Development in the Caribbean'. A chapter on 'Legislating Well-Being: Progress in East Timor on Domestic Violence and Sex and Gender-based Violence' is by **Phyllis Ferguson**, an Oxford colleague well-known to IGS.

**Professor Judith Okely** lectured at Universities in Helsinki, Lancaster, Thessaloniki and Sheffield Hallam. 'Recycled (mis)representations: Gypsies, Travellers or Roma treated as objects, rarely subjects' is published in *People, Place and Policy* Vol. 8. (1). She wrote the foreword to *Gypsies and Travellers in Housing: The decline of nomadism* by David M. Smith & Margaret Greenfields, Policy Press, 2014. Margaret was a recent VRF at IGS.

**Kerrie Thornhill** presented visual materials and interview data, from her fieldwork in Liberia, at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in Bangkok. She advocated viewing gender violence through postcolonial not just post-conflict perspectives. The presentation 'Transforming Masculinities or Consolidating Patriarchy in Liberia: messages about men in post-war campaigns against gender violence' was awarded runner-up Young Researcher category.

**Dr Juan Wang** gave a presentation at the Kenneth Kirkwood Memorial Lecture Day, Pitt Rivers Museum, entitled 'Three-inch golden lotus feet: the culture of foot binding in ancient China'. IGS received much support from Deborah & Kenneth Kirkwood over the years.

**Dr Lidia Sciama** conducted research on Italian women partisans during the German invasion (1943-1945) and their historians, such as Maria Teresa Sega, Director of the Venice section of the Italian National Association of Partisans. This is located in an historic house by the lagoon, with a fascinating library and archive. Funded by the City of Venice the regular functions which Lidia has researched continue to attract much interest.

**Dr Maria Jaschok**, leads the Gender in Burmese Studies Programme, including mentoring fellows. She set up the women's oral history project with Yangon University, UNESCO Myanmar, supported by the British Council. With Rachel Harris, SOAS, Maria was awarded a Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant, 'Sounding Islam in China'. Maria accepted an invitation to join a research consortium, funded by the Canadian Government and led by Queen's University, Ontario examining political contestations around religious heritage in urban Chinese contexts.

**Shirley Ardener** wrote a research paper 'Credit Unions and Money Clubs (ROSCA)' in response to recent statements by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who favours credit unions in preference to notorious payday loans. She shows how alternative money pooling systems already flourish among some UK incomers, arguing that such groups have something to teach the UK's host communities. She initiated plans, with the University of Arizona for the 2015 joint workshop at IGS/LMH.

**Sian Crisp** conducts research on changing patterns of migration in Busso, southern Italy. She also looks at Portuguese migration, especially as wealth in Portugal (and its ex colonies) swings back and forth as well as people moving with it.

**Dr Tina Wallace** has conducted gender audits with Plan UK as well as undertaking research addressing gender norms in Egypt. She has written reports based on her long-term work with CRTDA in the Lebanon on women's economic empowerment and care/informal work.

#### **VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS**

**Swe Swe Hlaing**. Her recollections on returning to Burma are... 'At IGS I had great opportunity to study formally and informally in LMH with mentoring and intellectual support of IGS members. My schedule included the marvellous prospect to read books at grand Libraries such as the Bodleian Library, LMH Library, Social Science

Library and Oxford Central Library, so as to extend my knowledge and understand international viewpoints. As a delegate at the Southeast Asia Symposium I shared my research findings to interested authors, anthropologists, PhD candidates and outstanding scholars who all made recommendations. Moreover, I had valuable advices and wonderful remarks from the IGS audience at my 'Community Empowerment Projects' of presentation of research findings and action plans in Burma. Furthermore, I had special chance (very difficult in our country), to meet with representatives of the education field in Oxford, where we had discussions to reform the Burma Education system. I had an incredible productive time here learning new research methodologies; reliable knowledge in gender studies and a new network for the development of my country, especially in empowerment projects and the education system'.

**Dr Lilian E. Volcan** spent this academic year at IGS researching women's participation in conflicts. Her research fits with IGS's identity addressing critical questions of social and gender inclusion tackling political and societal complexity, such as man-made conflicts, for which academic investment in education is paramount. Lilian was previously with the FAO in Baghdad on peace keeping operations in Iraq and Kurdistan. She just finished studies on Diplomacy at the University of Oxford, on the introduction of Track II Diplomacy enabling meaningful dialogue between two countries and strengthening peace-building and conflict resolution through more social inclusion.

**Dr Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi** is the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Research Fellow in Burmese Studies. She was a senior advisor to the Australian and Burmese Governments, universities, ethnic leaders and Burmese women's groups. Her PhD thesis recently won the 'Excellence in Research' award in Gender Studies from the Australian National University where she was also a lecturer. Her research project is on critical gender pedagogy in education, empowerment and the peace process in Burma. Her chapter 'Engendering Development in Myanmar Women's Struggle for San, Si, Sa', 2014 is in *Debating Democratization in Myanmar*, eds. Nick Cheeseman, Nicholas Farrelly and Trevor Wilson, Singapore ISEAS Publishing. In the title *San* means Rice; *Si* means Oil and *Sa* means Salt in the Burmese language.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2014:** IGS hosted the UK premier screening of the acclaimed documentary *Dreams of Dutiful Daughters* on Burma/ Myanmar by Dr Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi.

The filmmaker gave a background account of the nine young women from Burma who illegally migrated to find work in Thailand. This film was also screened at the Phoenix Picturehouse, Oxford and, in Trinity Term, shown at the Simpkins Lee Theatre for LMH staff.

**WELCOME TO IGS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**Karen McCallum** is also a PhD Candidate in Human Rights at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Her research in Canada includes calls for justice between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women; Indian Residential School survivor testimony & the Truth and Reconciliation Commission/ Canada. She gave a paper on 'Redrawing the Boundaries of Public Memory: Taking Counsel from Indigenous Residential School Survivor Testimony' at the Association for Canadian Studies-Ireland, Galway.

**Professor Sandy Toussaint** (2000 Commemorative Lecturer from UWA) reports the digitization of the Phyllis Kaberry Collection at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra, which ensures access to over 3000 items from the Phyllis Kaberry collections. <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/news/kaberrycollection.html>

**BOOK LAUNCH and DEBATE**

*Feminist bureaucrats: contradiction  
co-optation or political strategy?*

Rosalind Eyben and Ines Smyth (co-author), Anne Coles, Pat Holden and Lilian Volcan debated this question with an audience of academics and NGOs & launched the book *Feminists in Development Organizations: change from the margins*, Eds. Rosalind Eyben and Laura Turquet. Practical Action 2013.

The discussion focussed on the hidden life and strategic dilemmas of feminists who try to effect transformational change in bureaucracies

**HILARY TERM 2014 SEMINAR SERIES**

**Transformative sexual attraction, attachment and marriage**

**Dr Lidia Puigvert**, Director, CREA, Barcelona. 'Sex talk: discussing sexual relationships with adolescents in Spain'

**Dr Charlotte Bruckermann**, LSE. ' "Shanxi girls are the most precious in China": mobility and locality in the making of marriages'

**Dr Priya Lall**, Dept. of Social Policy & Intervention University of Oxford. 'The impact of marriage practices on women's susceptibility to HIV infection in Andhra Pradesh, India'

**Dr Colette Harris**, SOAS. 'Boredom, sex and marriage in post-Soviet Tajikistan'

**Wendy MacDowall**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 'Changing sexual behaviour in the UK revealed by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal)'

**Dr Diana Jeater**, University of West of England. 'Masculinity, marriage and the Bible in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Rhodesia'

**Anniversary Lecturer: Dr Patricia Daley**, Professor in Human Geography, Oxford. 'Gender, Race and neo-Liberal Globalisation: what's next for black feminist thought?'

**Conveners:** Deborah Bryceson, Paula Heinonen and Angela Raven-Roberts.

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**FRIENDS of IGS COMMITTEE:** Elsa Dawson, Fiona Armitage, Mary Bull, Janette Davies and Shirley Ardener,

**FRIENDS of IGS** support the Centre's research and events in raising funds, developing a network of friends, attracting visiting research fellows and public relations

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE** of £10 payable to the IGS mailing address: standing/bank orders/ details on request/address as above

**TREASURER:** Fiona Armitage

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