



FRIENDS OF THE
IGS
(INCORPORATING CCCRW)
NEWSLETTER

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 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.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The core part of my message describes our intense preparation for the 30th Anniversary of IGS to be celebrated in Michaelmas Term 2013. In addition to a Special Day of Celebration, Guest Lectures, seminars and workshops, we hope to introduce a number of successful Burma initiatives.

A collectively planned IGS response to our Patron's request for Oxford's greater engagement with Burma, is our campaign, well under way, to gain funding for these initiatives. Whilst we are meeting with positive feedback encouraging us to anticipate funding, I hope that after reading a brief summary of our planned initiatives (see below) you agree that our projects deserve generous support. Contact details for the IGS office are 01865-274281 (direct line) and email address: maria.jaschok@lmh.ox.ac.uk

Initiatives to mark the 30th Anniversary of IGS at LMH in 2013

The education and empowerment of women ... cannot fail to result in a more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all...

These words by our Patron Aung San Suu Kyi have formed part of the IGS mission since Daw Suu's commencement as patron in 1996. This mission was reinforced in 2012, when Daw Suu, now chair of the Burmese National League for Democracy and member of the Burmese parliament, addressed the University of Oxford at the annual Encaenia ceremony, in June 2012, when she received her honorary doctorate in civil law. Lack of academic and campus life in Burma, Daw Suu said (turning her head to the University Chancellor, Lord Patten) is a sad consequence of

the shattering of universities all over Burma. It would be so important, she urged, if academe in Burma might be 'restored in all its glory'. Could the University of Oxford see a role in helping to bring about this restoration? IGS at LMH, with its history of cross cultural and gender study research, writing and teaching, is seeking to meet Daw Suu's challenge.

About to enter its 30th year, IGS at LMH, consistent with its role as an International Gender Studies centre, is putting forward new initiatives which, in our Patron's words, will serve the '*empowerment of women through critical knowledge production and facilitation of education*'. We are marking our important milestone in 2013 by framing planned events and research within the theme of '**Gender, Leadership and Political Transformation.**' This brings to bear the Centre's history and accomplishments on a central topic in a conflict-ridden world today. We ask: How does political leadership serve or hinder social justice and cultural diversity? What questions and issues are raised by the presence or absence of women in leadership positions in cross cultural contexts in Burma? What difference do women in positions of authority make to the empowerment of others and to the quest for gender justice?

IGS at LMH 30th Anniversary will combine educational and research initiatives, (1) to set up a two-year Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) on the Anniversary theme (£80,000), and (2) fund one-year full Visiting Fellows Bursaries for SE Asian scholars, particularly from Burma (£17,500).
Maria Jaschok

IGS PATRON, Aung San Suu Kyi (MA Oxon)

Chairman of the National League for Democracy and member of the Burmese parliament, received her honorary doctorate in civil law at Encaenia (first announced in 1993), 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 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Linda McDowell is Professor of Human Geography at Oxford, Professorial Fellow of St John's College and currently Director of St John's College Research Centre. Linda is a feminist scholar with research interests on the connections between gender, class and ethnicity and the labour market. She did research in the City of London; with white working class youth; and with migrant women workers to the UK. Her recent book is *Working Bodies: interactive service employment and workplace identities*, Wiley Blackwell 2009. She is involved in equality issues in the university.

Teresa Morgan is University Lecturer in Ancient History and a Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. Her interests span Hellenistic and Roman cultural history and early Christianity. She has written on ancient education, Graeco-Roman ethics, the New Testament and classical constructions of gender and sexuality. Her book *Popular morality in the early Roman Empire* 2007, CUP, explores how morality worked for Roman society.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Nancy Vivien Wylie MA DPhil (Oxon) MBE (LMH 1968) has addressed educational inequality since the 1970's, working with ethnic minority groups, working class and disadvantaged students to promote progression to and through Higher Education. She was ProVice Chancellor, Academic, at the University of Wolverhampton.

'END SEXUAL VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN'

Suzanne Holsomback is Vice President (Women) at the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). She wrote the material and trained fifty students to run workshops in thirty common rooms on 'sexual consent' and 'how to combat sexual violence'. Resulting from this is a university-wide 'End Sexual Violence Campaign' that will continue workshops on consent and actively attempt to dispel myths surrounding sexual violence and rape. Suzanne formulated the theme for IGS' MT series & convened the seminars on 'Gender Gaps at Oxford: 800 years of ignoring women?'

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LIBERIA

Kerrie Thornhill has just returned from fieldwork in Liberia. We invited her to give first-hand recollections of living in Liberia and her research on Gender-based Violence before she returns.

'I am on a break from my fieldwork in Monrovia, Liberia, where I research post-war gender-based violence. During fieldwork, I had forgotten the popular outsider's perception of Liberia. Upon returning to Oxford, I was swiftly reminded of these perceptions by the horrified face one woman made upon hearing the country's name and by another's wonderment at how I could withstand the emotional burden of studying this issue. It is tempting at times to encourage the accolades my friends give for living in such a 'horrific' environment, rather than admitting that on the contrary, Monrovia has better Asian cuisine than Oxford, that I feel safer in my host neighbourhood than in London and that foreigners are treated with warmth and generosity.

However, Liberia has its difficulties and my fieldwork has bad days. When things become daunting, I try to regain perspective by considering the accomplishments of my research teammates. One, Fatu Harding, lived through the civil war and is now a local President of Forum for African Women Educationalists. Another is a youth peace builder; one a student leader and one an HIV/AIDS nurse. My host, Edna Hutchinson, returned from exile in Ghana to start her own NGO on skills training and microfinance. The research team, and many of our interviewees, are givers in a land destroyed by takers. Do I have an excuse to feel discouraged?

Researching gender-based violence in Liberia is multi-faceted, including approaching Liberians for discussions about the topic, interviewing staff on anti-violence initiatives and collecting campaign awareness materials. To my surprise, many Liberians are not shy to discuss this sensitive topic with a stranger'.

GENDER, HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Josefina Tauzin, Professor of Nursing at the University of the Philippines, Manila, in collaboration with **Janette Davies, Margaret Greenfields, Maria Jaschok** and the Queens Nursing Institute UK, successfully obtained an award from the FCO Singapore, via the UK South-East Asia Partners in Science Development. We shall research into public health issues such as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the impact of gender on well-being.

Deborah Bryceson continues as PI on a DFID-ESRC project entitled 'Urbanization and Poverty in Mining Africa'. She co-edited with Danny MacKennon a special issue of the *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* on the theme of 'Urbanization and Mining: Population, Settlement and Welfare' within sub-Saharan Africa.

Anne Coles, a social geographer & **Peter Jackson** an architect, co-authored a paper on 'How Windtowers Work' which was presented by Peter at the International Committee for Vernacular Architecture conference in the United Arab Emirates. They began working together 30 years ago in Dubai, as published in *Windtower* (2006).

Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh was awarded a John Fell Fund grant to develop Elena's research into South-South humanitarianism in contexts of forced displacement. She convened a workshop on the subject, funded by QEH, the Refugee Studies Centre, and the UNHCR. Elena is academic lead on a Joint Learning Initiative survey into local faith communities' responses to humanitarian situations. She published 'Invisible Refugees and/or Overlapping Refugeeedom? Protecting Sahrawis and Palestinians Displaced by the 2011 Libyan Uprising,' *International Journal of Refugee Law*, 24(2) 2012.

Paula Heinonen was appointed Lecturer in the Anthropology of Development for Visiting Students, Hertford College, Oxford and teaches gender, feminisms and theories of knowledge production at Wadham College. She is an associate Team Member of the Research Forum of Consortium for Street Children, UK. At the University of Barcelona she was president of the examination committee for **Lionel Brossi Garavaglia's** successful PhD defence (VF).

Maria Jaschok with **Shui Jingjun** published their chapter 'Purity, sexuality and faith: Chinese women *ahong* and women's mosques as shelter and strength', in *Sexuality in Muslim Contexts: Restrictions and Resistance*, Eds Anissa Hélie & Homa Hoodfar 2012, Zed Books.

Janet Momsen was a delegate at the Gender Commission of the International Geographical Union in Hamburg. She founded the Commission in 1988 so was extremely satisfied to see over 80 delegates, including men, present. Janet gave a paper on 'Gender and Fair Trade' at the 32nd International Geographical Congress in Cologne.

Judith Okely, at the EASA conference in Paris, co-convened a panel 'Writing and Uncertainty' and gave a paper on 'Anthropological authorship confronts new uncertainties...' She was Keynote Speaker on Irish Travellers at the post-Good Friday conference 'Respecting and Connecting Communities' in Lifford, Donegal. Her recent publications include 'The Isle of Wight as site for English/British Identity' in *Islands & Britishness, a Global perspective*, Eds. J. Matthews & D. Travers, Cambridge Scholars.

Fenella Porter's article 'Negotiating Gender Equality in Development Organisations: the role of agency in the institutionalisation of new norms and practices' is in *Progress in Development Studies*, 12:4, 2012. She gave a paper at the International Association for Feminist Economics conference in Barcelona entitled 'Wellbeing and development: the gendered consequences of private sector participation in NGO health programmes'.

Caroline Sweetman participated in an Action Aid/Institute of Development Studies two-day workshop, entitled 'Bringing Unpaid Care into Global Policy Spaces'. A special issue of *Gender & Development* (Oxfam Journal - Caroline is Editor) entitled 'Beyond Gender Mainstreaming'. It assesses the integration of gender justice into development policy and practice. In the issue she has an article, co-authored with Professor Sylvia Chant, on 'Fixing Women or Fixing the World? Smart economics, efficiency approaches and gender equality in development', 20 (3) 2012

Tina Wallace convenes the Development Studies Association gender policy and practice study group. Her long-term research with the NGOs: with Trocaire, looking into women's participation in informal and formal spaces; with Plan using case studies to support girls' education; and with CRTDA, Lebanon, conducting research on women's work, especially in the informal and care sectors. 'Learning from international development grant-making' is her report for Baring Foundation.

Lidia Sciama conducts research on Women in the Resistance against fascists and occupying Germans in Venice in 1943-45. She recently conducted interviews with women partisans.

Janette Davies gave a research paper entitled 'Frail Elders and Dementia as Misfortune' in ISCA's Ethnicity and Identity seminar series *Managing Disasters and Misfortune*.

Shirley Ardener is researching Cultural Practices 'Repugnant to Natural Law and Justice?' 'Repugnant' is a legal term used under British colonialism. She looks at both historical and contemporary case studies which question the lines drawn between individual and universal freedoms. Together with Lidia Sciana and others, Shirley convened a seminar series on the topic this term. The High Commissioner of Cameroon to London visited Shirley in Oxford recently.

Sian Crisp is part of a team commissioning and designing a website, 'Turning the World Upside Down', to enable global sharing of best practice in medical procedures and care.

Jacqueline Waldren, IGS Affiliate Member, organised the 50th anniversary of the Deia Archaeological Museum, Mallorca, which she founded with her late husband William Waldren, artist and archaeologist. The excavations and studies have changed the prehistory of the Balearic Islands, shown during the inaugural conference, in exhibitions, concerts and lectures. Berghahn just published *Learning from the Children: Childhood, Culture and Identity in a Changing World*, Eds, Jacqueline Waldren & Ignacy-Marek Kaminsk.

Juan Wang's book is mentioned under the Book Launch entry below. She is on maternity leave after giving birth to Shi. Congratulations.

We congratulate **Melanie Griffiths** on her post as Associate Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, working with Dr Nick Gill on an ESRC project concerning asylum appeal disparities, researching Asylum Appeal Tribunals.

Isabelle Kunze is from the University of Hanover where **Janet Momsen** supervises her PhD research on the gendered dimensions of land use change in Kerala, amongst small-scale farming communities.

Chander Gariyali, a life-long enthusiast of IGS (CCCRW) during her career as a Civil Servant in India, was responsible for creating the Women Scientists Forum in Madras. She was warmly received by IGS at LMH recently.

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS

Margaret Greenfields is a lawyer with a PhD in Social Policy and is Director of the Institute for Diversity Research, Inclusivity, Communities and Society at Bucks New University. Her research explores how activists and academics, professing faith-based motivation and a sense of social justice work with the Roma. She spoke on 'Roma gender and ethnicity' at a recent Home Office conference entitled 'The impact of Mental Health and

substance misuse issues on BME offenders and engagement with resettlement programmes'.

Angela Raven Roberts worked with NGOs and the UN and was Academic Director of the Feinstein International Famine Centre at Tufts. Then at UNICEF she was Regional Chief of Emergencies for Central and Eastern Europe. Angela's PhD is in Anthropology (Minnesota), and MSc in Social Anthropology (Oxon). Her research is on capacity development in gender, youth and livelihoods in emergencies and post-crises events. At IGS she will analyze her academic research addressing issues of gender, peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

WELCOME TO IGS at LMH

Veronica Warner (LMH 1965) joined IGS recently as our Fundraising Adviser providing invaluable expertise and support.

Shuji Tang joins IGS as assistant to the Director. She has a BSc in Automatic Control and Computer Sciences at Gansu University of Technology, China, then worked at the National Centre of Inspection, Chengdu Institute of Automation. Shuji studied German at the University of Muenster and in Freiburg; and taught Mandarin at the Chinesische Schule. She studied English and Teacher Training at Cherwell Valley College, Oxford and teaches Mandarin in local schools.

BOOK LAUNCH AND RECEPTION sponsored by Berghahn Books held at LMH:

Paula Heinonen *Youth Gangs and Street Children, Culture, Nurture and Masculinity in Ethiopia*. Berghahn

Maria Jaschok & Shui Jingjun *Women, Religion and Space in China. Islamic Mosques & Daoist Temples, Catholic Convents & Chinese Virgins*. Routledge

Judith Okely *Anthropological Practice Fieldwork and the Ethnographic Method*. Berg

Juan Wang *Governmentality and Public Sphere in Cultural Policy Studies*. Lambert Academic

ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE in honour of Phyllis Kaberry (anthropologist) was given by **Sylvia Chant, Professor of Development Geography, LSE, in the Simpkins Lee Theatre LMH: *The 'Feminisation of Poverty' as a Global Concept? Critical Reflections from the Gambia, the Philippines and Costa Rica***

**IGS at LMH Trinity Term 2012 Seminar Series
GENDER, WAR & SECURITY: feminist research
on conflict**

26 Apr. Ana Hozyainova, APPRO Afghanistan
'Understanding Security, War and Peace:
negotiating inclusion of women'

03 May, Major Rachel Grimes, British Army
'Counterinsurgency (COIN) emasculates men and
empowers women'

10 May, Susan MacDougall, St Antony's/ISCA
'Violence, displacement, and representation
amongst Jordan's Iraqi refugee community'

17 May, Dr Helen Schneider, History/Virginia
'Women, Gender and Class: mobilization and
resistance during Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945'

24 May, Chloe Lewis, Linacre/QEH
'Rape as a Weapon of War in the DRC':
uncovering the elusive male victim'

07 June, Zoe Marks, Politics/St. Cross
'Gender relations in rebel groups in Sierra Leone:
post-conflict policy implications'

14 June, Matthew Hurley, Oxford Brookes
'Gendering NATO: Women as essential Agents of
Success'

Convenors: Dr Janette Davies & Melanie Griffiths

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

**FRIENDS of IGS support the Centre's
research and events 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/ details on
request/address as above.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Janette Davies

**IGS at LMH Michaelmas Term 2012 Seminar Series
GENDER GAPS AT OXFORD: 800 years of
ignoring women?**

11 Oct: Dr Rosa Parisi, VRF IGS at LMH
University of Foggia
'Moroccan Migrant Communities in Italy'

18 Oct: Dr Jane Mellanby, Experimental
Psychology, Oxford
'What determines how well you do in Exams at
Oxford?'

25 Oct: Dr Anna Zimdars, King's College
London
'Fair chances? Reviewing admission to Oxford for
women and minorities'

1 Nov: Dr Deirdre Raftery, University College
Dublin
'Sex in Mind and in Education': university
education for women in 19th Century Ireland and
England, and their legacy today'

8 Nov: Dr Samina Luthfa, & Vanessa Howe,
MPLS. Oxford
'Women in Science and Athena Swan –
Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences'

15 Nov: Trudy Coe, Equality and Diversity
'Understanding and addressing the gender gap at
Oxford – role of the Equality and Diversity Unit'

22 Nov: Dr Alice Sullivan, Institute of
Education, University of London
'Single-sex and co-educational schooling: Are
there life course consequences?'

29 Nov: Dr Angela Raven-Roberts, VRF IGS at
LMH/UNICEF Geneva
'Nurturing Places, Reclaiming Spaces: Gender and
Governance in Afar Region, Ethiopia. Why should
it matter to Oxford?'

6 Dec: Dr Margaret Greenfields, VRF IGS at
LMH/ Bucks New University, UK
'Community Development as Gendered
Employment – empowering Gypsy and Traveller
women in the UK'

Suzanne Holsomback & Dr Janette Davies:
Convenors.