

**OPENING PLENARY | JUNE 19, 2018, 9am - 10:50am**  
**27TH IAFFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE | SUNY NEW PALTZ | JUNE 19-21, 2018**

**All Trumped Up, Can't Take It No More:  
But will women's resistance reduce inequality in the United States?**

**RANDY ALBELDA**

Professor of Economics and Senior Research Fellow, Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

Trump and Trumpism has mobilized women as women in the US in ways not seen for a while, largely on the electoral front. The #MeToo movement has demanded cultural as well as material changes for women in the workplace. Teacher strikes in very conservative states demanding a stop to starving education funding. And there are continued struggles around im/migration, racism, low-wage work, sustainability, and poverty, all of which have enormous impacts on women. Can these forms of resistance be linked and affect fundamental changes for women at this moment in US neoliberalism? Radical feminist political economic analysis suggests they can but only if particular attention is paid to class and racial inequalities among women.

**The Unfree Labor of Migrant Domestic Workers**  
**RHACEL SALAZAR PARREÑAS**

Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, University of Southern California University

Across the globe, migrant domestic workers are technically rendered “unfree laborers” as their legal status is contingent on their sole and continuous live-in employment with their sponsor and in varying degrees they are limited from ever changing sponsors. In some countries, including Singapore and the United Arab Emirates, domestic workers cannot change employers without their said employer's permission. My talk briefly gives a global overview of the labor conditions for unfree domestic workers and then draws from in-depth interviews conducted with 85 domestic workers in the UAE to describe conditions in this “worst destination.” I end with a discussion on competing feminist perspectives on unfreedom, troubling the functionalist views advanced by those who label migrant domestic workers as “slaves” or “trafficking victims.”

**The Fierce and Tricky World of Feminist Economics**  
**GITA SEN**

DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era)

Feminist economics, as distinct from feminist political economy, has always trodden a thin line between neoclassical economics and political economy. This delicate balance may be intrinsic to the core concerns of feminists when thinking about the economy. Those concerns have included gender inequality as embedded in intersecting power relations within households and communities, as well as the structural and systemic arrangements of economies at the macro- and meso-levels. While feminist political economy has attempted to bridge these silos, ideology and political expediency often reinforce their separation. Nowhere is this clearer than in development economics, as illustrated by the IMF's concern with gender inequality at the micro-level while continuing to exert pressure for fiscal conservatism that favors finance capital.

In the fierce world of modern financialized globalization with its skyrocketing inequality, soaring numbers of disenfranchised refugees and migrants, women's increasing struggles for livelihoods and survival, ever more visible devastations of climate change, and corporate capture of states, silos and delicate balancing acts may no longer work. Navigating this tricky terrain demands stronger and more consistent analytical efforts to bridge the gaps between the micro-levels of gender power within households and communities, and the macro-structural levels where economic power largely resides.

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**SPEAKER BIOS**

**RANDY ALBELDA** is a professor of economics and senior research fellow at the Center for Social Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. Albelda has worked as research director of the Massachusetts State Senate's Taxation Committee and the legislature's Special Commission on Tax Reform. Her research and teaching covers a broad range of economic policies affecting low-income women and families. In addition to many academic journal articles and policy reports, she is coauthor of the books, *Glass Ceilings and Bottomless Pits: Women's Work, Women's Poverty*; *Unlevel Playing Fields: Understanding Wage Inequality and Wage Discrimination*; and *The War on the Poor: A Defense Manual*. Albelda co-lead the Bridging the Gaps project bringing together researchers and advocates from nine states and Washington, DC to examine the gaps between basic needs and earnings in light of welfare reform in the 1990s. Albelda recently co-authored the report, **It's About Time: Cost and Coverage of Paid Family and Medical Leave in Massachusetts**.

**RHACEL SALAZAR PARREÑAS** is Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at the University of Southern California. Previously, she was a tenure track faculty member at Brown University (Full), University of California-Davis (Associate to Full), and University of Wisconsin, Madison (Assistant). Her areas of research include labor, gender, international migration, the family and economic sociology.

She is an ethnographer whose research examines experiences of migrant workers from the Philippines. Her earlier works examined the constitution of gender in women's migration. Her more recent works focus on the construction of migrant workers as "unfree laborers." Her current project focuses on the experiences of migrant domestic workers in Dubai and Singapore. This study examines their experience of indenture and identifies and analyzes how various stakeholders -- states, recruitment agencies, employers and domestic workers -- recognize and accordingly attend to their state of unfreedom.

Professor Parreñas has co-edited three anthologies and has written five monographs as well as numerous peer-reviewed articles. She has received research funding from the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and National Science Foundation, and fellowship invitations from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and the Institute for Advanced Study. Her writings have been translated into French, Spanish, Italian, German, Polish, Korean, and Japanese. She has participated in review panels for the National Science Foundation (GRFP Sociology and Geographic Sciences), the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program (Sociology), American Council of Learned Societies (Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship), Fulbright (South Korea and Japan Panel), and the Social Science Research Council (Selection Committee for the Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship).

She is a former member of the university-wide tenure and promotions committee at Brown University and USC.

**GITA SEN** is Distinguished Professor and Director of the Ramalingaswami Centre on Equity and Social Determinants of Health at the Public Health Foundation of India. She received her M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics and her Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University. Known for combining academic work on gender and development with policy advocacy and activism, she is a founding member and currently General Co-coordinator of DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era).

Some of her books are **The Remaking of Social Contracts: Feminists in a Fierce New World** (Zed Books, 2014); **Gender Equity in Health: The Shifting Frontiers of Evidence and Action** (Routledge, 2010); **Engendering International Health: The Challenge of Equity** (The MIT Press, 2002); and **Development, Crises and Alternative Visions: Third World Women's Perspectives**.

She has received honorary doctorates from the University of East Anglia, the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm), the Open University (UK), the University of Sussex, and the University of Edinburgh.