



# IAFFE Newsletter

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November, 2008

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*IAFFE Conference Participants*

## **CECILIA CONRAD'S – IAFFE PRESIDENT – REPORT ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> IAFFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE TORINO, ITALY, JUNE 19-21, 2008**

Over 250 scholars, policy advocates and activists from six continents attended The 17<sup>th</sup> IAFFE Annual Conference, held in Torino, Italy, June 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Many, including my 20-year-old son, were attending an IAFFE conference for the first time. With the help of grants from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Ford Foundation-Delhi, and the Ford Foundation-Beijing, we were able to sponsor nearly 50 participants from the Global South and/or transition economies. We owe special thanks to those who worked to secure this funding including Diana Strassmann, Raj Mankad, Bina Agarwal, Xiao-Yuan Dong, Ann Mari May, and most especially, Maria Floro.

We were welcomed by Giuliana Manica, Piedmont regional councilor for sport, tourism and equal opportunity, who reported on efforts to achieve gender equity within the region.

The opening plenary featured five Italian feminist economists luminaries: Elisabetta Addis, D.E. I. R. University of Sassari (Sardina); Francesca Bettio, University of Siena; Fiorella Kostoris, University of Rome La Sapienza; Antonella Picchio, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia; and Paola Villa, Dipartimento di Economia Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy. The five combined statistics, economic history, personal biography and political analysis to describe the evolution of feminist economic thought in Italy and to assess the status of women and of gender equity in Italy today. This stimulating panel was the brainchild of Maria Laura Di Tommasso, our local conference organizer, and the issues it raised resonated throughout the conference.

The opening plenary was one of only a few sessions organized on the basis of geography. More typical were sessions organized around specific themes and issues.

Examples include

- Women and Girls' Education, which featured papers from Uganda, India, Italy, and Tunisia
- Sex Work and Trafficking, which featured papers from the Philippines, Japan and the United States
- Migration Issues, which featured papers from Ukraine, Georgia, Germany and Albania
- Women in Informal Labor Market, which featured papers from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Nigeria
- Gender, Poverty and Vulnerability, which featured papers from the United States, Philippines, Thailand and Kuwait.
- Marriage and Fertility, which featured papers on Italy, the Netherlands, Germany and China
- Employment Conditions of Care Workers, which featured papers on China, South Africa, Australia and the Netherlands
- Time Use, Unpaid Work and Care, which featured papers from the United States, South Korea, Argentina and India
- Gender and Decentralized Governance, which featured papers from India, South Africa and Mexico.
- Political Power, Participation and Gender, which included papers on Georgia, India, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Turkey and
- Inequality, Development and Growth, which included papers on Japan, China, and Kenya. These papers will be part of special issue of *Feminist Economics*.

The organization around a focused theme or specific issue facilitated discussions and transnational exchanges and also may have sparked several new collaborations and knowledge networks. For example, two presenters at a session on *Gender and Health*, one from the U.S. and one from Mexico initiated discussion on the a possible joint project on infant health and women's education. In the session on Migration, panelists began to explore the possibility of contributing to a special issue of the journal of *Feminist Economics* on migration in 2012. Presenters at the *Care Work* and also *Time Use, Unpaid Work and Policy* sessions sparked interest on the growing care economy and the varied policy approaches in addressing unpaid work, particularly among researchers from countries with time use surveys.



*Maria Floro and Marianne Hill*

What makes the IAFFE conference truly special is captured in those moments in which two (or more) scholars and gender advocates, from different parts of the world, recognize they face a common problem and begin to collaborate on how to solve it. One such moment occurred during the last morning of the conference in a session on *Marriage and Fertility*. After a young scholar from China concluded her presentation on marriage in relation to the social and economic status for women in her country, an audience member from Uganda interjected, "My God, I just realized that what women in China face is the same as those in Africa!" There followed a lively discussion of why the structure of gender relations is so remarkably similar in these different settings.

In addition to research presentations, there were two special workshops during the conference. Susan Feiner, Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Professor of Economics at the University of Southern Maine, hosted a workshop on building alliances with women's studies colleagues in other disciplines at colleges and universities. Cheryl Doss, Yale University, Caren Grown, American University, and Carmen Diana Deere, University of Florida led a tutorial on Gender, Assets and Access to Credit. These three are co-editors of the *Feminist Economics* special issue "Women and the Distribution of Wealth." The informal, "hands-on" session discussed three issues: 1) the kinds of questions that feminists need to ask about wealth accumulation and the gender asset gap; the difficulties of using the LSMS and existing household questionnaires to answer even the most basic questions; and 3) the team's proposed module to measure individual wealth.

The conference meals and breaks provided opportunities for informal interactions, exchanges and networking

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*Xin xin Chen, Heng Wang, Li Yang, Cecilia Conrad, Xiao-yuan Dang, Jing Liu*

among participants. On the first evening of the conference, we enjoyed a memorable late afternoon reception on one of Torino's beautiful piazzas. During the reception, the Rhonda Williams prize committee announced the 2008 recipient of the award: Handan Çağlayan, Department of Women's Studies Education and Science Workers' Trade Union, Ankara, Turkey. In making the award, the selection committee noted Dr. Çağlayan years of activism in struggles against gendered, classed and ethnic modes of oppression in Turkey for many years and her scholarly work on Kurdish Women's Identity. Congratulations to Dr. Handan Çağlayan!

Linda Lucas, Eckerd College, once again organized an excellent pre-conference workshop on Feminist Economics. The workshop included presentations on Micro Issues of Development, Gender and Economic Methodology, Unpaid and Care Work and Interdisciplinarity. We owe thanks to the presenters at this pre-conference workshop –Marianne Ferber, Edith Kuiper, Cheryl Doss, Irene Van Staveren, Susan Feiner, Karin Schoenpflug, and Julie Nelson and very special thanks to Linda Lucas who has organized this part of the annual conference for many years.

The closing plenary session offered a retrospective on the history of feminist economics. The editors of a new four-volume series on major works in feminist economics, Dru Barker and Edith Kuiper, assembled a panel of senior feminist economics scholars to comment on their proposed table of contents. The four proposed volumes are Volume I ('Early Conversations') which will bring together key material written in the early nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century; Volume II ('The Foundations'), which will gather research from the mid-twentieth century until 1990; Volume III ('Rethinking Economics from

a Feminist Perspective') which will collect the best cutting-edge research by scholars working toward a feminist re-thinking of economics and Volume IV ('Engendering International Economics'), which will assemble material that has a specifically international or global perspective. Panelists Lourdes Beneria (Cornell University, USA), Marianne Ferber (University of Illinois, USA), Nancy Folbre (University of Massachusetts-Amherst, USA), and Annalisa Rosselli (University of Rome Tor Vergata) offered lively and provocative commentary on what belongs in the list of "major works" and what doesn't. The audience then also had the opportunity to participate in the debate. The expected publication date for this series is September 2009.

Among the first time attendees at the conference were six undergraduates from American universities. I asked for their reflections on the conference and thought you might like to read one of their reports. Emily Case, an economics major at Scripps College, had just finished her sophomore (second year) of college when she came to Torino. Emily Case writes:

Admittedly, when I first heard about the trip, my mind wandered to thoughts of delicious flatbread pizzas, idyllic cobblestone streets, and museums overflowing with history. The idea of learning feminist economics, a field completely unfamiliar to me, was lost amongst my excitement of experiencing Italy's charm. Nevertheless, from the moment I set foot in the introductory pre-conference workshop, the beautiful surroundings of the city and the university seemed to slip away.

Throughout the next few days, I happily traded sight-seeing trips for daylong lectures, information sessions, and catered dinners. Every day, I had the opportunity to see three to five groups of paper presentations covering an entire range of topics and disciplines from sex trafficking in the Philippines to a the relative levels of risk aversion between men and women in Sweden. Thankfully, these works were not bogged down by complex econometric or math-based models. Instead, each paper attempted to reveal a new way of going about economic research that strayed from the relatively restrictive neoclassical approach I have been taught. As one woman aptly pointed out, a strong emphasis was placed on not just the typical feminist values one might have predicted, but on a whole range of humanist thought. Economic injustices were fleshed out, the unpaid

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work of women was emphasized, and political and institutional norms were assessed.

Apart from the views that were presented, the conference attendees themselves were an extremely impressive group. For three days, I was surrounded by women and men from countries as far reaching as India, Uganda, China, and Mexico. Hearing stories of their own personal experiences and work exposed me to issues of which I would have otherwise remained completely oblivious. Countless tidbits that I picked up continue to pop up in my everyday life, changing the way I perceive my surroundings and forcing me to assume a more global perspective. Nevertheless, as successful and intelligent as these people were, the women I met in particular were not concerned with comparing resumes, the popularity of their recent publications, or swapping business cards. Even I, feeling like a minority as a lowly undergrad without a PhD, felt instantly at ease. Any questions I had were answered with patience and a smile. Well-known scholars like Edith Kuiper, Marianne Ferber, and Julie Nelson offered me ample advice, resources, and research ideas. Once I return to Scripps in the fall, I know that I will be able to apply not only the economics that I learned in my classes but the new approaches and ways of thinking that these women are pioneering. As the conference taught me, it is imperative that the entire world begins to redefine the tools it uses to analyze notions of equality and equity. In the future, I hope that other Scripps students will have the opportunity to continue attending the IAFFE conference and experiencing the same type of eye-opening experience.



**Colin Danby and Drue Barker**

Many, many IAFFE members contributed to the success of this conference, but no single person is as important as the local conference chair, Maria Laura Di Tommasso. She was responsible for the wonderful opening plenary and for all of the local arrangements. We thank her and her department for their wonderful hospitality. The other essential element in the success of this conference was my assistant Jessica Alampay. Jessica never lost grace under pressure, greeted each participant with a warm smile and did everything within her power to resolve problems. Thank you!



*Xu Jie was awarded an IAFFE travel scholarship to present her paper 'Marry Well or Work Well: China's Changing Gender Regime'. Jie is Associate Professor in Political Economy at Northeast Forestry University Harbin, China. She has recently returned to Harbin after spending a year, having been awarded a China Council scholarship, to collaborate with Rhonda on feminist economics at the Hawke Research Institute at the University of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia.*

**Xu Jie and Rhonda Sharp at the IAFFE**



## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE IAFFE BOARD

The Board of IAFFE is seeking nominations for new Board members and for the IAFFE President. IAFFE has a vibrant, working Board to govern and develop the organisation and its activities. Membership of the Board is a way to become more involved in IAFFE, and to contribute to the promotion of feminist economics internationally. The Board should reflect the international diversity of the IAFFE membership.

More information about the work of the Board and what membership involves can be found here:

<http://www.iaffe.org/members/by-laws.php>

[http://www.iaffe.org/members/duties\\_of\\_board\\_of\\_directors.php](http://www.iaffe.org/members/duties_of_board_of_directors.php)

(You will be asked to log in to the Members' section to see these pages.)

Nominations are due by Friday 21 November. Please make it clear whether you are nominating an IAFFE member for the membership of the Board or for the presidency. You should also include a brief supporting statement with your nomination.

Please send your nominations to Gabrielle Meagher, Chair of the Nominating Committee of the IAFFE Board at [g.meagher@edfac.usyd.edu.au](mailto:g.meagher@edfac.usyd.edu.au).

## AWARDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2008 President's award for Dr. Bina Agarwal

It gives me great pleasure to share with IAFFE members and friends that Professor Bina Agarwal was awarded the Padma Shri by the President of India for her distinguished contributions in the field of education and economics. The award was announced this January and the investiture ceremony was held on May 5, 2008. This award is one among four of the highest civilian awards given by the Government of India, mainly but not only to Indian citizens for their contributions in various spheres.

Bina Agarwal is professor of economics at the Institute of Economic Growth at Delhi University. She has been President of IAFFE, Vice-President of the International Economics Association, and recipient of an honorary doctorate

from the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague. She authored the award-winning classic, *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*. The citation for the Padma Shri especially mentions her work on women's rights in land and property which has not only had path breaking impact academically, but has been used extensively in framing policy by governments, NGOs and international agencies across the world. In 2005, she also catalyzed a successful campaign for gender equality in Hindu inheritance law in India. An award of this stature for one of IAFFE's most distinguished members does our organization proud. Congratulations from all of us in IAFFE Bina!

Prepared by Pareena Lawrence



*President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Patil and Bina Agarwal*

## RHONDA WILLIAMS PRIZE WINNER FOR 2008



**Handan Çağlayan**

Handan Çağlayan received the 2008 Rhonda Williams Prize, named after the late feminist economist activist scholar whose work, both in scholarship and activism, was dedicated to reducing inequalities by gender and race. The \$500 awarded from this prize helped Dr. Çağlayan attend the IAFFE conference in Torino, Italy so that she could present her paper, "Voices from the Periphery of the Periphery: Kurdish Women's Political Participation in Turkey". This paper finds that after Kurdish women participated in the Kurdish movement, it transformed them so that they understood that they could be agents of change. Using their newfound understanding of oppression and political change, they applied this to women's issues and worked to ensure women's participation in the political sphere to increase Kurdish women's power in their society.

Currently, Dr. Çağlayan is a Specialist in the Department of Women Studies at the Education and Science Workers' Trade Union in Ankara, Turkey. She holds a PhD in Public Relations and Political Science from Ankara University, Turkey. She has a strong activist history around the Kurdish movement and their recognition, serving in numerous positions, including a member of the Central Executive Committee of the People's Democracy Party (2000-2003), which was a political party that sought recognition of Kurdish identity and a peaceful resolution of the Kurdish conflict, a member of the Women's Executive Committee of the Democratic People Party—(2003-5) and a member of the Central Women Commission of the People's Democracy Party (1998-2003). Her feminist activism has extended to the trade union movement, being a founding member of the Turkey Health Care Workers' Trade Union.

Dr. Çağlayan remains active around peace politics, feminist activism, and gender discrimination and violence, including gendered forms and experiences of ethnic and political violence, women's representation in the public sphere and decision-making processes, and honor killings.

### IAFFE MEMBER NEWS

Julie Nelson has accepted a position as an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is pleased to be joining colleagues who include IAFFE members Randy Albelda and Marlene Kim, and also to be back to having tenure!

### WORKSHOP UPDATE: ETHICS, JUSTICE, AND GENDER

A number of IAFFE members participated in this year's Winter Workshop on Economics and Philosophy held in Madrid September 11—12, 2008, and underwritten by the URRUTIA ELEJALDE FOUNDATION. This year's workshop, on the theme of Ethics, Justice, and Gender, was coordinated by Diana Strassmann (Rice University) and convened by David Teira and Jesús Zamora (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia). Presenters included IAFFE members Stephanie Seguino, Günseli Berik, Yumiko Yamamoto, Ingrid Robeyns, Zahra Karimi, Fabienne Peter, and philosopher Alison Jaggar. For more information, see

<http://www.urrutiaejalde.org/WinterWorkshop/2008.html>.



## REFLECTIONS ON RESEARCH

Several IAFFE members have kindly written short reflections on research highlighting issues, approaches, and debates. This time we have contributions from Sakuntala Narasimhan on pay for domestic labour, and Farida Khan on the Garos people of Bangladesh. Many thanks to these contributors!

If you would be willing to provide a feminist economics reflection on a research area for the next newsletter, or think a particular topic should be highlighted, please do email me at [macphail@unbc.ca](mailto:macphail@unbc.ca). Many thanks, Fiona

### **All work, some pay? By Sakuntala Narasimhan, Bangalore, India**

When Miss Venezuela won the Miss Universe beauty contest this year, newspapers worldwide took note, with photographs, but when Venezuela recently announced payment for women's housework under a landmark law, the media took no note although the "wages for housework" issue has been one of the most contentious and hotly debated gender issues around the world for over three decades.

Under conventional economics, work that is not paid for, does not count as "productive labor" – if the boss marries his secretary, a popular joke goes, GDP shrinks even if the woman continues to provide the same secretarial work as before, because her unpaid inputs no longer count as "work". Stay-at-home moms are not counted as "working women". "I'm just a housewife," is a common deprecatory utterance by women who may be doing a 20-hour daily stint, raising kids, cooking for the family, cleaning, and a thousand other sundry chores in addition. The truth is that the community would not be able to function if women withdrew their contribution as housewives. According to one estimate, women's unpaid annual contribution to GDP exceeds \$ 16 trillion -- more than the combined contribution of several giant multinational corporations.

If women had to be monetarily compensated for this work, the argument runs, their worth, to the family and to the community, would be better appreciated, and that would help fight conventional perceptions of women as "dependents" and promote gender equity. Last year the Venezuelan government officially recognized housework as valuable economic activity. President Hugo Chavez announced that under Article 88 of the Constitution, poor women head of households would receive 80 per cent of the legal minimum wage (approximately \$ 185 per month). The initiative was greeted with approval by feminists – but with some reservations. As Marianne Ferber and Lourdes Beneria have pointed out, such a move,

while undoubtedly benefiting indigent women, may not contribute to building gender equality in the long run because it could entrench women in stereotyped gender roles and prevent them from acquiring labor market skills.

Women worldwide have faced the dilemma of having to choose between paid employment and the needs of their families, especially if the children are very young. Millions of single mothers are torn between the urge to care for their infants and the need to earn to feed them. For them, payment for housework would be a boon. But can one go merely by computations of opportunity costs, to 'compensate' housewives for being 'stay-at-home' mothers? Also, how does one compute opportunity costs, given the variety of paid work that women could choose from? What about women who seek work not for the money but for the professional enrichment or fulfillment that their work outside the home brings? Would a law legalizing payment for housewives result in "ghettoising" women as homemakers, and chip away at the kind of equity that feminists believe in? The jury is still out on that one, despite several conference discussions on this theme.

Thanks to Mary King for drawing IAFFE's attention to the Venezuelan initiative.

### **Garos Women in Bangladesh By Farida C. Khan, Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Parkside**

There are 45 different indigenous peoples in the various regions of Bangladesh, a densely populated country primarily inhabited by ethnic Bengalis.

The Garos constitute one such group, having migrated centuries ago from Southwest China and Tibet to the Northeast hills of the country. They have a matrilineal/matrilocal kinship system, whereby one of the daughters, called a *nokna* inherits the family's property.

Over time, land shortages led to the Garos moving away from the hills of Sylhet, into the Sal Forests of Madhupur in Central Bangladesh. They inhabited these forests for decades, collecting plants, roots and tubers and growing a unique set of rice and vegetables. It has always been said that no matter what the season or the natural calamity, Garos never undergo starvation or famine because of their resourceful traditions and common use of agricultural land.

Unfortunately the Garos have found their way of living

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under siege because of state forest policies over the years and enormous pressure on the land. The institution of plantations, social forestry projects, and eco-parks, brought about through donor funding, allowed private parties and corrupt officials in the government's Forest Department to benefit, leaving Garos without their traditional growing land and disconnected from each other because of walls placed between villages. They have watched sacred trees and shrubs important to their existence felled and cleared, and their land grabbed.

Relatively small nations that have fragile democracies coming under assault from powerful elite groups, international donors, and geo-political considerations often harbor vulnerable minority groups who do not have a voice at the level of the nation state. The Garos are in this situation and, despite the presence of Christian organizations and NGOs.

Garos women have moved to the city and find jobs in new domains – as domestics and in the cosmetic industry where they were fired hired by Chinese diasporic women. Garos women have settled in urban areas with their nuclear families, returning to their traditional communities only during a festival or Christmas. Large portions of the Garo community have converted from their traditional religion *Sangsarek* to Christianity under the patronage of missionaries who have assisted them during hard times.

As in the rest of Bangladesh, literacy rates are only 25%

among Garo women. However, the strength that they gather from their traditions allows them to be primary breadwinners in their households as opposed their men who usually to rely on the Forest Department or NGOs for wage labor.

The forest economy that was once women centered and shared the land has been altered in the process of development and demographic pressure. Whether the rich traditions, language, religion, food, clothing, and relationships of such a group will be maintained or not depends on the fate of politics in country.

I helped organize a national conference on indigenous peoples in Bangladesh in December 2007 so that different indigenous groups from the various regions could gather in one location in the capital city of Dhaka and exchange notes about their problems and solutions. Organizing these groups under a single voice with the help of allies from among the Bengalis seemed to be a possible way to make them be heard by the state. (See <http://www.bencenter.org/> for information on the conference).

Mainstream economics has little room to study the economies of such societies; they are not built on (individual) property owning consumer/producer rational choice logic. Sustainable solutions are more likely to be found through the efforts of disciplines coming together to save the lives and villages of peoples from whom the rest of the world may have a lot to learn about how to co-exist with nature.

## REFLECTIONS ON PRACTICE

Do feminist economists “practice” economics differently than non-feminist economists? Do feminist economists teach, supervise graduate students’ research, and conduct research in different ways than non-feminist economists?

Would you like to write about norms and practices? If so, please consider writing a short piece (300-400 words) for the next IAFFE newsletter.

## NEWSLETTERS, WEBSITES OF INTERESTS

"*Solidarity, Sustainability, and Nonviolence*" is a monthly newsletter with free access.

The September 2008 issue has been posted: Ethical Dimension of Sustainable Development <http://pelicanweb.org/solisustv04n09.html>. See the archive for previously posted newsletters: May 2005 to August 2008 Archive <http://pelicanweb.org/solisust.html>. Luis T. Gutierrez writes that any feedback is deeply appreciated.

**IRENE BRUEGEL, feminist economist, academic and activist, born November 7 1945; died October 6 2008**

Irene Bruegel, who has died at age 62 of a chronic liver disease, was a feminist economist, who combined committed activism with serious academic contributions and a warm argumentative personality. She was a member of IAFFE and of the Editorial Board of *Feminist Economics* from 1999-2004 and guest editor, with Jane Humphries, of a symposium on 'Equal Opportunities and Employment Change in West European Economies' published in *Feminist Economics* in 1998. She was a founding member of Euro-IAFFE, IAFFE's European chapter.

Irene's career spanned education, policy research and local government. After studying economics at the University of Sussex and taking an MA in urban planning at University College London, her first job was at the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies in Birmingham followed by a year at the Centre for Environmental Studies. She then spent nine years teaching in higher education before taking a research job at the National Children's Bureau. She spent the next seven years working on economic strategy for local government, including for the Greater London Council until it was abolished by the Thatcher government in 1986.

Irene returned to academia at London South Bank University in 1990, where she became a full professor in 2000. There she was co-director of the Employment and Education Strand of an ESRC Group studying Families and Social Capital, where she mounted a trenchant feminist critique of the whole concept of social capital, while at the same time empirically disproving the widely held assumption that racially homogenous communities are more conducive to the accumulation of social capital.

As a researcher, she never lost sight of the big picture, though her work was meticulously grounded empirically. Her critiques were bold. She thought laterally, never constrained by academic or disciplinary silos. Finding that the received view of women as a reserve army of labour had no empirical basis, she made significant contributions to the understanding of gender and class as a system spanning the labour market and the family, intimately bound up with the existence of inequality and low pay more widely in the

economy. Later work examined the relationship between gender and race in the UK labour market. She took part in debates about feminism and socialism, and scorned the idea that one had to trump the other. Irene was also a gifted teacher who expected high standards from students, while understanding their needs and never patronising them if they did not have conventional qualifications or felt unsure about whether they belonged in a university. Concerned about getting ideas across to lay audiences, she regularly contributed to media debates.

All the while, Irene was politically active. She was one of the founders of the new women's movement in the UK and was active in campaigns for equal pay and abortion rights. She was a member of the Conference of Socialist Economists and of the International Socialism group (which later became the Socialist Workers Party) but left over its hostility to autonomous women's organisation. In her work at the

Greater London Council she made it her priority to keep gender on the agenda in the heady days in which London stood up to Thatcherism. She was an active member of the European Forum for Socialist-Feminists and Women in Black for Justice against War.

For the last seven years, much of her energy was devoted to campaigns over the funding of adult education, the treatment of refugees, the impact of climate change and conflict in the Middle East. It was typical of Irene that, appalled by the situation

in Palestine after a visit in 2001, she rounded up some dozen like-minded Jewish friends, mostly women, to found Jews for Justice for Palestinians to campaign for an end to the Israeli occupation and a just settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, shattering the illusion that all Jews unconditionally support the Israeli government.

Irene was an exceptionally stimulating and supportive person. She had a stunning intelligence; she was passionate, at times infuriatingly hard to follow, but always thoughtful. She made people think, and asked those awkward intellectual questions that get easily overlooked. She was always frantically busy herself, but somehow she managed to reconcile being in a rush with always having time for people, happy to read what they produced, and always providing trenchant and insightful comments – with complex ideas tumbling out at such a rate that what she was saying frequently only became clear much later. Her rare gift for friendship transcended political and intellectual differences. With her passing, feminist economics has lost not only a committed activist, but a brilliant and imaginative scholar.



## IAFFE AT ASSA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, USA, JANUARY 2-5, 2009

IAFFE and its members are directly involved in the following sessions:

January 02

**6:30 pm**

Ethics and Capitalism (ASE)

**Presenting:** Deirdre McCloskey

**Also participating:** Herbert Gintis, Nancy Folbre, Morris Altman

January 03

**8:00 am**

*Gender and Migration (URPE/IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Mary C. King, Leopoldo

Rodriguez, Carrie Cobb, Laura J. Templeton, Elke Holst, Andrea Schaefer, Mechthild Schrooten, Alex Julca

**Also participating:** Arpita Banerjee Chakraborty, Farida Khan.

**10:15 am**

*Women's Work at the ASSA Meetings (ASE/IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Julie Nelson, Robert Dimand, Evelyn Forget, Robin L. Bartlett, Martha Starr

**Also participating:** Ann Mari May, Nancy Folbre

**12:30 pm**

*Gender Issues in Education and Child Survival (IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Jane E. Miller, Yana V. Rodgers, Giselle Colorado, Senvic Rende, Sucharita Sinha Mukherjee, Rebeca Echávarri, Roberto Ezcurra

**Also participating:** Jennifer Olmsted, Myra Strober, Kaushik Basu, Deborah Levison, Diana Strassmann

January 04

**8:00 am**

*Households and Gender Equality (URPE/IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Hazel Malapit, Ozge Izdes, Ramzi Mabsout, Irene Van Staveren, Jerome De Henau

**Also participating:** Gil Skillman, Carole Biewener

**10:15 am**

*Uncovering Hidden Gender Issues: Family Effects of Mental Illness, Child Support Enforcement, Sex in the Marketplace and Poverty among LGB People (IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Virginia Wilcox-Gök, Yunhee Chang, Crystal Jackson, Suzanne Becker, S. Charusheela, Randy Albelda, M. V. Lee Badgett, Gary Gates, Alyssa Schneebaum

**Also participating:** Cecilia Conrad, Ulla Grapard, Ellen Mutari,

January 05

**8:00 am**

*What Difference Does Gender Make for Economic Theory? (IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Nancy Folbre, Deirdre McCloskey, Sam Rosenberg, Ann Mari May, Robert Whaples

**Also Participating:** S. Charusheela, Susan Himmelweit, Lourdes Benería

**10:15 am**

*Time Use, Unpaid Work, and Public Policy (ASGE/IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Hitomi Komatsu, Imraan Valodia, Maria Floro, Irene Van Staveren, Caren Grown, Elena Bardasi, Quentin Wodon, Sripad Motiram, Lars Osberg

**Also participating:** Nancy Folbre, Diane Elson, Susan Himmelweit, Eleanor Brown

**1:00 pm**

*Improving Women's Lives: Economic Strategies for the 21st Century (URPE/IAFFE)*

**Presenting:** Radhika Balakrishnan, Diane Elson, Maria Sagario Floro, Barbara Bergman, Gale Summerfield

**Also participating:** Mary C. King, Stephanie Seguino

Further details on these sessions can be found on the IAFFE web-site at

[http://www.iaffe.org/downloads/IAFFE\\_ASSA\\_2009.pdf](http://www.iaffe.org/downloads/IAFFE_ASSA_2009.pdf)

Please also plan to attend on Sunday, January 4th, 2009, 12:30-2:00pm, the IAFFE membership lunch meeting and author's celebration to which all IAFFE members are most warmly welcome.

IAFFE will be headquartered during the conference at the San Francisco Hilton on O'Farrell Street, and all the above meetings will be held. For further information about the conference, registration, hotels and special events visit:

[http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/Annual\\_Meeting/index.htm](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/Annual_Meeting/index.htm)

Please help keep this list up-to date by e-mailing [assa@iaffe.org](mailto:assa@iaffe.org) with details of any other sessions in which IAFFE members are involved.

## IAFFE Meetings at the ASSA San Francisco 2009

### Saturday January 03

8:30-10:00	Finance Committee Meeting
8:30-10:00	Membership Committee Meeting
12:30	Publications Committee Meeting
3:30-5:30	Associate Editors Meeting

### Sunday January 04

8:30-9:30	LT Fundraising Committee Meeting
9:30-10:30	Governance Committee Meeting if needed
12:30- 2:00	Membership Meeting and Book Celebration
2:30-5:30	Board Meeting

## UPCOMING IAFFE CONFERENCE

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

Join us at the 2009 annual IAFFE Conference, which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts in the United States. Boston is home to a rich tradition of women's organizing and feminist activism. **Please note** changed deadlines from last year. A summary is below; more details will be on the IAFFE web-site by December 1, 2008:

- \* **Deadline for conference paper submissions: February 1, 2009**
- \* **Deadline for travel grant applications (including full papers): February 1, 2009**
- \* **Registration opens: February 1, 2009**
- \* **Notification of conference paper acceptance: March 1, 2009**
- \* **Notification of travel grant awards: March 1, 2009**
- \* **Last date to register to confirm participation for paper-givers: April 16, 2009**
- \* **Last date for reduced fee early registration: May 1, 2009**
- \* **Registration closes: June 1, 2009**

International Association for Feminist Economics  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 26-28, 2009 \* Simmons College, Boston, MA. U.S.A. \* www.iaffe.org



Conference themes will include feminist economist interventions in policy around the world, and women and migration (both internal and international)

The conference will be at Simmons College, a women's college located in the Fenway area of Boston. Simmons is within walking distance of great museums, shops and restaurants. For more about Simmons College see <http://www.simmons.edu/overview/visit/index.shtml>

Local organisers are Carole Biewener of Simmons College and Randy Albelda of the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

## Feminist Economics Pre-Conference Training Activity

Are you new to Feminist Economics? Would you like to learn more? You and your colleagues have an opportunity to participate in a workshop introducing you to Feminist Economic analysis. The IAFFE Pre-Conference is June 25, 2009, 8:30-4:30pm in Boston at Simmons College.

The Pre-Conference is designed for scholars and students new to feminist economics but is open to all those who are interested. You can register for the Pre-Conference at the same time as you register for the Boston IAFFE conference.

The Program consists of senior feminist economists who

present an overview of IAFFE and an introduction to their fields. They also answer questions from participants. There will be opportunities for networking and mentoring.

We are also looking for Established IAFFE members to be Speakers who wish to volunteer and present at the Pre Conference. Send your name/contact information and preferred topic before December 1, 2008 to the Committee % Dr. Farida Khan, email:khan@uwp.edu.

More information on specific speakers/topics will be forthcoming. If you want more information contact Linda Lucas at lucasle@eckerd.edu; tel: 727 866 7335 (USA).

## FEMINIST ECONOMICS – CALL FOR PAPERS

### A SPECIAL ISSUE ON GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

*Guest Editors*

*Lourdes Benería, Carmen Diana Deere, and Naila Kabeer*

From the last decades of the 20th century to the present, globalization and the spread of neoliberal policies across countries have resulted in an unprecedented rise in the asymmetrical mobility between capital and labor. International migration has become a topic of intense political debate due to, among other factors, the tension between the increase in the numbers of international migrants and the obstacles faced by them to enter and settle where they choose to work and live. These tensions have raised important issues – economic, social, cultural, and political — that require a gender perspective.

This special issue of *Feminist Economics* intends to motivate both research and action, generating a discussion on the ways in which gender is an important dimension from which general and specific migration issues can be analyzed. We expect theoretical contributions as well as empirical analyses. The following themes are of particular interest:

- ◆ Rethinking theory on labor and capital mobility
- ◆ Periodization of migration and its feminization process
- ◆ The care economy, women, and migration
- ◆ The globalization of reproduction and transnational mothering
- ◆ What happens to the children left behind?
- ◆ Remittances and development: the role of women
- ◆ Migration and “the nomad worker”
- ◆ Poverty and migration
- ◆ The challenges of social protection for migrant workers
- ◆ Internal versus international migration
- ◆ Engendering national/regional immigration policy and political debates

**Continued Next Page**

**Deadline for abstracts: 15 September 2009.** Papers will be due in May 2010. Please direct queries and abstracts (500 words maximum) to the Guest Editors Lourdes Benería ([lb21@cornell.edu](mailto:lb21@cornell.edu)) and Naila Kabeer ([N.Kabeer@ids.ac.uk](mailto:N.Kabeer@ids.ac.uk)). Final papers (after approval of abstracts) should be submitted to *Feminist Economics* through the submissions website (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rfec>).

Questions about these procedures may be sent to [feministeconomics@rice.edu](mailto:feministeconomics@rice.edu), +1.713.348.4083 (phone), or +1.713.348.5495 (fax).

Please note that the annual conference of the International Association for *Feminist Economics*, being held in Boston, June 26–28, 2009, will have gender and migration as one of its themes. To submit a paper for the conference, see <http://www.iaffe.org>.

## BOOKS BY IAFFE MEMBERS

### Have you written a new book?

As has become customary, IAFFE will hold an Author Celebration as part of its meetings in conjunction with the Allied Social Sciences Association, being held next in Boston, USA, January 3-5, 2009. If you are an IAFFE member and have recently published a book, please send the names of all the authors/editors, the publisher and the price, as well as a short paragraph providing some information about the contents to Julie Nelson, at [julie.nelson@umb.edu](mailto:julie.nelson@umb.edu), Dept. of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125 USA.

### New Books

Nitasha Kaul's 2007 book has now been published in paperback.

**Nitasha Kaul. *Imagining Economics Otherwise: Encounters with Identity/Difference*. paperback 2008,. ISBN 0-415-48450-2; Price: Rupees 395. Available in South Asia.**

Is it possible to be 'irrational' without being 'uneconomic'? What is the link between 'Value' and 'values'? What do economists do when they 'explain'? We live in times when the economic logic has become unquestionable and all-powerful so that our quotidian economic experiences are defined by their scientific construction. This book is the result of a multifaceted investigation into the nature of knowledge produced by economics, and the construction of the category that is termed 'economic' with its implied exclusions. It is an attempt *to think economics Otherwise*, that is, a questioning of economics as if difference mattered. This book explores the notion that economics is not a timeless, universal,

objective science but a changing response to the problems of knowledge and administration. The epistemological inheritance of economics is 'rooted' in the enlightenment, and it also inherits the liberal paradoxes of that age. The juxtaposition of identity with economic (culture/economy) is essential, and can only be achieved by critiquing establishment economists' discourse on identity, and taking feminist poststructural and postcolonial work seriously. The author challenges the assumption that there is a simple linkage between the category economic, the entity economy and the study of economics. She envisions an economics in the plural: contextual, social, political- *econo-mixes*. The book brings together some of the most urgent topics of the day-the power of economics as a discipline, the questions of difference and the politics of identity, and feminist perspectives on this.

**Zdravka Todorova. *Money and Households in a Capitalist Economy: A Gendered Post Keynesian-Institutional Analysis*, Edward Elgar, 2009.**

A unique combination of Post Keynesian, Institutional and gender analysis is utilized in this discussion of capitalist economy. Zdravka Todorova poses questions that cut across rigidly determined areas of inquiry, such as gender and money, and micro- and macroeconomic analysis. She grounds the discussion of households and their social and financial relations within a monetary theory of production. Todorova offers methodological, theoretical, and policy formulation insights and a framework that illuminates current problems of household debt.

## IAFFE AUTHOR CELEBRATION, IAFFE CONFERENCE, TORINO, JUNE 2008

**For more information on the books celebrated in June, please see the IAFFE website.**

Pat Armstrong & Hugh Armstrong, *Health Care* (About Canada Series). Fernwood Publishing, June 2008.

Pat Armstrong, Hugh Armstrong, and Krista Scott-Dixon, *Critical to Care: Women's Ancillary Work in Health Care*. University of Toronto Press, June 2008

Lanyan Chen. *Gender and Chinese Development: Towards an Equitable Society*. Routledge, 2008.

Lyn Craig, *Contemporary Motherhood: The Impact of Children on Adult Time*. Abingdon: Ashgate, 2007.

Marina Della Giusta, Maria Di Tommaso and Steinar Strøm. *Sex Markets: A Denied Industry*. Routledge, 2007.

Nitasha Kaul. *Imagining Economics Otherwise: Encounters with Identity/Difference*. Routledge, 2007.

Yoshiko Kuba, *International Migration of Care and Domestic Workers: The Intersection of Ethnicity, Gender, and Care Labour*. Nihon Hyoron-sha, 2007.

Ann Mari May, ed. *The 'Woman Question' and Higher Education: Perspectives on Gender and Knowledge Production in America*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2008.

Sidney Perutz, *Strange Reciprocity: Mainstreaming Women's Work in Tepoztlan in the "Decade of the New Economy."* Rowman and Littlefield, June 2008.

Sevinc Rende. *Children's Work and Opportunities for Education*. VDM Berlin, 2008.

Tom Riddell, Jean A. Shackelford, Steve C. Stamos, and Geoffrey Schneider, *Economics: A Tool for Critically Understanding Society, 8/E*. Addison-Wesley, 2008.

Karin Schöenpflug. *Feminism, Economics and Utopia Time Travelling through Paradigms*. Routledge, 2008.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

International Conference on "Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Context of Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Energy Crisis", November 2009 in Agadir, Morocco. Among the conference themes, there is one related to Gender Equality in Rural Employment.

Please find below the Conference Websites in case you are interested in participating

English: <http://2009-international-conference.synthasite.com>

French: <http://congres-international-2009.synthasite.com>

### IAFFE's new mailing address:

IAFFE  
Department of Economics  
340 CBA  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0400  
USA