

Feminist Scholars Take on Cyberspace

A growing number of feminist scholars and researchers have started to blog. More estab-

From the Coordinator

lished blogs such as Tenured Radical (<http://tenured-radical.blogspot.com>), Bitch PhD (<http://bitchphd.blogspot.com>) and Girl with Pen (<http://girlwpen.com>) have been joined by some younger sisters, including Mama PhD (http://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/mama_phd), re: Cycling (The Society for Menstrual Cycle Research) (<http://menstruationresearch.org/blog>), Women = Books (*Women's Review of Books*) (www.wcwonline.org/womensreview).

Feminists are inspired to blog for many reasons: many use their expertise and interests as a tool for building online communities, or communicating with a wider range of audiences; others seek to inject feminist research into public debate.

Deborah Siegel, founder of the group blog Girl with Pen, explains that many scholars and writers want “to connect in a wider way with

the feminist blogosphere—a hotbed of discussion and controversy about what feminism means today.”

Girl with Pen seeks to provide a bridge and a platform for feminist scholars and writers and in so doing, to “dispel modern myths concerning gender.” It features more than a dozen columns—with titles such as “Generation Next,” “The Man Files,” “Body Language,” “Bedside Manners,” and “Science Grrl”—curated by feminists across the disciplines. Starting this fall, I’ll be joining this group with a once-a-month column, “Global Mama,” exploring the myths and realities of motherhood and family life in a globalized world. I’m hoping it will provide an opportunity to connect researchers from different disciplines and a place for fellow feminists to offer critical perspectives on pop culture and debates within the public sphere.

—Heather A. Hewett



Women's Studies Welcomes Edith Kuiper

Edith Kuiper (Economics & Women's Studies) introduces herself:

This fall, I am teaching two courses for the Women's Studies program, Women and Work and Women: Images and Realities, and the Economics of Globalization for the Economics Department. Coming from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, my research at the University of Amsterdam was on gender and the history and philosophy of

economic science. I am currently working on a book about eighteenth-century women's economic writing. The texts of these writers, which consist of household account books, poems, di-

aries, letters and brochures, have never been analyzed. Reading them gives us a new perspective on the eighteenth century economy and women's role in it as well as on how gender has had an impact of the history of economic thinking. This is an ongoing project in which I hope to involve and work with students. If you are interested, please let me know.

In the spring, I will teach a new Women's Studies course, Gender and Economic Crises, and an Economics course on the History of Economic Thought. Bringing together women, gender and economics opens up loads of new questions and issues, and deserves a good deal of study and discussion. I hope you join me in this, and look forward to working with all of you.

— Edith Kuiper



Amy Kesselman Returns to New Paltz

I am back on campus after a year's sabbatical working on the history of feminist activism in New Haven, Connecticut in the 1970's. My research encompassed a variety of activities including efforts to create child care centers, a movement of welfare recipients who called themselves "Welfare Mothers on the March" (usually referred to as the Welfare MOMs), and the personal changes that occurred in the lives of women's liberation activists.

In January, I'll be giving a paper at the American Historical Association in which I'll describe

the ways that many women's liberation activists in the 1970's challenged the assumption that women's romantic and sexual energy should be limited to relationships with men, allowing feelings towards other women to flower into sexual relationships and beginning self-identification as lesbians.

While I'm still working on this project, I'm happy to be back on campus and excited about the many activities students and faculty are planning for the coming year.

— Amy Kesselman

Raising Awareness: The New Paltz Feminist Collective

The New Paltz Feminist Collective is a group on campus dedicated to raising awareness regarding women's issues. Unlike many other clubs on campus, the NPFC operates under no hierarchal structure. This gives any student the opportunity to have her/his voice heard within this safe space as well as on campus.

In the past, the



NPFC has sponsored events like the Vagina Monologues, Red Tent, a Women's Drumming Workshop with Ubaka Hill, and many others.

This fall, we hope to have many other great events; however, we are still at the drawing board, so if you are interested in making some consciousness raising events happen, come to our meetings on Wednesdays at 8PM in SUB 418.

—New Paltz Feminist Collective

Women's Studies Colloquium Series

Fall 2009

Homeless Under the Golden Gate: Marriage and Mothering among Chicanas

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

4:30-6pm, JFT 1010

Anne Roschelle (Sociology)

Gendered Environmental Practices and Soil Quality

Thursday, October 29

3:30-5pm, Honors Center

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro (Geography)

A History of Women's Economic Writing

Thursday, November 19

3:30-5pm, Honors Center

Edith Kuiper (Economics & Women's Studies)

Spring 2010

Hooking Up

February

Melanie Hill (Psychology)

Gender and Education in India

March

Gowri Parameswaran (Educational Studies)

Second-Generation Women's Memoirs: Visions of Trauma, Wounding, and Healing

April

Jan Schmidt (English)

Faculty News

Sunita Bose (Sociology) is on a Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/ Diversity Leave Program Leave for fall 2009.

Emily Caigan (Women's Studies) is working with ecological artist Aviva Rahmani in preparation for her presentation at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and her performance at Ear to the Earth to be performed at the historic Judson Church in NYC on October 10, 2009. Together they have developed the feminist art context for Rahmani's new web site www.avivarahmani.com.

Anita Gonzalez (Theatre Arts) is directing a play, "Junk Mail," for the Estrogenius Festival, an annual celebration of female voices and one of New York City's largest women's arts festivals. "Junk Mail" plays from Wednesday, Sept. 30 to Saturday, Oct. 3. Further information can be found at www.estrogenius.org.

Donna Goodman (Development) retired on April 21 after 10 years at New Paltz.

Heather Hewett (English & Women's Studies) published an essay, "Translating Desire: Exile and Leila Aboulela's Poetics of Embodiment," in the edited collection *Expressions of the Body: Representations in African Text and Image* (Peter Lang, 2009).

Suzanne Kelly (Women's Studies) presented a

paper, "The Greedy, the Macabre and the Sick?: Thinking Dead Bodies that Matter through the Work of Val Plumwood," at the Southeast Women's Studies Association Conference in April 2009. Her essay, "The Sensuous Classroom: Focusing on the Embodiment of Learning," published in the July 25, 2008 edition of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, will be reprinted in the forthcoming textbook *Practical Argument* (forthcoming, Bedford/St.Martin's Press).

Amy Kesselman (Women's Studies) published a review essay on two books about second wave feminism in *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics and Culture* (2009).

The four-volume collection *Feminist Economics*, co-edited by **Edith Kuiper** (Economics & Women's Studies) and Drucilla Barker, is being published this November in the Routledge Major Works Series.

Susan Lewis (History), who is on sabbatical, delivered a paper, "Plodding Along as Usual: Microentrepreneurs in Nineteenth-Century America," at the joint meeting of the Business History Conference/European Business History Association in Milan in June.

Sarah Wyman (English) coordinated the program over the summer and is on a Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/ Diversity Leave Program Leave for fall 2009.

Spotlight On: Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography who teaches a course, Gender and Environment (GEO 393), cross-listed with Women's Studies. Engel-Di Mauro will present his research on the relationship between gender and soil in southwest Hungary as part of the Women's Studies Colloquium.

Despite the fact that mainstream geography does not look at gender when studying soil, the gendered dimensions of farming do affect soil characteristics.

Gender—as a process of social division and (in most cases) stratification—compels people to view and use soils differently, so that soil impact outcomes will vary according to gender status. This is borne out in studies from West Africa, where soil conservation efforts have

failed as a result of gender-insensitivity. According to Engel-Di Mauro, if "socio-ecologically viable uses of soils" are to be developed, gendered differences in human-modified soil characteristics must also be considered.

Still, much about this relationship is not fully understood. In one Hungarian case study, for example, organic matter and phosphate content were found to be higher in plots managed by women. High phosphate concentrations are deleterious to ecosystems, whereas higher organic matter content tends to be beneficial. This suggests that gender equality may not necessarily lead to more ecologically sustainable soil management, even though impacts on soils are shaped by gender relations.

Engel-Di Mauro's talk, "Gendered Environmental Practices and Soil Quality," will be held on Thursday, October 29, 3:30-5pm at the Honors Center.



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