



FRIENDS OF THE
IGS
(INCORPORATING CCCRW)
NEWSLETTER

International Gender Studies Centre (formerly 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 research and publications address current issues in gender and development.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This comes to you from IGS at Lady Margaret Hall! On September 30th, the website of Lady Margaret Hall published the following news:

'LMH is delighted to announce that the International Gender Studies Centre (IGS) has moved to the College. The Vice-Principal, Dr Penny Probert Smith, said, 'We are very pleased to have IGS within the College and look forward to their contribution to our community.' IGS was established in 1983 to advance research on gender, culture and development. The Centre undertakes critical scholarly research on the contribution of and the constraints facing women worldwide. The Director of IGS, Dr Maria Jaschok, said: 'We are pleased and excited to form part of the LMH academic community. Please visit the IGS web pages to find out about our past and discover our plans for the future'.

The welcome extended to us by the LMH leadership, faculty and staff could not have been more hospitable, promising well for the future of IGS at LMH. Although still in the process of content transfer, we welcome visitors to our Website, where we talk about our history and outline plans for the future, announce the term's academic activities and anticipate next year's proposed workshops and projects. This term's series of seminars promises stimulating presentations in a relatively new field of study, 'Gender, Cyber Ethnography and Digital Technology: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches' – see list of seminars in this Newsletter.

We are hosting a special lecture on Emily Hobhouse, known to students of nineteenth-century women's history. The lecture, 'Three lives: one person. Emily Hobhouse 1860-1926' by Jennifer Hobhouse Balme and Birgit Seibold, will explore Hobhouse's role as a forthright critic of the South African War (15 Oct. 2pm – 3:30pm).

We are contributing to the LMH Research Fair, to be held in late October, which gives IGS an excellent opportunity to showcase the research and publications of IGS members and to introduce the IGS Visiting Fellows. Recent publications by IGS members will be celebrated with a Book Launch in early December.

We are pleased to welcome Lady Sian Crisp, Drs Fenella Porter, Caroline Sweetman and Juan Wang as IGS Research Associates. We also affiliated Professor Paula Ruth Gilbert, George Mason University, USA, and Lionel Brossi, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, as Visiting Research Fellow and Visiting Study Fellow respectively. We are delighted to commence our Visiting Fellowship programme at LMH with two such excellent visiting scholars.

It is in a mood of sober enthusiasm that I am looking forward to the many challenges ahead of us at Lady Margaret Hall. Do visit us at www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/igs.aspx

Maria Jaschok

WELCOME to new IGS Research Associates. **Caroline Sweetman** is editor of Oxfam's international journal *Gender & Development*, published by Taylor & Francis/ Routledge. She is currently involved in a project entitled 'Beyond Gender Mainstreaming' which will include electronic discussions, a learning event in London early next year and a Special Issue of *Gender & Development* in 2012. The process began recently with a workshop in Beirut, Lebanon, attended by 30 academics, activists, and development workers and co-hosted with Lina Abou-Habib, Director of the Middle Eastern feminist organisation the Centre for Research and Training on Development.

Fenella Porter lectures on Development Management at Birkbeck College, University of London. She supervises dissertations on such topics as those analysing agency within the World Bank Social Capital Initiative and whether short-term volunteering programmes impact on global responsibility. She co-convened with Maria Jaschok and Tina Wallace the successful DSA/IGS workshop 'A Perfect Storm: what happens to women in the context of the perverse incentives of aid funding?' With the Gender and Development Network (GAD) a follow-up workshop, entitled 'Where do we stand? How can the development community navigate current pressures to deliver development for women?' will be held at the Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre on 3rd November 2011.

Juan Wang is known to IGS as Research Assistant to the Director on the DFID-funded project '*Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC)*' between 2008 and 2011. We congratulate her for the recent award of her PhD in Cultural Sociology from the University of Nottingham. Her research interests include: Gender, Identity and Religion; Cultural and Social Theory; Women's Education and Empowerment in China, Politics of Culture and Arts in China and Ethnomusicology. She was instrumental in securing seed grants from overseas governmental agencies for two IGS research activities and projects. She is currently applying for external research grants for funding China/IGS research projects and linkage programmes in building a significant network in China.

Sian Crisp is an anthropologist working with the Zambian UK Health Workforce Alliance and Global Health, Kings College London, researching interactive digital methods of matching more

equitably health needs and donors. This is part of a broader African/UK initiative on sharing medical knowledge and expertise. Her on-going research is a longitudinal study of a south Italian hill village and migration, which began with her original research in the 1970s.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Shirley Ardener co-convened with Lidia Sciama *et al* three innovative seminar series for the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, in the *Ethnicity and Identity* series, entitled 'Keeping Secrets, Withholding Knowledge and Hidden Behaviour': 'Plausible Pasts, uncertain Futures: diviners, prophets and forecasters' and 'Earthworkers: lives and thoughts on and under the ground'. Her paper, 'Microcredit, Money Transfers, Women, and the Cameroon Diaspora' given at IGS, was later published in *Afrika Focus*, 2010-2011, vol. 23.

Deborah Bryceson coordinates an ESRC/DFID funded project entitled *Urban Growth and Poverty in Mining Africa*, which involve field studies in Tanzania, Angola and Ghana. She hosted an international conference on the impact of mining on African urbanization in Tanzania which was attended by African scholars from 12 mining countries. With colleagues she is looking at sexuality and changing marital practices in East African gold-mining settlements. Her recent publications include 'Swahili Creolization: The Case of Dar es Salaam' in Cohen, R. and P. Toninato (Eds), *The Creolization Reader: Studies in Mixed Identities and Cultures* Routledge, and 'The Proletarianization of Women in Tanzania' in Turshen, M. (ed.) 2010. *African Women: A Political Economy*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Anne Coles co-convened last Hilary Term's seminar series 'Focus on Food' with Janet Momsen. Results of their joint research were presented to the American Association of Geographers entitled 'Colonial Dietary Cycles in Barbados'. Anne's particular interest in this field is in dietary change following migration.

Janette Davies was a panel member at an event organised by Oxford Hub, Christian Aid and Oxford Women for Women International Society on 'Rape as a Weapon of War in the DR Congo'. Her talk entitled 'Rape as a War Crime' resulted from research findings in Bangladesh.

Paula Heinonen's book published by Berghahn Books 2011 is entitled *Youth Gangs and Street Children: culture, nurture and masculinity in Ethiopia*. It analyzes inequality in gender relations, as normalized in everyday life on the street and within family structures in Ethiopia. She also coordinates the VF programme and helped with the move to LMH.

Maria Jaschok, while overseeing a successful move to LMH, delivered two keynote addresses - the first international conference on women, gender and religion in China (University of Macau) and a conference on religious revival in ethnic areas in China (University of Singapore). She contributed to a collaborative research submission (DFID/ESRC) which, if successful, would involve IGS in an important Afghanistan-based project. Her 2011 book *Women, Religion and Space in China*; Routledge is now available.

Janet Momsen, as well as giving the joint paper with Anne Coles at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Seattle, USA was panellist in the session on 'Conservation of Biological Diversity'. She presented 'Gender, Agriculture and Fair Trade' at the 64th Annual United Nations Dept. of Public Information/NGOs Conference, Bonn, Germany. Publications include *Tourism and Agriculture: New Geographies of Consumption, Production and Rural Restructuring*, eds. Rebecca M. Torres & Janet H Momsen (2011), Routledge and 'Gender, households and poverty in the Caribbean: shadows over islands in the sun' in *International Handbook of Gender and Poverty: Concepts, Research and Policy*, eds Sylvia Chant, Edward Elgar, UK. 2010. The Fairtrade Organization (FLO) based in Bonn, Germany appointed Janet to consult on mainstreaming gender in Fairtrade.

Fiona Moore is involved with a project on 'The Essence of Tesco' investigating identity in Tesco's Asian operations, with researchers from INSEAD and Anglia Ruskin University. Publications include 'Ambivalence, Anthropology and Business: Exploring a Key Contribution of Ethnographic Research in International Organisations', *Social Anthropology* 19 (4), 2011 and 'Holistic Ethnography: Studying the Impact of Multiple National Identities on Post-Acquisition Organizations', *Journal of International Business Studies*, 42 (5), 2011.

Judith Okely was awarded a medal as a 'World Scholar' by the Faculty of Philosophy, University of West Bohemia, and the Seal of the City of Pilsen, Czech Republic. She was keynote speaker on International Women's Day in a debate on feminism at Warwick University and speaker at the EU 'Colloquia' on Roma, University of Tours, France. Her recent publications are 'Retrospective Reading of Field notes: Living on Gypsy camps', E-Journal *Behemoth*, Germany, and 'Constructing Culture through Shared Location, Bricolage and Exchange', 2010 in M. Stewart & M. Rovid, eds. *Multi-Disciplinary approaches to Romany Studies*, Budapest: Central University Press.

Lidia Sciama will give the keynote lecture this month at Ca' Foscari University, Venice at the 4th Mednet Scientific Workshop on 'Reflecting Anthropological Fieldwork in the Mediterranean Area'. Her paper is entitled 'Rethinking the Mediterranean: *Topos* or Mirage?' In the paper Lidia uses *topos* both as 'place' and as 'topic', namely geographical area and as a subject suitable for anthropological research.

Jackie Waldren continues as Director of the Deia Archaeological Museum and Research Centre, Deia, Mallorca. The University of Coruna, Spain invited her to present a paper at the International Congress, 'New Debates on Gender, Migration & Development: Linking Production & Reproduction Chains in Contemporary Mobility' this month. Her paper on Gender Mobility in Contemporary Mallorca was well received.

Tina Wallace is part of a team researching 'Gender Equality in Education: Looking beyond Parity' for the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) UNESCO. Recently she presented a paper on core issues affecting women progressing to senior management to the Evidence Based Policy Forum in Paris. Tina drafted a position paper on youth in development for VSO International. With Ceri Hayes their chapter, 'Tackling poverty: learning together to improve women's rights through partnership', is published in *The International Handbook of Gender and Poverty*, ed. Sylvia Chant: Edward Elgar 2011.

FORTHCOMING EVENT.

Workshop on 'Women and War' to be held in Hilary Term at LMH. Convenors - Shirley Ardener Fiona Armitage, Lidia Sciama.

Visiting Research Fellow Paula Ruth Gilbert is Professor of French, Canadian, and Women's Studies at George Mason University, Virginia (USA). She has written on Quebec women writers, violence and gender, and global gender justice, her current research at IGS will form her next book, 'Narrating Female Lives: Human Rights Violations against Women and Girls'. She explores how to insert gender and representation of the female body into discussions of narrative texts, including the visual and human rights discourse.

Visiting Study Fellow Lionel Brossi is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature, Gender and Cultural Studies at the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona. His research is on interdisciplinary intersex narratives - from activism to biomedical and legal discourses. He majored in Social Communication at Universidad Austral de Chile, has masters degrees in Communication and Comparative Literature and is a member of the International Intersex Organization working within the research group 'Body and Text' at UAB.

IGS patron Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese pro-democracy leader, was one of the 2011 Reith Lecturers. Entitled 'Liberty' she explored the universal human aspiration to be free and the spirit which moves people to dissent. She also compared the Arab Spring, and the event that triggered last December's revolution in Tunisia with the death of a student during a protest in Burma in 1988.

IGS CONTACT DETAILS

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FRIENDS COMMITTEE: Shirley Ardener, Fiona Armitage, Janette Davies, Mary Bull, Jacqueline Waldren and Gaynor Cohen.

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Janette Davies.

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

IGS Seminar Series Michaelmas Term 2011
Thursdays 2-3:30 p.m. Venue: Jerwood Room, LMH, Norham Gardens OX2 6QA

Gender, Cyber Ethnography and Digital Technology: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches

Week 1 Oct 13 Dr Anna Piela, York University, Sisterhood, new media & empowerment – Muslim women's online interpretations of Islamic texts

Week 2 Oct 20 Dr Dimitrina Spencer, Dept of Education, University of Oxford. The Interior Curiosity of the Child: Facebook's Gendered Performances

Week 3 Oct 27 Dr Steve Spittle, Media & Cultural Studies, Liverpool John Moores University. Defending masculinity: Men, women and violence in the horror video game

Week 4 Nov Dr Nadia Aghtaie, University of Bristol. The transgression of the rules of patriarchy by Iranian women through Cyberspace

Week 5 Nov 10 Elinor Bastin, The Knowledge Centre, Bodleian Health Care Libraries. Altruism in cyberspace? An exploration of an on-line community for women and men with bipolar disorder

Week 6 Nov 17 Dr Soraya Tremayne, ISCA, University of Oxford. The 'Down Side' of Assisted Reproductive Technologies: Third party Donation and the 'Happy Family' Rhetoric in Iran

Week 7 Nov 24 Dr Denise Carter, University of Hull. Coming of Age and Internet Safety: the case study of a Bulgarian school

Week 8 Dec 1 IGS Visiting Fellows' Special Presentations of ongoing research

Professor Paula Gilbert, George Mason University, USA, 'Narrating Female Lives: Human Rights Violations against Women & Girls'

Lionel Brossi, Autonomous University of Barcelona, 'Intersex narratives: An exploration of the variable ways in which norms circumscribe our bodies'

Convenors: S. Ardener, P. Heinonen & M. Jaschok