

## Meeting Minutes

### Chicago Area Women's and Gender Studies Consortium (CAWGS)

January 18, 2008, 1.30-3.30 p.m. University of Chicago, Center for Gender Studies

#### Present:

Laurie Fuller, Northeastern Illinois University  
Judith Gardiner, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Betsy Jones Hemenway, Loyola University  
Ann Kuzdale, Chicago State University  
Stuart Michaels, University of Chicago  
Debbie Nelson, University of Chicago  
Gina Olson, University of Chicago  
Teresa Prados, Columbia College  
Sarah Shirk, University of Illinois at Chicago (phone link)

Submitted by Ann Kuzdale, send edits to akuzdale@csu.edu

- I. Finalization of plans for CAWGS faculty development workshop: "Futures of Women & Gender Studies: Trans/National/Sexual/Formative?" at Hull House, UIC, February 8, 2008
  1. Registration Report-Sarah Shirk
    - i. approximately 11 people have registered as of January 18, 2008 from various universities
    - ii. approximately 8 people are interested in the Hull House tour (Sarah Shirk will follow up)
    - iii. confirmation letter will be sent to the participants @February 1<sup>st</sup>
  2. Moderators & Panelists discussed.
    - i. Judith Gardiner will make welcoming remarks
    - ii. Laurie Fuller and Stuart Michaels will act as co-moderators
    - iii. Panelists. Discussion centered on choosing panelists who could speak to the topics of the workshop: global, queer/trans, and futures issues and panelists who would be representative across the university-wide spectrum in the Chicago area.
      - a. Global: Shweta Singh, Loyola University, has agreed to act as a panelist. Betsy Jones Hemenway will confirm.
      - b. Queer/Trans: Jeff Maston, Northwestern University, will be asked by Stuart Michaels via Amy Partridge; Lourdes Torres (DePaul Univ.) was suggested as an alternate.
      - c. Futures issues: Ann Russo was considered the first choice. Teresa Pardos will follow up with her. Alternates suggested were Barbara Ransby (UIC) or Jane Saks (Columbia Coll.)
    - iv. Other Representation at the workshop. Teresa Pardos will follow up with the Art Institute to see if they will participate; Laurie Fuller will follow up with Harper College.

3. Workshop Readings. Three or four articles will be pre-circulated and posted on the CAWGS website. Laurie will contact Katy about uploading articles and updating the links on the website. If not, Sarah Shirk and Judy Gardiner will upload and email articles. The following articles were suggested by Ann Russo. CAWGS membership should read and comment on which ones to use. Finalize this by Friday, January 25, 2008.
  - i. N.A. Boyd, "What Does Queer Studies Offer Women's Studies?," in *Women's Studies for the Future*, eds. E. Kennedy & A. Beins.
  - ii. Kathleen M. Blee, "Contending with Disciplinarity," in *Women's Studies on its Own*, ed. Robyn Wiegman (Durham & London: Duke Univ. Press, 2002). [circulated via email]
  - iii. L. Donaldson, A. Donadey, & J. Silliman, "Subversive Couplings: On Antiracism and Postcolonialism in Graduate Women's Studies," in *Women's Studies on Its Own*.
  - iv. I. Grewal & C. Kaplan, "Transnational Practices and Interdisciplinary Feminist Scholarship: Refiguring Women's and Gender Studies," in *Women's Studies on Its Own*.
4. Questions for the Workshop. Committee discussed the types of formulated questions that would guide the workshop discussion, e.g. begin by engaging the participants' experience first rather than broad questions from the "top down." These need to be refined further in light of the pre-circulated readings. Debbie Nelson and Stuart Michaels will follow up. Examples for questions included:
  - i. How have you seen the field women's studies change? in the past 10 yrs, 20 yrs. 30 yrs?
  - ii. Has women's studies become institutionalized or is it still "hanging by a thread" in the academy?
  - iii. Are we experiencing the same thing? (e.g. at our different universities, our different course levels)
  - iv. What trends do you see in the field?
  - v. What is the connection between activism and the study of gender issues?
  - vi. Where does activism come from today? The students? The faculty?
  - vii. Practical questions concerning "assessment": what do we expect students to know? Do we have a common ground?
5. Refreshments. Since the workshop takes place from 2-4 p.m. only light refreshments will be on hand. Coffee and cookies should be supplied. Judith Gardiner will follow up on coffee service at UIC. Other programs should consider donations or monetary support.
6. Post-workshop dinner in Greek Town. Sarah Shirk and Judith Gardiner will make reservations at a nearby restaurant.

7. Agenda for February 8<sup>th</sup> Workshop to be pre-circulated to participants will include some of these:
    - i. Tour of Hull House
    - ii. Welcome
    - iii. Introductions
    - iv. Panelists—speak first; reference the articles & questions
    - v. Include CAWGS email address for participants. Encourage participants to share & post syllabi for their intro courses at the CAWGS website.
    - vi. Dinner in Greek Town
- II. Next Meeting
1. to be held Friday, April 18, 2008, from 1.30-3.30 p.m. at Columbia College
  2. Teresa Prados will chair the meeting
  3. Laurie Fuller will take meeting minutes