

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

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From the Commission Chair

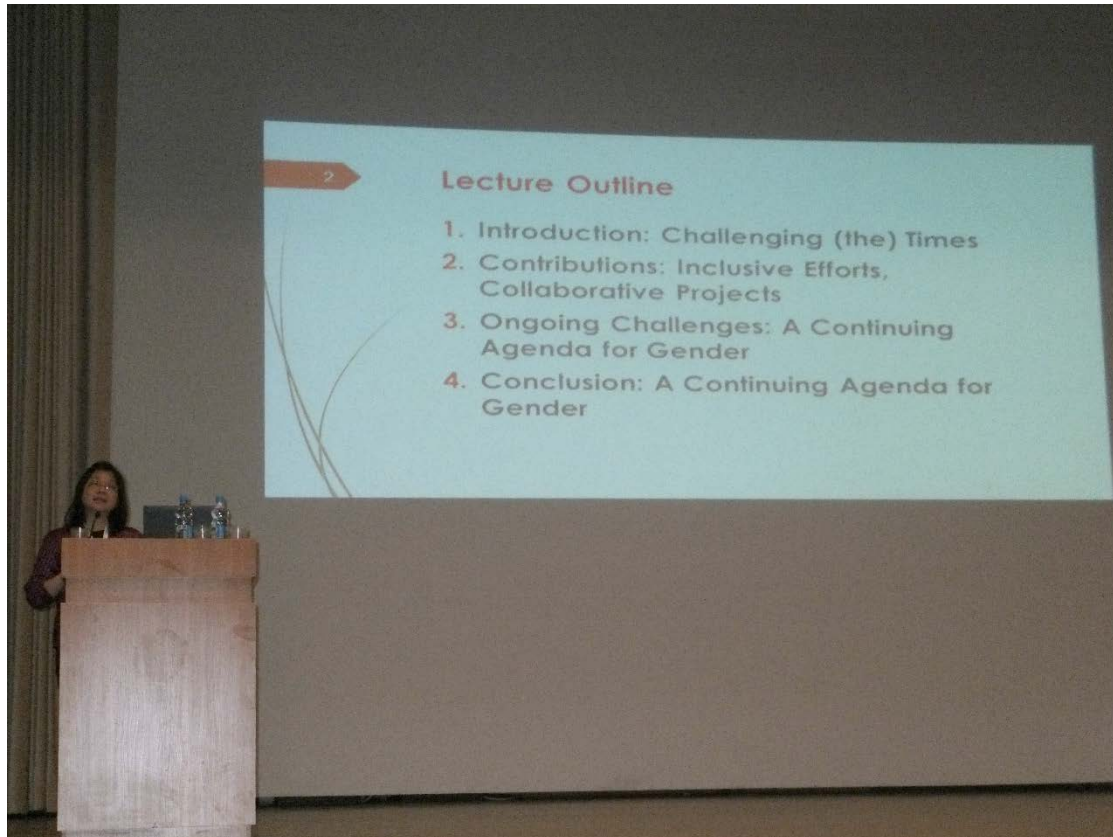
Shirlena Huang, National University of Singapore

The key event for the Commission since my last message was the 2015 IGU Regional Conference in Moscow on 7-21 August. Held at the imposing buildings of the Lomonosov Moscow State University (LMSU), the papers focused around the overall theme of “Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth”. Our Commission organized 5 sessions, including two co-sponsored with other Commissions and each with 3-5 papers. Themes were:

- Gendered Crime and Spaces
- Factors Affecting Women’s Education: Gender, Space, Culture and Society
- Gendered Life Courses
- Gendered Activisms in Asia (co-organised with the Commission on Political Geography)
- The Geographies of International Student Migration (co-organised with the Population Geography Commission)

In addition, I had the honour of presenting a Plenary Lecture on behalf of the Commission as Recipient of the Inaugural IGU Award for Best Commission which we received in 2014. The paper, “A Continuing Agenda for Gender”, was a collaborative effort by Janet Momsen, Janice Monk, Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon, Joos Droogleever Fortuijn and myself. It discussed the challenges faced by and contributions of the Commission over its 27-year history, and also considered the role the Commission can continue to play in the future. The IGU Gender and Geography Commission has come a long way since it was first established as a Study Group at the 1988 IGU Congress in Sydney – not without some struggles given that gender was not then acknowledged by all geographers as an area worthy of geographical research. Today the Gender Commission has over 700 corresponding members in over 50 countries and a rich slate of activities, including annual pre-conference workshops and multiple sessions at IGU conferences, a twice-a-year newsletter and sponsorship of gender workshops in different parts of the world. In the paper, we specifically highlighted how the Commission, since its early days, has aimed to be alert to, and inclusive of, the multiple voices of feminist geographers from across the world. In addition, in thinking about research that crosses international boundaries, we also discussed how the Commission has worked and will continue to work towards collaborative projects and research that is of salience to audiences beyond the sub-discipline of gender. The lecture was quite enthusiastically received, especially by young geographers from the non-Anglo-American world, and provided the opportunity to discuss ways the Commission can be even more inclusive in its efforts.

Inspired by the conference in Moscow, the Gender Commission has decided to set up a Young Scholars Committee that will allow young and early career geographers interested in gender/feminist themes to be more involved in advancing the agenda of the Commission and its activities. If you are interested in being part of this exciting effort, please email me (at geoslena@nus.edu.sg) to let me know. I look forward to hearing from you.



Shirlena Huang presenting the Gender Commission's Plenary Lecture on 19 August 2015 at the Assembly Hall of the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COMMISSION MEETING IN 2016

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FEMINIST GEOGRAPHIES AND INTERSECTIONALITY: PLACES, IDENTITIES AND KNOWLEDGES

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 14-16 July 2016

This conference will welcome researchers working from feminist perspectives on gender as well as other identities that play a role in the experience of place: age, social class, ethnicity, sexuality, ability. Taking these power structures alone or in mutual constitution, we want to gather as many experiences as possible to account for the current dynamics of power relations and the role of places where they occur. Papers on

diverse issues of everyday experiences, urban and rural spaces, theoretical, methodological or case studies are all very welcome.

This three-day event will be held at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) and organized by the Research Group on Gender and Geography of the UAB. Deadline for the presentations of abstracts will be February 29, 2016. Further details will be sent on the IGU Gender lists

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Congratulations to **Ruth Fincher**, University of Melbourne, who has received the prestigious designation of Redmond Barry Professor in her university. A former chair of the IGU Gender Commission and Vice-President of the IGU, Ruth has excelled as a scholar, teacher, administrator and contributor to community service. Among her many activities have been service as Pro-Vice Chancellor and President of the Academic Board of her university and member of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Social Sciences. She has been recognized for her many contributions by the national governmental award of Member of the Order of Australia. Ruth continues to maintain her research and teaching focused on issues of social and civic equity.

Congratulations to **Tovi Fenster**, Tel Aviv University and a past chair of the IGU Gender Commission on her recent promotion to a full professorship in Geography and Human Environment, and on being awarded an Israel Science Foundation grant for the years 2014-2017 for research on “The Archaeology of the Address in Urban Planning (AAUP): Towards an Israeli – Palestinian Recognition.” She is collaborating in this project with two women PhD students **Yara Sa’di** and **Merv Kaddar**.

Among the sessions devoted to gender studies at the 2015 AAG annual meeting was a well-attended and lively panel session focused on new insights into the gendered aspects of rural and urban livelihoods dependent on vulnerable rivers, lakes, watersheds, wetlands, and coastal environments. It explored experiences in diverse settings among them Egypt, Brazil, the Tagish Nation in Canada, India, Tajikistan, and the US. The session was stimulated by research in feminist political ecology that is highlighted in the recently published book from Routledge: *A Political Ecology of Women, Water, and Global Environmental Change* edited by **Stephanie Buechler** and **Anne-Marie Hanson**.

Sarah Halvorson, University of Montana, has received two significant awards. She will be conducting research under a six month U.S. Fulbright Core Program Scholar in Slovenia from January-June, 2016 collaborating with Slovenian geographer Dr. Irene Mrak and hosted by the Geological Survey of Slovenia and the Environmental Protection College of Valenice. They will be studying “Climate Change Perception and Policy Support in Slovenia. Sarah was also honored by her university with the 2014-2015 Distinguished Service to International Education Award. We congratulate her on these two achievements.

Jointly with **Keith Barney**, **Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** is organizing an international conference in November 2015 at Australian National University on “Between Plough and the Pick: Informal Mining in the Contemporary World. It is disseminating research from two projects funded by the Australian Research Council that investigated with local and national partners, informal, artisanal, and small-scale mining in India, Indonesia, and Lao PDR. Details of the projects are available at www.asmaasiapacific.org. They bring together issues of contemporary agrarian transitions, the political ecology of mineral extraction, the global processes driving the informalisation of mining the roles played by local social-political-historical contexts, and aspects of labor processes.

Congratulations to **Johanna Mashaba** who was recently awarded her PhD at the Department of Geography at the University of South Africa for her dissertation *A geographical perspective on the impact of women empowerment in the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Limpopo, South Africa* (with MD Nicolau co-promoter) University of South Africa.) Further details on the work may be obtained from Joan Fairhurst (joanfair@global.co.za). Johanna is now working in the provincial government department dealing with social development.

In this issue, we would like to recognize **Maria Luisa Gentileschi** who pioneered in introducing gender research in geography in Italy during her years at the **University of Cagliari** in Sardinia and contributed to international dialogues. In 1982 she was first to organize a full conference on gender themes within the structures of the International Geographical Union, working at that time with the IGU Commission on Population on the theme of women, gender, and migration. It attracted participants from an array of regions and three journal issues resulted from the conference – two published in Italy: *Archivo Sardo* and *Studi Emigrazione*, and one in English, *Population Geography*, published in India. A sampling of Professor Gentileschi's own publications is listed below. They illustrate research in Italian that has been less widely circulated in the Anglophone literature.



- 1982-83, "La donna è mobile", in *Sardegna economica*, n. 5-6.
- 1983, "Special focus on the role of women in population redistribution. Guest editorial preface", in *Population Geography*, Chandigarh.
- 1983, (con Margherita Zaccagnini) *La partecipazione della donna sarda ai movimenti di popolazione: un confronto generazionale*, Nuoro, ISRE.
- 1996 (con Gisella Cortesi, a c. di), *Donne e geografia. Studi, ricerche, problemi*, Milano, F. Angeli.
- 1996, "Lavoro extra-domestico femminile in ambiente periurbano: un caso di studio nel sistema urbano di Cagliari (Sardegna)", in *Donne e geografia*, a cura di Gisella Cortesi e Maria Luisa Gentileschi, Roma, Angeli.
- 2001, "Guide al femminile per scoprire l'Isola", in *Sardegna Economica*, 6, pp. 15-17.
- 2003, (a c. di) "Per una prospettiva geografica di genere: le donne nella città e gli spazi della cultura, del lavoro e del tempo libero", in *Vecchi territori, nuovi mondi: la geografia nelle emergenze del 2000*, Atti XXVIII Congresso Geografico Italiano, vol. III, pp 3393-3507.
- 2004, (a c. di), *Geografie e storie di donne*, Cagliari, CUEC.

- 2007, “Riflessioni su alcune esperienze di progetti per lo sviluppo rivolti alle donne in Paesi dell’Africa arida”, in *Geografia, società, politica. La ricerca in geografia come impegno sociale*, a cura di Egidio Dansero, Giovanna Di Meglio, Elisabetta Donini, Francesca Governa, Milano, F. Angeli, pp. 183-190.
- 2007, “Desertificazione e cambiamento del ruolo della donna nell’Africa arida”, in *Nel segno dell’empowerment femminile. Donne e democrazia politica in Italia e nel mondo*, a cura di Dau Novelli Cecilia, Cagliari, Aipsa, pp. 321-336.
- 2009, “Donne straniere nelle migrazioni interne. Il caso di Cagliari, Italia”, in G. Cortesi (a cura di), *Luoghi e identità di genere*, in *Geotema*, n. 22, pp. 75-87.
- 1982-83, “La donna è mobile”, in *Sardegna economica*, n. 5-6.
- 1983, “Special focus on the role of women in population redistribution. Guest editorial preface”, in *Population Geography*, Chandigarh.

New Books

Browne, Kath and Eduardo Ferreira, 2015. *Lesbian Geographies: Gender, Place and Power*. London: Routledge.

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McIlwaine, (2016) *Cities, Slums and Gender in the Global South: Towards a Feminised Urban Future* (London: Routledge)

Caretta, Martina Angela et al. 2015, “Labour, climate perceptions and soils in the irrigation systems in Sibou, Kenya and Engarade, Kenya. (Popular publication, Department of Human Geography in English (ISBN 978-91-87355)), Swahili (978-91-87355-7-2 (Swahili) and 978-91-87355-5 (Marakwet)

Kinyanjui, Mary Njeri. 2015. *Coffee Time*.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/9956762903/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?qid=1448135328&sr=8-1π=AC_SX110_SY165&keywords=coffee+time+kinyanjui (draws on her childhood experiences in a rural coffee farm to show the struggles farmers go through to earn a living).

Meehan, Katie and Kendra Staruss (eds). 2015. *Precarious Worlds*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Morin, Karen M and Domnique Moran (eds). 2015. *Historical Geographies of Prisons: Unlocking the Usable Carcerel Past*. London: Routledge.

Pande, Rekha (ed.) 2015., *Gender Lens: Women’s Issues and Perspectives*. Rawat Publications, Jaipur, India. ISBN 978-81-316-0628-5 (an international collection)

Radcliffe, Sarah A. 2015. “Dilemmas of Difference: Indigenous women and the limits of postcolonial development policy.” Durham: Duke University Press (forthcoming).

Theme Journal Issue

Volume 47(3) June, 2015 of *Antipode* features seven articles on the theme “World, City, Queer.” The introduction and overview by Natalie Oswin addresses ways in which sexual difference is increasingly marshalled in fostering national and urban competitiveness. The issue includes attention to diverse contexts, among them Buenos Aires, India, Israel-Palestine, London, and New York.

Volume 7(2) 2015 of *Les Online* is a theme issue on Lesbian Citizenship/Cidadania Lésbica including four articles and two socio-political interventions. The journal publishes in Portuguese, Spanish, English

and French. It may be accessed at
[http://lespt.org/lesonline/index.php?journal=lo&page=issue&op=view&path\[\]=9](http://lespt.org/lesonline/index.php?journal=lo&page=issue&op=view&path[]=9)

Articles/chapters

- Akpiro, Cheryl, Melody C.W. Liu and Brenda S.A. Yeoh. 2015. "Asian children and transnational migration." *Children's Geographies* 13(3) 255-62.
- Bastia, Tanja. "Looking after granny": A transnational ethic of care and responsibility." *Geoforum* 64: 121-29.
- Bennett, Katy, 2015. "Women and economy: Complex inequality in a post-industrial landscape." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22 (9): 1287-1304.
- Besio, Kathryn and Sarah Marusek. 2015. "Losing it in Hawaii: Weight Watchers and the paradoxical nature of weight gain and loss." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22(6): 851-66.
- Bhagat, Ram B. 2015. "Census categories and gender construction: Reflections on Indian censuses." *Social Science Spectrum* 1 (1): 1-7.
- Bhattacharyya, Ritupama. 2015. "Understanding the spatialities of sexual assault against women in India." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22 (9): 1340-56.
- Botbul-Tal, Rinat, Tovi Fenster, and Tal Kulka. "Academy-Community Partnership: Challenges and Changes in Urban Regeneration." *Journal of Higher Education, Outreach and Engagement* , 19 (3), 63-88
- Bowstead, Janet Christine.2015. "Forced migration in the United Kingdom: Women's journeys to escape domestic violence." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 40 (3): 307-20.
- Brickell, Katherine. 2015, "Storytelling domestic violence: Feminist politics of participatory video in Cambodia." *ACME* 14 (3): 928-53.
- Brown, Gavin. 2015. "Rethinking the origins of homonormativity: The diverse economies of rural gay life in England and Wales in the 1970s and 1980s." *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 40(4): 549-61.
- Caretta, Martina Angela et al. 2015, "Labour, climate perceptions and soils in the irrigation systems in Sibou, Kenya and Engarade, Kenya. BLOG posting, RGS Participatory Research Group.
- Caretta, Martina Angela and Lowe Börjeson. 2015. "Local gender contract and adaptive capacity in smallholder irrigation farming: a case study from the Kenyan drylands." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22 (5);664-61.
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- . 2015. "Women, girls and world poverty: Empowerment, equality or essentialism? *International*

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Cheng, Yi'En, Brenda S.A. Yeoh, and Juan Chang. 2015. "Still 'breadwinners and 'providers': Singaporean husbands, money and masculinity in transnational marriages." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22 (6): 867-83.

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Chronaki, Mynto, 2015. "Giving birth in Volos, Greece: Medicalisation, ritual, and emerging alternatives." *Social and Cultural Geography* 16(8), 909-30.

Cook, Ian R. 2015. "Making links between sex work, gender and victimization: the politics and pedagogies of John Schools." *Gender, Place and Culture* 22 (6): 817-32.

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Domosh, Mona. 2015, "Development at home: Race, gender, and the 'development' of the American South." *Antipode* 47(4): 915-41.

Drozdowski, Danielle and Daniel F. Robinson. 2015. "Carework on fieldwork: Taking your own children into the field." *Children's Geographies* 13(3): 372-78.

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Fairhurst, Joan. 2015: "South African Women's Movements: Thought, Word and Deed: Women in South Africa organise to let their voices be heard, pp 19-40 in *Gender Lens: Women's Issues and Perspectives*' Rekha Pande (ed.), Rawat Publications, Jaipur, India. ISBN 978-81-316-0628-5.

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