



FRIENDS OF THE  
**IGS**  
NEWSLETTER

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**International Gender Studies Centre** (formerly The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women, QEH) at Lady Margaret Hall has an international research agenda with overseas links via Visiting Fellows, conferences and workshops. It co-operates with a global network of development agencies, INGOs and research centres. The Centre's seminar series, research, teaching and publications address concerns in gender, feminism and development.

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**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

It is a tradition of IGS Newsletters to inform and update our readers on events and developments which, on the whole, are internal to the Centre and its concerns. But events globally and closer to home need a restatement of the importance of critical feminist and gender-centred scholarship, particularly relevant in these days of threadbare political discourse and malleable facts. We hope the Newsletter will give an indication of our determination to provide such a critical anchorage. Evidence of the nature of our engagement, however modest our resources, are presented in terms of a wide range of important concerns and responsibilities. To single out a few developments: we are in our second year of the IGS Women's Empowerment in Eurasian Contexts (WEF) mentoring programme, and the voices of Shafag Dadashova and Ani Kojoyan, current WEF fellows, speak eloquently for themselves and for their respective home countries, Azerbaijan and Armenia. We are continuing our support for academic and educational developments in Myanmar, with research-based workshops and academic linkage programmes at Yangon University. We are conducting a fact-finding tour to Mandalay University in Myanmar, following the invitation by its rector to discuss possible areas of meaningful partnership. We are also most actively pursuing new research projects in conjunction with the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies. We embarked on our own brand-new feminist e-press, OxFEP, for the wider dissemination of seminar presentations, lectures and special events through innovative open access and multi-media publishing, so have appointed an Editorial Manager for OxFEP. Our Newsletter and, of course, our new IGS Website will provide further testimony to our continued determination to play a leading role in research and teaching at a time when the pursuit of truth must be referenced, in a time-honoured feminist tradition, to other important principles, those of gender equality, acknowledgement of difference, mutual respect and tolerance. With our best wishes for a restorative vacation.

**Maria Jaschok**

**WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FELLOWSHIP EURASIA**

**Ani Kojoyan** holds the position of lecturer in Early Modern English Drama and English, Gender, and Communication Studies at Yerevan State University, Armenia. Her current research is on Syrian-Armenian refugee women in Armenia, particularly focusing on the complex relationship between the processes of changing gender roles, re-forming identities and challenging the paradigms of the labour market. She spoke at the 'Women's Empowerment in the Context of Gender Equality and Human Rights' programme in Yerevan, Armenia, funded by the Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. Ani presented a paper at the 2017 International Conference on Politics, Gender and Society in Zurich on 'Syrian-Armenian Women Refugees: Crossing Borders between the Past & the Present, Negotiating between the Private & the Public'.

**Dr Shafag Dadashova** is Senior Lecturer in Translation at the Qafqaz University, Baku, Azerbaijan. Her research considers the dynamics of relationship between ontological and epistemological aspects of personality in the process of life-writing. She addresses women's cognitive development in the realm of existing cultural and social expectancies whilst classifying different functions of autobiographical writings and their connection to the author's perception of power and ability to develop subjective knowledge. She shows that autobiographical writings introduce contextual and individual subjectivity over other kinds of generalization enabling researchers to look at collective unconscious from the position of individual perceptions. She is applying a combination of methods in humanitarian and social disciplines in analyses of autobiographies from diverse cultures, in order to reveal deeper roots of collective identity.

**EDITORIAL MANAGER OxFEP (Oxford Feminist E-Press)**

We warmly welcome **Sally Bolton** who was recently appointed as editorial manager for the IGS Oxford Feminist E-Press. Sally brings unique skills to IGS having worked as an editor for Oxfam GB; Oxford University Press and the Guardian website. She will further develop this exciting new online space of OxFEP.

#### JUNIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

**Ling Tang** is a DPhil candidate at St Peter's College. She gained a BA and MPhil in Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. Ling is conducting research on the gendered and sexualized *guanxi* critically discussing the concept of erotic capital, which she sees essential for the understanding of interpersonal relationship in urban China and beyond. Her MPhil thesis looked at white-collar women workers, while her DPhil research focuses on female led E-commerce entrepreneurs.

#### CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

**Karen McCallum** has stood down as Administrative Coordinator so as to continue her PhD research.

**Anna Arutshyan:** we welcome Anna as the IGS Administrative Coordinator. She is a feminist activist and researcher within the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice. She has identified and analysed good practices/ laws/ policies to promote substantive gender equality.

#### IGS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

**Prof Deborah Bryceson**, as a Consultant to UN Women, wrote a paper on 'Gender and generational changes in resources and labour allocation at family farms in SSA from 1980-2015' for the UN Women's 2018 World Development Report. She published 'Beyond the Artisanal Mining Site: Migration, Housing Capital Accumulation and Indirect Urbanization in Tanzania', *Journal of East African Studies* 11(1), 2017 with J.B. Jønsson: 'Artisanal Frontier Mining of Gold in Africa: Labour Transformation in Tanzania and the DRC', 2016, with S. Geene, *African Affairs: 'Beyond Livelihoods: Occupationally and Career Formation in African Artisanal Gold Mining'*, 2016 K. Havnevik, et al., *Framing African Development, Challenging Concepts*, Brill.

**Dr Anne Coles'** research into vernacular architecture continues with co-authored chapters in *The Older Houses of Beaulieu*, The Beaulieu History Society, 2016. The village of Beaulieu dates from the medieval period. 'The Windtowers of the Emirates' is published in 2016 Bohle & Dimog' (eds) *Architectural Guide: United Arab Emirates*.

**Sian Crisp:** her longitudinal study of a south Italian hill village looks at gendered social change specifically over the last forty years of fieldwork. This is seen within the longer historical framework of migration since Roman times and the exodus post 'unification' of Italy. She has been invited to contribute to a festschrift for Dr Esther Goody.

**Dr Hamsa Rajan** was recently awarded a DPhil by the University of Oxford (Department of Social Policy and Intervention), on 'Beyond the Perpetrator: Tackling the Varied Underpinnings of Domestic Violence on the Tibetan Plateau'. Congratulations Hamsa!

**Dr Matthew Hurley** recently conducted research at NATO HQ in Brussels Belgium and the week-long NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives annual meeting. With **Dr Katharine Wright**, Newcastle University he traces the history of this committee and the role of military women within NATO from the 1960s to the present. Initial findings from this research were presented at the International Studies Association annual convention in Baltimore, USA. Matt's article 'The 'Genderman': (Re)Negotiating Militarised Masculinities when 'Doing Gender' at NATO' 2016 is published in *Critical Military Studies* and his paper 'Navigating Gender, Power and Perceptions when Researching NATO: A Conversation', Hurley, M. and Wright, K.A.M. 2017, in *International Feminist Journal of Politics* is available online.

**Dr Konstantina Isidoros** received a Wenner-Gren Foundation Award for the Oxford workshop 'Arab Masculinities: Anthropological Reconceptions', where 20 delegates presented new anthropological approaches to gender studies in the Middle East and North Africa. Her publications include 'The view from Tindouf: Western Saharan women and the calculation of autochthony' in *Global, Regional and Local Dimensions of Western Sahara's Protracted Decolonization: When a Conflict gets Old*, R.O. García, et.al. Palgrave Macmillan; and 'Unveiling the colonial gaze: Sahrāwī women in nascent nation-state formation in the Western Sahara', *Interventions* 19 (4). <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/wEuiTEZCIsZ7yzbqylbx/full>

**Dr Maria Jaschok**, an ethnographer of Islam in China, spent the final months of a Leverhulme funded collaborative research project in workshops and fieldwork in central China's Muslim communities, conducting consultations with research partners and members of women's mosque congregations. They collaborated with researchers to salvage the rich oral tradition of Islamic chants from the local history of female education, ensuring their continued relevance to future generations of Muslim women and men. A particularly poignant outcome, the first Chinese/Arabic Muslim Women's Islamic Song Book, is in print to be made available to members of the many local mosques who participated so enthusiastically in the project. An edited volume and a monograph are also planned.

**Karen McCallum.** Welcome to Karen as Junior Research Associate who is a PhD candidate in Human Rights at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. She looks at Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2008-2015 at how non-Indigenous environmental activists responded to the prospect of Reconciliation following documentation of state policies of genocide against Indigenous people. One aim of the research is to help build cross-cultural, grassroots activist capacities and alliance building.

**Prof Judith Okely** was discussant at the AAA panel on 'Making Data, Anthropologists and Participants as/and Evidence'. At Basel University she delivered the third Distinguished Bachofen Lecture on 'Anthropologists Writing down and Writing up: through fieldwork to publication'. Her chapter 'Learning through the Ludic, Anthropological Fieldwork' is published in Sciamma, L.D., (ed.), 2016 *Humour, Comedy and Laughter*, Berghahn. As first woman member of the Oxford Union Judith was filmed for a US documentary in the Union, recalling the afternoon she spent with Malcolm X before he joined the famous 1964 Union debate.

**Dr Lilian Volcan's** projects strengthen women's participation in development. An aim is to inspire girls in developing countries to enter the hi-tech industry which would become more inclusive and competitive. Her work on 'Women and technology transfer' could persuade more women 'to turn an invention into a product'. Lilian is involved in the Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age at the UN University Institute for Computing and Society.

**Dr Fenella Porter** was recently appointed gender policy advisor in the Campaigns and Influencing team at Oxfam. The main focus of her work is on gender and labour in supply chains. She continues to build on her recent research on trade unions and alternative models of organising in the labour movement.

**Dr Angela Raven-Roberts** conducts research on the education of pastoralist communities in South Sudan and Ethiopia. She gave a presentation of the history of pastoralist education at SOAS to the Pastoralist and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA). On a trip to Ethiopia she completed a history of UNICEF in Ethiopia as part of UNICEF's 65th anniversary there.

**Dr Lidia Sciamma** is invited to join the Editorial Board of a new series on anthropological & linguistic culture books for a leading Italian academic publisher, *Aracne Editrice*. The series will have a strong focus on the cultures of Romania, Moldova and the Ukraine.

**Dr Tina Wallace's** research on women's empowerment with INGOs and CRTDA in Lebanon is on women's ability to participate, find their voice and be heard within decision-making. In the Middle East she focuses on care-work and the effect on women's rights, within the wide diversity of countries. With Fenella Porter, Tina reviews feminist research principles for the Gender and Development Network, namely what is required to really listen to women and how to enable their needs and rights to determine agendas rather than those set by external development agencies in a world of increasing accountability. Workshops at LMH run jointly with IGS and the Development Studies Association explored what empowering women involves in diverse contexts.

**Dr Janette Davies** with **Canon Janice Price** (World Mission Policy Adviser, The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England), in their research on Church Links between the UK and Africa, offer a way forward in the understanding of use of financial donations in terms of Gift Exchange. Links need to develop deeper expressions of the many forms of gift exchange and express these to each other more clearly especially where disparity of resources exists.

**Dr Kerrie Thornhill** recently became **Deputy Director IGS** and continues as Academic Convener for the Women's Empowerment Fellowship (WEF). 'Power, Predation, and Postwar State Formation: the public discourse of ritual child rape in Liberia' is published in *Third World Thematics* online journal of *Third World Quarterly* 2017. It received positive comments.

**Shirley Ardener** is invited to be Founding Editor of the reconstituted Cameroon Studies Series, Berghahn Books. Her article in *Man* 1973, 'Sexual Insult and Female Militancy' is reprinted in *Human Origins; contributions from social anthropology* (eds.) C. Power, F. Finnegan and H. Callan, 2017 Berghahn Books.

#### **THE DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI GENDER RESEARCH FELLOW IN GENDER and BURMESE STUDIES**

**Dr Ma Khin Mar Mar Kyi** is co-investigator on the ESRC funded project 'Religious Nationalism, and Sexuality of Transition in Myanmar'. She was invited to oversee the Myanmar Census as Senior Gender Advisor. She is a Board Member and Trustee on organisations such as E-Tekkatho free digital resources for Myanmar academics and the Australian Myanmar Institute. She spoke at Chatham House and Oxford Analytica, and co-organised the 'Women's Ancestry and Heritage Oral History' workshop in Myanmar. Dr Mar published 'State, policies and migration in Asia', in Christie Gardiner & Fernand de Varennes (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Human Rights in Asia* 2016: and 'Gender, Peace and Policies', in the 2016 *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Myanmar*, (eds.) Farrelly, N, et.al

#### **VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW**

**Professor Susan Harris Rimmer** from Griffith Law School, Brisbane, Australia, during her academic visit wrote a chapter on women in economic diplomacy for 'Gender and Diplomacy' edited by Jennifer Cassidy, with a foreword by Mary Robinson, to be published by Routledge. She also worked on her research into the status of women in Myanmar during the political transition with LMH DASSK Fellow Daw Khin Mar Mar Kyi, an ongoing partnership. Susan attended a rich variety of inter-disciplinary events in Oxford and elsewhere, thus deepening her scholarship. She is delighted to join the editorial board of OxFEP. See mention of her seminar at IGS above on 'Trading Women's Rights in Transitions' opening the series on 'Gender and Leadership in a Volatile World'.

## Michaelmas Term 2016 Seminar Series

### GENDER AND LEADERSHIP IN A VOLATILE WORLD

WEEK 1. **Dr Susan Harris Rimmer**, Griffith Law School, Brisbane, *Are We 'Trading' Women's Rights in Transitions?*

WEEK 2. **Dr Katharine Wright**, University of Surrey & **Dr Jack Holland**, University of Leeds *Leadership & the Media: Gendered Framings of Julia Gillard's 'Sexism & Misogyny' Speech*

WEEK 3. **Dr Michele Paule**, Oxford Brookes University *'Banning Bossy' and 'Leaning In': Girls' mediated ideas of leadership*

WEEK 4. **Prof Kalpana Ram**, Macquarie University NSW *Mutamma, Tamil Dalit spirit healer and community leader: a provocation to our received understandings of agency*

WEEK 5. **Dr Matthew Hurley**, Oxford Brookes University *Hillary Clinton Killed Feminism? Gender, Leadership and the New Hampshire Primary*

WEEK 6. **Canon Janice Price**, World Mission Advisor, Archbishops' Council, Church of England *The Nature of Church-Based Global Relationships – Case Studies from the Worldwide Anglican Communion*

WEEK 7. **Dr Georgia Holmes**, University of Reading *Integrating female military peacekeepers: Lessons from Rwanda*

WEEK 8. **Dr Stephanie Schnurr**, University of Warwick *Gender and leadership discourse at work*

Convenors: **Dr Matthew Hurley and Dr Janette Davies**

**IGS AFFILIATE Dr Tobe Levin von Gleichen** at IGS/LMH curated an international travelling art exhibition, entitled 'Through the Eyes of Nigerian Artists – Confronting FGM', a report of which is published in OxFEP (Oxford Feminist E-Press). Also at LMH Tobe moderated the IGS workshop on 'Four Specific Challenges to Ending FGM'.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY** celebrations featured the second visit of **The Lyric Piano Trio** to IGS at LMH. The musicians highlighted the powerful influence of women composers in works by Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel, Judith Weir, Maria Theresa von Paradis and Jennifer Higdon. The Trio showed the power, integrity and passion of female artists who struggled against social norms who encountered a sphere dominated by men often musical obscurity in their lifetime. The Master of the Queen's Music, Professor Judith Weir's composition 'O Viridissima' based on the hymn 'O Viridissima Virga' (O Greenest Branch) by 12th Century Abbess Hildegard of Bingen was featured.

## Hilary Term 2017 Seminar Series Thursdays 2pm

### FEMINIST MAPPING IN A VOLATILE WORLD: SPACES OF CREATIVITY AND SURVIVAL

WEEK 1. **Dan Healey**, Professor of Modern Russian History, St Antony's College. *Russian Homophobia from Stalin to Sochi: Histories and Contexts*

WEEK 2. **Ling Tang**, DPhil student, St Peter's College *Gendered and Sexualized Guanxi: the use of Erotic Capital in the Workplace in Urban China*

WEEK 3. **Rachel Dlugatch**, DPhil student, ISCA *Creating a Safe Space: Revolutionary Imaginations in a Feminist Bookstore*

WEEK 4. **Lorenzo Chiarofonte**, PhD student, SOAS *Music for the Amay Gyan Nat (Spirit): Song, Dance and Gender in Burmese Nat Pwe Ceremonies*

WEEK 5. **Dr Angham Abdulrazaq**, Independent Scholar *Iraq Women's Fiction of war: A Story of Survival*

WEEK 6. *Global Dialogues & Women's Empowerment in Eurasian Contexts Feminist Mentoring (WEF) Programme*

**Ani Kojoyan**, PhD student, Yerevan State University, Armenia *Syrian-Armenian Refugees: Crossing Borders between Illusion and Reality*

**Dr Shafag Dadashova**, Baku Qafqaz University, Azerbaijan *Women's Self-Identity as expressed in the Autobiographies of Azerbaijani authors*

WEEK 7. **Marta Olasik**, PhD Student, University of Warsaw *The Geography of Lesbian Genders: Re-Creating Lesbian Subjectivity*

WEEK 8, International Women's Day Concert.  
**The Lyric Piano Trio** performing music by female composers

Convenors: **Ling Tang, Dr Tobe Levin von Gleichen and Dr Janette Davies**

#### IGS at LMH CONTACT DETAILS

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE:** £10 payable to IGS address: standing/bank order details on request/address as above

**TREASURER:** Fiona Armitage

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS:** Janette Davies & Matthew Hurley