



Perspectives:

Research Notes & News

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<http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wggp/>

Director's Notes

WGGP's Work on Human Security and Gender Equity in 2007

Gale Summerfield, Director



Christina Jalasi and Rose Korang-Okrah, GRID students, with Gale Summerfield, Director

Global human security studies center on ensuring that peoples' basic needs are met and protected. The gender, development, and globalization field focuses on whether costs and opportunities

are shared equitably between women and men and whether women can participate fully in society. As we work on these core issues, WGGP stresses that there can be no real human security unless gender issues are included. We bring these areas together to address critical social issues with an emphasis on agency and actions, not victimization.

Many of you have worked with us on symposia and publications addressing risks and rights as well as transnational migration for care work. We continue exploring new problems in these areas, focusing on the challenges of the dramatic changes in the global labor market; the growing migration of careworkers (for childcare, eldercare, and healthcare) and the impacts on sending and receiving countries; and policies to reduce the costs and gender disparities of global crises.

We are working with the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership (AEL) to bring Prof. Wu Qing to campus on April 19th to speak about her many activities to give more opportunities and training to women in China and her work with organizations around the world. She will discuss how socially responsible entrepreneurship is important to her as an

Research Notes

A Dual Epidemic of Sexual Violence Identified by an HIV-1 Voluntary Counseling and Testing Center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Where Can We Go from Here?

Russell Horwitz

Abstract:

Since February of 2004, Haiti has witnessed a sharp increase in political instability. In addition to theft, kidnappings, and other violent crimes, sexual violence has risen without any signs of decline. In June of 2000, in addition to providing care for HIV and related illnesses, an HIV/AIDS clinic located in downtown Port-au-Prince began providing post-exposure prophylaxis, abortifacients, and psychological counseling for victims of rape. The clinic has been collecting demographic and psychological information from rape victims as well as detailed information regarding the acts of aggression. Rape victims have often described feelings of guilt, while sexually violent men often consider the victim responsible. Attitudes of victims or aggressors, however, may reflect a larger continuum within any given community. Attitudes should be examined in the context of societal norms. While violent acts necessitate individual moral disengagement, public attitudes may condone or not adequately denounce cruelty and may play an important facilitating role. Desensitization to violent acts may over time



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involved citizen. The following week we will help bring Prof. Nancy Hopkins here to address the local side of preparing for the global labor market by involving more women in science and engineering, especially increasing women faculty in these areas at the major research universities. She will speak about her involvement in the changes at MIT and the need for follow-up activities. Her talk will be the inaugural lecture in the Provost's Gender Equity: Local and Global annual series. These speakers provide excellent examples of linking research to action for change.

WGGP has had strong speakers for the spring seminar series covering issues of immigration, forestry in Zambia, health care reform in China, social entrepreneurship, property rights in Ghana, community attitudes toward consensual and non-consensual sex in Haiti, and understanding violence against women within cultural contexts in Peru. We are especially pleased to be involved in awarding the Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellowship and the Yates, Due-Ferber, and Cloud grants. Information about current recipients is given in this publication; for former award-winners, please see the WGGP web site and related links. I personally want to congratulate our students who receive these awards. Your work is important and can make a difference. I also personally thank the donors who support this research through the awards; for the most part, these are current or former professors who are not wealthy but who really care about improving gender equity around the world. So, making a difference is the theme of this note. If we sit back and don't try to link our work to real-world problems, we may avoid some mistakes and criticism, but at what cost?

Research Notes, cont. from p. 1

produce an environment where the intolerable becomes tolerable and may facilitate or perpetuate sexual violence. Community-wide studies incorporating qualitative narratives collected from focus groups and semi-structured interviews of randomly sampled individuals in a community may provide vital information regarding culturally-specific attitudes toward rape and may generate more applicable and effective public health campaigns.

Russell Horwitz is recipient of the 2006-07 Goodman Fellowship. He has a PhD in Community Health from UIUC and is currently completing residency in psychiatry in Haiti, rhorwit@uiuc.edu.

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Congratulations to WGGP 2007-08 Award Winners!

**Rita and Arnold
Goodman**

Fellowship:

Jennifer Baldwin
(Anthropology and
School of Medicine)

on *Examining
International Disability
Rights Discourse Relating
to South Asian Women*



**Due and Ferber
International**

**Research Award for
Doctoral Dissertation
Research:**

Rose Korang-Okrah
(School of Social Work)
on *Women's Property
Rights in Ghana*



**Kathleen Cloud
International Research
Grant:**

Paola León Arizmendi
(Social Work and
Latin American and
Caribbean Studies) on
*Linguistically and
Culturally Competent
Intervention Programs
for Prevention of
Violence Against Women
in Southern Peru*



**Barbara A. Yates
International Research
Award:**

Batamaka Somé
(Anthropology)
on *Intrahousehold
Negotiations
and Gender Dynamics of
Cotton Production in Rural
Southwest Burkina Faso*



SPECIAL SPRING EVENTS

Wu Qing

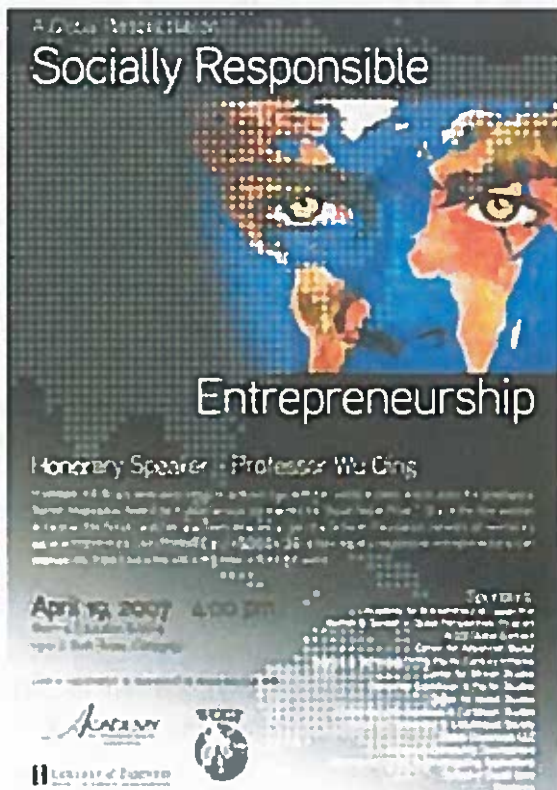
Professor, Politician, Activist
Beijing, China

*A Global Perspective on
Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship*

**April 19, Thursday
4:00 pm**
Room 2 Education Building
1310 S. Sixth Street

Professor Wu Qing's dedication to social activism has won her world acclaim and in 2001 the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service, considered the Asian Nobel Prize. She is the first woman to receive this honor and has also been selected to join the Schwab Foundation network of exemplary social entrepreneurs. Join Professor Wu Qing in discussing how socially responsible entrepreneurship can dramatically impact societies and economies around the world.

Sponsored by WGGP,
Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership
and others



Nancy Hopkins

Professor of Biology
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*Women in Science at MIT:
A Generation of Change (1971-2007)*

**April 26, Thursday
12:00 pm**
Beckman Auditorium
405 N. Mathews

The talk will describe how, in 1995, tenured women faculty in the School of Science at MIT worked together and with the Dean of Science to analyze the status of women faculty relative to that of male colleagues; how a report of their findings found its way to the front page of the NYTimes; and how, with the support of the President of MIT, the institution established administrative structures and made changes in processes and procedures to ensure equity for women faculty and to better support the careers of women faculty.

Sponsored by Office of the Provost

WGGP Annual Spring Reception

**May 2, Wednesday
4 - 6 pm**
101 International Studies Bldg.,
910 South Fifth St.

Honoring GRID Graduates and
WGGP Award Recipients

Certificates and awards will be
presented at 4:30 pm by
William Brustein,
Associate Provost for
International Affairs, and
Gale Summerfield,
WGGP Director

WGGP SPRING 2007 ACTIVITIES and co-sponsored events

- Jan. 29, **Christina Jalasi**, Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, UIUC: *The Gender Dynamics of Charcoal Production in Relationship with Deforestation of the Miombo Woodlands: A Case of Zambia*, WGGP Noon Seminar Series.
- Jan. 31, **Eliseo Medina**, Vice President, Service Employees International Union, *The New Immigrant Work Force: Unions, Community and the American Dream*, CAS Initiative on Immigration and ILIR.
- Feb. 5, CAS Initiative on Mega-Disasters: *Solidarities Across Borders: Race, Class and Gender in Post-Disaster Reconstruction*, (Please see report on p. 9).
- Feb. 6, **Jim Barrett**, Professor, History, UIUC, *Global, Local, and Personal: Understanding the History of Immigration to the United States in the Twentieth Century*, Comments by **Augusto Espiritu**, Associate Professor, History, UIUC, CAS Initiative on Immigration.
- Feb. 12, **Sylvia Puente**, University of Notre Dame: *Perspectives on Illinois Immigrant Integration Policies*, WGGP and CDMS Immigration Brown Bag Series.
- Feb. 20, **Gale Summerfield**, Director, WGGP, Associate Professor, Human and Community Development, UIUC: *Entrepreneurship, Gender, Development and Globalization*, Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership Seminar.
- Feb. 26, **Huixia Liu**, Freeman Fellow, Northwest University, Xi'an China, *Healthcare Reforms in China*, WGGP Noon Seminar Series.
- Mar. 5, **Jorge Chapa**, Center on Democracy in a Multicultural Society, UIUC: *Our Dysfunctional Immigration System at a Breaking Point*, WGGP and CDMS Immigration Brown Bag Series.
- Mar. 26, *International Women's Day Celebration Dinner* with Special Guest Speaker, Provost **Linda Katehi**, and other faculty panelists sponsored by Intersections and WGGP.
- Apr. 2, **Geoffrey Hewings**, Urban and Regional Planning, Economics, UIUC: *Economic Advances of Immigration*, WGGP and CDMS Immigration Brown Bag Series.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Apr. 11, Wed., 1:30 pm, **Rose Korang-Okrah**, School of Social Work, UIUC, *Risk and Resilience: Perspectives of Ghanaian Widows on the Loss of Property Rights*, Studio Room 1009, Doris Kelley Christopher Hall, 904 W. Nevada St., WGGP Noon Seminar Series.
- Apr. 17, Tues, 12 noon: **Russell Horwitz**, Post Doc 2005-06 Goodman Fellow, School of Medicine, UIUC, *Examining Community Attitudes towards Consensual and Non-Consensual Sex in Haiti*, 403 Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street, WGGP Noon Seminar Series.
- Apr. 19, Thurs., 4:00 pm, **Wu Qing**, Professor, Politician and Activist, Beijing, China: *A Global Perspective on Socially Responsible Entrepreneurship*, Room 2 Education Bldg., 1310 S. Sixth St., WGGP and AEL Lecture.
- Apr. 23, Mon., 12 noon: **Paola León Arizmendi**, 2004-05 Goodman Fellow, Social Work and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, UIUC, *Understanding Violence Against Women Within Cultural Context: The Community of Chari in Southern Peru*, 101 International Studies Bldg., 910 S Fifth St., WGGP Noon Seminar Series.
- Apr. 26, Thurs., 12:00 Noon, **Nancy Hopkins**, Professor of Biology, MIT, *Women in Science at MIT: A Generation of Change (1971-2007)*, Beckman Auditorium, 405 N. Mathews, sponsored by Office of the Provost.
- May 2-5, Third International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, *Qualitative Inquiry and the Politics of Evidence*, at UIUC, Sponsored by Institute of Communications Research, WGGP and others.
- Sept. 12-14, *Conference on Global Perspectives on Women's Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Medications and Services in Sub Saharan Africa*, sponsored by Geography, WGGP and others.
- Sept. 24-26, *International Forum on the Diabetes Epidemic: Cultural, Educational and Medical Perspectives on Building Synergies for Mexican and US Populations*, sponsored by College of Medicine, College of ACES, WGGP.
- Oct. 11, 4:00 pm, **Douglas Massey**, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University, *Understanding America's Immigration "Crisis,"* sponsored by WGGP and others.

NEWS from WGGP ASSOCIATES

Evelyne Accad, French, received the Prix International de Poesie Emmanuel Robles 2006 award. Her book, *The Wounded Breast: Intimate Journeys through Cancer*. Melbourne: Spinifex Press, July 2001, is now available on ebook through Spinifex, 2006 and an excerpt from *The Wounded Breast: Intimate Journeys through Cancer Recurrences: "Move on, the earth will take your shape"* (Andrée Chedid) is forthcoming in *Anthology, Arab American and Diaspora Literature*. She has an article, "Etel Adnan," in *Encyclopedia of Women in World History* (WWH), to be published by Oxford University Press in 2007 and another article, "Gender, Conflict and Peace: Gender and Violence in the Lebanese War Novels," chapter 18, in *Empowering Women: Participation, Rights, and Women's Movements in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia* (Edited by Valentine M. Moghadam) Forthcoming, Syracuse University Press. A volume on her writings has also just been published: *On Evelyne Accad: Essays in Literature, Feminism, and Cultural Studies* (ed. Cheryl Toman), Summa Press, 2007.

Junjie Chen, PhD GRID Student, Anthropology, is the proud father of a baby boy named Isaac (Chinese name: Zaixin) born on February 21, 2007. Congratulations to Junjie and his wife, Zhen Chen!

Manisha Desai, Sociology and WGGP, organized the Annual Meeting for Sociologists for Women in Society and presided as President-elect at the meetings held in New Orleans, February 1-4, 2007 on the theme of Solidarities Across Borders: Gender, Class and Race in Post-Disaster Reconstruction. She also organized a Post-Conference Dialogue with several speakers from the meetings on the same theme at UIUC on February 5 (see report on p. 9).

Kathleen Cloud, Human and Community Development, published a book review on *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women*, by the Task Force on Education and Equality. London: Earthscan Publications, 2005 in *Feminist Economics*, (12) 4, Oct. 2006.

Alyssa Garcia, PhD GRID Student, Anthropology, received a WGGP Conference Grant to present her paper, Mapping Gender, Ethnicity, and Citizenship: Negotiating Fieldwork in Cuba, at the American Anthropology Association meetings, Nov. 15-20 in San Jose, CA.

Marcia Khairallah, PhD GRID Student, Agricultural and Consumer Economics, gave birth to a baby boy named Antoun on February 27, 2007. Congratulations to Marcia and her husband, Saad!

Flora Kessy, PhD GRID Alum and Goodman Fellow, has accepted a position of Senior Social Scientist in charge of Health and Poverty Research at the Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre (IHRDC) in Tanzania. She will be leading a group of three young researchers in

conducting biomedical and demographic research. She also received a GDN award to conduct an experimental evaluation in Malawi.

Hsiang-Chieh Lee, PhD GRID Student, Sociology, presented her paper, Family Security; National Security: Social Position and Strategies of Families of Taiwanese Businesspeople in China at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in St. Charles, IL, June 28-July 1, 2007.

Isidore Lobnibe, PhD GRID Student, Anthropology, presented his paper, Drinking and Conviviality in Sorghum Beer Bars: Popular Culture at the Rural-Urban Interface in Contemporary Ghana at the International Conference of African Popular Cultures at University of Texas at Austin, March 30-April 1, 2007

Jane Lobnibe, PhD GRID Student, Educational Policy Studies, presented her paper, Deconstructing the Myth of the Independent Learner in Higher Education: The Case of African Graduate Student Mothers, at the annual conference of the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada, University of Alberta, Ontario, May 2, 2007.

Coryn Shiflet, PhD GRID Student, Geography, received a WGGP Conference Grant to present her paper, Immigrant Populations in Higher Education within the United States at the annual Association of American Geographers Conference in San Francisco, April 17-21, 2007.

Noreen Sugrue, WGGP, was invited to an international conference of government officials, academics, and practitioners in Geneva, Switzerland, March 23-24, 2007. The conference examined policy issues related to the financing and delivery consequences associated with transnational migration and health care workers.

Gale Summerfield, WGGP and Human and Community Development, presented her paper co-authored with Junjie Chen, Gender and Rural Reforms in China: A Case Study of Population Control and Land Rights Policies in Northern Liaoning, at the American Economic Association Meeting in Chicago in January 2007. The paper will be published later this year in the special issue of *Feminist Economics*, co-edited by Gunseli Berik, Xiao-yuan Dong, and Gale. WGGP Affiliate Ann Abbott and Gale received a "Scholars in Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship" grant from the Research Board and Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership for their study: Social Entrepreneurship and Microfinance: Can the global be made local? She has been invited to participate in the workshop for Chinese Women Economists at Beijing University in June 2007. This summer, she and Xiao-yuan Dong will conduct fieldwork in Beijing on women's work in China's Silicon Valley.

Understanding Domestic Violence within Cultural Context: The Community of Chari in Southern Peru

Mirta Paola Leon Arizmendi

Domestic violence affects six out of every ten women in Peru (Güezmes, 2002). According to a study conducted in the cities of Lima and Cusco in 2000, about 80,000 cases of domestic violence are reported in Peru every year, yet only about a quarter are reported to the police (Güezmes, 2002). In rural areas of Southern Peru recent statistics show that women are at more risk of violence than women in the city (Güezmes (2005), Pinzas (2004). Indigenous communities located in rural southern Peru are culturally and linguistically different than the larger Peruvian population. Despite the startling statistics and concern for these communities by domestic violence service providers and advocates, there is very little research that explores the meaning of domestic violence within their specific cultural context and the implications for service provision.

Given the gap in knowledge regarding violence against women in indigenous communities and the implications this has in providing adequate services, I conducted a pilot study in preparation for more extended dissertation research. The research was conducted in Chari, an indigenous community located in the district of Checacupe in Cusco.

Checacupe is about 2 hours to the south of Cusco city and Chari is an hour and a half walking time away from Checacupe. The community houses about 120 families (about 900 people). This community is a Quechua speaking community although several of their members understand and speak Spanish to some level. The people of Chari live primarily off agricultural activities and commerce.

The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of domestic violence from the perspective of participants through questions

regarding family life and conflict resolution within the family and community. I was also interested in establishing a relationship with the people of Chari and get to know other nearby communities that could also be included as sites for my larger project.

In order to enter the community I met with community leaders and explained my research. This process was facilitated by the "Asociacion de Tejedoras" (Women weaving association) and by a local nun. I had formed previous relationship with this group and the nun. The fact that they trusted me made easier the task to convince the community

leaders to grant me access to the community.

I spent nine weeks at Chari and spent time with families during their work day. I participated in their daily tasks and used these opportunities to create rapport, converse, and observe the interactions between family members. After a relationship was established, I would ask for an interview. I conducted 20 interviews (10 female and 10

male) during my stay in the community. I also

interviewed community leaders and workers (NGO's, Church, and School). Interviews were conducted both in Spanish and Quechua depending on the participant's language preference.

Some highlights that are emerging from the data collected are as follows:

- Linguistic preference: Most men chose to do the interview in Spanish (9 out of 10) while women preferred to use Quechua (7 out of 10). In general, it seems that men have a better grasp of Spanish than women in this community.

- The community was familiar with terminology such as family violence and domestic violence. They were not aware of the legal definition of these terms, but they knew that "that is how is called when your husband hits you." There is not an equivalent term used in the Quechua language. Participants who interviewed in Quechua used Spanish to refer to domestic violence or family violence.

- Women included violence exerted by family



Woman and children from Chari

members (parents, older brother, etc.) in their definition of family violence. Men only talked about it when I mentioned it to them. Some men did not consider hitting their daughters or younger sisters “now and then” as abuse, but as a way of keeping them “out of trouble.” Men and women talked about this as “this is how it is,” “this is the way things are done here;” most women expressed that they wished things could be different.

- All respondents signaled alcohol as the cause of violence against women and poverty as the cause for the use of alcohol.

- The community leaders consider family violence as a private matter and do not have any resources or procedures to deal with this.

- There was a distinction on the responses of women and men that are associated with external entities (such as the church and NGOs) in relation to their family life, their beliefs regarding family violence, and their expectations for their children. For example, women and men that participate in these groups were choosing to continue their daughter’s education while women and men who are not participating in any such associations saw it as a bad investment.

- NGO’s that are present in the community have the goal of helping community members find new ways for economic advancement and to strengthen the skills that members of the community have already acquired (such as knitting). However, it was interesting to see that these organizations are including workshops on



Chari women’s weaving association sharing stories during lunch time



Chari women on their daily routine: weaving, looking after animals, and selecting Quinoa cereal for that day’s meal

self-esteem, child rearing, and family violence as part of their strategy.

- People in the community seem to feel more comfortable communicating in Quechua, yet most of the NGOs deliver their workshops in Spanish even when the facilitators are fluent in Quechua.

- The church is the only entity perceived as providing services.

- The only service that the participants felt they received is that of someone (the priest or nun) who can listen to them. Participants could not identify any other resource in the community that could aid a person facing violence from their partners.

In my larger research project I hope to continue to explore the insider’s perspective on domestic violence within their particular culture. I want to explore how state regulations and church sponsored services are perceived by women and families

in Checacupe. State legislation and church programs are often based on a normative national culture that does not take into consideration indigenous people’s culture and language. I believe this knowledge is necessary in facilitating a later process of creating and providing services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Paola Leon Arizmendi is the 2005-06 recipient of the Goodman Fellowship. She is a PhD GRID student in the School of Social Work and Latin American and Caribbean Studies at UIUC.

Market Women and their Role in Bolivia's Emerging Nationalism

Isabel Scarborough

In the course of the past few decades, Bolivia has experienced dramatic economic, social and political transformations. In the mid 1980s, the country was integrated onto the global free market economy through the imposition of structural reforms dictated by the International Monetary Fund. This reorganization created the opportunities for social and ethnic upward mobility for some Bolivians, while the retreat of the state from a range of social assistance programs and long standing pacts with the country's impoverished majority deepened the financial gap between the rich and the growing numbers of urban poor (Gill 2000). These circumstances triggered a series of social mobilizations and mass protests with a clear anti-globalization and anti-neoliberalism discourse. Protestors were organized around grassroots networks that employed a rhetoric of resistance against a common enemy, while at the same time drawing on the common indigenous identity of Bolivia's majorities (Bustamante et al. 2005). These protests culminated in the dramatic election of the country's first indigenous president, Evo Morales, and his ruling MAS (Movement to Socialism) party.

My research site, the city of Cochabamba, has been the epicenter of many of the social movements that have brought about these recent political transformations. As the location for the populist victory that ousted the transnational Bechtel from the country in the acclaimed "Water War" of 2000, Cochabamba has become synonymous with resistance to neoliberalism and globalization for activists around the world. My preliminary research indicates that the city's market women have been pivotal in organizing these protests, providing the supplies that kept thousands of protestors in the streets for the mobilizations that eventually coalesced into the MAS political party. The region of Cochabamba is also regarded as a traditional commercial hub and ethnic switchboard where market

women represent every bracket of economic income, ranging from destitute peddlers on street corners to powerful moguls who control a good part of the city's warehouse facilities and trade transportation. Indeed, enabled by the neoliberal economic reforms, a number of market women's families in Cochabamba have achieved unprecedented upward social mobility for the new generation by providing their daughters with a college education and degree.

Because of the very public role that market women have historically played, they have defied and complicated the binaries of domestic/public and carved out a space within the marketplaces that makes them feel comfortable in their defiance of established social roles in which men are the primary breadwinners. Market women's defiance is furthered by the fact that they are seen as representative of indigenous ethnic identity because of their historic refusal to give up distinct markers such as Quechua dress and language, in opposition to centuries of discrimination (Seligmann 2004: 155). These contradictions, coupled with Cochabamba's trader's paradoxical relations as both neoliberal entrepreneurs and anti-globalization protestors, have placed them at the crossroads of emerging ethnic, class and gender identities. My dissertation research will explore how these intersecting connections are negotiated by market women as they attempt to find a place in President Morales' "New Bolivia."

In the past, market women used to negotiate



Woman and children selling sugar cane in moveable cart

political participation through the traditional deployment of ethnic customs of fictive kin to secure ties to local, state and government politicians and officials. As part of the efforts to create a new national order, Morales' government is now implementing policies to promote the institutionalization of the grassroots organizations and unions that initially enabled its election, and market women are being engaged to join the MAS' formal party structure. Additionally, Morales' proposal of a new national identity based on common indigenous roots values the ethnic markers maintained

by market women, in this way effectively changing the rules of mobility. Indeed, in Morales' New Bolivia, gender relations would be based on Andean precepts of reciprocity and complementarity, which,

it is claimed, would solve many of the aspects of gender inequity espoused by the old social hierarchy. Market women are playing and will continue to play a role in the transition to a new Bolivian nationalism. Precisely how this role will be able to influence this shift and the construction of Bolivia's emerging national identity for both men and women and for the indigenous and non-indigenous, remains to be seen.



Woman selling clothes in fixed stall

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Isabel Scarborough, Department of Anthropology, UIUC, is a PhD GRID student and recipient of the 2006-07 Due Ferber Award, scarboro@uiuc.edu.

Solidarities Across Borders: Gender, Race, and Class in Post-Disaster Reconstruction

February 5, 2007

Manisha Desai

A day-long symposium on Solidarities Across Borders: Gender, Race and Class in Post-Disaster Reconstruction held in February was sponsored by WGGP and various other departments as part of the Center for Advanced Study Initiative on Mega-Disasters: Science, Policy and Human Behavior. The symposium brought together activists from India, Nicaragua, Florida, and New Orleans to share their experiences of working in the aftermath of the Tsunami, hurricane Mitch, hurricane Andrew, and hurricane Katrina, respectively. The aim of the symposium was to understand how gender, race, and class shape the experiences of people during disasters as well as the post-disaster reconstruction efforts in different parts of the world. The hope was that such a sharing would enable us to learn from each other and build networks of transnational solidarities. The panel in the morning was transnational and focused on the work in India, Nicaragua, and Florida while the afternoon panel was devoted to Katrina and post-Katrina efforts in New Orleans. The morning panel highlighted strategies developed by women in the three countries while the Katrina panel focused on what still needs to be done.

Fatima Burnad of the Tamil Nadu Women's Forum and Society for Rural Education and Development, located in Chennai, India, began the symposium with a film showing the devastation wrought by the Tsunami in December 2004. As a *dalit*¹ activist, her focus was on issues faced by *dalit* women. In particular, she highlighted how the government rehabilitation reproduced caste hierarchies by supporting livelihoods of higher caste fishing communities while ignoring those of *dalit* communities who traditionally are not allowed to fish but are involved in other aspects of fishing such as cleaning and marketing. It was through protests and mobilizations of *dalit* women's organizations that *dalit* women's health and livelihood issues were finally addressed.

Yamileth Mejia of the Women's Network Against Violence in Managua, Nicaragua discussed a community model of healing that they developed during Hurricane Mitch to deal with natural and social violence induced stress. The model is based on historical, social, and human rights approach that deals with healing in terms of physical, emotional, spiritual, and community healing. The model grew out of the work of the Network with indigenous communities in Nicaragua and uses various

(Footnote)
¹ Dalit, meaning oppressed, is the identity claimed by India's ex-untouchables castes.

alternative therapies that include music, theatre, and talk-therapy. The Network has trained many community-based activists to use this model and it has now been adapted for use in El Salvador, Honduras, and other Central American countries.

Juanita Mainster, a volunteer with Centro Campesino (Farm Workers Inc.) in Homestead, Florida, presented how Centro Campesino, a farmworkers organization that mainly deals with issues of housing, employment, and quality of life, has expanded its mission statement to include disaster reconstruction given the number of hurricanes faced by the community. During Hurricane Andrew the women farm workers developed plans for a tent city to house the members who had lost their homes. The tent city was designed by the women to include the needs of the community such as child care, a clinic, space to park their car and belongings close to their tents, and a collective kitchen. The women were trained by Mujer-Mujer, a women's organization, to conduct focus groups and enable each family and the community to develop family and community specific disaster plans. This involved developing materials in Spanish as well as materials with pictures and icons for those who could not read, and materials that focused on the specific needs of the farm worker community. As Juanita noted, they focus on harvesting the "genius of the grassroots" and developing people's technology. Their tent city model received several state awards and has been shared with communities in other parts of the US, Mexico, and Latin America.

The afternoon panel on Katrina included a power-point presentation sent by Brenda Robicheaux, the Principal Chief of the Houma Nation in Louisiana and a presentation by Curtis Muhammad of Community Labor United and the People's Hurricane Fund. I presented the experiences of the Common Ground organization based on notes sent to me by two members. Brenda Robicheaux's presentation began with a history of the Houma Nation in the region and their current situation. The Hurricane furthered a move northward in the state by the younger generation which is eroding the community in Southern Louisiana. But it has also led to the revival of some older tribal institutions such as the community store and practices such as community visits to help those affected by the Hurricane. Her presentation emphasized that the future of the community depended on education that drew upon the native heritage and culture, which is being taught to the children through summer tribal school, as well as the public schools to enable the community to rebuild and sustain itself.

The Common Ground is an organization started in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to provide relief to the community. Today its major focus is on gutting and repairing homes. Although it was started by local activists from the African American community who remain in leadership positions, most of the volunteers who come

to Common Ground are white college and high school students from around the country. This has created a two-tiered, racialized hierarchy that has led to various incidences of racism and sexual assault. Today some in the organization are struggling to devise a model of service that is based on race and gender equality. The experience of Common Ground was put into a larger context by Curtis Muhammad who called Katrina a genocide perpetrated on the poor blacks by the leadership of the country aided by the local leadership. He gave various examples -- such as the availability of hundreds of buses that could have been used for evacuation being moved to higher ground and kept locked, to whites being rescued from the Super Dome while blacks were left there-- to support his theory. He argued that there is a war on poor blacks in New Orleans and the country as a whole and the only way to respond to this war is by organizing communities for collective action and not through outside volunteer organizations.

The two panels were a sober reminder that issues of gender, race, class, and caste inequalities are still with us all around the world but were also an indicator of the resilience and the ability of people to be innovators and bring about change.

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Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa: Observations in South Africa and Burkina Faso

Jessica Horn

Upon reflection of my seven months in Africa last year, I observed women's strong connection to trade and employment. In Africa, it is very traditional for women to work, but there is a distinct gender division of labor. Women tend to work more hours than men in Africa, committed to a small business or farming, while also running the household and caring for children. There is often little sharing of these domestic tasks by spouses or sons in the household. Women have been found to contribute greatly to the family welfare so their income is very important to the family survival. Women work to pay for food or school fees for the children, although men may also contribute to these expenses.

In South Africa, I worked at a development bank and had close contact with women who started and expanded small businesses to support their families. As a loan portfolio manager at Ithala Development Finance Corporation, a state bank in the Kwa-Zulu

Natal, I met women who would use savings and loans from the bank to expand their businesses, which were often connected to their domestic tasks. Many women worked as domestic workers, dress-makers, and shop owners/petty traders. Another occupation for women



Woman running a shop out of her garage near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

has been in the funeral business, which expands as the HIV/AIDS rate increases. Due to this pandemic, many households in South Africa are female-headed single households and also because of men migrating to cities for work, so women's income is very important to the family. Although unemployment is as high as 40% in Kwa-Zulu Natal, women had access to more formal employment than I saw while visiting countries with a larger rural population.

After spending summer and fall semesters in South Africa, I attended Richard Akresh's Winter Break course on "The Face of Economic Development" in Burkina Faso. About 90% of people in Burkina Faso are involved with agriculture, so women's work was often growing crops for food or for sale. In the Ouagadougou, women were often small traders selling goods in markets or running restaurants. While in the city we visited NGO's to learn about development



Jessica Horn with woman selling West African textiles in market, Kaya, Burkina Faso



President of women's microcredit group counting money saved during weekly meeting, Burkina Faso

programs in rural areas. We then traveled to rural areas and visited dry season farms with irrigation systems and microcredit groups. Men, women and children work on several hectares of land growing cabbage, maize, tomatoes and beans to ship to other parts of West Africa. Cotton is the main export, but we only saw men engaged in this type of work. Whereas in South Africa, individuals were borrowing large sums from the bank, in Burkina Faso we visited new savings and loan cooperatives in villages, where women save approximately \$.20 a week together to be loaned out in the future. This money was earned by selling boiled peanuts in the village or to tourists. Even when earning a small amount, these women were able to save a little every week.

Participating on these different trips was important to understand the large differences in women's work on the African continent. It was positive to see that women have access to work in Africa, but women work out of necessity, not by choice. Also the trip to Burkina proved that the amount of a loan is not everything, as these women were doing well from very small investments. It put into perspective that making smart investments is as important as the size of an investment. The different experiences and lives of women in Africa require that development policies be as varied as the people they serve.

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Agency and Victimization: Looking at the Case of Iranian Women

Roksana Bahramitash

Many years ago in the early 1990s I taught my first course in Canada, an introductory course in women's studies at a large University. I entered the classroom and introduced myself, a woman from Iran. A deep silence settled upon the entire class of fifty students, followed by a wave of discomfort. A student, who had some background in activism, said, "You must be a very exceptional Iranian woman." "No," I said, "I am not at all exceptional or unique; there are thousands of women like myself with a university education in Iran." After having lived longer in North America, I am no longer surprised when I encounter people's reactions. People feel sorry for me and they comment on how terrible things are for women in Iran.

This puts me in a very strange position. I often find myself defending what I am highly critical of. I am and have been critical of the position of women in Iran, but the type of response that exists in North America has put me in a contradictory position. When feminism is taken out of context of racism and antiwar movement, then it can easily become problematic.

The issue of women from the Muslim world has been analyzed and discussed in the work of postcolonial feminists (Parvin Paidar 1995, Abu-Lughod 2001, Minoou Moallem 2005, Jennifer Olmsted 2005). In an essentialist view of Islam, the religion is frozen in time and remains unchanged. This overlooks the fact that different parts of the Muslim world have different histories and that throughout the Muslim world the position of women differs greatly. Not only do women throughout the region of the Middle East and North Africa have different experiences, but within the same country, women of different classes have different experiences. In addition, each country experiences transformations that affect gender issues. In Turkey a secularist regime with strong ties to the military is replaced by a party that is Islamic, with possible consequences for women. Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, is ruled for several decades by a totalitarian regime supported by the United States, then experiences first the collapse of Suharto and the coming into power of Wahid, the leader of the largest Islamic organization, and then falls into the hands of yet another secular president. And each change may have repercussions for Indonesian



women.

On the 12th of June 2005, just before Iran's presidential election, approximately 2,000 women of diverse backgrounds participated in a sit-in demonstration in front of Tehran University. They were campaigning for a reinterpretation of Iran's constitution that would allow women to run for the presidency. Over ninety women's groups had already signed a declaration which had been prepared in advance of the sit-in. Similar protests took place in major cities such as Esfahan, Tabriz and Kermanshah, as well as smaller cities in such provinces such as Kordestan, Lorestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Khorasan.

This was the single largest independent women's mobilization since the days of the revolution. The fact that it did happen and that so many women participated indicates, to some extent, that gender politics during the reform period had already become part of the mainstream politics of the country. The campaign called for extending the constitutional category of *rejol-e siyasi* ("political persons") to apply to women as well as men. Gender rights activists, many of them from devout Islamic backgrounds, have been arguing that *rejol-e-siyasi* means "a politically knowledgeable person" and that the Arabic term *rajol* does not necessarily refer exclusively to men but rather refers to a "person."

Initially, the Islamic Republic which came into power in 1979 adopted a very traditional view of Islamic law. However, in the quarter of a decade since then many women have pressed for change. And in some cases they have been successful. Granted there is a long way to go, yet, looking at some of the basic indicators such as literacy, educational attainment, labour force participation, fertility rate, as well as the number of women working as journalists, NGOs and leaders, the changes in Iran have been impressive. This is not to deny the fact that the regime has violated and continues to violate women's rights, rather, it is to recognize the fact that millions of Iranian women have resisted, negotiated and pressed for change and in some cases have succeeded.

Logically it is hard to imagine that major changes in women's rights would fail to take place, since there has been an improvement in basic indicators for women in the post-revolutionary era. Infant mortality has dropped from 164 in 1960 to 34 in 2002. Life expectancy at birth has increased from 48 years for men and women in 1960 to 68 for men and even more, 70, for women in 2002. Life expectancy did not change until 1980, and since then women's life expectancy at birth has increased steadily. This is a significant point, and an interesting one considering the timing of the Islamic revolution.

The literacy rate has also climbed considerably, from 52% in 1970 to 91% in 2002. In 1970 more than half of all youth were illiterate. Adult literacy for males increased from 49 to 84% by 2002, while in the case of women the increase was from 23% in 1970 to 70% in 2002 (Bahramitash

forthcoming).

Perhaps one of the major changes that has helped to transform the position of women is their high level of achievement in Iran's universities. After more than two decades of revolution, women constitute more than 60% of university graduates. Many young female students leave home and go to smaller cities where access to university education is easier. A large number of young urban women live in university residences and other accommodations designed for single female students. Not only are more women pursuing higher education, they also have a higher propensity than men to finish their education.

Much of what women have achieved fails to be reflected in the mainstream literature on women in the Muslim world. In a presentation based on one year of field work in Iran, I discussed the ways in which Iranian women had become mobilized in support of the reform movement. The reform movement was an occasion during which, for the first time after the revolution, Iranian women became a political constituency and demanded their rights. Again, granted, there is a long way to go, nonetheless, the fact that women's rights have become part of the public debate is not a trivial achievement.

Unfortunately, economic problems leading to rising poverty were a major force behind the failure of the reform movement. Throughout the world we are witnessing a growing gap between the rich and the poor. Many countries in the North as well as a large number of countries in the South are suffering what has become a general pattern: a widening income disparity. Iran is no exception. To some extent the rise in poverty has been the result of state mismanagement and corruption but, as in many other countries of the world, it is not just national factors but also international factors that exacerbate income inequality. In the face of growing economic problems many, including women, did not become mobilized to vote for the next reformist candidate. With the decline of the reformists, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who as Tehran mayor had promised to bring economic justice, won the race for the presidency. His election has heralded a new era in which gender rights advocacy can no longer take place in the way it had been doing, more and more strongly, throughout the reform.

There is no doubt that major barriers continue to exist and that women in Iran will have to continue to press for change; but it is equally important to highlight these women's achievements and not to overlook their efforts. Failing to do so undermines women's efforts and is a major hindrance to understanding and recognizing Iranian women's roles as agents of social transformation.

Only if we are able to see Iranian/Muslim women in a light different from the categorical victimhood of "Third World/Muslim women," as people engaged in their own destinies, can we begin to understand their achievements. Once

we understand this then, hopefully, we can fight Islamophobia/Iranphobia. Maybe there will come a day when I announce my background and am faced with the curiosity of others honestly wanting to learn about how women push for change and press for their rights, instead of being faced with people wanting to take pity on me.

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NEW RESOURCE:

[State of World Population 2006](#) A Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration, UNFPA publication



"Today, half of all international migrants—95 million—are women and girls. Yet, despite substantial contributions to both their families at home and communities abroad, the needs of migrant women continue to be overlooked and ignored. *The State of World Population 2006: A Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration*, examines the scope and breadth of female migration, the impact of the funds they send home to support families and communities, and their disproportionate vulnerability to trafficking, exploitation and abuse. The report reveals that although migrant women contribute billions of dollars in cash and services, policymakers continue to disregard both their contributions and their vulnerability—even though female migrants tend to send a much higher proportion of their lower earnings back home than their male counterparts." The report is available in pdf format at <http://www.unfpa.org/publications> Also a multimedia presentation with powerful images from A Passage to Hope: Women and International Migration, along with a short narrative and evocative music, create an emotional introduction to this year's State of World Population report. It requires Adobe Flash player at <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm>.

KEY ISSUES IN GENDER, DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION IN 2007

To obtain different views on key issues of gender, development, and globalization, the students in my Gender Relations in International Development course this semester interviewed specialists for particular countries and discussed their findings in small groups. Due to space constraints, only some of their results are presented here. Because this is a small graduate and upper division seminar, coverage was limited, but an effort was made to get information from several regions. The need for further improvements in education, healthcare, and political and economic participation emerged consistently as key issues in the current period. Prof. Jean L. Pyle also contributed a paragraph on the critical area of trafficking and notes that WomenWatch has a list of UN resources related to key gender themes at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/asp/user/list.asp?ParentID=30>.

Human Trafficking, Global, by Prof. Jean L. Pyle, U Mass Lowell

Thousands of women are trafficked within and between countries each year via force, fraud, or coercion. Becoming modern-day slaves, they are compelled to perform sexual services, domestic work, and agricultural labor, or to enter forced marriages, work in restaurants, bars, factories, and sweatshops, transport drugs in body cavities, or peddle and beg on the streets. They are controlled by threats and mental or physical abuse and endure exploitative working conditions, adverse living environments, and a lack of basic human rights. Although they resist in many ways – sometimes escaping and testifying against the traffickers – they are typically in disadvantaged positions with little relative power. They often do not speak the language, are missing identification papers (confiscated by the traffickers), fear the authorities, and do not know their rights. Much attention has been devoted to this crime and violation of human rights since 2000. Fifty-eight percent of United Nations member states have become parties to *The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000)*. Various countries have established national laws to combat human trafficking. Reducing it requires multi-level initiatives (on international, national, and local levels) to eliminate factors behind the demand for trafficked people and to diminish the variables that promote a supply of trafficked people.

Migration, Costa Rica, by Danielle Hanninen

Migrants are increasingly leaving and entering Costa Rica. However, the rights of immigrants are not being recognized especially those of Nicaraguans coming into the country. (Based on interview with Prof. Bridget Hayden, Anthropology, Univ. of Southern Mississippi).

Education, Senegal, by Heather Schaad

Since both of my interviewees are educators, it is no surprise that education took top priority. The World Bank figures of 2004 indicate that of the 11.4 million inhabitants, only 51.1% of male and 29.2% of female inhabitants over the age of 15 are literate. The percentages improve for young people between 15 and 24, with rates of 58.5% for men and 41% for women, but these levels are still low and limit opportunities in the increasingly global labor force. Dr. Barro stressed the importance of providing broader access to education to women

in the rural areas, as well as the urban, as a way to ensure sustainable improvements within individual communities. However, the literacy rate for males is an indication that the current education system is not providing adequate services to the male population either and that both sexes are hampered by a lack of access to educational services. (Based on interviews with Dr. Maimouna Barro, Center for African Studies, UIUC and Mr. Mbouille Diallo, Sanghe Jr. High School in Thies, Senegal).

Education, Turkey, by Grace Lee

Turkey's history shows its high regard for education among its people. According to my interviewee, no matter which gender you are, education is key; however, socioeconomic status is also a huge factor in what type of education a child receives. Turkey is presently using education reform in hopes of increasing its chances of joining the EU. In 2004, 87.4% of the population was literate, with 95.3% of men and 79.6% of women being literate. Closing the gender gap is a priority.

Education, The Gambia, by Bala Saho

Throughout the history of education in The Gambia, enrollment and retention data have consistently shown that girls are disadvantaged in educational opportunities. With a primary net enrollment rate for girls of 66%, the figures show that a third of all girls of primary school-going age are not in school. Only about 30% of all females over the age of 15 can read and write, and the gender gap in primary education is 5%. There have been gains, but much remains to be done. This is due to many factors such as: Parents invest their limited resources in educating sons before daughters; perception that western education and special attention to girls contributes to the erosion of moral values and threatens culture and tradition; gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination against girls; lack of female teachers as role models, particularly in rural areas, as well as early marriage and pregnancy. The Gambian government with assistance from donors has made it a priority to increase enrollment and retention of girls in schools through increased attention to the quality and relevance of education.

Domestic Violence, Peru, by Izabel Szary

Job opportunities, security, and domestic violence are interconnected issues that continue to increase in significance. Domestic violence, for example, is complex; an intricate web of factors affects it including women's increasing access to money via informal work and microcredit organizations in conjunction with the increasing unemployment of men. (Based on interview with Dr. Angelina Cotler, CLACS, UIUC).

Healthcare Policy Reform, China, by Freeman Fellow, Huixia Liu, Northwest University, Xi'an China, health policy specialist

Better healthcare is an important part of China's effort to reduce poverty and inequality and underpins sound economic and social development. Since reform and opening to the outside world in the last more than 20 years, China has enhanced the health of its people and improved the capacity for providing health services. For example, between 1990 and 2003, life expectancy increased from 69 years to 71.9 years. The infant mortality rate fell from 50 to 29 per 1000 live births and under-five mortality dropped from 61 to 35. The maternal mortality rate decreased from 89 to 43 mother's deaths per 100,000 live births. Nevertheless, aggregate numbers mask significant inequality of health status between sub-populations differentiated by geographic location, level of income and gender. Large disparities exist in both health status

and access to healthcare. The infant mortality is 40% higher for female infants than for males. The proportion of female HIV/AIDS cases has increased considerably in recent years. The ratio of women to men for people living with HIV/AIDS has increased from 1:9 in 1990s to 1:1.6 in 2004. Women are more vulnerable to the rapid increase of healthcare costs. Gaps between urban and rural areas, between the wealthier eastern and poorer western provinces remain still large. Moreover, there are 120-150 million migrants as "floating" labor force across the country. About 49% of them are women who are vulnerable to wide range of infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases, however they are at great disadvantage in accessing health services.

China began to reform the health care systems in the late 1980s and made major reforms in healthcare financing systems in both urban and rural areas. But the existing health systems are still facing some problems. The mechanism to deal with public health is yet to be completed; access to health insurance is not equitable; government health spending is neither equitable nor efficient; and the system for cost control and safety is weak. Many people face difficulties in trying to obtain proper medical services. So, how to make further reforms in health care system to enhance the essential public health functions, promote equitable access to basic health care at affordable cost, and raise efficiency and quality in health service system are critical issues confronting the Chinese government.

Healthcare and Images of Women, Brazil, by *Coryn Shiflet*

Programs are needed to reduce cervical and breast cancer rates, provide women with pre-natal care and old-age support, and to combat sexually transmitted diseases—especially AIDS.

Images of Brazilian women related to plastic surgery and eating disorders as well as the image of Afro-Brazilian women as hyper-sexualized need to be addressed. (Based on Interview with Luciano Tosta, SIP, UTUC).

HIV/AIDS, South Africa, by Jenny Pickell

The statistics are staggering: six hundred South Africans die daily as a result of HIV/AIDS; one in ten South Africans is infected (Africa Action). Although it is impossible to describe the immensity of the effects of the epidemic, some of the key issues related to development include the connections with a migrant labor force (increased exposure to sexual partners and sex workers), the large number of AIDS orphans, the cost of antiretroviral drugs, and the death toll on the 15-30 year old population. (Based on interviews with Dr. Beverly Peters, National Democratic Institute and Prof. Daria Roithmayr, Law, UIUC).

Rights, Cuba, by Mirian Zambrana

There is a need to address the absence of an infrastructure to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or trans-gendered life. Its exclusion in Cuba makes it a subculture. Early in the Cuban Revolution, death camps were established in order to "deal" with homosexuals, and today this is chalked up to the youthful mistakes of the Revolution. Nonetheless, besides a semi-apologetic film in 1994 called "Fresas Y Chocolate" there have not been real movements to create a real, safe infrastructure for gay life. However, there were also some accomplishments achieved through the Revolution that should be retained through the coming

economic and political changes. (Based on interview with Prof. Dara Goldman, CLACS acting director and SIP, UTUC).

Economic Issues, Russia, by Andrew Meyer

Women are still actively engaged in Russia's work force. However, women in Russia today feel the effects of a 'double-burden' social mentality. They now face more choices in working and raising a family. There does exist a 'glass ceiling' in terms of how far up the corporate ladder a woman can climb in Russian companies. Under Soviet influence, women occupied high positions in government and enterprises, mostly for propaganda sake. Russian women today still enjoy a high level of access to important government and economic positions, though the future that was laid out before them under Soviet control has disappeared and they must compete for jobs. Because of the shift to a market economy, life in Russia is getting to be more expensive. All of Russia's citizens have felt the effects of competing in the world market. (Based on an interview with Lynda Park, Associate Director of the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center.)

Income Distribution and Property Rights, Turkey, by *Rashelle Roos*

According to the Women Information Network in Turkey, while 69.5% of men are employed, only 27.9% of women are employed in Turkey. Another Turkish organization, Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR), reports that only 26% of women are employed. This number does not accurately represent the actual number of women working, because many women work as unpaid family labor in agricultural, trade, restaurant, and hotel sectors. The US Department of State's Report on Human Rights Practices found that within the paid workforce in Turkey, women generally receive equal pay for equal work. However, they are underrepresented in managerial-level and governmental positions. In addition to income distribution in the workforce, inner-family income distribution is an issue. In the past, women usually did not receive adequate consideration in the division of property following a divorce. While lobbying, WWHR wrote many amendments to the Turkish Civil Code. Turkish Parliament adopted many of these amendments in November 2001, including the amendment of the "Regime Regarding the Ownership of Acquired Property". Under this amendment, following a divorce, women are entitled to equal division of all property acquired during a marriage. This move recognizes the value of domestic work and other unpaid work that goes into the reproduction of daily life of the family.

Privatization, Mexico, by Bridget Geraghty

Privatization of publicly-provided goods such as water is one of the most important issues facing Mexico because it affects so many other aspects of daily life and reaches into nearly every domain. It is important to emphasize both the negative effects of this and the agency of the women and men affected as they face these challenges and organize on a local level while making connections with other groups near and far away. (Based on interview with Prof. Faranak Miraftab, DURP, UTUC).



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