



IAFFE Newsletter

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April, 2008

IAFFE CONFERENCE 2008 – TORINO, ITALY – JUNE 19-21



For more information about the conference and registration details, please see the IAFFE website www.iaffe.org. On-line registration is now open. Alternatively, download the registration form from the website.

Early registration ends: May 1

On-line registration ends: May 22

All mailed or faxed registration forms must be received by: May 22

You will be able to register on-site in Torino if you miss the May 22 deadline.

Start making your plans now to attend the 2008 Annual Conference in Torino, Italy! Torino is a capital of art, culture and history, a center of finance and industry, international trade, and a truly international meeting point. It is surrounded by a territory rich in landscape, artistic, food and wine attractions so don't miss this conference!

The Conference Theme is Women's Work and Education in the Global Economy. There will be panels and papers on feminist inquiry into economic issues and a particular focus on the effects of women's and girl's education on migration, political participation, and on family outcomes. Other important themes include comparative studies of social welfare policy, domestic violence, feminist ecology, the intersectional analysis of race, ethnicity and gender, sex work and caring labor. Interdisciplinary approaches are welcomed.

Pre-Conference Workshop | June 18, 2008

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 Pre-Conference is designed for scholars and students new to feminist eco-

nomics but is open to all those who are interested. It is a wonderful introduction to IAFFE and to feminist economic analysis.

Senior feminist economists will present an overview of IAFFE. They will discuss how feminist economics has been used in their particular field. They also will answer questions from participants. There will be opportunities for networking and mentoring, as well.

Speakers are confirmed on these topics: Micro Issues of Development; Feminist Economics and Textbooks; History of Feminist Economics and IAFFE; Herstory of Economics; Post-Development and Economics; Care Economy; Middle East and Feminist Economics; Beyond Economic Man - In the Beginning; Gender as Economic Methodology; and Interdisciplinary Gender and Economics.

The fee is only \$20 for the day-long workshop (8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), and includes lunch. Register on-line when you register for the conference.

For more information contact Linda Lucas at lucasle@eckerd.edu or tel: 011-727-866-7335.

REFLECTIONS ON RESEARCH – PART I

I hope you will enjoy reading these reflections on feminist economics research. Several of our members have kindly written short reflections on research highlighting issues, approaches, and debates in their research areas. This time we have contributions from Radhika Balakrishnan on Macroeconomics and Human Rights, Alicia Girón on Women's Empowerment in Mexican Political Parties, Verónica Montecinos on the Private Pension System in Chile, Gale Summerfield on Engendering the Biofuels Debate, and Julie Nelson on Climate Change. 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. Many thanks, Fiona MacPhail (macphail@unbc.ca).

Integrating Macro Economic Strategies with Human Rights by Radhika Balakrishnan (Professor of International Studies and Economics, Marymount Manhattan College, USA)

There has been an increasing interest in the human rights community in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the equal enjoyment of such rights. At the same time, members of the political economy community have also been exploring the use of a human rights framework to evaluate economic policy. Though these two groups have been working on issues of mutual concern, there has been relatively little sustained as well as documented interaction between these two groups.

Radhika Balakrishnan received a grant in 2004 from the Ford Foundation to hold a series of meetings on the topic of economic and social rights, bringing together human rights advocates and progressive economists. A report from that conversation "Why MES with Human Rights: Integrating Macro Economic Strategies with Human Rights" is available at http://www.policyinnovations.org/ideas/policy_library/data/01189.

As a follow up to that project, she and Diane Elson formulated a two-country study, involving Mexico and the United States, on integrating macro economic policy and economic and social rights. Working with Fundar, the Center for Analysis and Research in Mexico, and again with support from the Ford Foundation, this two country project seeks to analyze

macroeconomic policy using human rights instruments from the perspective of heterodox economists and human rights activists. This analysis will inform mainstream economic decision-making and devise policy alternatives that can lead to improved economic outcomes and also respect, protect and fulfill human rights.

The purpose of this project is threefold: first, to pilot a process of analysis, development of policy recommendations, and capacity building that promotes the realization of economic and social rights at the country level, with particular attention to the ending of disadvantage associated with gender, class, race and ethnicity. Second, to foster and develop synergies between human rights and progressive political economy approaches.

Third, to develop the capacities of civil society and government organizations to draw upon both human rights norms, standards, obligations and procedures and the analytical and policy development tools of progressive political economy and enhance citizen's capacities to evaluate and monitor governmental action.

The project examines six aspects of macroeconomic policy: (1) fiscal policy, (2) monetary policy, (3) public expenditure, (4) taxation, and (5) trade, and (6) regulations in terms of pension reform. These macro economic policies are then evaluated using some of the themes based on human rights principles, namely (1) progressive realization (2) maximum available resources (3) non-retrogression (4) minimum core standards (5) non-discrimination and equality and (6) participation, transparency and accountability.

Women and Mexican Political Parties by Alicia Girón (Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico)

*Women's Empowerment in Mexican Political Parties: PRI, PAN and PRD** is coauthored by Ma. Luisa González, Patricia Rodríguez, Alejandra Arroyo, Eugenia Correa and Alicia Girón. The purpose of this book is to detect and to analyze capacities that women who have gone through political spheres have developed themselves. The book analyzes the profiles and abilities of women that have overcome a series of obstacles and have reached popular repre-

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sentation posts. It is also the purpose of the book to highlight the limits to political leadership of women that belong to these three parties and to identify obstacles faced in reaching the decisions' posts and popular representation.

This book is the result of interviews with 103 women legislators in the Mexican Republic, which represents a third of the total. During the interviews they were asked about their opinions on discrimination within the family, the party and the parliament. Most of them said that discrimination exists in the political sphere and that many of them had suffered from it, but many said they had not been subjected to it. They accepted the fact in general, but they denied it in particular. This demonstrated that our plan to elaborate an inquiry with no names at all was the correct path to obtain fundamental elements of discrimination against the woman legislator, which, of course, it included most sensible obstacles for them.

Two points called our attention. The first one has to do with perceptions that women legislators have about discrimination and main obstacles concerning the party and the parliament. The second one is the significant role that the family has in the political formation of women, and the support that the family gave them during the electoral campaigns and during attainment in the post.

We believe that women in the political parties should be pushed to develop their capacities in order to really put their power into effect. This is a significant condition for politics to be carried out by women prepared in the domain and willing to influence upon public politics with gender perspective.

The book is divided in two parts. The first one analyzes and documents politics and gender discrimination in history. It contains 5 chapters. The second part specifically deals with women's political participation, obstacles that each party presents, and proposals to contribute to reduce them, as well as a proposal for The Federal Code of Institutions and Electoral Procedures (COFIPE, for its name in Spanish) in order to realize changes in the law that guarantees gender equality.

Private Pension System in Chile by Verónica Montecinos (Professor of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University)

Chile, widely known as a world pioneer and influential model for pension privatization, recently introduced

major changes to its pension system, the most ambitious reform since the fully-funded, defined-contributions scheme was created over a quarter century ago during Pinochet's dictatorship (see www.reformaprevisional.cl). Unanimously approved by the Chilean Congress in January of 2008, the new legislation complements market forces with solidarity principles and fulfills an important campaign promise of President Michelle Bachelet: to improve gender equity in the social security system. Women will benefit with the creation of solidarity pensions targeted to the poorest 40% of the population (gradually reaching the poorest 60% in 2012) and with the establishment of publicly financed supplemental contributions for those with insufficient retirement savings. Unpaid, temporary and domestic workers as well as those employed in the informal sector --all categories in which women are overrepresented-- will see improvements in coverage and pension benefits. The reform kept women's retirement age at 60, five years earlier than men's, because there was no consensus on the convenience of equalizing it. But women will have to wait until age 65, regardless of their level of contributions, to receive a bonus for the birth of each child, a measure explicitly intended to acknowledge their dual social role as workers and mothers. The reform also contemplates the division of accumulated retirement funds in case of divorce (Chile passed a divorce law in 2004, then one of only three countries left without one), and survivor insurance was set up for women's spouses or their children's father. With the design of a new institutional framework, this reform strengthened the role of the public sector in several areas, among others, greater oversight of private pension administrators, subsidies for young workers, educational campaigns aimed at current and future pensioners and the promotion of citizens' participation in the assessment of the reformed system. The political legitimacy of the reformed pension system is considerable as is its fiscal soundness. The Finance Ministry was a major player behind the proposed measures and the debate preceding the reform included a vast array of political actors, experts and representatives of social groups and organizations. This pension reform will be widely observed around the world for its innovativeness and far-reaching implications, especially for the uninsured poor.

* Partido Acción Nacional (PAN), Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD).

AWARDS TO IAFFE MEMBERS – CONGRATULATIONS !



Bina Agarwal

Bina Agarwal received Honorary Doctorate

Bina Agarwal received an Honorary Doctorate from The Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, in October 2007, in recognition of her work and influence on development theory, policy and social change. The Mayor of The Hague and Rector of The Institute of Social Studies presided over the ceremony, held at the 13th Century Knight's Hall used by the Dutch Parliament. The ceremony was attended by over 500 people including academics, ambassadors, policymakers and members of leading European universities and research institutes.

Bina joins other distinguished academics who have received Honorary Doctorates from the ISS, including Edward Said, and Nobel Prize winners Jan Tinbergen and Amartya Sen.

Professor Agarwal spoke at the ceremony about "Rethinking Collectivities" and emphasized the contribution of production collectivities for empowerment, especially for poor women. Edith Kuiper attended the ceremony and she noted that Bina discussed the need for strategic and vertical alliances among diverse collectivities, and for a new moral order.

A Workshop - Gender and Land Rights in Context: An Inter-Continental Conversation – was held in Bina's honour, the day after the ceremony.



Bina is a Professor of Economics at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University, India. Her book, *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia* was awarded the A.K. Coomaraswamy Book Prize 1996, the Edgar Graham Book Prize 1996 and the K.H. Batheja Award 1995-96. In addition to several other books her key edited collections are *Psychology, Rationality and Economic Behaviour: Challenging Standard Assumptions* (edited with Alessandro Vercelli), *Capabilities, Freedom and Equality: Amartya Sen's Work from a Gender Perspective* (edited with Jane Humphries and Ingrid Robeyns). She has published over 67 academic papers in journals such as *World Development*, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *Development and Change*, *Feminist Studies*, *Economics and Political Weekly*, *Journal of Human Development* and *Journal of Agrarian Change*, as well as numerous book chapters.

Zdravka Todorova awarded the joint AFEE-EAEPE Competition prize

Zdravka received the prize for her PhD thesis *Reconsidering the Role of Households in Economic Theory* (University of Missouri, USA).

The Association for Evolutionary Economics and the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy awarded the prize to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thorstein Veblen. Zdravka received the prize at the EAEPE conference in Porto, Portugal in November 2007.

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Her thesis is described by the EAEPE as an ambitious work which “considers the role of households within a micro-macro framework developed from a Post Keynesian and chartalist monetary theory of production. The

work adds a further Veblenian dimension by addressing the roles of gender and production in a pecuniary culture. It is a highly skilful and creative synthesis.” (<http://eaepe.org/eaepe.php?q=node/view/254>).

Suzanne Bergeron received the Sarah Goddard Power Award

Suzanne Bergeron recently received the Sarah Goddard Power Award at the University of Michigan, which recognizes outstanding contributions to gender equity through distinguished leadership and scholarship. Suzanne was the founding director of the Women in Learning and Leadership program at the U-M Dearborn campus, which combines courses in Women’s and Gender Studies with experiential opportunities in metro Detroit to inspire activism for gender justice among its members. She also played a key role in initiating a Women’s and Gender Studies major in Dearborn.

As an affiliate at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at U-M Ann Arbor, Suzanne has been most recently been involved with research initiatives on gender and sexual rights in economic development policy. She serves on the editorial board of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* and has published in *Signs*, *Feminist Economics*, *National Women’s Studies Association Journal*, *Review of Radical Political Economy* and *Frontiers: Journal of Women’s Studies*. Her work also appears in edited volumes such as *Feminist Economics and the World Bank*, *What Do Economists Know: New Economics of Knowledge*, *World (Bank) Literatures*, and *Development, Sexual Rights and Global Governance*. Her book *Fragments of Development: Nation, Gender and the Space of Modernity* was published by the University of Michigan Press.



Suzanne Bergeron

TEACHING and TECHNOLOGY

GIPE (Gender in International Political Economy) presents podcasts on Feminist Political Economy



Prof. Brigitte Young, PhD, Senior Scientist of GARNET (Global Governance, Regionalisation & Regulation: The Role of the EU) EU-FP6 Network of Excellence, initialized an e-learning course on “What is Feminist Political Economy?” in fall 2007. By participating in the international GIPE conference on “The Political Economy of Macroeconomic Governance and Gender Orders” the students of the seminar had the possibility to get an insight into the field of Feminist Economics.

The intention of the seminar included both the academic studies of Feminist Economy and the advancement of international skills by taking part in the conference. The students’ exam performance consisted of the preparation, production and the analysis of the podcasts. Without the assistance of Isabella Bakker (York University), Diane Elson (University of Essex), Christoph Scherrer (Kassel University) and Friederike Habermann (Free University Berlin), participants of the GIPE conference and interview partners for the students, the concept of the course could not have been transferred. The

podcasts are available online http://e-education.uni-muenster.de/gender/gipe_podcasts.htm or as compact disc (order at sekretariat@uni-muenster.de).

Online now: students of an e-learning course at Muenster University produced interviews on “What is Feminist Political Economy?”. They are intended to be an introduction on Feminist Political Economy and by that a tool for mainstreaming gender in academic science.

IAFFE Author Celebration -- January 2008, New Orleans

For abstracts of books, please see www.iaffe.org

Brigitte Bechtold and Donna Cooper Graves, editors. *Killing Infants: Studies in the Worldwide Practice of Infanticide*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2006.

Carmen D. Deere and Cheryl R. Doss, editors. *Women and the Distribution of Wealth: Feminist Economics*. Routledge, 2007.

Nancy Folbre. *Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family*. Harvard University Press, 2008.

Joyce P. Jacobsen. *The Economics of Gender, Third Edition*. Blackwell, 2007.

Joyce P. Jacobsen and Adam Zeller, editors, *Queer Economics: A Reader*. Routledge, 2007.

Linda E. Lucas, editor. *Unpacking Globalization: Markets, Gender and Work*. Lexington Books, 2007.

Hilkka Pietila. *The Unfinished Story of Women and the United Nations*. UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service in Geneva, 2007. Free.

IAFFE Book Series

Recently published and forthcoming titles from the Routledge IAFFE Advances in Feminist Economics Series

Marina Della Giusta, Maria Di Tommaso and Steinar Strøm, *Sex Markets: A Denied Industry*, Available in July 2007, Empirical and mathematically rigorous, this book provides an analytical economic study of the supply and demand of prostitution rather than focusing on the sociological and cultural themes.

Lanyan Chen, *Gender and Chinese Development: Towards an Equitable Society*, This book takes a look behind the surface of China's "miracle growth", to explore the political economy of this process. Beyond the superficial macroeconomic indicators of high growth rates, increasing GDP per capita; high trade volume, etc., the book aims to look at what is happening to the very socio-economic and political fabric of society, particularly in terms of the transformation of gender relations.

The IAFFE book series pursues the aims of the organization by providing a forum in which scholars have space to develop their ideas at length and in detail. The series exemplifies the value of feminist research and the high standard of IAFFE sponsored scholarship.

For further information about titles in the series please visit:

<http://www.routledgeeconomics.com/books/series/Routledge+IAFFE+Advances+in+Feminist+Economics>

BOOKS Published since January 2008

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

In the tradition of radical feminist thought, this book is meant to be an appeal: it is an appeal to dare, an appeal to dream, to leave one's designated sphere of thinking, to surpass the narrow borders of scientific thought, to free the forgotten specters from their archives, to look up marginal knowledge in all corners of the world, to travel and to learn with an open mind. This also entails the attempt at being reciprocal, unbiased, and willing to create a new paradigm far a field from dual hierarchies, casting off concerns of complying with the canon of the academe. I am arguing that feminist

economists must embrace the challenge to leave the tight control of the discipline of economics and to rise from the barren fields of bureaucratic storage and manipulation in the king methodology of econometrics by protruding the existing system of political-economy and its prognostic timelines for the future with its function as railroad tracks leading to more of the same. Let's not worry about careers, tenure and publication lists: feminist economists could be the "engineers of social change" (Folbre 2005) instead of the bystanders of a profit driven economics of exploitation, destruction, and perpetual growth. Creative imagining of forgotten, banned thinkers may serve as indicators towards a truly alternative economics far from the greedy behavior of "homo oeconomicus".

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

Millennium Development Goals set the global agenda for human development in order to improve the well-being of populations, and in doing so, assigned priority to children. When stakes in global economic competition are too high, and when resources are limited, expanding opportunities of future generations becomes all the more crucial for the developing countries. Children's work, as much as it may carry an economic value, is also a social relation, and this book attempts to show that cross-cultural diversity in children's lives need not prevent identifying and studying the common factors that affect children. The main argument of the book is that focusing attention only on the child's labor market participation provides only a partial understanding of the variety of work children perform and of the conditions under which the right to education continues to be only a dream for many children.

Remembering a future Caribbean: 14th Working Paper to Celebrate International Women's Day 2008

In celebration of International Women's Day 2008, the Centre for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit at Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies launched its 14th Working Paper *Gender, Gen-*

eration and Memory: Remembering a Future Caribbean written by Dr Alissa Trotz, Assistant Professor, Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto, Canada.

Trotz explores the xenophobia within the region that makes Caribbean peoples strangers rather than neighbors to each other, the debilitating anxiety over sexual respectability, and polarizing political landscapes. She argues that there is a deadening and deadly form of social amnesia that has worked to effect the marginalization of Caribbean peoples. Dr Trotz critically assesses the operation of gender in these scenarios, and suggests ways in which Caribbean peoples might rework narratives of exclusion through preliminary discussion of counter-memories embedded in practices that do not follow the logic of borders, internally or externally imposed.

Do you have a new book ?

As has become customary, IAFFE will hold an Author Celebration as part of its mid-year meetings, being held this year in Torino, Italy June 19-21. 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 A. Nelson, julie.nelson@tufts.edu (Global Development and Environment Institute, 44 Teele Ave., Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155 USA).

RHONDA WILLIAMS PRIZE – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE) announces the Rhonda Williams Prize, instituted to help diversify IAFFE by encouraging underrepresented groups to participate in feminist economics. In particular, the prize is intended to encourage and support IAFFE members whose work reflects Rhonda Williams' legacy of scholarship and activism. The Rhonda Williams Prize is sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis, publisher of *Feminist Economics*.

Special consideration will be given to applicants from groups not well represented in IAFFE and those with limited access to travel funds from their home institutions or international funders.

The recipient of the prize must present at the Torino conference and submit the manuscript to *Feminist Economics* within a reasonable period after the conference. The paper will undergo an expedited review process, but publication is not guaranteed.

Amount: \$500 to be awarded at the IAFFE conference in Torino, Italy, 19-21 June, 2008.

Application Deadline: April 21, 2008

Criteria: The recipient's work in activism, advocacy, or scholarship should demonstrate a commitment to one or more of the following issues:

- * Inequalities based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality.
- * Interrelationships among racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism.
- * Connections between scholarship and activism.

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Application Process:

1. A cover letter/email that includes a statement of (a) the connection between the applicant's experience and the Rhonda Williams legacy as described in the criteria above; and (b) how the applicant would bring diversity to IAFFE and how they would like to be engaged with IAFFE in the future.
2. A curriculum vitae or resume, labeled "resumeRWS<applicantlastname>".
3. A draft of a paper (not an abstract or outline) for the 2008 IAFFE conference, scheduled for

Applications should be sent to Marlene Kim at Marlene.Kim@umb.edu and should include:

Please send all files in Microsoft Word or in PDF Acrobat format. Please be sure that all materials are sent. Applicants who omit any of the three items listed above may not be considered for the prize.

For applicants who haven't yet registered for the Torino conference because they need funding, the prize winner will be allowed to register for the Torino conference and will be included in the conference program after being notified of the prize.

If you are not an IAFFE member for 2008, please send in your membership application prior to submission of your prize application.

The committee awarding the prize for 2008 will include Marlene Kim Marlene.Kim@umb.edu (chair), Anne Daly Anne.Daly@canberra.edu.au, Sakuntala Narasimhan sakunara@vsnl.net, and Rhonda Vonshay Sharpe rsharpe@uvm.edu. Please direct any questions to Marlene Kim at Marlene.Kim@umb.edu or at 617/287-6954 (tel.) or 617/287-6976 (fax).

REFLECTIONS ON RESEARCH – PART II

Engendering the Biofuels Debate by Gale Summerfield (Director, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)

As global warming and the rising price of oil compel us to look more for alternative energy sources, biofuels are currently at center stage. In 2007, ethanol accounted for 90 percent of global biofuel production, and the US and Brazil produced almost 90 percent of that, mainly from sugarcane and corn (IFPRI 2008). The EU dominated in biodiesel production, which accounted for the other 10 percent. Some serious issues have emerged from US and EU biofuel policies, notably the contribution to the rising prices of basic food grains which hit the poor especially hard. Competition for land to grow fuel instead of food is also heated and expected to get worse even with the move to different biofuel crops. Gender aspects of biofuels have rarely been discussed, but women as well as men are involved in production and consumption of bioenergy, and more research is needed in this area.

This year, 2008, is expected to see the urbanized world population reach 50 percent of total population, but poverty remains more heavily concentrated in rural areas. Biofuel production and rising prices of grains could potentially help poor farmers, many of whom are women. But there are many caveats. Poor women farmers are often consumers as well as producers of grain, and therefore may be hurt by the higher prices. Under structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 90s, researchers observed that when women's subsistence crops became profitable export crops in Sub-Saharan Africa, control shifted to the men in the family. The same could be expected of biofuel crops for market production. Furthermore, women's land rights are typically less clearly defined than those of men, so they are particularly at risk of losing control of land when profits attract large companies to take over small farms. The expansion of biofuel production has already led to large plantations swallowing up small farms and fragile lands in some parts of the world.

Much of the sugarcane production in countries, such as Brazil, is done by men, though some is family based, involving women and children. Several hundred thousand people are involved in the sugarcane biofuel production in Brazil, but mechanization will phase out many of them. The direct and indirect impacts of this change and policies to ease the transition need to be examined through a gendered lens.

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Small-scale production by poor farmers is an area where women are directly involved in biofuel production and could potentially benefit. The Brazilian government has promoted castor beans for small-scale biofuel production with a pro-poor policy bias in Northeastern Brazil. An unfortunate byproduct of the process, however, is the toxin ricin, making this a highly controversial policy. On the other hand, switching from traditional biofuels such as charcoal to safer forms of small-scale biofuel production may reduce indoor pollution that affects women and children more because they are exposed to it more hours per day.

This article has touched on only a few of the gender issues in biofuels as alternative energy sources. I hope it shows that there are many gender aspects that require more analysis in this relative early stage and more involvement of women in all stages of policy design and implementation.

Climate Change by Julie A. Nelson (Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, USA)

As the scientific evidence for human-caused global climate change has become irrefutable, many who oppose mitigation policy have switched to the argument that taking action would be “bad for the economy.” This places economists front and center in current debates.

Feminist approaches to climate change economics could take a number of different directions. Many women, of course, live in low-lying countries and especially vulnerable climatic regions, and are already bearing the brunt of rising average temperatures. Feminist economists have noted the parallels between the lack of attention given to women’s traditional life-sustaining work, and the lack of attention given to the life-sustaining services of the natural environment. Both have often been (wrongly) assumed to be costless and ever freely-flowing. Another aspect of feminist economics, though, that I think can be useful in the current debates, is our criticism of the mainstream neoclassical orthodoxy’s allegiance to a model of rational, individual, self-interested *homo economicus* and to a shallow, objectivist notion of scientific methodology.

A number of economists, particularly in the United States, are currently cranking out elaborate models of “optimal” responses to climate change that claim to show that inaction or slow action would be better than decisive, prompt action. By discounting the well-being of future generations, policy action is made to appear to have virtually no benefit at all. And the discounting is rationalized as “objective” rather than ethical, as long as the economist can point to some market interest rate as a touchstone, and frames the analysis in terms of a mathematically complex model! There are many problems with these models, of which discounting is just one example.*

Obviously, neoclassical economists’ one-sided passion for equilibrium, optimality, self-interest, formalization, and so on has somehow gotten in the way of good sense. Climate change is not a problem that is well addressed—as the orthodoxy assumes—by looking at it as a marginal price change. It is a problem that is fundamentally social and ethical—as well as economic and political—in nature. Many feminist economics have, for decades now, challenged the assumptions made by neoclassical economics in a general sense. The current climate change debates present opportunities for applying these critiques to an area of urgent human and international concern.

* For more analysis, see my “Economists, Value Judgments, and Climate Change: A View From Feminist Economics” (http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/about_us/cv/Economists_Value_and_Climate_Change_preprint.pdf) and model-specific critiques on the website <http://www.e3network.org/resources>. While the political debate in most countries is--fortunately!--not as retrograde in these matters as that in United States, economic analyses in many countries and international agencies are still based on strong assumptions that feminist economists can find questionable.

Feminist Economics on Facebook

Facebook is a popular social networking website, especially among undergraduates and graduate students. We now have a feminist economics group of our own on Facebook. Join up! And please be sure to encourage any students who show a special interest in feminist economics to join. As a new generation of scholars makes its way through the pipeline, let us take advantage of all

the new tools out there to build a strong network and share our resources. Facebook allows IAFFE to publicize conferences and create community, especially among students. The group page already has about 100 members and includes photographs, video, and announcements. The url for the group is: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=28983765360>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

IAFFE at ASSA January 3-5, 2009 San Francisco, California, USA

Panel proposals and individual paper submissions are invited for the IAFFE sponsored sessions at the ASSA conference in 2009. Particular themes on which papers are sought this year include the gender effects of social and economic policy, women and children's poverty, care in the national and international economy, and the gender analysis of migration. However, papers on any aspect of feminist inquiry into economic issues are welcome. Proposals for complete panels will also be considered.

The number of panels allocated to IAFFE for its own and joint sessions with other heterodox organizations is very limited, so preference will be given to IAFFE members. See "Join IAFFE" on the menu bar of the [IAFFE website](#) for membership information. Unfortunately, we do not have funds to support paper givers' travel and subsistence costs.

The deadline for submissions is **April 18, 2008**. Proposals for individual papers should include the title, the abstract, and the author's name, institutional affiliation, phone and email. Proposals for complete sessions should include the same information for each paper as well as contact detail for the session proposer. Acceptances will be announced by mid June, though ASSA will not assign the date, time and location of sessions until a few months later. Please submit your proposal to assa@iaffe.org using your last name and short paper title as both your abstract file name and in the subject line of your e-mail (Last-name – short title).

IAFFE CONFERENCE IN 2009 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS Boston, Massachusetts -- June 26-28, 2009.

Randy Abelda writes: 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.

OTHER UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Workshop on Sustainable Biofuels and Human Security, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA May 12-13, 2008

Contact Gale Summerfield (Director, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives, University of Illinois) by email at summrfld@uiuc.edu

<http://www.ips.uiuc.edu/wgpp/>

REPORT ON PAST SYMPOSIA

One-day Symposium on Gender Issues and Caribbean Scholarship: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

The Centre for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit, in commemoration of its 15th anniversary celebrations, held its second One-Day Symposium on Friday 11 January 2008 at Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies. The theme of the symposium was *Gender Issues and Caribbean Scholarship: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*. Head of the Centre, Professor Eudine Barriteau, addressed the conference and set the context for the symposium, its objectives and anticipated outcomes. An output of the Symposium is the publication of an interdisciplinary reader drawing on the best papers.

There were five (5) panels:

Panel 1: Feminist Knowledge & Caribbean Scholarship: Exploring Paradigm Shifts

Roxanne Burton, *Feminist Social Epistemologies and Caribbean Scholarship: Exploring a Potential Paradigm Shift*; Charmaine Crawford, *A Transnational Feminist Perspective on African-Caribbean Women and Motherhood in the Diaspora*; Wendy C Grenade and Kristina Hinds, *Conceptualizing the Dilemmas of Female Political Leadership: A Caribbean Perspective*.

Panel 2: Gender, History & Education: Centring New Perspectives

Tara A Inniss, *Gender in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in the Caribbean*; Tennille Alonzo, *Influential Factors in Achievement Set-*

tings: Gender, Success and Faculty Affiliation of Full-time Students.

Panel 3: Masculinities, Marginalization and Changing Gender Relations

Tonya Shera-Lee Haynes, *Print Media Reporting of Femicides in Barbados in an Era of Miller's Male Marginalisation Thesis*; Carmen Hutchinson Miller, *Contemporary Gender Relations Among Afro-Costa Ricans*

Panel 4: Gender, Entrepreneurship and Interrogating Women's Leadership

April Bernard, *Fostering Freedom: Women's Non-Traditional Entrepreneurship: A Framework for Action*; Richard A Goodridge, *An Assessment of the Factors Promoting/Hindering Female Entrepreneurs in Colonial Cameroon*; Jonathan Lashley, *Economics, Entrepreneurship and Gender: Integrating 'The Others' into Enterprise Development Strategies*

Panel 5: Feminist Analysis, Political Economy and Public Policy

Michelle Belgrave, *Where She Enters: The Female Prostitute in Barbadian Governmental Policy*; Violet Eudine Barriteau, *Macro Economic Policy and Changing Relations of Gender in a Transitioning Caribbean State*; Don D Marshall, *Gender and the Modern Risk Order*.

Panelists included experienced and newer faculty members, and two graduate students from the Centre's MPhil/PhD programme. Three members of the CGDS Staff presented at the symposium, Professor Eudine Barriteau, and lecturers, Carmen Hutchinson Miller and Charmaine Crawford.

IAFFE ENDOWMENT FUND OFF TO GREAT START!

A year ago, the IAFFE Board launched a new campaign to build the IAFFE Endowment Fund -- a fund designed to sustain the important work of our organization and to enhance IAFFE's long term financial stability. The interest income of the Endowment Fund will provide supplemental financial support for IAFFE's basic operations and will help assure that our organization continues to support feminist economics for years to come.

With the generous support of an enthusiastic donor, IAFFE members were challenged to a matching grant in 2007. The donor would match up to US\$10,000 thus giving IAFFE a goal of US\$20,000 in the first year of the initiative. The membership responded enthusiastically to this challenge and through numerous donations, the 2007 Endowment Campaign raised a total of US\$22,610. Putting us over the top was the generous donation of the *Out-of-the-Margins* funds for US\$2,500! IAFFE's five year goal of US\$100,000 is off to a great start, thanks to the generosity of so many of you.

We are very pleased to announce that we have received another offer, to match up to US\$10,000 again this year! As a result, any donation you give to the IAFFE Endowment Fund will provide IAFFE with twice the amount that you donate, up to the total of our match. We therefore ask each of you to consider making a donation to the IAFFE Endowment Fund in whatever amount is possible for you. This is a wonderful way to show your support and to ensure that we are able to continue our activities including:

- Promotion of economic research on gender
- Inclusion of feminist perspectives in the teaching of economics
- Expansion of opportunities for women, especially from the global South and underrepresented groups, within economics
- Enhanced communication among scholars, policymakers, and activists concerned with women's well being and empowerment; and
- Promotion of discussions among policy makers about interventions which serve women's needs.

Join the IAFFE members who have already donated a total of US\$1,100 this year to the Endowment Fund. You can make your contribution by simply going to the IAFFE website and clicking the "Donate" button. You can either make your contribution online or download a contribution form by clicking on the link for the form. (The form can be mailed to: IAFFE, 4800 McCullough, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 USA, or faxed to IAFFE at +1-866-257-8304.) If you have not yet renewed for 2008, you can include your donation with your 2008 membership renewal.

To learn more about the IAFFE Endowment Fund campaign, please contact treasurer@iaffe.org. Sergy Floro, Development Officer or Ann Mari May, Treasurer.

Thank-you to all of the Contributors to the IAFFE Endowment Fund 2007.

List of Contributors 2007

The IAFFE Board of Directors is deeply grateful to the many individuals that support its activities! These generous donations are vital in building a strong foundation for IAFFE for years to come. The following list includes gifts to the IAFFE Endowment, *Feminist Economics*, and the IAFFE General Fund received for the calendar year 2007. To find out more about supporting IAFFE, contact us at treasurer@iaffe.org or visit our website, www.iaffe.org.

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