

Reflections on International Women's Week 2017

The last few months have been rough. For those of us involved in social justice work, the rise in Islamophobia, racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, and transphobia is not just shocking – it is also extremely discouraging. If things were already bad, how could they get this much worse in such a seemingly short period of time? This question, and the many other related questions that are debated in our classrooms, on our social media feeds, and in our collective organizing efforts, cannot ever be addressed simply or completely. Engulfed by work-that-does-not-end, some of us wind up feeling exhausted, shut down, and ready to give up on the activism and on the research.

And yet, feminism is stronger than it has ever been before. Feminism is stronger not only because of the sheer number of people committed to various forms of feminist organizing, but because of the vibrant forms of feminism currently arising; feminisms that incorporate, on the one hand, anti-racist, intersectional approaches to social justice, and on the other, practices of self-care. During this acute moment of historical crisis, committing to practices of renewal and restoration is in and of itself an act of resistance. As Angela Davis recently argued, “self care has to be incorporated into all of our efforts.” <https://vimeo.com/94879430>

The C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism in Research) team and I have been undertaking consultations as to how best to enact institutional and community transformation through sustainable praxis. If you want to join this conversation, please come to the final consultation event of the academic year:

Bordered-Realities: Families, Migration and Displacement.

Sunday March 26 2017, 12pm-4pm,

in the Hall building (1455 De Maisonneuve ouest) room H-1267

at Concordia's SGW campus which is located on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory.

This bilingual community consultation is an invitation to members of the community and their families (across all generations) into a facilitated discussion centered around how displacement and migration affects our family dynamics, sense of community, social development and daily lives.

We are engaging in these conversations in order to begin the process of ideating our university as one that is inclusive for all forms of family and identity. The day will come together around themes of migration, displacement, status/citizenship, gentrification, diasporic realities, barriers around education and social development as well the necessity for meaningful links and relationships between communities and the academy (elementary, high schools, CEGEPS, the university and other professional institutions). We hope you will join us and bring your children, parents, friends and partners. Please RSVP to cfar@concordia.ca by Friday March 17 2017. (See page 9 for more details)

In the meantime, we are also finding ways to incorporate activism and research into the classroom itself. To this end, we are supporting the development of three new streams of social action learning for students at the SdBI and throughout the University itself: The Simone de Beauvoir Summer Institute, Feminist University Seminar, and Workshops in Social Science Research (see below).

-Dr. Kimberley Manning, Principal

Simone de Beauvoir Summer Institute (WSDB 398 AA)

Organized by Geneviève Rail, the inaugural Simone de Beauvoir Summer Institute will take place May 14-19, 2017. This week-long feminist course will be approached from a multi-disciplinary perspective (humanities, social sciences, arts). Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as community members are welcome to attend, either for credit or as a conference. The week involves workshops, panels and discussions led by a diversity of instructors and speakers from within and outside Concordia. The theme is “**Mobilizing In/Visible Bodies.**” In/visible bodies can be disappeared, murdered, imprisoned, medicalized, othered, racialized, veiled, gendered, trans, queer, disabled, aging, migrating, sex working, creating, performing, and resisting. The course focuses on women/bodies that intersecting systems of oppression render in/visible. Scholars, activists, and artists from Concordia and from organizations working with marginalized communities in Montreal will convene to explore, together with learners, the intersections of gender, bodies, and the politics of visibility.

Registration details will be available soon via the SdBI mailing list. Stay tuned!



Feminist University Seminar

This coming year (2017-2018), 25 undergraduate students will take up five urgent challenges in critical diversity work in a new six-credit, team-taught social action research course. Emerging projects include: “Feminist High School,” Gender and Sexuality Alliances in Quebec High schools, Diversity education in elementary schools, gender and race inequities in the field of Electroacoustics, and project development with Indigenous Directions. In this seminar, students will deepen their understanding of ethical protocols for research and feminist social action research methodologies, while building new skills in group work, grant writing, and public communication (for example, in the writing of Op-Eds). At the end of the two semesters, students will be expected to produce a capstone production piece for dissemination: for example, an article to be posted on the C-FAR website, an exhibition, or a performance piece. All students will be expected to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their work at mid-year and at the conclusion of the course, with recommendations for the future development of the project.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Research Associate, **Tamara Amoroso Gonçalves**, presented:

The Skol Summer Muse advertisement as an insight on how Brazilian Courts interpret the Concept of Discriminatory Advertising.

Law and Society Association Annual Conference - Belonging, Place and Visions of Law and Social Change.

Session: Gender and Judging.

New Orleans, USA – 03/06/2016. Presented in English.

The paper presented is also available here: https://www.academia.edu/26086871/The_Skol_Summer_Muse_advertisement_as_an_insight_on_how_Brazilian_Courts_interpret_the_Concept_of_Discriminatory_Advertising

Research Associate, **Dolores Chew**, gave several presentations:

Discussant. Panel, “The Limits of Theorizing: Perspectives from Peoples’ Movements and Campaigns”. In the workshop “Unpacking participatory democracy: from theory to practice and from practice to theory”. Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID), McGill University, 22-23 November 2016.

“Anglo-Indians -- De-colonizing and Resisting Colonial and National Politics and Practices of Recognition and Erasure”. Paper presented in the panel “With Reference to De-colonizing and Resisting Colonial and National Politics and Practices of Recognition and Erasure”. National Women’s Studies Conference, 10-13 November 2016, Montreal.

“We Are Here – South Asian Women in Montréal, Québec and Canada”. Chine et Inde : Enjeux de genre au XXI siècle. Journée d’étude organisée par la Chaire du Canada Droit chinois et mondialisation et par le Centre d’études et de recherche sur l’Inde, l’Asie du Sud et sa diaspora. Organized by CERIAS, UQAM and Chaire de recherche du Canada Droit chinois et mondialisation, UQAM.

“Nationalism and Anglo-Indians”. Presentation, School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University, India, 8 August 2016, 23 September 2016.

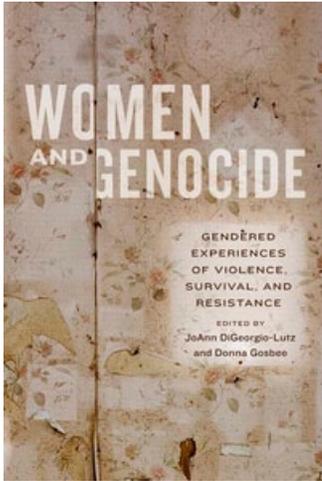
KUDOS

Research Associate, **Sima Aprahamian**, was awarded two certificates in 2016:

Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Mr. Armen Yeghanyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Canada, given at the Montreal Armenian Community Centre in recognition of the excellent work done for the commemoration of the centennial of the Genocide of the Armenians, May 29, 2016

Certificate of Appreciation from His Eminence Archbishop Papken Tcharian, for over twenty years of volunteer service for Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Canada, December 1, 2016

PUBLICATIONS



Chew, Dolores. “We Want Justice!” Women and the Gujarat Genocide”. In *Women and Genocide—an anthology*. Edited by JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz and Donna Gosbee. Toronto: Women’s Press, 2016.

Tamara Amoroso Gonçalves, Mariana Hassen Ballei Nunes de Siqueira and Leticia Ueda Vella “Advertising to children and gender stereotypes in Brazil: reflecting a broader ‘macho’ culture” in *Beyond the stereotypes – Boys, girls and their images*, Dafna Lemish and Maya Götz (International Clearinghouse, forthcoming)

Viviane Namaste “Imprimés interdits, La censure des journaux jaunes au Québec, 1955-1975”. Edited by Septentrion. 2016



MEDIA APPEARANCES

Research Associate, **Tamara Amoroso Gonçalves**, gave a radio interview in Victoria about her PhD research Project: <http://www.cfuvpodcasts.com/beyond-the-jargon/>

Tamara also gave a CLADEM/Regional representation to the Strategic Consultation on Developing a Global Response on Combating Violence Against Women called by International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific - IRAW Asia Pacific. December 5 &6, 2016

Research Associate, **Dolores Chew**, spoke on the impact of occupation and militarization on women in South Asia at the demonstration, “Women Resist, Militarization, Occupation and Wars of Aggression”. November 26, 2016 (in conjunction with the Twelve Days to End Violence Against Women).

She was also the spokesperson for the South Asian Women’s Community Centre at a press conference organized by the Federation des femmes du Quebec to draw attention to impact of government austerity cuts on the federation. November 20, 2016.

The Centre for Oral History and Digital Story telling, Concordia University, presented the mini-documentary on Musa Dagh in which RA, **Sima Aprahamian** was interviewed for and had provided research data for the project’s temporary exhibition The 40 Days of Musa Dagh, December 10, 2015- February 11, 2016 at the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre. <http://www.mhmc.ca/en/events/view/91>. December 2, 2016

PAST EVENTS

Kim Tallbear - Disrupting Settlement, Sex, and Nature: An Indigenous Logic of Relationality

The SdBI proudly co-sponsored Kim Tallbear's presentation, Disrupting Settlement, Sex, and Nature: An Indigenous Logic of Relationality, as part of the Future Imaginary Lecture Series in October of 2016. The Future Imaginary Lecture Series is organized by the Indigenous Futures research cluster of Milieux's Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology. The series is supported by the Initiative for Indigenous Future Partnership, Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace, and the University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary.

Smadar Lavie - Wrapped in the Flag of Israel: Bureaucracy, Gender and Mizrahi Ultra-Nationalism

The SdBI along with The Department of Sociology and Anthropology and The Azrieli Institute co-sponsored Smadar Lavie's public presentation: Wrapped in the Flag of Israel: Bureaucracy, Gender and Mizrahi Ultra-Nationalism.

What is the relationship between social protest movements in the State of Israel and the Israel-Palestine conflict? Why did mass protests that culminated in "Tahrir is Here" in 2011 end in failure? Israel's Mizrahi single mothers are at the forefront of feminist activism. Yet, time and again, their protests are truncated by lethal bureaucratic entanglements. Wrapped in the Flag of Israel explores the relationship between Israel's bureaucracy, social justice activism, and foreign affairs.

Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS

The SdBI is a proud co-sponsor of the Concordia University Community Lecture Series on HIV/AIDS. The institute sponsored two events in the fall semester:

Forgotten Stories: Early AIDS activism in Montreal with Gary Kinsman and Alexis Shotwell,

Meet Stuart Marshall - Art, Activism and the AIDS Crisis: Learning in a Public Medium.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES
ON HIV/AIDS 2016-2017
PRESENTS!

GARY KINSMAN
&
ALEXIS SHOTWELL
AIDS ACTIVIST GUEST PRESENT

**FORGOTTEN STORIES:
EARLY AIDS ACTIVISM
IN MONTREAL**

More than twenty years ago activists confronted a time of political and social uncertainty in and around Montreal. These years saw the outbreak of homophobia, the rise of fundamentalist religious and political ideologies, and the emergence of the AIDS epidemic. In the face of these challenges, activists in Montreal organized and participated in a variety of public actions, including protests, demonstrations, and community education. This lecture series will explore the role of these activists in the early AIDS movement in Montreal, with a particular focus on the work of the group 'MONTREAL AIDS ACTION GROUP' (MAAG) and their role in the 1987 'ACT UP! Montreal' demonstration. The lecture will also explore the role of these activists in the early AIDS movement in Montreal, with a particular focus on the work of the group 'MONTREAL AIDS ACTION GROUP' (MAAG) and their role in the 1987 'ACT UP! Montreal' demonstration.

27 OCTOBER 2016
7PM
DE SEVE CINEMA
1400 DE MONTREAL O
LECTURE IN ENGLISH

VIV | FUNDATION | KATIE | REZOO

PAST EVENTS

Cherchez les Femmes Cabaret at NWSA



Organized in connection with the National Women's Studies Association conference in November of 2016, The Simone de Beauvoir Institute, along with The Faculty of Arts and Science, C-FAR, IGSF and the Feminist Media Studio, presented an evening of feminist entertainment! Cherchez les Femmes featured a live stage show curated by WIVES collective which brought together talented artists from different Montreal scenes to showcase varying approaches to radical intersectional feminist performance, including Arkadi Lavoie Lachapelle, Michelle Lacombe, Kama La Mackerel, Johnny Forever Nawracaj, Odaya, and Alexis O'Hara. The evening also featured feminist video art, short films, and DJ sets.

Off The Page Festival

Writers Read & Concordia University, in collaboration with The Concordia Coop Community Bookstore, the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and the Concordia University Alumni Association, hosted a busy three day Festival from November 3rd to 5th featuring Concordia Alumni Suzanne Buffam, Trish Salah, and Sarah Burgoyne as well as Evie Shockley, Damian Rogers, Erin Wunker and many more.



Revising the Narrative, Critiquing the Canon: Palestine and Feminist Paradigms

In November of 2016, The SdBI co-sponsored Rabab Abdulhadi's presentation hosted by the McGill Institute of Islamic Studies. Drawing on years of field research in Palestine, Professor Abdulhadi's lecture challenged the major assumptions of the academic literature in the post-conflict context.

Spill: A Story Circle Ceremony led by Alexis Pauline Gumbs and Rachel Zellars

In celebration of the life-saving practice of story-sharing among oppressed communities, The Centre for Gender Advocacy hosted a story sharing event in November of 2016 inspired by the book *Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*

PAST EVENTS

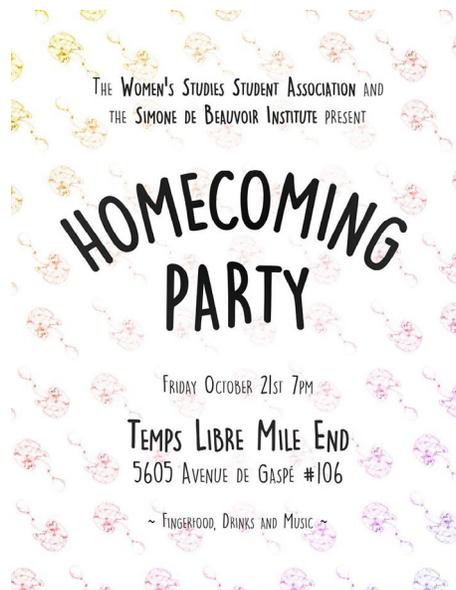
RA Sessions:

Vanaja Dhruvarajan: Beyond the Laxman Rekha; Diasporic Women and Their Struggles for Autonomy

Vanaja Dhruvarajan, who is a pioneer in Women's Studies in Canada and has published widely, spoke to her most recent book, *Beyond the Laxman Rekha; Diasporic Women and Their Struggles for Autonomy*. Dr. Dhruvarajan's book recounts the epic struggle and achievements of an Indian woman against great odds -- in the village, within marriage, migration and racism in the academy. Dr. Dhruvarajan taught for many years until her retirement at the University of Winnipeg. She is affiliated with the Pauline Jewett Institute of Women and Gender Studies, Carleton University. She has served as President of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association, and the Canadian Women's Studies Association

Kirre Koivunen & Kaarina Kailo :Finno-Ugric Guardian Spirits and Animal Mothers—Pohjola Mythology and Ecological Knowledge

Professor Kaarina Kailo is a women's and cultural studies scholar, and Kirre Koivunen, is a free-lance journalist and documentary film maker. Together, they presented their DVD on eco socially sustainable "motherland" cultures and their traditional ecological knowledge. Kaarina has worked as Professor of Women's Studies at Oulu University, Finland, as Senior Fellow, The Finnish Academy, and Associate Professor in Canada. Kaarina taught at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute and acted as Interim Principal.



WSSA

In October of 2016, WSSA and the SdBI hosted a Feminist Homecoming Party. This joint event was an occasion to mingle with the students, staff, and faculty of the SdBI in an informal setting.

Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholars

Tanisha Ramachandran

Take it off! This is America!": The Materiality of Headscarves and Hatred in the Benev(i)olent West

In November of 2016 the SdBI was delighted to host Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholar, Tanisha Ramachandran. Her work explores how in North America, Australia, and Europe, Muslim women disproportionately bear the brunt of anti-Muslim hate. Through an examination of hate crimes statistics, media accounts, and institutional reports, her project seeks to examine how Muslim women are racialized and gendered through hate crimes primarily triggered by material markers of religion. The targeted Muslim women wear some type of head covering. While these women differ in age, race, ethnicity, class, language, and the Islamic traditions they practice, the type of physical and verbal violence they experience is notably similar. Further, these attacks often occur in public spaces, often in full view of their accompanying children, and are seldom if ever interrupted by bystanders. An analysis of hate crimes exposes the tension between the troublesome visibility of Muslim women as other/threat and the perennial colonial trope that equates unveiling of Muslim women with liberation by the benev(i)olent West.



Tanisha Ramachandran is an associate teaching professor of South Asian religions, and core faculty in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Wake Forest University. She has published in various journals including *Canadian Women's Studies/ les Cahiers de la Femme*, and *Material Religion* and has given numerous talks on issues pertaining to race, sexuality, religion, colonialism, and feminism. Her current research examines how material objects and visual markers – hijabs, turbans, and bindies— are deployed or function in the racialization of religions in the US and Canada by examining acts of violence/vandalism perpetuated against Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs and their houses of worship: temples, mosques, and gurdwaras, respectively.

Sharon Batt

Beyond Resistance: Forging a renewed vision of feminist health activism

Sharon Batt was our second Lillian Robinson Visiting Scholar of this academic year. Dr. Batt an adjunct professor and researcher in bioethics at Dalhousie University whose current work is at the intersection of feminist advocacy, health policy and neo-liberal politics. She is a co-founder of Breast Cancer Action Quebec and author of the book *Patient No More: The Politics of Breast Cancer*. Sharon joined us from the 27th of February to the 10th of March and presented her research on feminist health activism.



UPCOMING

Workshops in Social Science Research (WSSR)

For the first time this year, WSSR is offering workshops as part of a new stream in Social Justice. The WSSR were originally launched in 2008 by Dr. Mebs Kanji in the Department of Political Science. The WSSR have now grown to offer over 55 workshops every year in winter, spring and fall, on a variety of topics in the fields of Democratic Governance, Public Policy, Political Theory, and both Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology. Although students must pay an additional \$300 in fees to attend the workshops, CFAR has arranged for a total of 20 scholarships to be made available.

Dr. Sunera Thobani, Associate Professor at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, University of British Columbia, has confirmed her participation (Details forthcoming). Workshops dates and topics already booked include:

“Feminist Policy Making” May 8 and 9

Dr. Amy Mazur

C.O. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Political Science
School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs
Washington State University

“Indigenous Methodologies” June 14 and 15

Dr. Margaret Kovach

Associate Professor, Educational Foundations & Educational Administration
University of Saskatchewan
and

Dr. Elizabeth Fast

Special Advisor to the Provost, Indigenous Directions

Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences
Concordia University

Bordered-Realities: Families, Migration and Displacement.

Sunday March 26 2017,

12pm-4pm,

in the Hall building (1455 De Maisonneuve ouest) room H-1267

at Concordia's SGW campus which is located on unceded Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory.

Our consultation will be facilitated by Annick MF, who, in addition to her work as the Outreach Coordinator to the C-FAR project, is an MA candidate in Communication Studies at Concordia University. In her work she is exploring the iterations, eras of thought, and intersectionality of Black identity in Montreal. Outside of the Academy, Annick is also a radio host, filmmaker, multimedia artist, community activist and mother.

Accessibility information: This event is free and open to all community members and is a child-friendly space. We will have two child care providers from 12-4pm for those who require it. The location, including bathrooms, is accessible to people using wheelchairs and other mobility aids. We have a limited number of STM round-trip passes, please contact us if you would like to pick up a pass. We ask you to please help us keep the space scent-free. Please don't hesitate to contact us at cfar@concordia.ca with any accessibility needs and we will do our best to meet them.

UPCOMING

The Simone de Beauvoir Institute presents

Care Work that Matters?

The Politics of Care in
Transitional Periods of
Women's Life Courses

MU-401 at noon on Wed., March 29th, 2017

In this seminar, scholars Nina Reggi and Alex Rau discuss the "politics of care" and how useful it is for their respective research. The main focus of their perspective is on "life course." Their perspective allows them to understand how gender intersects

with other categories and is regulated differently compared to other categories such as "age" or "body." Their examination of different biographical landmarks helps them to show how mechanisms of power and exclusion work along one's life course. In Germany, the "regime of life course" (with its regulations coming through laws and school, health and pension systems) is tightly connected to the labor system. Reggi and Rau argue that interlocking mechanics between labor and biography transpire a conception of the employment process that is white and male. Carework is invisible in such a regime, thus excluded from the norm and the normative biographical employment history. Reggi and Rau look at two specific transitional periods and how they are interconnected by the politics of care to regulate a specific (female) life course.



Nina Reggi



Alex Rau

Featuring Visiting Scholars:

Alex Rau &
Nina Reggi

Nina Reggi is a Ph.D. candidate and assistant lecturer at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, in the Faculty of Cultural Studies' Institute of European Ethnology. In her doctoral project, she uses a feminist perspective to examine existing political strategies focused on work-family balance in Germany. Her dissertation is funded by the Hans-Böckler Foundation.

Alex Rau is a cultural anthropologist focusing on feminist theory, precarity, social inequality and aging studies. Her Ph.D. examines the everyday life of women dealing with old age and poverty. She is a member of the international doctoral program "Transformations in European Societies" at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich.



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ARTS AND SCIENCE

Simone de Beauvoir
Institute

Care Work that Matters?
The Politics of Care in Transitional
Periods of Women's Life Courses
with visiting scholars, Nina Reggi
and Alex Rau
March 29, 12:00PM
MU 401
Simone de Beauvoir Institute
2170 Bishop.

BOOK LAUNCH

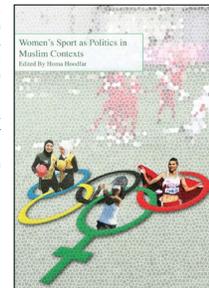
Women's Sport as Politics
in Muslim Contexts

Edited by Homa Hoodfar

A glimpse of the variety of ways that women debunk
exclusionary masculinist logics in sports that are
justified by nationalism, religion, and modernism.

This book provides an urgently needed analysis
of the bravery and creativity exhibited by women
in the realm of sports, which has emerged as a
major realm of contestation between proponents
of women's rights and political Islamist forces in
Muslim contexts.

Hoodfar and other contributors have provided a
ground-breaking analysis of the landscape of gender
and sports in diverse Muslim contexts, covering Iran,
Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Europe, North
America, and Senegal.



Wednesday, March 22nd
5:00 - 7:00 PM
LB 361

3rd Floor LB Building
1400 Maisonneuve Blvd W.



FACULTY OF
ARTS AND SCIENCE

Simone de Beauvoir
Institute

Book Launch:
**Women's Sport as Politics in
Muslim Contexts**
Edited by Homa Hoodfar
March 22
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
LB 361
1400 De Maisonneuve W.

C-FAR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive updates from the C-FAR (Critical Feminist Activism in Research) project about equity and inclusion initiatives at Concordia, please subscribe [here](#).

Submit to eSimone

eSimone is a regular publication of the SdBI. Its purpose is to promote the Institute and its activities in the community, as well as to provide information about issues related to scholarship, collective movements and opportunities rooted in and stemming from a pro-feminist perspective. If you wish to submit information, please email the Communication and Events Coordinator at:

sdbi.eventscordinator@concordia.ca