

# Beyond the Centre

Fall 2004

Newsletter of the Centre for Research in Women's Studies & Gender Relations  
The University of British Columbia, Canada

## Update from the Director

*Sneja Gunew*

Our first item of news is congratulations to Bianca Rus, in our doctoral program, who gave birth to Alexander Patrick in September. Bianca is on leave for the rest of the year so that she can adjust to the new circumstances. Another significant recent event was the fact that one of our MA students, Itrath Syed, took the courageous step of running as a federal candidate for the NDP in the Delta-Richmond East area. This action severely tested her courage but one thing was certain, she was an inspiration to her peers and her teachers. She

was a reminder of why we commit to the continuation of Women's Studies in the university and why we stress the connection between theory and activism as a way of producing informed citizens for the future.

Since our last newsletter a number of other noteworthy events have happened. We welcomed Wendy Frisby (from Education/Human Kinetics) as the new Chair of the undergraduate program. Wendy leapt fearlessly into action to build on the very positive recommendations that came out of the recent review of the program. We



*Visiting Scholar Hammed Shahidian (University of Illinois at Springfield), Wendy Frisby (Chair, Women's Studies Undergraduate Program), Sneja Gunew, (Director, CRWSGR), and Visiting Scholar Kartik Roy, (University of Queensland) on a sunny autumn day outside the Centre.*

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The Newsletter of the Centre for  
Research in Women's Studies &  
Gender Relations

The University of British Columbia  
1896 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1  
Canada

(604) 822-9171 tel  
(604) 822-9169 fax  
wmst1@interchange.ubc.ca  
www.wmst.ubc.ca



*Master's Student Itrath Syed (left), who ran as a federal candidate for the NDP in Delta-Richmond East, with PhD Student Sam Semper.*

will also be collaborating with her to produce the first ever undergraduate conference in Women's Studies, March 17-19, 2005. The theme of the conference is "Consuming Women: What Are You Hungry For?" and the website is: [www.ws.arts.ubc.ca](http://www.ws.arts.ubc.ca). Graduate students from our program will be centrally involved in the organizing committee and the whole event is being co-ordinated by Cecily Nicholson, one of our doctoral candidates.

The MCRI project mentioned in the last letter didn't quite ignite the imaginations of the adjudicating committee in Ottawa in ways we had hoped but the feedback encouraged us to rethink the project and we will be resubmitting a proposal under the working title: Food and Human (In)security. We held a very successful workshop to help us reformulate the issues on Oct. 1. Our discussion were enriched by the contributions from some of our core collaborators from Ontario, Alberta and Québec, together with a number of graduate students and potential postdocs.

Meanwhile we welcomed a whole new crop of visitors to the Centre, some of whom stayed only briefly and others will be with us for a while. We also farewelled our two year-long visitors from China, Chunmei Wang and Qingfeng Jiang. Our admiration goes to Linda Morra who has had a postdoctoral fellowship with the Centre over the past two years and who managed to complete two books during that time. Look for all the reports in this newsletter. One highlight to

mention was the visit of distinguished feminist philosopher Kelly Oliver's visit as Cecil H. and Ida Green Visiting Professor of Green College. Kelly has recently been appointed W. Alton Jones Chair of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University, Tennessee and her new book, *The Colonization of Psychic Space: Toward a Psychoanalytic Social Theory*, speaks very much to the anxieties of our times. Kelly gave four talks in the brief week she was here, including a wonderful Vancouver Institute lecture attended by over 400 people. Feminist work gained a welcome boost before a wide audience as a result of her witty

and intellectually generous lecture. One further bonus was that her talk on Hegel, Kristeva and Derrida turned into an intense and informative seminar here at the Centre. Another brief visitor was British feminist Jackie Stacey (Lancaster University) who spoke here about her new book, *The Cinematic Life of the Gene*, the ways in which the new genetics are represented in popular cinema. We are hoping to have Jackie here for a longer visit during her sabbatical next year. Chris Prentice from the University of Otago, New Zealand, gave another fascinating talk here on Maori writer Patricia Grace's novel, *Baby No-Eyes*, a text that, in my opinion, speaks to a 'European' cannibalism associated with organ harvesting by the 'first' world. Finally, Sofia Trilivas is another new

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*Congratulations &  
Good Luck to our  
Graduating Students!*

*November 2004*

*Heather Latimer  
Melanie Schener  
Sam Semper  
Sirijit Sumanta*



*PhD Student Bianca Rus with new arrival Alexander Patrick.*

## *An Invitation from SAGA*

# Vancouver area Auto/bio/graphy Network initiated

**Valerie Raoul, Director**

SAGA: Centre for Studies in Autobiography,  
Gender, and Age

[www.saga.ubc.ca](http://www.saga.ubc.ca)

SAGA, the Centre for Studies in Autobiography, Gender, and Age ([www.saga.ubc.ca](http://www.saga.ubc.ca)), is a new research facility affiliated with the UBC Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations. We are building a network of people in the Vancouver area interested in auto/bio/graphy in its broadest interpretation ("lifewriting" in written, oral or visual forms, in the present or the past). If your work touches on auto/bio/graphics, we would like to offer you several ways to connect with others with related interests in a broad range of disciplines and the community.

One of the ways we plan to do this is through an online directory listing research interests, current projects, past work, related courses taught, and contact information. We would like you to consider being part of this network and, if you would like to participate, to respond to the questions below.

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*"We are building a network  
of people in the Vancouver  
area interested in  
auto/bio/graphy in its  
broadest interpretation..."*

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We would also welcome suggestions of others (at UBC or beyond, in BC) who might be interested. We are looking particularly for people who might like to help develop our database and archive of personal writings (initially by women from BC and Can-

ada), or volunteer to read these incoming materials. We are building connections with organizations and community groups engaged in oral history projects, or interested in starting one.

We also invite you to receive and send announcements of auto/bio/graphy related events in the Vancouver area through our list-serve. To join the list, email [majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:majordomo@interchange.ubc.ca) with only "subscribe ab-van" in the message body.

You may want to consider using our research space, or proposing this possibility to a Research Assistant or

Postdoctoral Fellow working in a relevant area. The SAGA Centre has 15 computer workstations and is located in UBC's Koerner Library (entrance level, on the right). A number of international Visiting Scholars are usually working there, and eager to meet others with similar interests. Anyone can apply to use the space by contacting us ([saga@saga.ubc.ca](mailto:saga@saga.ubc.ca)).

This is an opportunity to be part of a local, national, and international network for people engaged in Studies in Autobiography, Gender, and Age. We hope that you will join us!

## *Visiting Scholar Report*

# Qingfeng Jiang

English Department, Hengyang Normal University, P. R. C.

The period of October 2003—October 2004 I spent as a visiting scholar in the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender relations at UBC has proved not only a fruitful period in my academic career, but also a meaningful one in my life.

The Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, with its reference materials, provided me with a very good opportunity to do my research on a systematic study of feminism. I made an extensive reading of the works on literature and culture in general and Feminism in particular (in English) and I got to know the status of this discipline and various kinds of theories that have been developed so far. Based on my readings and reconsiderations, I wrote articles about female figures that have been described in literature by way of comparison between western and eastern countries in an attempt to bring out the similari-



ties and differences. For the purpose of achieving mutual understanding among different nations, I introduced to western people the roles played by

*Continued on 10*



## *Visiting Scholar Report*

### Pat Elliot

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

The most delightful and productive part of my 6-month sabbatical was the six weeks I spent as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Studies in the early spring of this year. Although I did make some forays into the city centre—I had dinner with friends, attended a vibrant birthday party, strolled through a freezing Stanley Park, saw the War Art exhibition, and did the tourist thing at Granville Island—my time was largely spent on campus reading, writing, attending lectures, and meeting with new friends and colleagues. These are the things we academics are supposed to have time for, at least in the idealized image of academic life fostered in graduate student days and the naive image of unrealistic university administrators. The truth is that these activities require a certain calm and intellectual space that isn't always available, but that the Centre makes available to those who visit. The skill and kindness of Wynn Archibald and Jane Charles in creating a pleasant work space for me were much appreciated, as was the welcoming attitude of faculty, sessional instructors and graduate

students. Sneja Gunew infused the Centre with her warmth and commitment to feminist ideals which, in a quiet kind of way, creates a feeling of community across differences.

I was delighted to be part of a large conference of academics and activists held on the UBC campus the first weekend in March. "Resolutions and Ruptures: Sexual and Gender Diversity and the Spaces In-Between" was a lively event where I learned from others' research and life experiences. The paper I gave "What's that Smell? Bailey, Backlash and the 'Science' of Transsexuality" was well received. It was the first thing I wrote at the Centre, and then revised hopefully for publication in *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*. My second writing task was to work on what will be the first chapter of my book, a large part of which I gave at



*Pat Elliot with PhD Student Bianca Rus*

*Continued on 11*

## Pumpkin-Carving Day at the Centre



*Graduate students Sam Semper, Jade Boyd, Xin Huang, and Lisa Hickey*



*Graduate student -- and pumpkin-carving contest winner -- Hui-Ling Lin*



# Rest in Peace Gloria

## Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa, 1942-2004

Eyes lifted toward the cosmos  
Warrior of the word, woman of thought  
The door to Mictlán awaits you  
Águila/snake all in one,  
Seeing and transforming lives-  
Espíritu, alma y amor-  
Gloria del saber para siempre  
¡Presente!

Josephine Méndez-Negrete

Gloria Anzaldúa, Chicana theoretician, activist, feminist, public intellectual, and prolific writer passed away on May 15, 2004 due to complications from chronic diabetes. Anzaldúa's brief passage through life has left unparalleled contributions to Chicano Studies, Women and Queer Studies, and post-colonial theory. She has published short stories, poetry, essays, children's books, and multicultural, multigenre feminist anthologies. Her work includes: the influential and very well known collection of essays, autobiographical narrative, and poetry *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987); anthologies such as *This Bridge Called my Back/Esta puente mi espalda* (1981) co-edited with Cherrie Moraga; *Making Face, Making Soul/Haciendo Caras* (1990), and the recent feminist/womanist anthology of artwork, essays, and poetry *this bridge we call home: radical visions for transformation* (2002) co-edited with AnaLouise Keating.

Anzaldúa came out as a lesbian Chicana writer at a time when feminist debates over gender and sexuality overrode issues of race and class, and when departments of Hispanic literature in the U.S still debated over the existence or the literary merits of texts produced by Latina/o writers. Surviving this context and emerging from such multiple exclusions and delegitimizations, Anzaldúa worked passionately for a more inclusive feminism that had a tremendous impact on feminist writers of color in their attempt to give voice or make visible their marginalized subjectivities. Her writings were, and continue to be, extremely influential on contemporary debates over culture and identity.

Anzaldúa won numerous awards and recognitions. Her work was ground-breaking in that it proposed new hybrid subjectivities based on what she called the *mestiza* consciousness, or exemplified in paradigms such as *la frontera*, the crossing of racial, sexual, class, cultural, and

linguistic borders, *nepanlta* (an in-between space) and so on. Gloria Anzaldúa, woman-warrior-poet, as many of her *queridas hermanas* liked to call her, envisioned a *mestiza* queer feminism that resonated with the voices of her ancestors, the cries of her long-suffering people, the pillaged, raped, massacred Indian, the haunting wails of *La Malinche*, the betrayed mother, *La Virgen de Guadalupe*, symbol of ethnic identity, the battle cries of warrior goddesses, the Snake Woman, *Coatlicue*, *Tonantsi*, who take revenge and wage war against any form of oppression.

Anzaldúa's feminism made/assumed the faces of those who have been sexually, racially, culturally marginalized, the faces of her angry people "[f]or—as she might say—waging war is my cosmic duty" to struggle against domination. Her feminism is a call to justice resounding what one of her numerous friends wrote in an electronic altar in memory of the *tejana*, *jota*, *marimacha*, Chicana, dyke, Gloria Anzaldúa: "Her passion lives in our solitary hearts as we hungry, loving people continue to carve away at the beast of oppression and individualism. There is power in the margins, in the borders, in an angry heart." In peace Gloria. ¡Presente!

"I am visible—see this Indian face—yet I am invisible. I both blind them with my beak nose and am their blind spot. But I exist we exist. They'd like to think I have melted in the pot. But I haven't. We haven't."  
Gloria Anzaldúa.

Litsa Chatzivasileiou,  
University of British Columbia

check it out.

thirdspace

the journal for emerging  
feminist scholars

[www.thirdspace.ca](http://www.thirdspace.ca)

*Centre for Chinese Research***Workshop: Chinese Women and Girls**

A Workshop on Chinese Women and Girls was held by the Centre for Chinese Research at UBC, on May 14, 2004, with a special focus on topical women's issues: the resurgence of concubinage, prostitution, trafficking in women, female infanticide, and the "missing girls" phenomenon. Professor Wang Chunmei, Visiting Scholar and Xin, Huang, Ph.D. student in our Centre participated in the workshop and presented papers. Over 30 participants attended the workshop.

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*"Professor Wang Chunmei...reviewed the long history of concubinage in China and investigated the recent revival of this practice."*

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Professor Wang Chunmei discussed the rapid increase in the numbers of concubines in modern China. She reviewed the long history of concubinage in China and investigated the recent revival of this practice. She researched who became concubines, who kept them, the social-economic factors that lead to such practice, and the Chinese government's attitude toward concubinage. Xin Huang's paper explored how hierarchies of reproduction and parenthood were established in the One-child Population Policies and Adoption Laws in China and how the population control has caused millions of missing girls and fuelled the booming international adoption from China. She examined how the politics of reproduction relate to the politics of parenthood at a global level, shaped by international adoption practices.

Professor William Lavelly from University of Washington presented a pa-

per he had co-authored with Cai Yong. Their paper examined the regional and local variations in the "missing girls" phenomenon, using county-level data from the 2000 Census of China to analyze sub-national variations in the child sex ratio. Tami Blumenfeld from University of Washington presented a paper on the ways in which urban Chinese travelers and the Na people, who have a visiting marriage system and are often described as a matriarchal society, interact and act in imagining and creating new spaces for sexual experimentation and alternatives to marriage.

The workshop was inspired by Professor Wang Chunmei's stimulating paper on Chinese marriage law at the Tri-Universities Symposium hosted by the Centre for Chinese Research in March. Her paper had invoked heated discussion among the Symposium participants about women's issues in China. Some participants had suggested that it was time to have a workshop on the status of Chinese women. As a result, Alison Bailey, acting director of the Center for Chinese Research, initiated and organized this workshop which attracted scholars and students from UBC, University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University, as well as activists and journalists in the Vancouver area.

The workshop addressed some very contested, controversial and important issues concerning women's lives and status in contemporary China. Participants showed great interest in the issues raised in the workshop, and the discussions and questions were stimulating and constructive. This workshop was an encouraging indicator that the number of feminist researchers and the amount of research on women in China are growing in the field of overseas Chinese research.

*Visiting Scholar Report***Åse Røthing**

The Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research, University of Oslo, Norway

I spent May and June as visiting scholar at the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Relations this spring and I had a great time. I fell in love with the city of Vancouver as soon as I arrived and I am already looking very much forward to coming back.

I have a temporary position as a post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research at the University of Oslo, Norway, where I work on a project on what is taught about sexuality in Norwegian secondary school, primarily 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The project is financed by the Norwegian Council of Research and included in my post.doc-stipend I received a grant to go abroad for six months as well. Since I happen to have a partner in Oslo who originally comes from B.C, I decided to spend my time abroad in Vancouver. I was thus very happy when I found out about CRWSGR, and even more happy when Sneja Gunew and Becki Ross were willing to invite me to come and stay at the Centre. I spent two months of my grant this time and will be back for another four months later.

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## Ase Røthing

I have my background in the field of Religious studies. My doctoral thesis is based on interviews with heterosexual inter-faith couples and discusses how gender and faith are being negotiated within these couples. I have also published a book based on my Master thesis, on how young, practicing Christian women relate to the Christian ideal of limited (hetero)sexual activity before marriage.

The aim of my current research project is to find out what the teachers say and do and what they *don't* say and do about sexuality. I am trying to localize processes in the teaching that reproduces heterosexuality as norm and ideal and processes that marginalize, stigmatize or legitimize homosexuality. I work in mainly two ways: Firstly I am doing fieldwork, observing actual teaching in the classroom. So far I have spent in total 11 full days in the back corner of a classroom at two different schools. At both schools 10<sup>th</sup> grade spent a couple of weeks focusing on issues related to sexuality. That's why I could hang around and observe for several days in a row. I am now trying to find another three or four schools that are willing to invite me to be present during teaching on sexuality. Secondly I am doing interviews with self-identified gay/lesbian/bisexual/queer teachers in secondary school. So far I have interviewed five teachers and will make another ten interviews during the fall. I am planning to interview a few self-identified heterosexual teachers as well.

According to the Norwegian federal curriculum, heterosexuality and homosexuality are supposed to be mentioned and discussed equally when sexuality is on the agenda. This situation refers to the fact that heterosexual and homosexual marriages, with the exception of marriage in church and the right to adoption, have been equal in Norway since 1993. From what I have seen in

the classrooms so far, the teachers seem to refer to the traditional rhetoric of gay and lesbian rights, based on the established (and given) homosexual identity. Based on this rhetoric the teachers advocate for the acceptance and tolerance of homosexuals, but at the same time they reproduce heterosexuality as the taken for granted norm. Homosexuality is discussed as a separate theme and homosexuals are constantly referred to as "they", in other words somebody outside of the classroom. Heterosexuality on the other hand is not mentioned as a theme, it is just taken for granted as the relevant context for everybody, and the students present in the classroom is referred to as "we", as if "we"

all share a heterosexual preferences.

I ended up spending most of my stay in Vancouver working on a book-version of my doctoral thesis. I was hoping to have time to get started on my post.doc-project again, since it has been put aside for a year while I have been doing other things, but it didn't really work out that way. In these days the book is just around the corner and I am finally getting back into my post.doc. Next time I come back to Vancouver I am hoping to stay for a full term, and look very much forward being involved in everything that is happening at the Centre. Thanks again to Sneja and Becki for inviting me and to Jane and Wynn for arranging for the practical aspects of my stay.

## *Visiting Scholar Report*

## Rathi Menon

St. Xavier's College for Women, Aluva (Kerala), India

The seven months I spent as a Visiting Scholar at Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Relations at University of British Columbia was extremely fulfilling both professionally and personally. It gave me an opportunity to complete a project on Women's Autobiographies as Discourses of Identity with Special Emphasis on Malayalam Literature. The time I spent in the centre helped in getting a wider and deeper understanding of women's autobiographical narrations, both thematically and structurally. The classes on Women's Autobiography by Prof Sneja Gunew, the Director of the Centre, helped to get a global view of the topic. Apart from the literature available from the library, observing the undergraduate classes of Prof Valerie Raoul (Director, SAGA), on Women's Autobiographical Discourses, helped me in refining my understanding on life writing practices by women around the world, from different cultural backgrounds. The paper presentations and interactions



with the students helped me to grasp the complexities involved in women's life narrations. The colloquiums on autobiographies organized by Green College were also greatly beneficial.

The Wednesday seminars at the

*Continued on 8*

*Visiting Scholar Report***Rocio Davis**

Modern Languages Department, University of Navarre, Spain

I spent the month of April 2004 as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Research in Women's Studies, with the idea of writing more of the book I'm currently working on, tentatively entitled: *Begin Here: Asian American and Asian Canadian Autobiographies*

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*"I have begun to negotiate more critically the differences in the production of Asian Americans and Asian Canadians, which is often elided in work done outside North America."*

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of Childhood. Because I am based in Spain and don't always have easy access to specific cultural materials, this stay has allowed me access to many sources I didn't even know existed. Apart from articles and books, I found very illuminating documentaries and films about the Asian immigration to Canada as well as fascinating archival material about the Japanese internment at the Asian Library. All this has enriched my research in unexpected ways: apart from the writerly project that was my primary concern in my analysis of these autobiographies of Asian immigrants and their children, I have begun to consider in more depth the exercise of creating or performing cultural memory that necessarily nuances both the production and reception of these texts. Importantly, I have begun to negotiate more critically the differences in the production of Asian Americans and

Asian Canadians, which is often elided in work done outside North America. I believe this factor is fundamental to understanding many of the aesthetic choices the writers make, and I wish to be sensitive to the specificities of the cultural and social milieu that produce these texts. The narrative enactments of these differences will be a crucial point in my own criticism. I want to thank the Centre for also inviting me to share part of my work-in-progress at the Lecture Series. The paper I gave, "Graphic Selves: Lynda Barry and Marjane Satrapi's Comics as Autobiography," allowed me to discuss some of the representational issues I am dealing with and receive very interesting feedback. A treat for me was attending the Graduate Student Seminar on April 16<sup>th</sup>, where I was very impressed by the range and quality of work being done by the students.

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**Rathi Menon**

Centre were very stimulating. It helped to know various feminist issues and strengthened my perspectives on feminist theories. The interactions with various feminist scholars from different parts of the world were very enriching. The centre also provided me the opportunity to attend some graduate classes of my interest and also graduate seminars which I found very useful.

Working with Prof Sneja Gunew was a wonderful experience. I am indeed thankful to her in making my stay at centre very comfortable. She was always there with a sparkling smile. Her helpfulness, both with words and deeds, gave me great strength and motivation in completing my project.



Conversations with the people at the Centre made my stay very enjoyable and productive. Sneja Gunew showed as much enthusiasm for my project as I felt, and was my chief supplier of incredibly interesting videos as well as information on resources and books. Jane Charles and Wynn Archibald opened all the doors (literally!) and made everything so easy all the time. Valerie Raoul and the SAGA Centre, Tineke Hellwig and Gerry

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I am also grateful to Prof Valerie Raoul for showing keen interest in the project and giving me valuable suggestions. Jane Charles, the Administrator, helped me a lot and made my stay very comfortable. All the administrative needs were well taken care by her promptly for which I am thankful to her. Wynn Archibald, the Secretary informed me about all the relevant messages at the proper time, for which I thank her. I am grateful to Dr. Geraldine Pratt, Dr Tineke Hellwig Dr Sunera Thobani and Dr Mandakranta Bose for their help at various stages. I mustn't forget the many graduate students who helped in making my stay so comfortable and thoroughly enjoyable.



## Visiting Scholar Report

### Wen-hui Anna Tang

Associate Professor, Graduate School of Political Economy, National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan

I am a Sociologist (Ph.D. Sociology, Harvard, 1997); my interests are feminist theories, women's movement and social policy. I spent five weeks at the UBC as a visiting scholar in the Centre for Research in Women's studies and Gender Relations, my family accompanied me and had a really great time there.

I have received a grant from the Canada-Taiwan Research Scholarship program, this grant is from the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT) which is aimed at sending scholars to Canada for a short term research and curriculum development on Canadian studies; this is the main reason for

my joining the Centre. Secondly, I am planning Professor Dorothy Smith's visit to Taiwan, November 14th to 28th 2004. She is a feminist scholar whom I greatly admire and I look forward to meeting her in person.

Professor Dorothy Smith kindly introduced me to the Centre and thanks to Director Sneja Gunew for making this visit possible. Also thanks to Jane and Wynn for assisting me a lot in setting up the computer and administration.

My research topic this time is on Canadian childcare policy. I am especially interested in how the political structure and the women's movement influence childcare policy enactment. Since my

4-year-old son accompanied me on this trip, when I arrived in Vancouver immediately after I found a childcare center for him I began my research. On my way to sending my son Victor to Shaughnessy Heights Church Daycare every morning, I talked to the teachers and parents, allowing me to understand more about Canadian child care policy.

During my five weeks there, I met many helpful people who really assisted me a lot with my research. Professor Nikki Strong-Boag provided me a lot of information on my topic. I also visited UBC's and SFU's daycare centers and talked to UBC's Director Darcelle Cottons to learn the history and the functioning of this center. The interview with Ms. Sharon Gregson of CCCABC (Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC) and Professor Rita Chudnovsky inspired me in what I will write about the Taiwanese and Canadian child care policy enactment and women's movement. Many thanks to Benita Bunjun for introducing me to Downtown Eastside Women's Center; I really enjoyed the visit there.

I am planning to visit UBC again next summer with TGEEA (Taiwan Gender Equity Education Association) which is a organization for feminist teachers and Hui-ling Lin will help us organize the visit. I am looking forward to meeting our Centre's members again. See you next summer.



Wen-hui Anna Tang with PhD Student Hui-Ling Lin at the end-of-term party, April 2004

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## Jiang Qingfeng

the females in different stages in the developmental history of China, trying to make people understand the importance of Chinese women's existence in whatever changes that have taken place in human history.

Moreover, I was quite impressed by the academic atmosphere in The Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations. The lectures, seminars and conferences highlighted the significance of my research in Women's Studies and feminist research in all fields. The weekly lunch-

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*"With the help of CSSA at UBC, I proposed to have an "Academic Research Day" among Chinese scholars and overseas students. We have already had our first seminar...."*

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time seminars provided me with opportunities to explore my interests and to share my experiences with those professors, scholars and students about some thorny issues of Women's Studies. For a better understanding of feminism, I could sit in on some lectures, such as: "Hybridity and Diaspora" by Professor Sneja Gunew; "Re-writing Sociology: Feminist Interventions" by Professor Dawn Currie; "Feminism and Geography" by Dr. Geraldine Pratt and "Women & Representation in Modern Asia" by Dr. Miriam Eguchi etc. These courses helped me a lot in formulating a theoretical framework for one of my recent projects which has just been approved by HYNU.

I'd like very much to thank Professor Sneja Gunew who spared her precious time to discuss my research on Women's Studies which inspired me to draw

my research on literature closer to the research of culture or to permeate the research of culture with the research on literature. I'd like to thank Valerie Raoul who provided me with room in SAGA so that I could study peacefully at UBC. Her generosity and kindness kept me from being homesick. My thanks also go to Jane Charles and Wynn Archibald. Without their help, I would not have been able to benefit from learning about some specific issues, to share others' talents and expertise, to meet other scholars who shared my culture and tradition.

My life at UBC was very valuable. As a liaison for the Chinese Consulate, I tried to organize Chinese overseas scholars in Vancouver to do some meaningful things. We visited SFU and some other colleges in order to know their education system and teaching programs and exchanged ideas with them about some hot issues. With the help of CSSA at UBC, I proposed to have an "Academic Research Day" among Chinese scholars and overseas students. We have already had our first seminar and I made a report myself. The seminar, which turned out to be quite a success, initiated a series of talks on the same or related subjects such as: "An Analysis on Barriers to Women's Self-actualization", "Good Mother and Fox lady" etc. This period also turned out to be very productive in my academic career. I have been reading extensively both on Feminism and on comparative studies between traditional Chinese women and modern women. Consequently I have written a series of articles, two of which have already been accepted for publication by two different academic journals in China.

My life at UBC has been both wonderful and meaningful.



## *Visiting Scholar Report*

### Chris Prentice

Department of English, University of Otago,  
Dunedin, New Zealand

I arrived at UBC to begin my three weeks with the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations during a gloriously sunny autumn weekend, the campus alive with greens, reds, and golds. The purpose of my visit, which was part of my study leave, was to investigate aspects of the ways aboriginal/First Nations cultures relate to contemporary forms of the management and consumption of culture, and in particular, 'cultural difference'—how the promotion of consumerist 'experiences' of 'cultural difference' influences and/or is influenced by, a post-assimilationist politics predicated on cultural difference. Specifically, I was looking for information on, and critical discussions of, the literal 'labelling', including trademarking, of native cultural productions and performances, a question that relates to, but isn't exhausted by, the concerns of intellectual property law and copywriting. Discussion with staff at the Museum of Anthropology was useful

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## Chris Prentice

for this. The other specific material I was seeking related to aboriginal/First Nations television, and I found material on the Aboriginal People's Television Network (APTN, or Channel 71), as well as being able to watch it, thanks to the television in my room at St John's. This made a valuable comparative contribution to my study, which was initiated with the advent this year of the new Maori Television Service channel in New Zealand.

A theme that runs through my projects is the question of the visual, and I wrote and presented a talk on questions of visibility politics raised by the seemingly tangential references to

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*"...I wrote and presented  
a talk on questions of  
visibility politics raised by the  
seemingly tangential references  
to technologies of medical  
visualisation in Patricia Grace's  
novel, Baby No-Eyes...."*

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technologies of medical visualisation in Patricia Grace's novel, *Baby No-Eyes*, arguing that they form a pivotal part of the accumulation of images and references relating to visual capacities and technologies in the exploration of significant political moments and struggles. Relations between women, the visual and the gaze are well established in both feminist and non-feminist theory more generally, and my talk was based on the view that Grace's novel opens gender questions that call for feminist analysis, given the positions women have occupied in depictions of Maori 'cultural tradition'—in particular as mothers—and the roles they have played in contemporary political

struggles. I very much appreciated the opportunity to present this talk, and the questions and engagement of the audience. Although I was interested in interdisciplinary feedback, it was also a bonus to find people familiar with the novel itself.

I was drawn to UBC in particular for my Canadian research because of the presence and work of Prof. Sneja Gunew, whose Transculturalisms project, in which Prof. Margery Fee from the English Department, who also participated, seemed to intersect with a number of concerns and themes in my own work. I appreciated the chance to meet and talk with both of them, and have come back with a list of recommended books and other reading voraciously noted down from our conversations. I read five books, sent a further carton of books back to New Zealand, and copied a number of articles from journals while I was there. It was great to have the quiet space and facilities of the office in the Centre. A big thankyou, also, to Prof. Valerie Raoul for her kind invitation to my first ever Thanksgiving dinner, shared with her vivacious and hospitable family and a number of her graduate students. I wish I'd had more time to talk with more people involved with the Centre and with SAGA, but I just want to thank everyone who offered help, hospitality—including lunches and dinners—and collegial discussion and suggestions during my stay.

If anyone wants to contact me about anything—suggestions for my work, ways I might be able to help with theirs—please don't hesitate. I very much hope to come back some time, and welcome anyone who thinks a visit to New Zealand, and specifically the University of Otago in Dunedin, might be on the cards.

Continued from 4

## Pat Elliot

the Centre as a guest lecture on March 10<sup>th</sup>. A similar version of this paper was also revised for publication in *Atlantis* after Sneja Gunew tactfully reminded me of how to respond to less than charitable reviewers. In the meantime, I had been granted interviews with Becki Ross, Kimberly Nixon and Barbara Findlay, a new and rewarding research experience for me, and I transcribed these as well. Long evenings at Green College enabled me to read several new books on transsexuality and to attend some interesting lectures there as well. The sunsets at the end of Cecil Green Park Road are simply spectacular.

The Centre's lecture series was an ongoing and welcome event for me. I learned about the outrageous increase in childhood vigilance in the U.S., about the history of attempts to foster heterosexuality in summer camps, about transcultural improvisation, and about the feminization of poverty in BC (an infuriating but familiar story). I was lucky enough to be able to attend the graduate student conference "(Un)knowable violences: non-innocent conversations" on March 13<sup>th</sup> which covered an impressive number of issues and raised interesting discussions among faculty and students. I was also fortunate to be able to attend the IWD festivities at the Centre as well as the end of term party. These were good opportunities to meet people and to learn about various research projects (not to mention seeing how feminists interact with a karaoke machine). I owe special thanks to Chris Shelly who shared ideas, texts, and his enthusiasm for transgender research with me, and to Bianca Rus who reminded me why intellectual passion matters. Aware that my visit might be one brief period of happy productivity in between periods of intense mourning, I thank all those who I encountered for making my visit pleasant and rewarding.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **RACIAL VIOLENCE AND THE COLOUR LINE OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER** a conference sponsored by the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies and Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.)

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA  
APRIL 1 AND 2, 2005**

*The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line, – the relationship of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea.* W.E. DuBois

Violence, both sexual and racial, is increasing in the post 911 environment. Researching these practices and reflecting on how best to respond now takes on a special urgency. The Conference proposes to develop a critical understanding of racial violence and strategies of resistance among community activists, academics and professionals.

The conference explores the racial violence of colonialism, of periods of racial terror (gendered racial violence against Aboriginal women and women of colour, lynching, the Holocaust), and of the New World Order (in particular the post 911 environment, and the violence of occupations and invasions) as well as police brutality and street violence. Through a feminist and anti-racist framework, we propose to explore how racial violence is sexualized and gendered, and how it operates as a defining feature of relations between dominant and subordinate groups.

Papers will consider how racial violence is linked to empire and nation building, and how individuals come to participate in these racial and gendered social arrangements. Law, the media, the university and other social institutions have an important role to play in producing and sustaining the violence of racial states, as it does in rupturing hierarchical social arrangements. The

conference encourages papers on law, the media, cultural and educational institutions. We also encourage papers on the issue of epistemic violence, that is, how cultural production and knowledge making practices are implicated in producing racial violence and how they might rupture it.

The conference will be useful to educators, policy makers, legal and other professionals who wish to critically examine violence and to develop anti-racist responses to it. More broadly, however, an examination of racial violence with an emphasis on how such violence is produced and sustained in white societies enables us to reflect critically on the nature of the relationship between oppressor and oppressed, how racial hierarchies are socially produced and sustained and what it takes to rupture racial social arrangements. An underlying premise of this approach is that a critical examination of historical and contemporary moments of racial terror enables us to remember what has been so willfully forgotten and what so persistently shapes the present. As William Pinar reminds us, to understand white racism “we must deliberately work to remember precisely that which we feel compelled to forget, to force our repression to fail, to engender regression.”

#### Themes

- \* the historical and contemporary relationship between colonized and colonizer
- \* historical contexts of racial terror, for example, the violence enacted on Aboriginal women, the lynching of African Americans and the Holocaust.
- \* interdisciplinary explanations of how violence shapes the identities of those who engage in it and how it structures the nation. Themes here include how whites collectively “forget” the violence of white supremacy, violence in white settler states, the racial violence of the ‘war on terror,’ post-colonial nationalisms.
- \* The production of racially dominant masculinities and femininities. How does the body express racial arrangements and how racism is sexualized and gendered?
- \* Contemporary sites of violence, for example, police and prison violence, and racial violence in the international context of peacekeeping and war.
- \* law, the media and the academy’s complicity with and response to racial violence (for example think tanks, research practices, etc).
- \* the impact of racial violence on people of colour, including the impact on youth, on the health of Black communities, and a range of

political and social responses to racial violence.

\*community responses to racial violence

\*cultural production (films, videos, performances) on issues of racial violence

PLEASE SEND ABSTRACTS OR INQUIRIES TO:

David Divine

James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies

Room 202, Henry Hicks Building  
6299 South Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H6

david.divine@dal.ca

or

Sherene Razack

Sociology and Equity Studies in Education

OISE/UT Room 12-266

252 Bloor Street West

Toronto, ON. M5S 1V6

srazack@oise.utoronto.ca

## Post-doctoral Fellow finalizes books during stay at the Centre

**Linda Morra**

SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellow  
2003-04

The objective for the SSHRC Post-doctoral Fellowship as stipulated in the original proposal was to write a book that related to Emily Carr – that objective has been met and surpassed. My book, *"To my Dear Eye; As Ever, Emily": The Correspondence of Emily Carr and Ira Dilworth, 1940-1941*, is forthcoming with the University of Toronto Press. The book is currently in the hands of the copy-editor at the Press and is scheduled to be published within the next six months.

Since my last report, *At the Speed of Light There is Only Illumination: A Reappraisal of Marshall McLuhan*, a book I co-edited with Professor John Moss, was published with the University of Ottawa Press. I also revised and re-submitted "Like Rain Drops Rolling Down New Paint": Chinese Immigrants and the Problem of National Identity in

the Work of Emily Carr," which is currently under review with the *American Review of Canadian Studies*. I have reviews forthcoming with *Canadian Literature*, including *Be Quiet* by Margaret Hollingsworth, *Opposite Contraries* by Susan Crean, and *Bill Reid* by Doris Shadbolt. I have a review of *Breath Takes* by Douglas Barbour and *Blues for Bird* by Martin Gray to appear in the *Journal of Canadian Poetry* and another that encompasses *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland and the new edition of Emily Carr's *Klee Wyck* by Emily Carr, introduced by Kathryn Bridge, slated to appear in the next issue of *Books in Canada*.

Aside from publications, I have also been considerably successful with grants. I won a National Gallery of Canada Research Fellowship Program for 1 month next year to conduct further research related to Carr at the National Gallery. I also won the Aid to Scholarly

*Continued on 15*



### Visiting Scholar Report

## Chunmei Wang

Beijing Language University, PR China

my stay here has been productive and enriching in many ways.

When doing my postgraduate work in the English Department in Peking University, I was amazed to learn about the whole range of women writers in the history of the English literature. I wrote my thesis on Fanny Burney, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century British Woman writer and embarked on an almost self-guided journey in women's studies. But due to lack of resources, when I came to UBC, I was still at beginner's

level. The lecture series held by our Center has been extremely inspiring and stimulating and opened my mind to numerous possibilities for research.

In order to fully take advantage of the academic resources, I audited courses in women's studies and EFL teaching in the Department of Sociology, the Department of Education and the Department of Language and Literacy Education. I also took teacher-

*Continued on 18*

From Sept. 2003 to Sept. 2004, I have spent a most memorable year at the Center for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations at UBC and

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations

Fall 2004, WMST 500  
Lecture Series

Wednesdays 12 Noon - 1pm, 1896 East Mall

**September 15: Vathsala Aithal**

Cornelia Goethe Center for Gender Studies,  
University of Frankfurt on Main, Germany  
*Learning from the Subaltern? Women in India in  
struggle for Water and Social Transformation*

**September 22: Jackie Stacey**

Co-sponsored with SFU  
Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, UK  
*The Cinematic Life of the Gene*  
\*Additional lecture on September 23, 7:30 p.m. HC  
1600 at Harbour Centre, SFU

**September 29: Kelly Oliver**

Co-sponsored with Green College  
W. Alton Jones Chair of Philosophy, Vanderbilt  
University, USA  
*Social Melancholy, Shame and Sublimation*

**October 6: Sofia Trilivas**

Department of Psychology, University of Crete,  
Greece  
*Community mental health promotion programming:  
Sharing, experiential learning, and empowerment*

**October 13: Christine Ann Prentice**

English Dept., University of Otago, New Zealand  
*The Implications of Visual Technologies for Culture,  
Indigeneity and the Maternal Body in Patricia  
Grace's Baby No-Eyes*

**October 20: Sunera Thobani**

Centre for Research in Women's Studies and  
Gender Relations, UBC  
*Media Representations of Women in the War on  
Terrorism: A Study of Two Documentaries*

**October 27: Kartik Roy**

School of Economics, University of Queensland,  
Australia  
*Poverty Alleviation, Gender Empowerment and  
Development in South East Asia: Theory, Reality  
and Historical Perspective*

**November 3: Hammed Shahidian**

Chair, Sociology/Anthropology Program, University  
of Illinois at Springfield, USA  
*Contested Discourses on Sexuality in Post-  
Revolutionary Iran*

**November 10: Amanda C.J. Vincent**

Canada Research Chair in Marine Conservation  
Fisheries Centre, UBC  
*Reconciling Fisheries with Conservation on Coral Reefs*

**November 17: Leslie Paris**

History Department, UBC  
*'Little Miss Perfect': Women's Gymnastics, Girl Champions,  
and Gender Politics in 1970s American Culture*

**November 24: Itrath Syed**

MA student, Centre for Research in Women's Studies and  
Gender Relations, UBC  
TBA

**December 1: Maureen Molloy**

Foundation Chair in Women's Studies, University of Auckland,  
New Zealand  
*Looking for Gender in the Creative Industries: a case study of  
the New Zealand Designer Fashion Industry*



Vathsala Aithal



Sofia Trilivas



Jackie Stacey



Kelly Oliver



## Students present papers at Nancy Huston colloquium

**Heather Latimer**  
MA Student

On May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Sam Semper, Melanie Scheuer and I attended a colloquium on author Nancy Huston at Mount Royal College in Calgary, Alberta, entitled *Nancy Huston: Trans-cultural Dialogues*. The intention of the colloquium was to discuss and comment on "the trans-cultural dialogues, cultural boundaries and ethnic affiliations in Huston's novels," as well as provide an opportunity for Huston herself to visit Calgary and read from new and unpublished texts.

On Thursday May 20<sup>th</sup> I presented a paper entitled "The Gaps Between Theory and Practice: Nancy Huston's 'Exile' and the Politics of Representa-

tion" to rather mixed reviews from the audience. Since my paper was somewhat critical of Huston's politics (at a conference where the other papers were mostly positive) it stimulated a lot of discussion and was called "thought-provoking" and "stimulating" by some of the other presenters. On Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> Sam gave a paper entitled "Toward a New 'Subjective Space': 'Nancy Huston's' 'Being in Exile' as (Re)Productive Distance," which also

stimulated a lot of discussion in the audience and was given very warm

*Continued on 20*



*Graduate Students Sam Semper, Heather Latimer and Melanie Scheuer who attended the Nancy Huston Colloquium in May, 2004.*

*Continued from 13*

### Linda Morra

Publications Programme grant (in the amount of \$7,000) for the book scheduled to be published with the University of Toronto. I was approved (but not funded) for a SSHRC Standard Research Grant and was nominated by the Department of English for a Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of British Columbia.

In terms of presentations, I participated on a roundtable titled "Staging/Performing Emily Carr" for the conference *Putting a Life on Stage: Theatre and AutoBiography Exploratory Workshop*. It was held at the University of British Columbia in February 2004. I was also a member of the Organizing Committee for that conference. In February, I facilitated Professor Fred Flahiff's series of presentations about Sheila Watson as part of the series of Green College Visiting Professorship Lecture Series. In February 2004, I gave a talk related to my postdoctoral research related to Emily Carr

at Green College, University of British Columbia. I also wrote a fundraising proposal for the journal, *Canadian Literature*, at the University of British Columbia.

I taught two courses during the tenure of the Fellowship, both through the Department of English at the University of British Columbia. The first was a second-year level course titled "Literature in Canada" with about thirty students; the second was a fourth-year level course titled "Studies in Canadian Literature," which had twenty-eight students and which was designed to explore a range of political, social and cultural issues related to Canada through the visual and literary arts.

Finally, I participated as a Committee Member for the Postdoctoral Fellowship Task Force, the Office of Vice President Research. University of British Columbia. The Task Force was created because the question of how Postdoctoral Fellows are treated at the University of British Columbia needs to be addressed: although there are currently few benefits offered by the

University to postdoctoral candidates in the humanities, administration is working on improving these conditions. The heads of both the Department of English and the Centre for Research in Women's Studies ought to be commended for working to make my stay at UBC comfortable – when I was told there were no travel grants available for a conference-related trip I was making to Germany, they both wrote letters on my behalf to locate some funding for me. The Head of the Department of English also showed support when I was disqualified from being considered as a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow because I was approached as an employee of UBC. It was a privilege to work with Professor Eva-Marie Kröller, who was an *ideal* mentor and who was both attentive and supportive. Professor Kröller graciously allowed me to share her office. I was also pleased to have had the opportunity to access the archives at both UBC and the British Columbia Archives and Records Service that made the book possible.

*Studies in Autobiography, Gender and Age*

## Update from the SAGA Centre

**Valerie Raoul**  
SAGA Director

This term we are concentrating on future plans, and ways to ensure on-going funding for SAGA. The CFI/BCKDF funds allocated for equipment must be spent by the end of December. We have already installed a new transcribing machine, and will be acquiring another printer, a photocopier, a high level scanner, digital recording equipment, and a portable computer + power point projector.

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*"...we are planning a workshop on oral history in Vancouver to be held early in 2005."*

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Software is being selected for the data-base and data analysis, voice to text transcription, printing of digital images etc. If you are aware of good software programmes that you would recommend, now is the time to let me know. Our hope is that SAGA will become a place where scholars from here and elsewhere can access the means to facilitate their research on written, oral or visual auto/bio/graphy and gender across the lifespan. Our thanks go to Jenéa Tallentire (Department of History) for her assistance in finding out about new methods of archival research and liaising with UBC Archives for us, as well as preparing a pilot project.

Our web-site is up and running ([www.saga.ubc.ca](http://www.saga.ubc.ca)) thanks to the work of Sara Koopman, our books are classified thanks to Xin Huang,

who worked at SAGA over the summer, and our Associates list is growing. To become an Associate, contact our Research Assistant, Hui-Ling Lin ([saga@ubc.ca](mailto:saga@ubc.ca)). Several SAGA Associates recently (Nov. 23-4) had the pleasure of attending a workshop on Memory and Place, organized by Brian Elliott (AnSoc) on behalf of the Memory and Narrative publication series (associated with the Oral History and Life Stories Network), whose editorial board (including members from the UK and Holland) were meeting in Vancouver. We were reminded how important the preservation and sharing of life stories is in seeking recognition of traditional knowledge, individual and collective healing, and legal redress, from Bosnia, to Columbia, to the Yukon.

In coming months we will be organizing informal meetings at SAGA to share our research results and questions, and we are planning a workshop on oral history in Vancouver to be held early in 2005. All are welcome to participate in SAGA events. To keep in touch, check the web-site.



*Graduate student Xin Huang at work during the Centre's pumpkin-carving contest, Oct. 25th*

*Continued from 8*

**Rocio Davis**

Pratt were also very helpful and full of ideas. Nora Angeles helped me commune more effectively with my inner Filipina and has opened doors to future projects. And I will never forget the birthday card that was waiting for me the morning of my birthday! I also met with some members of the English department who work in my field. Laurie Ricou, Susanna Egan, Gabriele Helms, and Glenn Deer were very generous with their time and expertise. I am very grateful to everyone who made this visit possible, productive and a pleasure in so many ways.

Being in Vancouver was also an unforgettable experience (even though people kept assuring me that April in Vancouver was never always so sunny!). Extra-curricular activities at UBC and outside included attending a lecture by the Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines and, particularly, a fascinating presentation by Canadian filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming of her documentary about her great-grandfather's life, a family memoir about Chinese immigration, vaudeville, war, acrobatics, and magic. I also visited Steveston, the site of early Japanese Canadian settlement, which was a very moving experience. There's so much more I wish I would have had time to do and see, but I'll save that for the next visit!



### Visiting Scholar Report

## Faye Hammill

English Literature, Cardiff University, UK

I have spent a most fruitful and enjoyable month (August 2004) as a Visiting Scholar at UBC. My visit was funded by the Cardiff University Young Researchers Travel Scheme, so that I did not apply for a grant from the Centre, but was very pleased to be allocated workspace there. The staff of the Centre have been extremely welcoming and helpful, and I have learned a lot from hearing about the current research projects, and meeting other visiting scholars.

My background is in Canadian Studies, specialising in women's writing. I am currently working on a proj-

ect entitled 'Women, Celebrity and Literary Culture Between the Wars', a transatlantic study of high-profile and best-selling writers. I am also writing a student textbook on English-Canadian literature. The library at UBC provided excellent resources for both these projects. UBC has a far wider range of electronic journal subscriptions than my own university, so I was able to download some important articles. Also, the library Special Collections holds the private papers of one of the authors I am working on, EM Delafield (The Diary of a Provincial Lady). There are also runs of journals which it is difficult for me to consult at home, particularly American Vogue and Vanity Fair from the 1910s and 1920s. I spent some time trying to work out which of the lingerie captions in Vogue were written by Dorothy Parker, and surprisingly, this suggested a whole new line of argument for my chapter on her work! In the process I came across some most amusing advertisements for men's all-in-one underwear (with "the seat that stays open when

you want it open, and remains closed when you want it closed").

The Canadian Studies collection in the library is, of course, extensive, and I have benefitted from discussions with Richard Cavell, director of the International Centre for Canadian Studies. I also met numerous professors and authors in my field while attending some sessions of the triennial conference of the International Association of University Professors of English, hosted at UBC in mid-August. The sessions on Canadian Literature and Modernism were especially useful. I also visited Victoria as the guest of the Belfry Theatre (since I had written some programme notes for them), and Sooke, Vancouver Island, where I met several poets and artists – it seems this is where you find them. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay into the term-time in order to give a paper, but hope to do so in the future.

### *AV Equipment available for loan to WMST Grad Students*

*The Centre has the following audio-visual equipment available for the use of graduate students in their research or other projects.*

*Equipment can be signed out at the front desk.*

*Sony TRV350 Handycam Camcorder / Tripod*

*Sony Multimedia Projector*

*Canon PowerShot G5 Digital Camera*

*Handheld tape recorder (standard cassette)*



*Continued from 13*

## Chunmei Wang

training courses provided by the Center for Teaching and Academic Growth. I have benefited not only from what is taught, but also from how courses are taught and I have had quite a few pleasant culture shocks.

Meanwhile, I have written about Chinese women and had two chances to present my papers at the Institute for Asian Studies. My first presentation "Yesterday Once More: a Critical Analysis of the Evolution of Chinese Marriage Laws from a Feminist Perspective" was given at a Symposium jointly held by UBC, SFU, and UVic. It was followed by another presentation "New Bottle, Old Wine: an Analysis of Concubinage in Modern China" given at a workshop on Chinese women. Both papers drew people's attention to the problems Chinese women face despite decades of government legislation and policies to ensure that "women hold up half the sky."

In June, I attended the international conference on "Sex, Sexuality and Health" held at SFU and gave a poster presentation titled "the Mother-wife and the Foxy Lady: Gender Role Depiction in Advertisements in Modern China".

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*"Both papers drew people's attention to the problems Chinese women face despite decades of government legislation and policies to ensure that 'women hold up half the sky.'"*

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But more importantly, I was enlightened by the presentations given by people from different parts of the world and gained insight and better understanding of the condition of women today.

In July, I gave a presentation titled

"China Learns English" to a group of graduate students in the Department of Language and Literacy Education. In this presentation, I talked about the history of English language teaching and learning in China and the political environment for English learning in contemporary China.

In addition to an academically fulfilling life at UBC, I also enjoyed the rich romantic life of Vancouver. I spent almost every weekend sightseeing, visiting the art galleries, parks, museums, listening to music on Granville Island, hiking in the woods in Whistler and North Vancouver. I can say with pride that I left my footprints on every corner of Vancouver. I also had chances to talk to artists and musicians who showed keen interest in Chinese culture and politics. I was especially impressed by the friendliness of Vancouver people and their "take-it-easy" attitude toward life.

My visit to this beautiful city is like

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## UBC Scholar-in-Residence Program 2005-06

The Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations is offering UBC Scholar positions for the 2005-06 session.

The Centre stimulates feminist research and facilitates the exchange of ideas and collaboration amongst scholars working in relevant areas at U.B.C. and elsewhere.

The choice of scholars each year is determined by a variety of factors including, excellence of the research project, representation from diverse fields, disciplines and faculties, length of time to/from sabbatical, and diversity of ranks. In addition, the Centre may have a particular programme need at a particular time.

Only full time UBC faculty not on sabbatical are eligible to apply. Up to two one-term (4 months, excluding May to August) positions are available.

After completing an appointment as a UBC Scholar, a faculty member will not be eligible to apply again for at least ten years.

During their appointment, Scholars are expected to contribute to scholarly activities of the Centre by being present several times a week, interacting with visiting scholars and post-docs or graduate students, and participating in interdisciplinary seminars or discussion groups. Scholars will also give a public seminar or workshop during their term.

The UBC Scholar's Department will be reimbursed appropriately cover the cost of hiring sessionals for the teaching that scholar will not be doing in the department. It is hoped that departments will be able to release Scholars from some of their administrative duties while they are at the Centre. It is recognized that the ability of departments to pro-

vide such administrative release will vary; the details for each Scholar will be worked out by the individual Scholar and her or his Department.

The deadline for receipt of applications for the 2005-06 academic year is November 15, 2004. Interested UBC faculty must submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of their research plans for their term as a UBC Scholar, the preferred date of their term, copies of recent publications, and letters of approval from their Department Head/Director and Dean. Applicants are also asked to arrange to have two references forwarded to:

UBC Scholar Program, Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, 1896 East Mall, CAMPUS 1

## Visiting Scholar Program 2005-06

The University of British Columbia offers a Visiting Scholar Program as an integral part of its Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations. Scholars working in these areas are encouraged to apply to spend leave time (one to six months) in affili-

Scholars from "developing" countries are encouraged to apply. In its selection of visitors, the Centre hopes to create a diverse community of junior and senior scholar-researchers. The Centre is particularly interested in applicants who are situated within existing Women's Studies centres which might be interested in forging future international links.

Funds are extremely limited and are not available for salary. Their permanent geographical location and their other forms of supports will determine the level of assistance available to successful applicants. Normally, scholars from North America, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union, will not be eligible for funding.

Scholars will normally be provided with shared office space at the Centre itself, phone, a computer workstation in the SAGA Centre, Koerner Library and secretarial assistance. The University's academic year runs from September to April; therefore applicants are encouraged to schedule the majority of their visit to the Centre during these months. Scholars will normally only receive funding on one occasion.

Applications must include:

Curriculum vitae

A detailed statement of research plans for the time period

The length of stay proposed and the dates

An indication of required funding needs

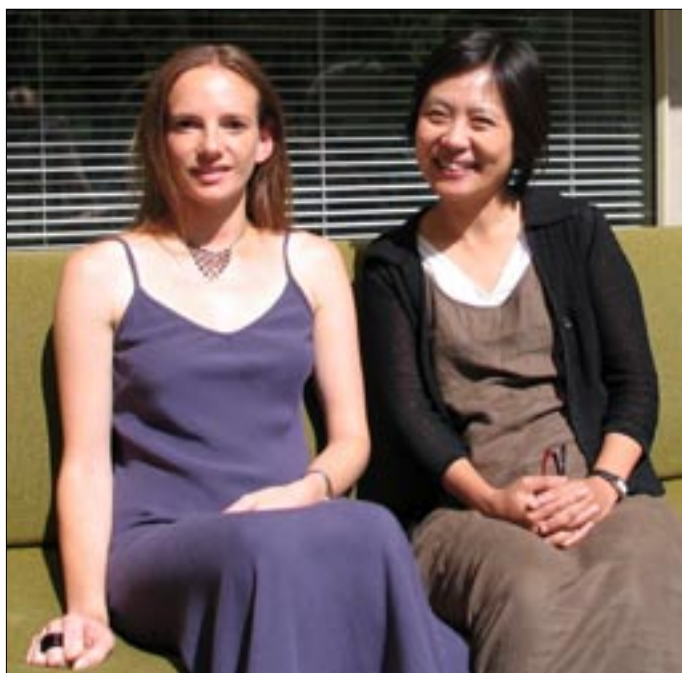
The applicant must also arrange to have two referees forward their assessments to: Visiting Scholar Program, UBC Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, 1896 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V6T 1Z1.

The closing date for receipt of applications is December 1, 2004.

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### Chunmei Wang

a glimpse of paradise and now that I am going back to Beijing, China, that is, back to reality, I feel very grateful to Sneja and the Center for having invited me here and having provided me with the chance to learn about Chinese women from a new perspective. I want to thank Valerie for the Christmas party at her home where I received Christmas presents in a huge stocking for the first time in my life. My thanks also go to Sunera and Miriam who lent me books to read. I would also like to extend my thanks to Jane and Wynn who are always ready to help. Last but not least, I am lucky to be surrounded by a wonderful community whose members are bound together by shared concern for the welfare of women in the world, and I want to say "thank you" to everybody.



*Visiting Scholars in the summer of 2004 included Faye Hammill (Cardiff University, UK), and Wen-hui Anna Tang (National Cheng-Kung University, Taiwan).*

ation with the Centre. The goal of the Centre is to stimulate feminist research and to facilitate interchange of ideas and collaboration among scholars, at UBC and elsewhere. Scholars will be expected to participate in the activities of the Centre and to give a public lecture during their term.

The Visiting Scholar programme is open to faculty, both untenured and tenured, as well as to independent scholars who are engaged in critical work on women and gender, who are not currently working on a higher degree at any institution and preference will be given to those who reside in areas outside the B.C. Lower Mainland.

*Continued from 2*

## Update from the Director

visiting scholar, a psychologist from the University of Crete, and she will be at the SAGA Centre for the rest of the academic year.

We congratulate the four MA students who will be graduating in November. Melanie and Heather will be continuing their studies with our colleagues at Simon Fraser and Sirijit and Sam are entering our own doctoral program. A number of our doctoral students have also survived the qualifying exams; Cecily Nicholson, Marilou Carillo, Lauren Hunter and Bianca Rus. Particular kudos to the graduate students whose 'amper-sand' volume of last year's graduate conference papers is an aesthetically elegant addition to the Centre's publications. Sam Semper is the moving force in this project and we hope it

launches a series of such publications in the future.

I am also pleased to tell you that the new category of Research Associates we have formed continues to grow and is a way of acknowledging the important work that is accomplished by those who hold or have held sessional positions in Women's Studies. The category also includes colleagues who work in the community and scholars outside B.C. or Canada who wish to continue their association with the Centre.

Finally, particular thanks to Filippino artist Bert Monterona who donated a wonderful painting to the Centre and our gratitude to Nora Angeles for facilitating this event.



*Graduate Student Kim Snowden with Research Associate and long-time Sessional Instructor Ann McKinnon. In August we celebrated Ann's appointment as an Instructor in the Women's Studies Department at Okanagan University College in Kelowna.*



*This painting, donated to the Centre by Filippino artist Bert Monterona, now hangs in the Conference Room.*

*Continued from 15*

## Nancy Huston Colloquium

reviews from the other presenters. On Friday night Huston herself spoke at the Alliance Française and read from her newest material as well as spoke about plans to turn her novel Plainsong into a film.

As the only graduate students at the colloquium both Sam and I were somewhat nervous about giving our papers and were glad to have Melanie there for support. The experience, however, was extremely valuable as we were able to see firsthand what an academic conference is like without the presence of grad students as well as gain experience reading in front of a larger audience. Overall, we both read well and the other presenters gave us many compliments on both our poise as grad students and on the obvious quality of our program through the CRWSGR.



## Nancy Nisbet, UBC Scholar in Residence, 2004

I wish to begin by thanking everyone at the centre for the amazing opportunity to have time to further my own research and become involved with the students, faculty and staff. This time has been invaluable. I specifically thank Sneja Gunew and the WMST 502 students for kindly allowing me to participate in their graduate seminar.

During the residency I had the opportunity to attend and participate in the Wednesday Lecture Series where I presented "Surveillance, Identity and Subversion: A Look at a New Media Art Project." I was also pleased to moderate the session on "Violence and Representation" at the graduate student conference (un) knowable violences: non-innocent conversations.

The four months of dedicated time was very productive for my artistic research. I have spent the time working in the studio developing six art projects ranging from installation, video, photography and new media. These projects weave between the political, the technological and the personal.

There are two main (yet overlapping) threads running through the work. The first is politically engaged and emerges from events surrounding the US – led War in Iraq/ on Terror, and specifically considers issues of power, economics, surveillance and identity. The second is technological and considers information and communication technologies (ICTs), cultural influences on language and non-linear narrative construction.

One project, "Blur," was presented as part of the exhibition "Body Con" in Tokyo, Japan. The exhibition uses the suitcase as its platform and means of transport. Through the work of several artists, the exhibition reveals "the body as a site of invasion and transformation, where previous boundaries are transgressed." Emerging out of this work is a new paper that I will present at the World Human Rights Art Symposium in Athens, Greece this December. "Divided Flesh, Infinite Data: Art and the Surveillance of Bodies" considers artistic responses to bodies and the increasingly relevant construction of



"data-bodies."

It has been my pleasure to meet and work with so many inspiring people during the last semester. This program is tremendous. It is an honour to be associated with the centre and further develop interdisciplinary ties.



*Graduate Advisor Isabel Dyck (left) with PhD Student Hui-Ling Lin. Dr. Dyck returned to the Centre this fall after a year's sabbatical leave at Cambridge University. She is available to meet with current and prospective students on Mondays, 1:00-3:00 pm at the Centre, or by appointment <gradadv@interchange.ubc.ca>.*

*Visiting Scholar Report***Kartik Roy**

School of Economics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

The importance of "Development Studies" as a broad discipline for gaining specialization in teaching and research has been growing since the beginning of the 1990s. In terms of scope, it now encompasses economics – particularly development economics and international economics, sociology, anthropology, international relations, gender studies, environment, language, culture, history, media studies, legal studies, and several other areas.

As an economist specialising in research in development economics and international economics, my areas of concentration during the last fifteen years have included institutions and development, gender, poverty, environment and sustainable development, technology transfer, etc.

It is this interest in the area of institutional economics and gender studies that brought me to the UBC Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations.

The specific purpose of my visit has been to develop a framework for the contents of a book: *Institutions and Gender Empowerment: Rich and Poor Countries*, which I am planning to edit. Here, during my short stay at the Centre, I have interacted with a number of faculty to gather information on a number of institutional issues, including media as an institution relevant to gender empowerment. These would be useful for preparing an outline of the book. I have discussed my proposal with Professor Wendy Frisby, who has been seconded to the Centre from the School of Human Kinetics. She has been working in the area of participatory approach to empowerment in Canada. She has agreed to contribute one

chapter on Canada.

I have had the opportunity also to discuss with a fellow visiting scholar at the Centre, Professor Hammed Shahidian, of the Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, the issues involved in my proposed book. He has agreed to contribute one chapter on gender empowerment in Iran.

One fascinating aspect of my visit was gaining a deeper insight into the role of media as a powerful institution in gender empowerment. I have interacted with Professor Sunera Thobani of the Centre on the role of media as

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*"It is this interest in the area of institutional economics and gender studies that brought me to the UBC Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations."*

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an institution. She has expressed her willingness to contribute one chapter on the role of media as an institution.

There are a few other academic staff at the Centre with whom I plan to establish contact regarding my book proposal. Through Sneja, I have been able to establish contact with a number of scholars outside UBC who are likely to contribute to this book. Apart from working on the theme of the proposed book on institution and gender empowerment, I also delivered a lecture on Institutions, Sens' theory of Exchange



Entitlement, Poverty and Empowerment in South Asia.

Although specifically named as the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, I found this UBC Centre to be a dynamic multidisciplinary centre, probably the finest in Canada, where scholars from many disciplines including most disciplines in social sciences, come to undertake research and enrich their knowledge in institutional issues influencing development. A glance at the faculty profile shows that areas of research in this centre include international development, feminist theory, colonial writing, East Asian cultural studies, comparative and other aspects of feminism, gender theory, women in modern East Asia, Canadian women's history, gender and social justice, feminist theory and social research method, globalisation, media and women, immigration in Canada, participatory action research, poverty, women's health and other gender issues.

The most fascinating aspect of such a diversity in areas of research specialisation is that there is a unity. The deep undercurrent in all these areas is gender issues which binds them together. Such diversity in research also enriches the overall research culture and profile of the Centre. Consider-

*Continued on 23*

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able credit must go to Sneja for bringing scholars from all over the world to undertake research at the Centre.

To my knowledge, no such dynamic research centre exists in Australia. I must thank Sneja for bringing me to this Centre. She was extremely keen for me to spend some time at the Centre. Members of the faculty have been very cordial to me. This has made my short stay at the Centre very pleasant indeed. I finally must thank Jane and Wynn for doing everything possible to make my life here at Vancouver quite easy.

I do sincerely hope that I would be able to come back to this dynamic centre again in a few year's time and to spend a longer time here. I leave this Centre with a very fond memory of a closely knit family of faculty, students and administrative staff.

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an undergraduate  
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March 17 – March 19, 2005  
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We encourage papers, panels, performances, and posters from undergraduate students who are doing work relating to women, girls, sexualities, and gender across all fields. For more information visit our website:

[http://www.ws.arts.ubc.ca/  
conference.html](http://www.ws.arts.ubc.ca/conference.html)

***Visiting Scholar Report***

**Euridice Figueiredo**

Universidade Federal Fluminense (Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro – Brazil)

The aim of my visit to UBC was to research the representation of Indian and more specifically metissage in Canadian literature in order to compare it to the one in Quebecois literature. Since I had met at previous conferences Professor Sneja Gunew and Professor Margery Fee, I applied to a grant of the Canadian Government in order to come here. The two Professors have most kindly received me and introduced me to the subject.

Received as a visiting scholar by the Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations, I had many facilities such as a card to use UBC's Libraries, the possibility to photocopy material at the Centre and a workstation at SAGA, where I had a computer with access to Internet.

The conditions of work here were very good and I can say that in three weeks I accomplished a lot of research and experienced a connection to BC's reality concerning Native People. The visit to Museum of Anthropology was a great experience. I found a lot of material for



my research, mainly novels written by Canadian authors but also some important essays concerning the Imaginary Indian in Canadian Culture.

I would resume my sojourn here as great progress in my research thanks to the help I had mainly from Professor Margery Fee, who is a specialist in Canadian literature and more specifically in First Nations Studies, and to Professor Sneja Gunew, who kindly offered me all the facilities of the Centre.



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S STUDIES AND  
GENDER RELATIONS



The University of British Columbia  
1896 East Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1

Phone: 604-822-9171  
Fax: 604-822-9169  
Email: [wmst1@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:wmst1@interchange.ubc.ca)  
Website: [www.wmst.ubc.ca](http://www.wmst.ubc.ca)

Sneja Gunew, Director  
604-822-9175 [sneja.gunew@ubc.ca](mailto:sneja.gunew@ubc.ca)

Isabel Dyck, Graduate Advisor  
604-822-1324 [gradadv@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:gradadv@interchange.ubc.ca)

Valerie Raoul, SAGA Director  
604-822-9487 [valraoul@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:valraoul@interchange.ubc.ca)

Jane Charles, Administrator  
604-822-9173 [jane.charles@ubc.ca](mailto:jane.charles@ubc.ca)

Wynn Archibald, Secretary  
604-822-9171 [wynn.archibald@ubc.ca](mailto:wynn.archibald@ubc.ca)

Members of the Advisory Committee:  
Susan Boyd, Faculty of Law  
Elaine Carty, Nursing  
Ann Condon, Computer Science  
Isabel Dyck, Rehabilitation Sciences  
Margery Fee, English  
Wendy Frisby, Chair, Women's Studies Program  
Sneja Gunew, Director CRWGR  
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Kim Snowden, PhD Student, Women's Studies  
Amanda Vincent, Fisheries Centre

*The Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations is a part of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at The University of British Columbia. Our primary purposes are to:*

- Highlight the significance of research in Women's Studies or Gender Relations and feminist research in all fields;*
- Encourage UBC faculty graduate students and others to meet together in multi-disciplinary groups for discussion and research in these areas;*
- Bring UBC researchers together with activists and researchers from other institutions in Canada and abroad, and from within the community; and*
- Communicate support for women's studies, gender analysis and feminist research to governments, institutions, community groups and the public in British Columbia, Canada and elsewhere.*

*Beyond the Centre* is published by The University of British Columbia's Centre for Research in Women's Studies and Gender Relations two to three times a year. It is distributed free of charge to Friends of the Centre, as well as to interested researchers, educators, community activists, practitioners and students. Any part of this newsletter may be reprinted with credit to the source.

If you would like to share your feedback with us or for more information about becoming a Friend of the Centre, please contact Jane Charles, coordinator of the newsletter.