



# IAFFE Newsletter

Volume 17, No. 2

October, 2007

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Reports from the Annual Conference  
(p. 1-5)

Member News  
(p. 7)

Teaching Feminist Economics through Study Abroad  
(p. 13-14)



## Bangkok Conference Huge Success!



## President Martha MacDonald's Report



IAFFE's first conference in Asia was a great success!

IAFFE had about 170 registrants, plus Ramkhamhaeng University sponsored over 200 of their faculty and students to attend. While many of our regular conference-goers from North America and Europe were unable to make the trip, our concerted attempt to attract SE Asian participants was successful and there were many new faces. The conference also was marked by strong participation from NGO workers, students and younger colleagues

Our hosts at Ramkhamhaeng University went all out to make us welcome. Beautiful banners with our conference image were everywhere. They treated us to a banquet of delicious Thai food, with wonderful traditional Thai dancing and music provided by students. Who can forget our clumsy attempts to join with the dancers! We also enjoyed a half day outing to the old capital of Siam at Ayutthaya. Our thanks go to Yada Praparpun, Nantawan Antarasena and the staff at Ramkhamhaeng University for their hard work on our behalf.



## President Martha MacDonald's Report

IAFFE's annual conference ran June 29—July 1, 2007 and was held at Ramkanhaeng University, Bangkok, Thailand.

The conference opened with an informative plenary on *Working on Gender Issues in Thailand*. The speakers were Dr. Juree Vichit-Vadakan, National Institute of Development Administration, Bangkok; Ms. Naiyana Supapung, Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, Bangkok; Ms. Jean D'Cunha, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM East and Southeast Asia Regional Office, Bangkok; and Ms. Jackie Pollock Director, MAP foundation for the Health and Knowledge of Ethnic Labour, Chiang Mai.

Thanks to all who helped make this another excellent conference.

The interest in IAFFE in Asia is strong and we expect to receive a proposal to hold our conference in China in the not too distant future.

The global network of feminist economists continues to grow!

A second plenary focused on *Donor/Development Agency Initiatives and Feminist Economics*, with presentations by Dr. Rawwida Baksh, Program Leader, Women's Rights and Citizenship, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; Dr. Heike Loeschmann, Director, Heinrich Boell Foundation, South East Asia Regional Office, Thailand; Ms. Yumiko Yamamoto, UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka; and Dr. Gita Sen, India, Special Advisor, UNIFEM. This was a most interesting exchange.

Concurrent sessions on Migration and on Sexuality/Markets/Violence provided an opportunity to explore the challenges these issues present in national and international contexts. There was a strong policy focus also, with many sessions on macro, trade, labour and social policy. The work of women worldwide was highlighted in sessions on formal and informal work, household and caregiving labour. Several panels focused on feminist economic research in particular countries, especially in Asia. We are working on getting the papers presented at the conference collected and made available online. Watch for updates on the IAFFE website.



Linda Lucas organized our largest ever pre-conference workshop, which attracted over 45 participants. Speakers included Ulla Grapard, Stacy E. Sneeringer, Irene van Staveren, Karin Schönplflug, Pareena G. Lawrence and Barbara Hopkins. The day was capped with an excellent reception hosted by the Economics Department at RU.

We were able to help over 30 people attend the conference through our Travel Support program. We received support from IDRC (Canada), Heinrich Boell Foundation (SE Asia, Beijing and Brazil offices), UNDP (Colombo) and the Ford Foundation (Beijing).



## Reflections on the Bangkok Conference

### Sakuntala Narasimhan writes:

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference was a landmark of sorts in the history of the organization – it was the first time that this annual conference was held in Asia (previously, Istanbul was the closest that IAFFE had come, to this part of the world). Ramkhamhaeng University, the venue for the conference, made it memorable for all of us, with its sprawling campus with a beautiful pond and shrine in the middle. The conference was also memorable for another first – the winner of the Rhonda Williams scholarship was a male this time (Janaka Biyanwala, of Sri Lanka now based in Australia, whose work encompasses gender equity – may his tribe increase!).

There was the usual mix of sessions devoted to a characteristically wide variety of topics, ranging from gender and trade, migrant women and their problems, labor force participation, and gender dimension of WTO agreements, to paid and unpaid care work, occupational segregation, maternal and reproductive health, and even writing and submitting papers to journals. Not surprisingly, the emphasis was on Asian perspectives, given the larger-than-usual participation of delegates from this region, but presentations from researchers outside the region (USA, Canada, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Austria, Germany, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Iran, and Uganda) ensured that the deliberations remained international.

Despite the mix of subjects discussed during the sessions, each year's conference delivers a dominant theme that lingers in my memories long after I return home – if it was the effects of aging and related gender issues at the Sydney conference last year, this time it was migration and its effects on women. From women migrating from the rural to the urban areas within a country, to women who cross the seas to work as immigrant laborers in foreign economies, each group's specific problems and handicaps received a focus that is seldom the focus of mainstream economics discussions. It was also heartening to note that representatives from the smaller academic institutions

and universities from the developing countries were able to attend the conference and experience the wide canvas of perspectives (Pondicherry, Rohtak, and Bhubaneswar, of India, for instance).

I particularly enjoyed listening to the chairperson of the National Commission for Women in Thailand, Naiyana Supapung, who spoke evocatively at the opening plenary, about her experience as a woman lawyer seeking professional advancement in a patriarchal society. (She was asked to learn to type when she first joined a law firm, because typing was what women were expected to do!)

We took notes and exchanged viewpoints and sought clarifications as we sat through the three-day sessions, but there was plenty by way of fun and diversion too – the delightful dance and music that the university sponsored on the penultimate evening (with female students taking on roles for the first time ever, in honor of the feminist conference, for the masked Thai dance item – one more bastion stormed, and with well-deserved encomiums too!) The Vice-Chancellor provided a pleasant surprise for the participants, with his spontaneous offer of CDs of the evening's performance, for all delegates, as a take home present. The half day trip to Ayutthaya, the old capital of Thailand, was another interesting experience, as it added to our cultural perspectives of how art, religion and heritage in this region overlap beyond political-geographic boundaries (the dance drama was based on a Hindu scriptural epic, the Ramayana, while Ayutthaya takes its name from the old Indian capital Ayodhya in north India.) Altogether, it was an enjoyable conference, for which we owe thanks to the local organizers, Yada Praparapun of Thailand, the administration of Ramkhamhaeng University, and (not least) the staff of Bangkok Dynasty Hotel (executive Kanchanok Puntanukit in particular, who spent a rainy day hunting through the markets choosing everything for the reception hosted by the hotel, from flowers and streamers to decorative toothpicks and table decorations).

Sakuntala also wrote several newspaper articles on specific discussions at the Bangkok conference which appeared in the New Indian Express, Bangalore (July 10, 2007) and The Deccan Herald, Bangalore (July 13, 2007). See <http://www.newindpress.com>.

## Reflections on the Bangkok Conference



### Karin Schönflug suggests:

Bangkok was truly wonderful although the non-heterosexual community was rather sparsely present. Therefore, we would like to invite you once again get together for a queer and/or a lesbian panel at next year's conference in Torino! Even though there were rather few of us, we had some brilliant ideas at our Bangkok meeting about making a blog or a website sporting queer/lesbian issues and papers. For a start, please contact me to get into the network, so that we can be more visible and joyful in 2008. [karin.schoenflug@univie.ac.at](mailto:karin.schoenflug@univie.ac.at)



### From Yada Praparpun:

It was wonderful meeting again so many friends and persons whom I respect but very much missed seeing people, such as Prof. Bergman, Drue and Jean, and several others, who are always in my heart. Although we set our program during the hot and rainy season, most of the participants seemed not to find the weather too much of a problem.

When I first began thinking about proposing Bangkok for the conference a few years ago, several friends cautioned me that I should not do it – too much work to organize it, too many potential problems to deal with, everything from the weather to Bangkok's notorious traffic jams. As well, there have never been many Thai members of IAFFE and some people said that because I was not myself on the Board it would be very hard for me to get things done.

As it happened, there were some problems during the organizational phase that almost made me withdraw the conference but luckily I did not. I believed that having the conference here would be good for Ramkhamhaeng University and Thailand, and also, for IAFFE. One thing I did (which no one on the Thai side knew about) was to reassure Martha after the December 2006 bomb explosions in Bangkok. When Martha messaged me about some concerns from the Board over the bombings and whether or not the conference should be moved elsewhere, I replied that everything would be fine. I knew there would be no problem. Ramkhamhaeng had already prepared a great deal for the conference and the university area was safe and secure.

I feel good about the result and would like to thank the Board, the ex-President of Ramkhamhaeng, the interim President and the current President, who all helped to ensure that this conference would go so well. Among the other people here who worked very hard, I would like to mention Dr. Nantawan, who sacrificed her own time for the conference. Finally my heartfelt thanks also go to all the other people not mentioned by name, both here in Thailand and elsewhere, organizers and participants who contributed so much to making the '07 conference a success.

## 2007 Rhonda Williams Scholarship Winner

**Janaka Biyanwila**, of the University of Western Australia in Perth, Australia, was selected to receive the 2008 Rhonda Williams Scholarship. Dr. Biyanwila has a B.S. from the University of Maryland, an M.S. in Economics from the University of Utah, and a Ph.D. in Organisational and Labour Studies from the University of Western Australia.

His submitted paper for the IAFFE conference is entitled "Ethnicity and Women Worker Struggles in the Sri Lankan Tea Plantations." The paper deftly analyzes the collective agency of ethnic minority women of Tamil origin within their unions and communities. His research is grounded in feminist political economy, especially the concept of social provisioning, and interweaves issues of class and race-ethnicity as well as gender.

Biyanwila has a solid record of published research related to grassroots activism, a fitting legacy of Rhonda Williams' work. He is also involved with the Perth Social Forum.

The Selection Committee for this year's Rhonda Williams Scholarship consisted of: Sakuntala Narasimhan; Marlene Kim; Rhonda Sharpe; Anne Daly; Rose Brewer; and Ellen Mutari (chair). Funds for the prize are provided by Taylor & Francis, the publisher of *Feminist Economics*.



## IAFFE Regional and National Contacts

IAFFE now has about 40 formal contacts world-wide. The Committee for Regional and National Contacts is developing a welcome package for all IAFFE contacts, with information about being a contact, how to make and maintain a national or regional website, IAFFE and Feminist Economics brochures, and other related information. The Committee also is working on including information about national and regional contacts on the IAFFE website so members can more easily contact their national and/or regional contacts with information on conferences, books and other events in their own language.

In Bangkok, the Committee had its first meeting together with the contact persons present at the conference. Xiao-Yuan Dong (China), Rosalba Todaro (Chile), Consolata Kabonesa (Uganda), Yasuko Miramatsu (Japan) and others told the Committee about their experiences, ideas and plans.

If you are interested in working with us on this Committee, please contact Edith Kuiper at [E.Kuiper@uva.nl](mailto:E.Kuiper@uva.nl).

## IAFFE MEMBERS NEWS

### American-Scandinavian Foundation Collaboration

IAFFE members, **Anita Nyberg**, **Susan Feiner** and **Mary King**, collaborated in a project that enabled Anita to visit the US for six months. Anita's visit was made possible by a generous grant from the American-Scandinavian Foundation. From January through May 2007, Anita made Portland, Maine her home where she taught a course titled "Comparative Gender Policies" that was cross-listed with Women's Studies, Economics and Public Policy. She also made numerous trips up and down the East Coast giving talks, visiting friends, and delivering guest lectures. At the end of the term she visited Portland, Oregon where she taught a one-week short course. The funniest (and most frustrating) episode involved getting Anita's Swedish computer onto our English internet. Her visit also drove home to me the importance of new perspectives: Anita observed that gigantic houses create huge amounts of cleaning and yard work and so increase demands on women's time, either to do the work themselves or to earn the money needed to pay someone else. Small is beautiful ... and feminist.

---

### New website on early feminist economists

"Have you ever read something of Mary Astell, Mary Collier, Priscilla Wakefield or Anna Barbauld?" asks **Edith Kuiper**. To read more, please visit the new website on eighteenth century women and feminist economists. This website was presented at the IAFFE Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. It is an interactive site: you can add the materials you have and work with others on making women authors in the early history of economic thought visible. At the site you will see many names you never heard of before and some of these women's texts are available for you to download at: <http://www.politicalandfeministeconomists.com>

## Upcoming Institutes and Courses

### GEPA course: Gender and Economic Policy Analysis

The Institute of Social Studies organizes again a three week intensive post-graduate course in 2008, from 25 February till 14 March.

Course Content: The course consists of three one week modules. Module one has a microeconomic orientation. It will critically analyze gender issues in markets, as well as, in the household and the firm, and policies that influence the working of markets and impact upon the gender division of labor in households. Module two is a methodological one, discussing issues such as gender-aware indicators, gender-aware modeling, unpaid work and the care economy, and techniques for gender-aware policy analysis, such as gender budget analysis. Module three has a macroeconomic orientation. It will critically analyze gender issues in macroeconomic policies, in particular those resulting from the Washington Consensus, and gender issues in international trade and finance.

Target groups: Mid-career economists and other social scientists that work for international development organizations, government agencies and NGOs, as well as academics, who want to better understand the gendered character of economies as well as seek to develop economic policies that are gender-aware. For economists, the course will have a more technical focus, through specific readings and exercises. For others, the course will have a less technical focus, emphasizing interdisciplinary readings and exercises.

For more information contact the program staff: Irene van Staveren ([staveren@iss.nl](mailto:staveren@iss.nl)), Haroon Akram Lodhi ([haroon@iss.nl](mailto:haroon@iss.nl)), and Diane Elson ([drelson@esses.ac.uk](mailto:drelson@esses.ac.uk)).

## Upcoming IAFFE Conferences

### **ASSA, January 4-6, 2008; New Orleans, LA, USA**

IAFFE will be involved with 10 sessions:

Jan. 3, 6:30 p.m.: Inequality, Democracy, And The Economy (ASE/NEA/IAFFE/URPE)

Participating IAFFE members: John B. Davis, Lourdes Beneria

Jan. 4, 8:00 a.m.: Gender Bending: Expanding Feminist Political Economy (URPE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Ellen Mutari, Elissa Braunstein, Caren Grown, Diane Elson, Paddy Quick, Drucilla Barker, Ellen Mutari

Jan. 4, 10:15 a.m.: Gender, Institutions, And Economics In The Early Years (ASE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Deb Figart, Nancy Folbre, Ann Mari May, Robert Dimand, Edith Kuiper

Jan. 4, 2:30 p.m.: New Research On Sexual Orientation And Economic Outcomes (IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Lee Badgett, Marieka Klawitter

Jan. 5, 8:00 a.m.: Between Work And Family: Examinations Of U.S. Women's Well-Being (URPE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Mary King, Elaine Mccrate, Ellen Mutari, Deborah M. Figart, Randy Albelda, Ulla Grapard

Jan. 5, 10:15 a.m.: Aging, Disability, And Long-Term Care Policy (ASGE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Theodore Tsukahara, Jr, Lois Shaw

Jan. 5, 12:30 p.m.: Resource Allocation Within The Household (ASGE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Eleanor Brown, Cecilia Conrad, Cristina Echevarria, Melissa Gonzalez-Brenes, Frances Woolley

Jan. 5, 12:30 p.m.: Feminist Perspectives On Macroeconomics & Development (IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Yana Rodgers, Alison Butler, Elissa Braunstein, Anne Mikkola, Jean Shackelford, Jennifer Olmsted

Jan. 5, 2:30 p.m.: Gender, Race, And Ethnicity In The Americas (IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Betilde Rincon De Munoz, Carole A. Green, Mary King, Marlene Kim, Cruz Bueno, Cecilia Conrad

Jan. 6, 12:30 p.m.: Gender And Development (URPE/IAFFE)

Participating IAFFE members: Lourdes Beneria, Ramya M. Vijaya, Alys Willman-Navarro, Janet Spitz, Stephanie Seguino, Linda Lucas

---

IAFFE will be headquartered at the J.W. Marriott Hotel during the conference, holding Committee and Board meetings there as well.

For information on the conference schedule, hotels, and special events, go to [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/Annual\\_Meeting/index.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/Annual_Meeting/index.htm).

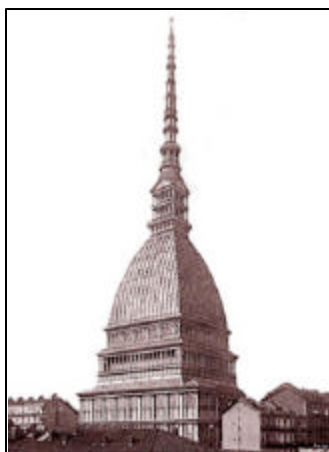
## Upcoming IAFFE Conferences

### Torino, Italy; June 19-21, 2008

Plans are underway for the next annual conference, which will be held in Torino, Italy, June 19-21, 2008.

One big change for next year is that many deadlines will be earlier than in the past. A summary is below; more details will be on the IAFFE website shortly.

- \* Call for Papers Due: March 15
- \* Travel Funding Applications Due: March 15
- \* Online Registration Opens: February 1
- \* Program and Presenters Announced : April 15
- \* Travel Funding Awards Announced: May 15
- \* Early Registration Closes: May 1



### Boston, Massachusetts, USA; June 26-28, 2009

Mark your calendars for June 26-28, 2009 for the annual IAFFE Conference to be held in Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. The conference will be at Simmons College, a women's college located in the heart of Boston. Conference organizing is spearheaded by Carole Biewener of Simmons College and Randy Albelda at University of Massachusetts Boston. Located in the Fenway area of Boston, Simmons is within walking distance of great museums, shops, great restaurants, and of course Fenway Park – home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. For more about Simmons College see <http://www.simmons.edu/overview/visit/index.shtml>.

Plan to come to Boston, home to a rich tradition of women's organizing and feminist activism (some of which is highlighted on the Boston Women's Heritage Trail at <http://www.bwht.org/>), for the 2009 Annual IAFFE conference.

## Books

### IAFFE Book Celebration, June-July 2007, Bangkok

**Robert Cherry.** *Welfare Transformed: Universalizing Family Policies that Work.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

**Robert Cherry** and Annamaria Orla-Bukowska, eds., *Rethinking Poles and Jews: Troubled Past, Brighter Future.* Rowman & Littlefield, 2007

**Marjorie Griffin Cohen** and Janine Brodie, eds. *Remapping Gender in the New Global Order.* Routledge: Abingdon, Ox and New York, 2007.

**Steve Cohn,** *Reintroducing Macroeconomics: A Critical Approach* M.E. Sharpe, 2006.

**Marlene Kim,** ed. *Race and Economic Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century.* Routledge, 2007. [http://www.routledge.com/shopping\\_cart/search/search.asp?search=0415371791](http://www.routledge.com/shopping_cart/search/search.asp?search=0415371791)

**Sakuntala Narasimhan,** *The Splendour of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana.* Bangalore: Veenapani Centre for Arts.

Mark H. Maier and **Julie A. Nelson,** *Introducing Economics: A Critical Guide for Teaching.* NY: M.E. Sharpe, June 2007.

Lakshmi Menon and **Vibhuti Patel.** *Grinding Realities: Women and Breast Feeding in the Informal Sector. Penang, Malaysia: World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action and Mumbai, India: Post Graduate Department of Economics, SNDT Women's University.* 2007. Copies available from The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA); Lakshmi Menon [menonlak@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:menonlak@yahoo.co.uk) or [lm-im@eth.net](mailto:lm-im@eth.net).

**Irene van Staveren, Diane Elson, Caren Grown** and **Nilüfer Çagatay,** eds. *Feminist Economics of Trade.* Routledge, 2007. [http://www.routledge.com/shopping\\_cart/products/product\\_detail.asp?sku=&isbn=9780415436373&parent\\_id=&pc=/shopping\\_cart/search/search.asp?](http://www.routledge.com/shopping_cart/products/product_detail.asp?sku=&isbn=9780415436373&parent_id=&pc=/shopping_cart/search/search.asp?)

### Other New Books



**Sakuntala Narasimhan, one of the IAFFE authors celebrated this summer at the Annual Conference in Bangkok**

**Isabella Bakker** and Rachel Silvey eds., *Social Reproduction and Global Transformations – From the Everyday to the Global.* Routledge. With a chapter by by IAFFE Member **Meena Acharya**

**Pamela K. Brubaker, Rebecca Todd Peters,** and Laura A. Stivers, eds. *Justice in a Global Economy: Strategies for Home, Community, and World.* Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 2006.

**Brian Cooper.** *Family Fictions and Family Facts: Harriet Martineau, Adolphe Quetelet, and the Population Question in England, 1798-1859.* Routledge. 2007.

**Lynn Craig.** *Contemporary Motherhood: the impact of children on adult time.* <https://www.ashgate.com/shopping/title.asp?isbn=0%207546%204998%209> .

Carolyn Elliot ed. *Global Empowerment of Women: Responses to Globalization and Politicized Religions.* Routledge, 2007. With chapter by IAFFE member, **Meena Acharya.**

**Hikkla Pietila.** *The Unfinished Story of Women and the United Nations* <http://www.un-ngls.org/pdf/UnfinishedStory.pdf>. For a Hard Copy, contact: [Beth.Peoch@unctad.org](mailto:Beth.Peoch@unctad.org)

## Recent Successes

### CGDS Cave Hill offers successful Institute in Gender and Development

The 7<sup>th</sup> Summer Institute in Gender and Development literally took off on 29 June 2007 with energy, enthusiasm and purpose! Twenty-five women and men from across the Caribbean and South America immersed themselves in five weeks of intensive training in gender and development which was marked by a multidisciplinary and integrative approach to learning. The Centre for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (CGDS) took advantage of its strategic partnerships and harnessed the creativity and skills of resource persons who are scholars, activists and experts from development organizations in the region. The participants were drawn from diverse communities and represented a dynamic mix of individuals from governmental and non-governmental organizations and private enterprise. For the first time, the Centre welcomed eight men to the programme.

The programme, recently renamed the *Caribbean Institute in Gender and Development*, is offered every two years at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados by the CGDS headed by Dr Eudine Barriteau, Professor of Gender and Public Policy.

The Summer Institute is an outreach programme designed to introduce participants to the theoretical and methodological issues embedded within the power relations of gender. The wide-ranging themes examined the differential impact of gender relations on women and men and how these relations affect the process of change. The participants warmed to the feminist theories explored and expressed their great satisfaction with the knowledge shared. An innovation to the course was the introduction of a module on 'Gender and Economic Empowerment' which moved from the micro to the macro levels of analyses. 'Gender, Globalization and Trade' featured prominently on the curriculum with an emphasis on the informal sector. The award-winning unit 'Women, Health and Development' was offered again this year and a highlight was the presentation on 'Gender and Aging: Health, Economics and Social Issues'.

The participants are now in their respective countries completing a research paper. They return to the Cave Hill Campus late in September to present their findings to funders and policy makers. Students are researching a wide range of topics of both regional

and global interest. These include Gender and Poverty: An Analysis of Female Household versus the Male Headed Household in Rural and Urban Barbados; Gender, God and the Caribbean Church: A Christian Feminist Perspective; The Role of the Woman in Household Decision-making in Suriname; and An Assessment of the Effects of Gender Mainstreaming on Two Poverty Alleviation Projects in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

Do make plans to join us in the Summer of 2009, from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July, for four weeks of intense learning, knowledge-sharing, introspection, personal and professional growth in Barbados. We welcome international participants. Mark your calendar!

For further information visit our website at <http://gender.uwichill.edu.bb>.

## FEMINIST ECONOMICS IN ACTION

### Nurses and anti-trust suits

**Barbara R. Bergmann** reports that nurses have instituted anti-trust suits in Chicago, Detroit, Albany, Memphis and San Antonio accusing hospitals in each of those metropolitan areas of conspiring to keep nurses' salaries down. I'm proud to relate that these lawsuits have their origin in a term paper a student of mine did in the 1980s for a course I gave at the University of Maryland in The Economics of Gender. I suggested that he see if he could find an organization supported by the hospitals in the Washington area that collected and disseminated salary data for nurses, making it easy for them to coordinate their salary setting, so avoiding competition with each other for nurses. He found it very fast, and even visited it, catching sight of their "newsletter".

In the next 20 years, I attempted to interest nurses' organizations (the American Nurses Association and various unions) in this phenomenon, to no avail. However, a few years ago, thanks to Heidi Hartmann of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the Service Employees International Union heard of my hypothesis, and sponsored some investigative work. The result was these five lawsuits. If they are successful, more might be filed in other metropolitan areas, billions of dollars in penalties assessed, and nurse salaries might rise to the point at which --- yes -- - supply equals demand. For a copy of the short paper I've written on this, write me at [bberg@american.edu](mailto:bberg@american.edu).

## Teaching Feminist Economics Through Study Abroad

### Linda E. Lucas, University of South Florida

My last trip, taking six women, undergraduate students to present at the IAFFE conference in Bangkok, was the best ever. Some of you may have met the students, helping out at the registration desk. I recruited them from a course I taught in spring called Women in the Developing World. I introduced them to the Thailand I loved when I taught there. They got along with each other and with me. Once we arrived at the conference they grew into stunning professionals right before my eyes! It was good. It takes a lot of time and is a serious responsibility but has potential for great rewards.

When my group presented their panel at IAFFE, I asked them to reflect on their experience. One said she had a new understanding of the value of knowledge after seeing “all these smart women who have created knowledge and made a difference.” And then the student who had never been out of Florida, who was reluctant to come on the trip because she felt less smart than the other girls, started with, “ I just never thought I would be a part of anything like this. I have never been out of Florida and this experience...”; and then she started to cry and my eyes welled up and many of us in the room were deeply touched by her attempt to talk about how she had been changed and moved by this study abroad experience.

With study abroad, you see the payoff right before your eyes...or maybe not. To reduce unpleasantness for myself, I developed a model of faculty/student research. The difference from more “touristic” oriented trips is that I try focus on an intellectual engagement. I find that if I make this clear, I recruit more serious students interested in a meaningful and fun trip. I highly recommend taking students along when you travel or do research. Everyone on the trip will certainly develop new perspectives.



University of South Florida students, Yuliana Ramirez, Alison Plimpton, Stacy Owiti, Lianne Stewart, Alecia Peacock and Eckerd College student Lee Taylor hang out with their new friend in Thailand.

## Teaching Feminist Economics Through Study Abroad



**Ann Mari May and Students in Sweden**

### **Ann Mari May, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Ann Mari May takes students on a “Sweden Study Abroad Course to Study Women, Work, and Family”. In this course, globalism, feminism, immigration, women and the media, political power and parental leave are just a few of the topics covered as students visit Stockholm, Sweden in the coming summer to University of Nebraska-Lincoln study women, work and family. The course allows undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to study policies and practices related to women, work and family in Sweden.

The course is intended to enable students to learn what other societies do to support women and families. We examine workplace practices and meet with representatives from a variety of companies such as Folksam – the largest insurance company in Sweden (a company with wonderful facilities to promote healthy employees in a variety of ways) ; Telia Sonera – the largest communications company in the Baltic region; and Pfizer – the U.S. pharmaceutical company that recently purchased Pharmacia. Students will learn about the kinds of things that companies in Sweden do to encourage women with young children to participate in the workplace, the impact of globalization on women workers, and on-going policies to promote equity for women in the workplace.

Another aspect of the course allows students to meet with other IAFFE members such as Ingrid Osika, Anna Wahl, and Agneta Stark to gain their valuable insights as well. For example, students met with Agneta Stark to discuss higher education and women in Sweden. She spoke not only about the lack of women in the professorate in Sweden - a smaller percentage of professors are women in Sweden than the U.S. - but also about her activities to raise gender issues in her work with the “Support Stockings” and other feminist organizations.

The experience allows students to think creatively about public policy in the future and is, for many, a life-altering experience. As Beth Moorhouse, a former participant and member of IAFFE put it, “It made me realize that there are many ways to approach social problems, and that the U.S. has a lot to learn! Anyone who is interested in equity issues would enjoy this opportunity.”

The course will be offered again in June 2008. Contact Ann Mari May, [amay@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:amay@unlnotes.unl.edu) 011 402 472-3369 for more information.

## Reports from Recent Conferences

### Ecofeminist Perspectives in Ecological Economics (India and US)

**Hilkka Pietila** lets us know about two recent conferences on feminist ecological economics. She states that IAFFE members may be interested in two trans-national symposia on *Ecofeminist Perspectives in Ecological Economics* held recently in conjunction with the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE) Conference in New Delhi (December 2006) and with the US Society for Ecological Economics (USSEE) Conference in New York (June 2007). Here are the presenters and titles of papers – several IAFFE members among them.

At ISEE in New Delhi, the two sessions of ecofeminist economists were chaired by Dr. Vandana Shiva, India, and by the symposium convener Associate Professor Ariel Salleh. Presenters were Hilkka Pietila, Finland: *The Future Imperative: Provisioning by Cultivation and Households*; Ariel Salleh, Australia: *Ecological Economics and the Humanity-Nature Metabolism*; Terisa Turner, Canada: *Ecofeminist Action to Stop Climate Change*; Mary Mellor, UK: *Ecofeminist Political Economy and the Politics of Money*; Ewa Charkiewicz, Poland/Netherlands: *Ecofeminist foucauldian analytic of economics discourse*; and Dr. Michela Zucca, Italy: *Women and Reproductive Labour in Alpine Society*.

At USSEE in New York, the sessions were chaired by Ariel Salleh and Associate Professor Ellie Perkins. Presenters were Chaone Mallory, US: *Ecofeminists, Freddie's and Ferals in the Forests of Oregon*; Ellie Perkins, Canada: *Women, Class, and Participatory Water Management in Brazil*; Meike Spitzner, Germany: *How Transport and Energy Use are Gendered*; Sabine O'Hara, US: *What is Feminist Ecological Economics?*; Silvia Federici, US: *Women, Marx and Ecological Economics*; and Ariel Salleh, Australia: *Gender Power, Ecological Economics and the Humanity-Nature Metabolism*.

More information on the symposia can be obtained from Ariel Salleh: [reesprite@ozemail.com.au](mailto:reesprite@ozemail.com.au) or Hilkka Pietila: [hilkka.pietila@pp.inet.fi](mailto:hilkka.pietila@pp.inet.fi)

IAFFE members may also be interested to follow the ecological feminist discussions ongoing in the journal *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, accessible in most universities.

### Association d'économie politique and International Sociological Association

**Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay** provides an update on the joint conference of the Association d'économie politique and International Sociological Association, held on August 28-30, 2007, in Montreal. She states that at the conference, there were many sessions on work, gender, globalization, and an opening day presentation by Monica Threlfall, of Loughborough University, UK: For the conference program see: <http://www.unites.uqam.ca/aep/colloque.html> and <http://www.unites.uqam.ca/aep/>

There might also be interest in our journal, of which the last issue is in English, on work organization, but a previous issue on social times and women's work (see the archives section for previous issues) and another on telework and women. The two upcoming issues will be from a selection of peer-reviewed articles from the August conference. Authors can submit articles as well (see 'soumettre un article' top left of page)

[www.telug.uqam.ca/interventionseconomiques](http://www.telug.uqam.ca/interventionseconomiques)



## Reports from Recent Conferences

### Second Congress on Feminist Economics (Spain)

**Cristina Carrasco, Yolanda Jubeto and Paloma de Villota** (on behalf of the Scientific Committee) write that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007, the second *Feminist Economics Conference* in Spain was held in Zaragoza, at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Zaragoza. This event was attended by more than 80 Spanish and Latin American people, mostly women. It was organized by members of the IDE@ Group (including Manuela Perez, M<sup>a</sup> José Vela, Angel Martinez, Silvia Abella, Antonio Muñoz, María Elosegui and Yolanda Gamarra) and it was coordinated by Professor Pilar de Luis. They have made reality the common desire of giving continuity to the first Conference on Feminist Economics celebrated in Bilbao two years ago, as there are many new contributions in this field that need to be known, debated and disseminated inside and outside the Academy.

The title of the conference, "Towards an Economy of Life", highlighted one of the most important challenges that Economics is facing nowadays. We wanted to place stress on the importance that life dynamics and rhythms play on the configuration of Feminist Economics, and how one of the main objectives of this science should be to enhance the quality of life of women and men. In that sense, the first contribution to this debate was made by Rosalba Todaro, from the Women's Studies Centre of Santiago de Chile, who centered her dissertation on work flexibilities as part of the debate on social reproduction. Her deep analysis of the concepts of flexibility and work helped us to see the rigidities that take part in them and the different ways to approach the complex combination of needs and strategies to face them. The next key speaker was Mercedes Pedrero from the University of Mexico (UNAM) who discussed the "Economic and cultural aspects of the use of time: Ecuador and Mexico". Her explanations of time use surveys carried out in these countries were used as examples of the methodology followed in these studies and the shortages of the currently categories used to measure the use of time, and the need to create new ones.

The conference was structured around five thematic workshops: "Foundations of Feminist Economics" (coordinated by Mertxe Larrañaga and Angel Martinez), "Employment" (Coordinated by Coral

del Rio and Manuela Perez), "Living Conditions" (coordinated by Idoe Zabala and Yolanda Gamarra), "Public Policies" (coordinated by Maria Pazos and Antonio Muñoz) and "Science and Technology" (coordinated by Mertxe Larrañaga and M<sup>a</sup> José Vela). More than 30 papers were presented, which have been gathered up in a CD published by the University of Zaragoza. General information on the conference as well as the programme, papers and other details can be found at the website: <http://www.unizar.es/economiafeminista/index.htm>

The closing plenary session was to be conducted by Magdalena Leon from REMTE (Red de Mujeres Transformando la Economía), Ecuador. Unfortunately, she could not come but she delivered a summary of her communication titled "An Economy of Life to get away from neoliberalism in Latin America" which was read at the close of the Conference. In her contribution, she summarized some of the main challenges lived by Latin-American people nowadays, within the context of change and demands of more democracy and less neoliberalism. Thus, she gathered some experiences carried out in favour of an economic system based on values of solidarity and new social and economic relations in order to overcome the power of multinational enterprises and other neoliberal organizations. These opportunities shed light and hope to a population thirsty not only for water but also for justice, and she highlighted the role played by women through the means of creative proposals and practices.

During the Conference, we also gathered to honour two of our beloved friends and partners who we have lost since the first Conference celebrated two years ago. They are Teresa Rendon, from the UNAM of Mexico, and Maribel Mayordomo, from the University of Barcelona. Two extraordinary women and partners whose warmth and contributions to feminist economics will last within all the persons who love them and read their articles and books they have left for all of us.

The atmosphere of the Conference has been so friendly that it has become a real meeting point where the participants have had the chance to share not only their research, but it has also offered the opportunity to know each other better by listening and sharing plans. The several offerings to host the next Conference to be held in two years' time is a clear indication of the inspiring experience this event has been and of the good feelings it has created in all of us.