



BOLDER VOICES

University of Colorado Boulder

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Writing this message in late October, I'm stunned to realize that I've only been director of the Women and Gender Studies Program for three months. Thanks to a wonderful staff, supportive colleagues, and patient students, things have gone quite smoothly. To tell the truth, however, three months feels more like a year. And we are only half way through the semester!

Now that I've taken the plunge and spent a couple months trying desperately to keep my head above water, it makes sense to pause for a moment to reflect on the big question (for my generation the Talking Heads question): "Well ... how did I get here?" Or, to put it in the crudest possible terms, how did a middle-aged straight white male end up directing the Women and Gender Studies Program at Colorado's flagship university?

One answer is that feminism has been part of the fabric of my everyday life for a long time: my mother's subscription to *Ms.* magazine in the 1960s (which as a curious and compulsive reader I found irresistible), my sister's experiments with feminist street theater in Santa Fe, my wife-to-be's experience as a work study student for one of the country's first women's centers at the University of New Mexico in the early 1970s, her enthusiastic participation in the first "Take Back the Night" march in San Francisco on November 4, 1978 just a year before the birth of our first child, the ongoing collective struggle for reproductive rights, and the list goes on. This everyday exposure probably explains why feminist principles always seemed "right" to me even at times in my life when I wasn't thinking or doing much about them. That said, it's a long way from being a feminist fellow traveler to being a feminist scholar.

The road to Damascus—a feminist-inspired intellectual project—led through graduate school at the University of Arizona and an eventual PhD in Latin American history. Even then, the road was circuitous: reading Joan Scott's *Gender and History*, benefitting from the generosity of feminist mentors, developing an intellectual (and visceral) commitment to uncovering the historical roots of social inequality. This last influence, in particular, inspired a dissertation project and eventual book on the links between notions of citizenship (those who belonged to the nation) and criminality (those who didn't) in modern Mexico. Among other things, that project looked at the criminalization of "deviant" women (prostitutes) and men (homosexuals). From there the road led to two projects—both nearing completion—that focus centrally on gender and sexuality: a book on changing notions of manhood in early twentieth-century Mexico City, *A Sentimental Education for the Working Man: Mexico City, 1900-1910* and an co-edited book (with one of my graduate school mentors, Donna Guy), *A Global History of Sexuality*.

So it took a while—and I've left out a lot of steps—but that's how I got here. A great place to be!



Robert Buffington

ALUMNA PROFILE: ELIZA WILLIAMSON '09



Eliza Williamson

Eliza Williamson graduated magna cum laude from CU in 2009 with degrees in both women and gender studies and Spanish and Portuguese language and culture. She was awarded a Fulbright Student Research Scholarship which has sent her to Tucumán, Argentina, where she is conducting an ethnography of a public maternity hospital. The Fulbright program is an international exchange program established in 1946 to increase mutual understanding between countries. Recipients of these competitive, merit-based grants travel abroad to study, teach, or do research in one of over 155 participating countries.

Eliza didn't start out at CU as a WGST major; during her sophomore year she signed up for her first WGST class: Gender, Race and Class in a Global Context. She notes, "that first course opened up a whole world for me; it gave words and theories to things I had sensed all along (patriarchy, cultural hegemony, sexism), and also to things I had never thought about (such as intersectionality theory and critical race theory)." Eliza recalls one day in class when then-director of WGST Polly McLean visited her class: "She asked us to raise our hands if we were WGST majors, which at the time I was not. Some hands went up. 'What's wrong with the rest of you?' she asked rhetorically." Immediately after class, Eliza went to the Dean's Office to change her major from English to women and gender studies.

During her time at CU, Eliza was very involved in campus activities including singing in the Collegiate Chorale, tutoring English as part of the Student Worker Alliance Program, and participating in the Kittredge Honors Program where she led activities such as a weekly knitting group for freshmen. As a member of the WGST Student Advisory Board, she worked on a campus HPV awareness campaign and helped raise money for the Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Scholarship.

In her senior year, Eliza completed an honors thesis which analyzed the *parto humanizado* (humanistic birth) movement in Argentina, and explored how its advocates frame their opposition to hegemonic biomedical discourse about pregnancy and childbirth. She first became interested in this subject during a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, where she learned that "in Argentina, as in other Latin American countries, there is a strong presence of midwives, doulas, and other healthcare professionals who advocate for *parto humanizado*".

When Eliza began her application for the Fulbright program, she knew she wanted an "on the ground" perspective on these issues, and made contacts with two doctors working in a hospital in Tucumán, Argentina that espoused a Family Centered Maternity Care model. She worked with these two doctors as well as WGST's Lorraine Bayard de Volo and Robbie Davis-Floyd from the University of Texas at Austin to develop her research proposal. Eliza admits she found the Fulbright application process "arduous and nerve-racking", writing numerous drafts of her grant proposal and personal essay and waiting months to hear the results. She notes that she "had a lot of support doing it, though. Lorraine Bayard de Volo was instrumental in my application process, and she continues to be now that I am in the field. I couldn't be more grateful for all the folks who helped me get the grant and have continued to support me in my work."

After graduation, Eliza spent a few months backpacking through parts of Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina, taking the "road less travelled". Once back in Colorado, she worked as a community organizer and then field manager for the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program (RAAP) where she went door to door throughout the Denver metro area, raising awareness about sexual assault and securing donations for the non-profit organization.

(continued on page 3)

Since March, Eliza has been living in Tucumán, Argentina as a Fulbright fellow. She carries out daily fieldwork at the Hospital Avellaneda, which consists of participant observation, interviews with both staff and patients, and gathering various perspectives on the hospital's perinatal care services. Eliza explains that her fieldwork "focuses on the obstacles to maintaining a Family Centered Maternity Care model at this particular public hospital in Argentina, with the (lofty) goal of contributing to an understanding of how to implement and sustain 'humanistic birth' at other public health institutions in Latin America." She notes that this experience has "made clearer that pregnancy, birth, and motherhood have such varied meanings across cultures. Breastfeeding, for example, is not nearly as taboo as it is in the U.S. Walking down the street, you'll see women breastfeeding their babies without any sort of covering; that's totally normal. It stands in stark contrast to the general discomfort with public breastfeeding in our own country."

Eliza explains that "everything I learned in college allowed me to understand the world on a deeper level. WGST has given me some very valuable tools to fight oppression in my daily life, but it has also encouraged me to be an active participant in social change. It has certainly instilled in me a passion for and a commitment to activist scholarship, which I plan to take to graduate school with me." She also notes her degree in Spanish and Portuguese has not only given her a strong grasp of both languages, but it has also provided her with the tools to engage with current social issues in Latin America.

Outside of her research, Eliza is involved in a local grassroots organization which promotes lesbian and bisexual rights, she participates in various activities of Crisálida (Tucumán's non-profit gender studies/ LGBT library and cultural space), and also enjoys trail running in the nearby mountains. She has attained her TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification and has been applying to graduate schools; she expects to begin a doctoral program in anthropology next fall. After her Fulbright grant is completed, she plans to vacation with her mother on the beaches of Argentina before heading to spend a few months (money permitting) in Brazil, going through all the data she has gathered from her fieldwork and, she hopes, making research contacts in northeastern Brazil for future work.

Eliza has a lot of advice for students wanting to apply for a Fulbright scholarship: "Start early so you can concretize your research ideas. The Fulbright program wants to know that you have a solid idea of what you want to study and that you can carry it out. Talk to professors at CU that share some of your research interests and build relationships with them if you haven't already. Begin building a relationship with the Fulbright office too; the folks there want to see you succeed and will help you a ton. Read as many successful Fulbright proposals as you can, and don't forget to utilize CU's resources, like the writing center at Norlin Library. It's also very important that you make solid contacts in the target country; you'll need a letter of invitation from someone there to make your Fulbright application viable. Last but not least, pick something you are passionate about! You'll need that passion to carry you through the difficulties of cultural adjustment and (in my case) your lack of previous fieldwork experience."

Read more about parto humanizado on page 4.



Eliza celebrates her birthday with hospital doctors

For more information on how to apply for a Fulbright grant, please contact the Office of International Education: <http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/admin/graduate.html> or the Fulbright program: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/>.

WHAT IS PARTO HUMANIZADO?

Parto humanizado, or humanistic birth, proposes a model of perinatal care that respects the woman's decisions, privacy, needs and desires in the birth process, as well as those of her family. It endeavors to limit technological intervention (such as drugs and surgical procedures) unless medically necessary, and promotes mother-infant bonding, breastfeeding, and the use of midwives and doulas as primary support before and during childbirth.

The rising rates of medical interventions and surgery in childbirth have skyrocketed; the rate of cesarean sections in the United States are more than double the World Health Organization's recommendations, and the number of women in this country whose labor is induced artificially is 2.5 times the rate worldwide. In 10 U.S. states, the practice of midwifery is illegal, and only 26 states provide licensure for midwives.

For further reading on humanistic childbirth:

Ina May's Guide to Childbirth, by Ina May Gaskin, MA, CPM

Pushed: The painful truth about childbirth and modern maternity care, by Jennifer Block

The Thinking Woman's Guide to a Better Birth, by Henci Goer

Born in the USA: How a broken maternity system must be fixed to put women and children first,
by Marsden Wagner, MD, MS

Listening to Mothers survey: <http://www.childbirthconnection.org/article.asp?ck=10396>

WAGON COOKIE SOCIAL

The Women and Gender Studies undergraduate practicum (WAGON) and the Women's Resource Center (WRC) held a Cookie Social on Wednesday, October 5th in the Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage Library. The attendees enjoyed homemade cookies, milk, and conversation with other WGST students and faculty and WRC staff, while learning about the WGST major and WRC offerings.



STUDENT PROFILE: MEG STAIRES, WGST MAJOR



Meg Staires

Meg Staires is a women and gender studies major in her senior year at CU-Boulder. She is a member of the Women and Gender Studies Organization (WAGON) and the Iota Iota Iota Honor Society (Triota).

1. Why did you choose to major in WGST?

I chose women and gender studies because before I came to CU, I was trained as a midwife, and I saw firsthand a lot of reproductive issues that women face, both in the U.S. and abroad. I wanted to learn more about these issues, and in particular, what I can do to combat these problems. I also chose this degree because I thought it would compliment the pre-med courses I'm taking... sort of serve as a reminder of why I want to go to medical school.

2. What do you plan to do with your degree in WGST?

Change the world! Specifically, I plan on going to medical school and after that, working in underserved populations here in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. I am particularly interested

in providing more choices in health care for poverty-stricken women of childbearing age; there is a huge problem with access to good, reliable health care choices for American Indian and immigrant women in the U.S., and I would like to help fill those gaps.

3. What is your favorite memory from your time at CU?

I have a lot of good memories from my time at CU. One that stands out is when my group from the senior colloquium class presented our ideas for improving CU's response to sexual assault to representatives from the administration and other services at CU. It was really empowering to present our solutions to a very serious problem on campus; it made me realize how important it is not only to be aware of issues in my community, but also to take steps to resolve those issues.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE! [WGST.COLORADO.EDU](http://wgst.colorado.edu)

With help from ASSETT (Arts and Sciences Support of Education Through Technology), we launched our new website in October. It provides much more functionality including an enhanced calendar system and access to our library catalog. It also links to our new Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WGSTatCU) where you can keep up-to-date with our program's news and events. Check it out at <http://wgst.colorado.edu> !

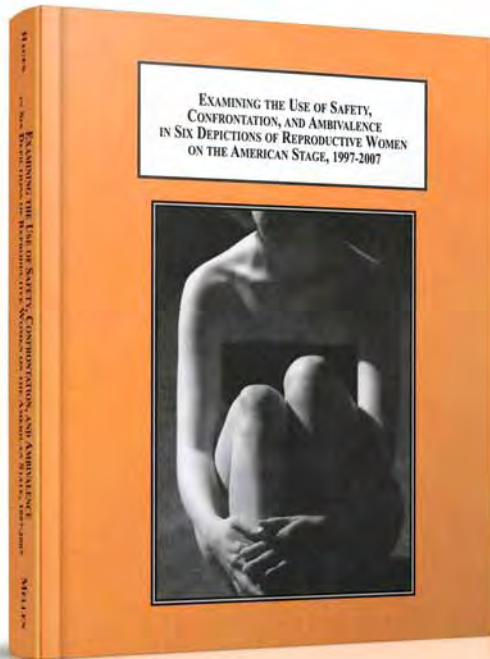


ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: LISA HALL HAGEN

Lisa Hall Hagen finished her WGST graduate certificate in 2009, and then graduated with a PhD in theatre history in 2010. She used her studies in WGST for the basis of her theatre dissertation to great success, with the publication of her book, *Examining the Use of Safety, Confrontation, and Ambivalence in Six Depictions of Reproductive Women on the American Stage, 1997-2007: Staging 'The Place' of Abortion* (see below). Over the summer she moved to Utah to take up a tenure track position at the rapidly growing Utah Valley University. She teaches theatre history, dramaturgy, playwriting and script and text analysis, and was recently invited to be a guest lecturer for two gender studies classes. She has recent publications on the subjects of female playwrights and their plays about female killers, as well as a forthcoming article about the so-called "abortion artist" Aliza Shvarts. She is currently researching a new book on the "theatre" of maternal failure.



Lisa Hall Hagen



Examining the Use of Safety, Confrontation, and Ambivalence in Six Depictions of Reproductive Women on the American Stage, 1997-2007: Staging 'The Place' of Abortion by Lisa Hall Hagen

This book fills a gap created when overtly politicized and polarized writing on abortion is removed. It seeks to explore the ways in which theater can serve as a particularly useful place to explore abortion.

Essentially the book looks at six plays that, to varying degrees of visibility, stage the act of abortion in a way that examines women's ambivalent experiences rather than moral-political standpoints.

Available online at:

Mellen Press: <http://www.mellenpress.com/mellenpress.cfm?bookid=8253&pc=9>

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Examining-Confrontation-Ambivalence-Depictions-Reproductive/dp/0773414665>

Kate Black (2005) is a staff attorney at the Texas Defender Service, a non-profit law firm in Houston, Texas. She specializes in the representation of death row inmates in their state and federal habeas corpus proceedings.

Brook Engebretson-Horton (2004) lives in Northglenn, Colorado with her partner and lab child Phoebe. She recently received her master's degree in nonprofit management from Regis University. She works for The Gathering Place in Denver, Colorado, the city's only daytime drop-in center for women and children who are experiencing homelessness and poverty. Since 1986, they've existed to support these individuals by providing a safe daytime refuge and resources for self-sufficiency. Brook notes "I utilize both of my degrees often in my work and passion. I am thankful for Women and Gender Studies for making sense of my life and cultivating a passion and career for me."

Avy (Rachel) Harris (2008) spent 8 months teaching English on an island off of South Korea and then moved to Ethiopia, where she spent several months facilitating conservation projects and community-based ecotourism through the Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Alliance. She is currently traveling through Tanzania as an overseas educator for Carpe Diem Education, where she leads groups of students on semester long service-learning trips as part of a gap year experience in East Africa.

Liza Hensleigh (2005) works in the CU-Boulder Study Abroad Programs office within the Office of International Education. She manages programs in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. She is also pursuing a master of public administration part-time from CU-Denver.

Heidi (Peterson) Knuth (1989) has lived on the western slope of Colorado for the last 18 years, and has worked for over 20 years with low income, physically and mentally ill, and frail elderly in a variety of jobs. For the last three years she has worked for the county as an adult services case manager, assisting clients with medicaid programs that provide resources to help them to live in their home/community instead of being placed in a nursing facility, unless that is the option they need. She notes "It is stressful but rewarding. I am also a single mom of two great kids, 13 and 16. Whoever said teenagers are difficult...nah, they are awesome."

Danielle Pacik (1995) joined the law firm of Hinckley, Allen and Snyder, LLP as an attorney in their Concord, New Hampshire office in July 2011.

Shannon Perez-Darby (2005) works as the youth services program manager at an amazing non-profit supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors of domestic violence (www.nwnetwork.org). "I often joke that I'm one of the few people I know to actually (and practically) use my women's studies degree. I feel continually grateful to make a living wage doing work I'm passionate about. I often reflect on the support and education I received at CU's Women Studies Program and how helpful that support was in bringing me to this work."

Kristi Tredway (1998) graduated from CU with majors in both women's studies and philosophy, and in 2001 earned an MA in religious studies. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Maryland in physical cultural studies in the Department of Kinesiology. She is studying the cultural, social, and historical aspects of sport and physical activity, with an emphasis on gender performance and women's tennis, especially where those two intersect.

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: ANNEE KNIGHT

Annee Knight (1997) designs exhibits at the Charles M. Schulz Museum in Santa Rosa, CA and is currently working on an exhibit entitled “*Leveling the Playing Field*” which commemorates the 40th Anniversary of Title IX and celebrates the history of women in sports. After this venue, they hope to travel the exhibit nationally.



Peanuts—September 29, 1979

© 1979 Peanuts Worldwide LLC.

Leveling the Playing Field: Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Title IX and Celebrating the History of Women in Sports

at the Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center, Santa Rosa, California

December 17, 2011 to August 12, 2012

www.SchulzMuseum.org

"I have a vision, Chuck... I can see the day coming when women will have the same opportunities in sports as men!" – *Peppermint Patty, 1979*

June 23, 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, legislation that ensures equal access to both men and women in federally-funded educational programs and activities, including sports. *Leveling the Playing Field* commemorates this milestone in sports history while adding the hilarity of Peanuts to the tribute.

Leveling the Playing Field features Charles Schulz's even-handed depiction of girls in sports with 86 original Peanuts comic strips, an overview of women's sports history, and examples of women's sports attire from the 1880s to the present. The exhibition will also detail Schulz's connections in the world of women's sports, his friendship with legendary sports icon Billie Jean King, and his early years coaching a local women's softball team.

After Schulz met Billie Jean King, he highlighted the issue of females in sports with a multi-day storyline in 1979 about Title IX in his comic strip. Schulz brought attention to women athletes by mentioning contemporary female sports stars and having his girl characters participate in a wide variety of sports, from football to figure skating. From Peppermint Patty's athletic dominance to Lucy's ineptitude in the right field to Marcie's total bewilderment with sports of all kinds, the girls in Peanuts were always equal participants. Programming events include a moderated conversation and autograph signing with Billie Jean King starting at 1 p.m. at the Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center on Sunday, January 15, 2012.

Gender and Terrorism: Women Politicians Gendering their Leadership and Lives

Candice Ortbal, Associate Professor of Political Science, Pepperdine College
Thursday, November 3, 4pm, Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage

While most studies of gender and terrorism examine terrorism from the point of view of the terrorist herself, this talk examines terrorism from the point of view of women politicians, specifically in Spain and France with regards to ETA terrorism. To what degree do women politicians participate in terrorist policymaking? When they do participate do they adopt feminist frames of gender equality or do they respond to terrorism in a way that illumines traditional gender norms? In order to assess how women politicians gender their roles and actions as related to terrorism, this talk discusses analysis of anonymous interviews of women politicians in the Basque regions of Spain and France.

Sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program and The Colorado European Union Center of Excellence.

Harvesting the Clouds: Women and Equality in Berber Morocco

Dr. Jamila Bargach, Secretary General, Dar Si-Hmad
Wednesday, November 9, 4 pm, HUMN 135

Women in the villages of the arid Ait Baamrane region of Morocco walk for hours each day to draw water for their families. However, the Ait Baamrane experiences dense fog for several months of the year and new technology allows fog to be “harvested” in nets creating abundant water. Dr. Jamila Bargach and her non-profit organization Dar Si-Hmad are working to develop fog-harvesting facilities to provide water for remote Berber villages here enabling Berber women and young girls to turn to education, so important in their striving for equality.

Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Women and Gender Studies Program, and the International Affairs Program.

Previous Talks this Semester:

European Integration: Anti-Semitism and EU Remedies

Amy Elman, Professor of Political Science, Kalamazoo College
October 21st, Noon, Hazel Gates Woodruff Cottage

This talk considers whether the European Union (EU) possesses the capacity and/or will to counter anti-Semitism, a prejudice that helped inspire Europe’s integration in the twentieth century and threatens to subvert it in the twenty-first. After a brief overview of the specific circumstances that obliged European institutions to take action against anti-Semitism, we will consider the effectiveness of these interventions by reference to two seemingly dissimilar Member States (Austria and Sweden), each with a very different reputation and thus set of challenges for Europeans in their recent struggles against anti-Semitism.

This event was sponsored by The Colorado European Union Center of Excellence, the Program in Jewish Studies, and the Women and Gender Studies Program.

Lorraine Bayard de Volo gave a talk in Denver in September for the Academy of Life Long Learning on “Women and Politics in Latin America”. Her paper on the “Ladies in White”, women relatives of political prisoners in Cuba, has been accepted for publication and is forthcoming in *North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA)*. She is also serving as the director of the Latin American Studies Center, taking over from Rob Buffington as he stepped into the job of WGST director.

Robert Buffington spent a week this past summer in Oaxaca, Mexico at the Oaxaca Graduate Field School in Modern Mexican History where (among other things) he presented a *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* article, “La ‘Dancing’ Mexicana: Danzón and the Transformation of Intimacy in Post-Revolutionary Mexico City,” which explores the gender politics of ballroom dancing for working-class women in mid twentieth-century Mexico City. In early October, he read a paper, “Institutional Memories: The Curious Genesis of the Mexican Police Museum,” at a conference on *Crime & Punishment in Latin America: Practices and Representations*. An article based on that paper will appear in *Radical History Review*, this coming spring.

Alison Jaggar has given recent talks at the University of Alabama, the Australian National University, the University of Oslo, and the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association. She continued her work as research coordinator at the Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature at the University of Oslo, where she co-organized a conference on the topic of naturalizing moral epistemology. Alison is proud to announce that Amandine Catala and Barrett Emerick successfully defended dissertations, which she supervised, and that both are moving on to excellent positions. Both Amandine and Barrett were definitely helped by holding the graduate certificate in women and gender studies and by their experience instructing courses in WGST.

Deepti Misri gave a talk for the Women’s Resource Center in October on “Implications of Gendered and Racial Language in the Fight for Social Justice”. She talked about the challenges facing the emerging “Slutwalk” movement, particularly in light of the critiques from women of color who have been opposed to the implied “taking back” of the term “slut” in the movement’s branding.

Celeste Montoya is serving as the Interim Director for the Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE) for this 2011-2012 academic year. She presented a paper entitled “A New Era of Enforceable Rights? Recent EU Initiatives to Combat Violence against Women” at the American Political Science Association conference in Seattle this past September. There she also served as an invited presenter for a workshop on “Teaching Gender & Politics: Views from the Field”.

SPRING 2012 COURSE OFFERINGS

WMST 2000	Introduction to Feminist Studies
WMST 2020	Femininities, Masculinities, Alternatives
WMST 2050	Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Culture
WMST 2600	Gender, Race, and Class in a Global Context
WMST 3200	Religion and Feminist Thought
WMST 3650	Women and Politics in Latin America
WMST 3700	Disney's Women and Girls
WMST 3710	Gender, Violence, Representation
WMST 3800	Advanced Writing in Feminist Studies
WMST 4300	Sex, Power, Politics
WMST 4800	Senior Colloquium
WMST 6190	Feminist Methodology (graduate)
WMST 6290	Grad Topics: Gender, Violence, Representation

These courses are sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program. Additional courses that may cover topics of interest are offered by other departments and are cross-listed under the course heading WMST.

*We'd love to hear from you!
To share your updates in the next issue,
please send them to wgst@colorado.edu.*

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Women and Gender Studies Program Newsletter

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University of Colorado
Boulder

*“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself.
It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty,
promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”*

-Kofi Annan



Please support the Women and Gender Studies Program!

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<http://www.cufund.org/giving-opportunities/fund-description/?id=3719>