

MORE ONLINE VIDEOS FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES: AN UPDATE TO "A TORRENT OF MOVING IMAGES"

by Phyllis Holman Weisbard

Two years ago, I assessed the world of online video for *Feminist Collections*.¹ It's time now to take another look, both by revisiting sites covered last time to see what's changed and by reviewing new projects and sources. This time I'll also cover some non-U.S. material, as well as a few sources that are not free.

Gateways: Google Video, YouTube, and Bing

First, let's catch up with the sites previously reviewed. In 2008 I surmised that since Google owned **YouTube** (<http://www.youtube.com>), it might merge YouTube with its **Google Video (GV)** index (<http://video.google.com>), which at that time also hosted videos. Instead, Google has more clearly differentiated the two by no longer offering new video hosting on GV (although previously uploaded material remains accessible), directing producers to upload their material instead to YouTube. GV continues to index ready-to-view clips and full-length films, television shows, documentaries, and more, hosted on YouTube and elsewhere on the Web. Although the YouTube upload directions specify that videos may not be more than fifteen minutes long,² there are some longer items uploaded by "Google Partners," including nonprofit organizations, to whom Google extends increased uploading capacity.³ What this means is that if you are used to searching YouTube for pithy zingers, you still can,⁴ but if you want to cast a wider net, use Google Video to find material from thousands more sources, of whatever length. In either case, if you browse frequently for new material, you can restrict your search to recently uploaded videos. In YouTube, do your search and then click on "search options" and re-sort by upload date. Similarly, in GV, do your search first and then click on "show options," and either select one of the options by upload date (past twenty-four hours, past week, past month) or change the default sort from relevance to date, and you can go back in time as long as you like.

If you don't find enough on your topic in Google Video, try **Bing Videos** (<http://www.bing.com/videos/>), which seems to consistently return a higher number of results. "Trafficking," for example, gets 74,000 hits on Bing, compared to 15,900 on GV. By design, Bing suggests "related

1. "A Torrent of Moving Images: Free Online Videos for Women's Studies," by Phyllis Holman Weisbard, *Feminist Collections* v. 29, nos. 3-4 (Summer-Fall 2008), pp. 29-34, online at http://womenst.library.wisc.edu/publications/feminist-coll/FC_29.3-4_StreamingVids.pdf. All sites noted in this review were accessed in August 2010.

2. "Once you've finished editing your video, make sure it's less than 15 minutes, smaller than 2GB in size, and in an acceptable format, you're ready to upload it." "Getting Started: How to Upload," in "YouTube Help," <http://www.google.com/support/youtube/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=57924>, updated 8/16/2010.

3. Users can find these through YouTube's "nonprofit channels" and "nonprofit videos" pages.

4. Be sure to read Deb Hoskins' "Do You YouTube? Using Online Video in Women's Studies Courses," in *Feminist Collections* v. 30, no. 2 (Spring 2009), pp. 15-17, online at http://womenst.library.wisc.edu/publications/feminist-coll/FC_302_Hoskins_YouTube.pdf.

searches,” although in this example, separate results for “woman trafficking,” “women trafficking,” and “female trafficking” would suggest that Bing itself needs further development.

Whether you use Bing or Google Video, your problem is more likely to be too many results than not enough. Both gateways are unwieldy for general searches, such as for “gender,” “women,” “feminism,” and the like. For such searches, it is often preferable to take note of some feeder sources and go to them directly. For instance, **Snagfilms**, **TED Talks**, **Charlie Rose** interviews, the **Open Video Project**, and **Women News Network Video Collection**, all of which I discussed in the 2008 review, remain worthy sites. **Snagfilms** start with brief ads, but are otherwise available for viewing in full and for “snagging” and placing on websites. The “women’s issues” topic on Snagfilms has grown to 107 items, now adding these important documentaries: *Women of Vision: 18 Histories in Feminist Film and Video*,⁵ featuring independent women filmmakers from the 1950s through the 1990s; Indian activist and novelist Arundhati Roy’s *Dam/age*,⁶ on her campaign against the Narmada dam project — excellent for discussing the environmental and human costs of massive damming projects; *Girls Rock*,⁷ a terrific video about the empowering effect of a Rock ‘n’ Roll camp for girls run by women rockers; and *Prison Lullabies*,⁸ about four women who give birth in prison but, because they are participants in a special project, get to keep their babies with them until the children are eighteen months old. Although it does not list it in the women’s issues category, Snagfilms also has *Africa’s Daughters*,⁹ about two impoverished Ugandan girls who are determined to graduate from high school. Want to show students how women’s appearance was cultivated in the 1950s? Show them *School for Charm* (1950).¹⁰

The **Open Video Project** (<http://www.open-video.org>), based in the Interactive Design Laboratory of the School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, does not appear to have added any relevant material, but remains a good source for government-sponsored health and hygiene films from the 1950s.

TED (Technology, Entertainment & Design) conference talks continue to feature stimulating and provocative individuals. Women’s studies students would probably have a lot to say after viewing Cindy Gallop’s 2009 talk, “Make Love, not Porn,”¹¹ in which she launched her website by the same name (<http://www.makelovenotporn.com/>).¹²

5. By Alexandra Juhasz. 1998, 83 min. http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/women_of_vision_18_histories_in_feminist_film_and_video/

6. British Broadcasting Corporation and Diverse Productions, 2002. 50 min. http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/dam_age/

7. By Shane King and Arne Johnson. Girls Rock Production Company, 2008. 89 min. http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/girls_rock/

8. By Odile Isralson, Lina Matta, and Jonathan Oppenheim. Brown Hat Productions, 2003. 83 min. http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/prison_lullabies/

9. By Natalie Halpern. 2008. 25 min. http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/africas_daughters/

10. By Fred Davis. <http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/schoolforcharm1/>

11. http://blog.ted.com/2009/12/cindy_gallop_ma.php. 4 ½ mins.

12. Gallop says, “MakeLoveNotPorn is simply intended to help inspire and stimulate open, healthy conversations about sex and pornography, in order to help inspire and stimulate more open, healthy and thoroughly enjoyable sexual relationships.”

Thus far in 2010, some of the interesting women **Charlie Rose** has interviewed are *The Daily Beast*'s Tina Brown, Academy Award winning director Kathryn Bigelow, Harvard cognitive psychologist Elizabeth Spelke, *Washington Post* writer Anne Kornblut, Rockefeller University neurobiologist Cornelia Bargmann, UNICEF director Ann Veneman, Ning CEO Gina Bianchini, and University of Miami president Donna Shalala. All the interviews are archived on <http://www.charlierose.com>.

The **Women News Network Video Collection** (<http://womennewsnetwork.vodpod.com>), which "collects" and tags videos mounted elsewhere concerning women throughout the world, has added some 171 items to the 487 that were there in 2008. They list in reverse chronological order, so it's easy to visit the site occasionally and see what's new, but you can also have the information come to you by subscribing to the WNN Video Collection RSS feed, via <http://feeds2.feedburner.com/WNNvideocollection>. Recent additions feature an Ethiopian woman condemning female genital cutting, Turkish efforts to stop honor killings, women landmine finders in Laos, Darfur women refugees speaking out, the conversion of a Cambodian brothel into a community outreach center, a tour of a Saudi home, Juarez mothers fighting femicide, a women-only train in Indonesia, Burundi women in politics, a tribute to U.S. Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks, and the effects of climate change on women.

Hulu and More for Media-Oriented Courses and Research

At this point, someone is probably wondering, "What about **Hulu**?" Students are likely to be quite familiar with **Hulu** already. It's fine for finding movies and episodes of television shows to applaud or critique from a feminist perspective, often offering items that are not easily retrievable through GV or Bing. The full-length movie version of *La Femme Nikita*, as compared to episodes from the television show, for example, can be found quickly on Hulu, because Hulu separates the formats; GV does not (a link to the full-length movie seems to be absent from Bing). Once full-length movies are selected, Hulu offers convenient ways to browse them by genre. "News and Information," while not a major source of women/gender-related items, does list *Trembling Before God* (<http://www.hulu.com/trembling-before-g-d?c=News-and-Information>), an excellent documentary on gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews, and *Run Granny Run* (<http://www.hulu.com/run-granny-run?c=News-and-Information>), on Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who walked across the entire U.S. at age ninety to advocate for campaign finance reform and then ran for the Senate from New Hampshire when she was ninety-four. There are also a few examples of "Lifetime Movies" (<http://www.hulu.com/lifetime-movies>). On the television side, there are news broadcasts in addition to series episodes. There's not much currently for women's studies, except perhaps the thirty clips brought together from the NBC Archives as "A Celebration of Women's History." Many of these are too basic to be of much use in women's studies classes — though they might be useful when giving a community talk — but a six-minute clip of Fannie Lou Hamer's testimony at the 1964 Democratic Convention's Credentials Committee, on behalf of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party of African Americans who demanded to be seated instead of the white-only delegation, might be just the thing to electrify a course on women in the Civil Rights movement.¹³ To keep up with what's new on Hulu, use the "recently added" pick.

13. This clip is also interesting because NBC chose to cut to a break during her speech and missed her famous ending: "All of this is on account we want to register, to become first-class citizens, and if the Freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America. Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave where we have to sleep with our telephones off the hooks because our lives be threatened daily because we want to live as decent human beings — in America?" To read the transcript and hear the full speech, visit American RadioWorks, <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/sayitplain/flhamer.html> .

Teaching a course on women and media? The **Museum of Broadcast Communications** (<http://www.museum.tv/>) and the **Archive of American Television** (<http://www.emmytvlegends.org>) are two more sites where you can find digitized shows. The MBC has digitized over 8,500 of its 42,000 holdings of television shows, radio programs, and commercials (free registration required; no way to display the streaming videos in full screen). *One Woman, One Vote*, a documentary on the struggle for women's suffrage in the U.S. and the U.K., shown on PBS in 1995 in the "American Experience" series, is well worth watching; view the two-parter now through the MBC.¹⁴ If your needs run more to body image than to women's history, try PBS's *Dying to Be Thin*.¹⁵ Have a student doing a paper on daytime soap operas? Through MBC she can watch sample 1950s episodes of *The Secret Storm*, *The Guiding Light*, *Love of Life*, and *Search for Tomorrow*.

The **Archive of American Television**, whose motto is "capturing television history, one voice at a time," has hundreds of interviews online with television actors and production people, and the site has numerous ways to find what you need — by name, profession, show, topic ("popular culture," "memorable moments," "TV's Golden Age/the 1940s and '50s," etc.) and keyword. The topic indexing leads right to where the interviewees mention the subject in embedded videos. For example, the topic "Historical Events and Social Change" has a sub-topic called "Diversity in Television," covering women, gay/lesbian, disabled, and minority issues, discussed by Diahann Carroll, Joan Ganz Cooney, Sharon Gless, and many others. In a four-part interview conducted in 2000, Jean Stapleton reminisces about playing Eleanor Roosevelt in a 1982 made-for-TV movie and later Edith in *All-in-the-Family*. The consummate 1950s mom, June Cleaver in *Leave it to Beaver*, was played by Barbara Billingsley, who was interviewed about that and other aspects of her career in 2000.

Although there are only a sprinkling of women among the writers, directors, editors, and production people interviewed in the AAT, those who are included demonstrate that women have played important roles behind the scenes in the history of television. CBS's first female director, Frances Buss Buch, gives a noteworthy 2005 interview, as do Kay Alden, head writer of *The Young and the Restless* (2006 interview), editor Mili Lerner Bonsignori (1998), and costume designer Rita Riggs (2003).

Public Affairs

On March 17, 2010, **C-SPAN** announced that its entire video archive from 1987 to the present — totaling 160,000 hours — is now freely available online (<http://www.c-span.org/>); for programs broadcast from 2004 onward, transcripts are also available. This means that you can find Congressional debates and Committee hearings, a raft of other public affairs programs, and the author talks and interviews that aired on C-SPAN's "BookTV" week-end programming. There's so much of relevance to women that examples will hardly do justice to what is available. At this writing, 941 programs dealt in whole or in part with abortion, 202 with feminism or women's rights, and 185 with lesbians. One can, of course, view Anita Hill's testimony on sexual harassment before the Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearings on Clarence Thomas on October 11, 1991 (<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/22097-1>), but there's also much more to be deconstructed from the viewer call-in remarks during breaks in the hearings and the extensive analysis by pundits after the fact. You can also watch Susan Faludi successively discuss her books *Backlash* (1992), *Stiffed* (two speeches in

14. At http://pictron.museum.tv:8080/MBC/Search/player.aspx?Type=News&IDNumber=TV_05736-1 and http://pictron.museum.tv:8080/MBC/Search/player.aspx?Type=News&IDNumber=TV_05736-2.

15. Nova, 2000, 58 min. http://pictron.museum.tv:8080/MBC/Search/player.aspx?Type=News&IDNumber=TV_07919-2

1999), and *The Terror Dream* (2007), but my favorite to show students is a program from May 1992 where she and Molly Ivins interview each other (<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/26024-1>).

FORA.tv (<http://fora.tv>) is another good source for talks by prominent scholars and writers on global issues, the economy, politics, and culture, similar to those that are broadcast on C-SPAN. FORA.tv mounts the speeches and discussions sponsored by scores of partner universities, think tanks, book stores, and organizations, such as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Paley Center for Media, and the Hudson Union Society. If you are looking for a known item — for instance, a conversation between Amy Richards and Dan Savage (http://fora.tv/2008/04/08/Amy_Richards_and_Dan_Savage_in_Conversation) — you can find it just as easily indexed by Google Video. But if you want to browse reputable talks on the burka or hijab, FORA.tv will be a better choice. (Google Video has over 10,000 hits for *burka* or *burqa* and another 10,000+ for *hijab* — many are “how to wear” demos.) FORA.tv features two from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: a talk by Bronwyn Winters, author of the award-winning book *Hijab & The Republic: Uncovering the French Headscarf Debate* (http://fora.tv/2009/03/19/Bronwyn_Winter_Uncovering_the_French_Headscarf_Debate), and three women speakers with different views on “Should the Burka Be Banned?” (http://fora.tv/2009/07/15/Should_the_Burka_Be_Banned). FORA.tv also provides various search filters (limits), such as by region of the world, and full transcriptions for some of the videos. Even though there are plenty of speakers on women’s issues listed in FORA.tv, one wonders where the women’s policy and research organizations are. It seems to this reviewer that they are missing an opportunity by not being FORA.tv partners.

Courses and Lectures at Universities, Academic Conferences, and Scholarly Organizations

If you are looking for something more didactic, how about an actual class lecture? **Academic Earth** (<http://academicearth.org>) pulls together full video courses and lectures from Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, Michigan, MIT, New York University, Princeton, Stanford, UCLA and Yale. Thus far, the closest to an entire course on women or gender are Stanford’s “Global Fund for Women: Challenging the Traditional Model of Philanthropy” (<http://academicearth.org/courses/global-fund-for-women-challenging-the-traditional-model-of-philanthropy>), taught by Kavita Ramdas, President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women, and “Presidential Politics: Race, Class, Faith & Gender in the 2008 Election” (<http://academicearth.org/courses/presidential-politics-race-class-faith--gender-in-the-2008-election>), by Al Camarillo. There are, however, additional individual lectures of note, such as “Psychology, Sex, and Evolution” (<http://academicearth.org/lectures/what-motivates-us-sex>) in Paul Bloom of Yale’s “Introduction to Psychology” course. (The website lets users grade the courses and lectures; Bloom’s gets an “A.”) UCLA’s Mark Sawyer lectures on “Black Feminism and Women’s Rights” (<http://academicearth.org/lectures/black-feminism-and-womens-rights>) in his “African American Studies” course, and Paul Fry of Yale discusses “Queer Theory and Gender Performativity” (<http://academicearth.org/lectures/queer-theory-gender-performativity>) in his “Literary Theory” course. The availability of videoed courses is a boon for people in developing countries with Internet access but without the opportunity to take such courses or perhaps the wherewithal to attend university whatsoever. In fact, Academic Earth’s intent is to build a “user-friendly educational ecosystem that will give internet users around the world the ability to easily find, interact with, and learn from full video courses and lectures from the world’s leading scholars.”¹⁶ Again, I am forced to ask: Where are the gender and women’s studies courses? Wouldn’t this be a great way to offer feminist perspectives to the world?

16. From the Mission Statement on <http://academicearth.org/about>.

Videlectures.net is another portal to educational videos emphasizing presentations at science conferences. Lectures are in French, German, Croatian, and other European languages as well as English. There are currently ten items in the “Gender Issues” category (http://videlectures.net/Top/Society/Gender_Issues/); most are on gender issues in aspects of information technology. A keyword search for “women” turns up others on women entrepreneurs and women and politics.

Don't forget to browse the individual lectures from universities and scholarly societies on **Research Channel** (<http://www.researchchannel.org>), which was covered in some detail last time. Unfortunately, there's not much new there on women/gender since the 2008 review; what has been added would be useful in a women and science course. There's now a lecture by Mildred Dresselhaus, a 2009 National Science Board award winner, in which she discusses her efforts on behalf of women in science and her own research in carbon science,¹⁷ one by HIV researcher Julie Overbaugh, who discusses her work in Kenya on early strains of HIV found in women and infants,¹⁸ a talk by Ruth Lewin Sime, author of *Lise Meitner: A Life in Physics* about Meitner,¹⁹ and one by Rebecca Nordlander, a technical strategist at Microsoft, who shares the struggles of women to find a place in the computer world.²⁰

Another university-based resource, **UChannel**, operated by Princeton University, will cease as of November 3, 2010.²¹ One of the reasons given for ending the project is the advent of **iTunesU**, which we'll discuss in a future article.

Film and Video Archives in Europe

Videoactive.eu is a source for news and popular programming clips and stills from archives through the European Union, in ten original languages. One of the “Key Topics in European History” indexed is “Gender Revolution” (<http://videoactive.eu/VideoActive/search/AdvancedSearch.do?action-type=topicSearch&topic-type=Gender%20revolution>), featuring 297 items, of which 48 are in English. Students might enjoy seeing the clothing and hairstyles, as well as the ostensible content (how to smoke a pipe), in a 1969 BBC clip, or an early “house husband” in 1973, also from the BBC. In addition, there are 274 clips indexed under “Sexual Revolution.” This site seems ripe for making cross-cultural comparisons (particularly for students who know one or more European languages), although on the down side, the clips seem to cut off abruptly, with no apparent online possibility of seeing the entire segments.

Many libraries and archives in Europe participate in **Filmarchives Online** (<http://www.filmarchives-online.eu>), a unified catalog of about 25,000 non-fiction film holdings (documentaries, educational films, newsreels, travelogues, advertising, scientific, industrial, experimental sports and animation films). A search for “girls” turns up 410 hits, including some 1890s oddities from the

17. National Science Foundation production, 10/2/2009, 50 ½ min. <http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=30446&fID=345>

18. University of Washington production, 3/9/2009, 49 min. <http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=29198&fID=345>

19. National Science Foundation production, 4/22/2008, 52 min. <http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=24735&fID=345>

20. Microsoft Research production, 7/28/2008, 58 ½ min. <http://www.researchchannel.org/prog/displayevent.aspx?rID=26660&fID=345>

21. <http://uc.princeton.edu/main>.

American Mutoscope Company²²: “A Mouse in a Girls’ Dormitory” and “Hazing Affair in a Girls’ Boarding School.” Unfortunately, only a small number of the catalog records lead to an actual film available online, and the search capabilities do not present a way to conduct a keyword search solely within the listings for the online offerings. Nevertheless, Filmarchives Online should be useful for scholars trying to determine whether particular films exist in any of the participating repositories.

EFG: European Film Gateway (<http://www.europeanfilmgateway.eu/>) is a more ambitious-sounding project that aims to provide “direct access to about 790,000 digital objects including films, photos, posters, drawings, sound material and text documents.” The project started in September 2008 and is scheduled to run for three years. There is no catalog mounted yet, so it is impossible to tell how many of the objects will actually be online, or what will happen after the three years. EFG in turn will feed into **Europeana** (<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>), a massive entrée to European digital material.

Footage

One of the questions I’m asked occasionally is where to get video clips to insert into productions. If the footage is under copyright and destined for a commercial film, it is going to need to be purchased. But first, a source for the subject matter desired must be found. One fast way to look for footage is to use **Footage.net**, a site that indexes the offerings of thirty collections, including ABC and NBC News Archives, Archive Films by Getty Images, the HBO Archives, and Global Image Works. The clips themselves are often previewable on the supplier sites. A search for “feminism” on supplier **Budget Films**²³ (<http://www.budgetfilms.com/>) has a good selection of relevant clips, such as Emma Goldman saying “I will leave the country rather than deny my ideas. I prefer to stick to my guns”; footage of 1968 Miss America pageant protesters dropping undergarments into a barrel; and a portion of an interview with suffragist Alice Paul when she was ninety years old.

Going Further

There are more sources described, as well as excellent suggestions on how to use streaming video, in “Using Streaming Video in the Academic Classroom,” by Jon Sparks, Director of Libraries at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Sparks provides two versions, PDF and Flash, via <http://libguides.swosu.edu/content.php?pid=82912>.

Don’t fret if the world of online videos seems overwhelming. Consulting any one of the resources discussed above may be just fine for your purposes. Getting recommendations from colleagues and students may be even better. But if these articles prove helpful, let us know and we’ll keep them coming.

[Phyllis Holman Weisbard is the women’s studies librarian for the University of Wisconsin System and co-editor of Feminist Collections.]

22. The American Mutoscope and Biograph Co. is still in existence: <http://www.biographcompany.com/>. These titles are not retrieved in a WorldCat search.

23. License rates on <http://www.budgetfilms.com/pricing.aspx> start at \$30.00/second.