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THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY

MINI-NEWSLETTER

MARY BROWN PARLEE (1943-2018)



It is with deep sorrow that we mark the passing of the Center's former director, Mary Brown Parlee. Parlee was the second Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society (then called the Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles) from 1979-1984. During that time, she transformed the Center into a vibrant and active community for feminist scholars in New York City and beyond. A major figure in the psychology of women, Parlee's research explored the medicalization of women's health. She was instrumental in arguing against the medicalization of premenstrual syndrome (PMS) and in legitimizing research into gender, psychology, and the menstrual cycle.



MEENA ALEXANDER (1951-2018)

In November 2018, we lost an outstanding colleague and friend. Meena Alexander was an award-winning scholar and poet, and a Distinguished Professor of English at Hunter College and the Graduate Center. Her work spoke to the complexities of postcolonial feminism, dislocation, trauma, memory, and migration. Her eighth collection of poems, *Atmospheric Embroidery*, was published in June 2018. She is also celebrated for her memoir, *Fault Lines*, published in 1993, and numerous other books of poetry and prose. A memorial ceremony will be held to celebrate Meena's life and work at Hunter College on January 28th at 6pm in the Kaye Playhouse.

AWARDS

The 2018 **Sue Rosenberg Zalk Travel Award** was awarded to WSCP student Brenna McCaffrey to aid her research on the abortion pill in Ireland.

The 2018 **Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize** was given to History PhD student Arinn Amer for her groundbreaking dissertation on tarring and feathering in colonial North America.

UPCOMING: The Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize (due 4/18/2019)

Awarded to an outstanding feminist dissertation in the humanities. Candidates must submit the completed dissertation, a dissertation abstract, and a letter from their advisor. See CSWS website for details.

EVENTS

The Women Writing Women's Lives/ Dorothy O. Helly Works-In-Progress lecture: Alix Kates Shulman and Honor Moore shared their work on "Writing the Women's Movement: 1963-1991" in October.



Thank you for your attendance at the Fall 2018 Speaker Series events. Be sure to get your copy of our Spring events calendar by stopping by the office or checking our website!

STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

WGS MA STUDENTS

First-year MA student Jozette Belmont transitioned from an intern to a Development Assistant at *Peer Health Exchange*, a non-profit organization that recruits college students to teach sex Ed workshops in NYC public high schools.

WGS MA PROGRAM ALUMS

Melanie Chin (Class of '18) entered the Masters in Library Science program at Queens College to become an academic librarian and archivist. She will graduate next fall.

Victoria Pihl Sorensen (Class of '18) recently began an internship with Aubin Pictures, a not-for-profit documentary film company in NYC that focuses on social justice film making.

Stephanie Debiase (Class of '17) presented a paper titled "'The Childish, the Transformative, and the Queer': The Playful Activism of Queer Cosplay." at the *Fashion Now & Then Conference: Fashion & Culture in NYC* in October. She also presented the Marcuse Lecture at LIM College in November titled "We Have to Become Pressure Points': Building Institutional Safe Spaces," and will begin teaching Women's Studies at LIM this Spring.

FACULTY

Nancy K. Miller's book *My Brilliant Friends: Our Lives in Feminism* was published by Columbia University Press in January 2019!

CENTER

We are pleased to announce that the Center recently received two grants to support student research and learning: a grant from the ADCO foundation for \$3,000; and a grant to facilitate student engagement with reproductive justice from the New York Women's Foundation for \$15,000. These funds will allow many of our WGS MA students to attend gender studies conferences.

THE CSWS ARCHIVE

First-year WGS MA student Unnati Patel reports on leading the digitization of the CSWS Archive this semester:

The Center for the Study of Women and Society (CSWS) was first established in 1977. Throughout those 41 years, work at the Center has left behind documents of its achievements, events, and its history. This year, I am working as the lead organizer of the archive project. I have spent the semester combing through the CSWS archive and putting together a collection that tells the narrative of the Center by focusing on its accomplishments and involvements in various aspects of feminism and equality. This collection will not be a comprehensive history of everything the CSWS has and continues to work towards, but it will highlight some of the major events and projects that have made CUNY and New York City better because of them. Such efforts consist of leading projects to integrate research by women and women of color into academia; students' research projects in CUNY's community and senior colleges; and the creation of an Oral History Archive project that hosts interviews of activist women in New York City. There have been many victories and even a few losses, but the hope is to show the history of the Center through its archival documents. We plan to have the final collection up on the CUNY Digital History Archive (CDHA) website for everyone to view by the end of the Spring 2019 semester. I hope you look forward to it!

