



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

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**International Gender Studies Centre** (The Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women) 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 and development.

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**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

As I write this message, this year's moody April weather is drenching Norham Gardens, where IGS is now happily situated. The volatility in our weather pattern is most happily not a metaphor for introducing current developments at our beloved Centre. Having moved to Lady Margaret Hall last September, we have assumed the official name of IGS at LMH, in recognition of our formal association with the College. Moreover, in contrast with the unpredictable weather we are steadily consolidating our activities. Continuity and change – both are factored into the Centre's calendar. At the beginning of Hilary Term (4 February), we added to our long series of IGS workshops with one organized around 'Women and War: autobiographical and biographical experiences' dedicated to the memory of the late Deborah Kirkwood. Members of her family attended a most successful workshop. To our joy, the Principal of LMH, Dr Frances Lannon, contributed an excellent presentation on women in the Spanish Civil War. Shirley Ardener, Lidia Sciama and Fiona Armitage proved excellent organizers of the event. The Hilary Term seminar series – with the theme of 'Writing women: fact or fiction', was a well-attended stimulating seminar series. The annual IGS contribution to the Oxford International Women's Festival in March fell on International Women's Day. We developed for this year's theme of 'Equality and Diversity' a multi-media programme of talks from women academics, music-making and exhibitions to reflect on women's experiences in the academe entitled 'Gendering education in the Academy'. The participation of members of LMH as

presenters, musicians and exhibition curators made this a milestone event at the new IGS at LMH.

The seminar series for Trinity Term, convened by Janette Davies and Melanie Griffiths, is entitled 'Gender, War and Security: feminist research on conflict', is building on themes from the earlier workshop on Women and War. An annual highlight in our calendar, the IGS at LMH Commemorative Lecture, takes place on May 30th. Commemorating the work of pioneering anthropologist Phyllis Kaberry, Professor Sylvia Chant (LSE) delivers the 2012 lecture on the subject of 'The feminisation of poverty' as a global concept? Critical reflections from the Gambia, the Philippines and Costa Rica.' This will be a stimulating and festive occasion to which friends, colleagues, students and the interested public are warmly invited. And, naturally, we shall conclude the event with a reception!

Finally, and this news resonates most importantly with all of us: news from Burma has these past months informed us of rapid progress made in the opening up of Burmese society to political and economic changes. Our patron Aung San Suu Kyi, who won a seat in the recent parliamentary election, appears to have decided it is safe to leave the country to visit the UK. Members of the Centre are very pleased at the prospect of seeing our Patron in our midst so soon. This turn of event, moreover, makes the IGS fund-raising for a Junior Research Fellowship in Gender, Leadership and Political Transformation (Burma) the more poignant.

*Maria Jaschok*

**IGS PATRON, Aung San Suu Kyi**, Chairman of the Burmese National League for Democracy and newly appointed member of the Burmese parliament, will receive an honorary doctorate in civil law at Encaenia 2012, during her first trip to Europe since 1988. She read PPE at St Hugh's 1967 and is an honorary fellow of both St Hugh's and St Antony's Colleges, Oxford.

#### **IGS at LMH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

**Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh** is a Departmental Lecturer in Forced Migration at the Refugee Studies Centre and Junior Research Fellow in Refugee Studies at LMH. Her research interests include Gender, Islam and Asylum; Gender, Generation and Forced Migration; and Faith-Based Humanitarianism in Contexts of Displacement. Her recent publications include: 'Transnational Childhood and Adolescence: Mobilising Sahrawi identity and politics across time and space.' *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2012, Vol. 35: and Special Issue of 2011 *Journal of Refugee Studies* on 'Faith-Based Humanitarianism in Contexts of Forced Displacement', Vol. 24, No. 3.

**Suzanne Holsomback** is completing her MPhil thesis entitled: 'How a North African Artist Represents the Perceived and Lived Social Realities of Woman, Femininity, and Female Sexuality in Tunisia', at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Recently appointed Vice President (Women) of Oxford University Student Union, she will work closely with the University, the Oxford Colleges and IGS on gender equality, women's attainment, harassment/sexual violence policies and student/parent concerns.

**Kerrie Thornhill** is DPhil candidate in Geography & the Environment and is conducting fieldwork on sexual and gender-based violence in post-conflict Liberia. She encountered institutional obstacles in pursuing this topic. In conversations with other Oxonians, from new students to academics, Kerrie found other scholars with a sense of alienation as a feminist researcher. She identified the lack of feminist academic support specifically for new and junior researchers and with the OUSU Women's Officer she formed the Oxford Gender Hub last Michaelmas. The Oxford Gender Hub website will form part of IGS. Shortly before leaving Liberia, Canada's Trudeau Foundation honoured Kerrie with a Trudeau Doctoral Scholarship, and an invitation to Montebello, Quebec, to meet other scholars in the Trudeau Foundation.

**IGS at LMH** welcomes these feminist scholars who are proving to be formidable activists.

#### **MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES**

**Shirley Ardener** recently went to Buea, Cameroon and as part of an international team conducting a pilot study on digitising the National Anglophone Archives, funded by British Library.

**Deborah Bryceson**: research findings from her DfID/ESRC funded project indicate that mining settlement patterns are volatile depending on the nature of mining operations, large or small scale. She is probing the gender dimensions of urban life in mining settlements. Her publications include 'Birth of a Market Town in Tanzania: Towards Narrative Studies of Urban Africa', 2011, *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 5(2); & 'Discovery and Denial: Social Science Theory & Inter-disciplines in African Studies', *African Affairs*, April 2012.

**Anne Coles** was a guest contributor to the 'Arish Palm Leaf Architecture in the United Arab Emirates' recent exhibition at the Royal Geographical Society portraying a contemporary view on the future of a crucial building resource in the Middle East: the palm leaf. Designed by London-based architect, Sandra Piesik, Anne provided an historical/geography perspective and photographs relating to 1969-1971 when employed as the geographer in the (UAE) Trucial States Development Office with the newly set up Malaria Control Team. This Arish architecture, closely connected to the religious, cultural and agricultural traditions of people in the Arabian Peninsula, was common but many of these localized techniques are lost or under threat.

**Janette Davies** conducted a joint workshop on 'Gender Equality and MDG 3' with Ann Keeling (LMH 1975), CEO of International Diabetes Federation, Brussels) at the Oxford Forum for International Development held at the Said Business School. Anne was head of Gender Equality for the UK Government and in addressing the implementation of Gender Equality and MDG 3, both speakers focused on non-communicable diseases and unequal accessibility to health services. This student-led conference attracted 400 delegates, practitioners and academics from across the world to discuss issues around the theme 'Where Next for Development?'

**Paula Heinonen & Nicola Blackwood MP**, in the 'Human rights in a violent world' Visiting Parliamentary Fellowship seminar series at St Antony's, addressed the question 'What role for women in the search for peace and Security?' (UN Resolution 1325). We thank Paula for coordinating our Visiting Fellows programme so successfully over many years. We wish her well as she devotes time to completing commissioned books.

**Maria Jaschok** addressed large audiences on a lecture tour organized by several universities in northwest and central China. She met with former students who are now lecturers, and became aware of the enduring difficulties of the way that academic organizations are run in China, whilst noting the astounding material and intellectual developments, compared to the 1980s during her first fieldwork in China. A chapter on 'Sources of authority: Female Ahong and Women's Mosques' is published in *Women, Leadership and Mosques: Changes in Contemporary Islamic Authority* Eds. Masooda Bano & Hilary Kalmbach, 2012, Brill.

**Janet Momsen** (LMH 1958) was honoured by the American Association of Geographers, 2012, Donald Q. Innis Award for Research Excellence. The award, in Innis's name, was established to acknowledge research in agricultural and food geographies, and awarded to a scholar in recognition of excellence in this field.

**Judith Okely** lectured at the University of Bern on 'Anthropological Practice specifically among Gypsies': the University of East London on 'Anthropologists' choice and change of subject in the field': the University of Helsinki on 'Contrasts and commonalities of three anthropologists' fieldwork among Gypsies and Roma' and Cambridge Social Anthropology Society on 'Anthropological Practice: Dialogues with Anthropologists'.

**Fenella Porter** continues to teach courses on NGOs and Development Management. She is conducting a pilot study on 'Wellbeing in development: what are the consequences of the encroachment of the private sector for NGO women's health programmes?' with Jasmine Gideon at Birkbeck University.

**Lidia Sciama** was the Keynote Speaker at the 4th European Association of Social Anthropologists Mediterranean Network, Scientific Conference in Venice, on 'Reflecting Anthropological Fieldwork

in the Mediterranean'. Lidia's keynote was 'Rethinking the Mediterranean: Topos or Mirage?'

**Jackie Waldren** has returned to Mallorca and as director of the Deia Archaeological Museum Research Centre, Mallorca is arranging 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the archaeology dig, commenced by her late husband Dr William Waldren (Bill), both members of Linacre College.

**Tina Wallace** gave lectures at the University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia and Frederick University, Nicosia, on gender issues in development. In Beirut she conducted research on women's work in the home and the informal sector in the Middle East, working with a Lebanon based NGO, 'Collective Research and Training for Development-Action', a women's rights network with partners across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Tina also completed a study for the Baring Foundation on grant making for NGOs

**Juan Wang** is actively involved in IGS at LMH fund-raising activities. Her book, entitled *Governmentality and Public Sphere in Cultural Policy Studies*, is published by Lambert Academic Pubs., 2012. This research in a British city shows that access to unique cultural practices is often denied, in that these practices are often socially and culturally inaccessible. Juan's book highlights the critical role of multiculturalism.

**Melanie Griffiths**, with **Janette Davies** is convening this term's series on 'Gender, War and Security: feminist research on conflict'. Melanie's DPhil studies at COMPAS are on trust and truth in the British asylum and detention system, with special focus on young Iraqi male asylum seekers.

**International Women's Day 2012**  
'Gendering education in the Academy'

**Susan Wollenberg**, Professor of Music LMH & **Linda McDowell**, Professor of Human Geography, St John's College

**Susanna Foster**, LMH, Piano & **Jennifer Pike**, LMH, Violin.

Exhibitions: **Roberta Staples** Librarian LMH:  
**Jackie Waldren** IGS: **Oliver Mahoney**, Archivist

Convenors: Janette Davies & Maria Jaschok

## IGS at LMH Hilary Term 2012 - Workshop

### 'Women and War: biographical and autobiographical experiences'.

This was dedicated to Deborah Kirkwood, who served as a nurse in South Africa during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World war. The speakers recounted women's experiences of recent and contemporary conflicts.

### Extreme travelling, World War II

**Maria Jaschok** (IGS).

'Hildegard Jaschok: my mother's flight from World War II to exile in peacetime and beyond'

**Judith Okely** (IGS).

'Fleeing from Malta, via Cairo around Africa to Liverpool in wartime'

### European Experiences

**Frances Lannon**, (Principal, LMH). 'Women in the Spanish Civil War'

**Lidia Sciama** (IGS).

'How Francesca Tonetti became involved in the resistance movement in Venice under Nazism'

### Post 1980 Encounters

**Janette Davies** (IGS).

'Rebuilding Family, Body and Soul after War: new life on the Cambodian border'

**Phillipa Phelan** (Major: British Army).

'Women in the British Forces today'

**Glenda Cooper** (Journalist/Researcher)

'Why were women correspondents the face of the Libyan Revolution?'

**Zoe Marks**, (St Cross)

'From Rebel Queen to Auntie Jembah: women power brokers in the Sierra Leone civil war'

Convenors: Shirley Ardener, Fiona Armitage & Lidia Sciama

### WOMEN & WAR WORKSHOP:

<http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/IGS/home/Events/Workshops.aspx>

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

[http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/IGS/home/Events/Special-Events-\(1\).aspx](http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/IGS/home/Events/Special-Events-(1).aspx)

## IGS at LMH Hilary Term 2012 Seminar Series

### 'Writing women: fact or fiction'

**19 Jan: Nancy Lindisfarne**, SOAS/Oxford

'State oppression and the Syrian uprising: thoughts on the politics of fiction and ethnographic writing'

**26 Jan: Francesca Ghillani**, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing. 'Narrating trauma: the influence of otherness in autobiography'

**2 Feb: Sheila Rowbotham**, Emeritus Professor Manchester University/Eccles Centre, Writer in Residence, British Library. 'My Work'

**9 Feb: Mette Berg**, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 'Juggling: gendered reflections on becoming an academic'

**16 Feb: Rachel Scicluna**, Open University 'The inchoate characteristic of roles: fieldwork, interpretation and writing'

**23 Feb: Ketaki Kushari Dyson**, Oxford 'Writing as a woman: between continents and cultures in two languages'

**1 March: Mary Eagleton**, Professor Contemporary Women's Writing Leeds Metropolitan University 'Fraught Fictions: representations of the female university student'

Convenors: Lidia Sciama & Judith Okely

### IGS at LMH CONTACT DETAILS

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**FRIENDS of IGS/LMH COMMITTEE:** Shirley Ardener, Fiona Armitage, Janette Davies, Mary Bull, Jackie Waldren & Gaynor Cohen.

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

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

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Janette Davies