Feminist Collections

A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

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From the Editors

March 2016. After a year of displacement and change, from the renovation of our space to the graduations and departures of key student employees, the Office of the Gender & Women's Studies Librarian is settled once again, fully staffed, and perhaps busier than ever. Here’s some of our “people news”:

First, we’re delighted that Lachrista Greco’s position as publications associate became both full-time and permanent in 2015. In addition to compiling quarterly issues of the online journal Feminist Periodicals and managing subscriptions for office publications, Lachrista also now maintains the office website (see www.library.wisc.edu/gwslibrarian) and develops the Women’s Knowledge Digital Library hosted there.

Amanda Geske, a first-year graduate student in the School of Library and Information Studies, started working with us in the summer, just as the last of our previous group of student workers departed. Amanda, who majored in gender and women’s studies as an undergraduate here at the UW-Madison, has become the backbone of our student staff. Along with other responsibilities, she works closely with editor Becky Standard on New Books on Women, Gender, & Feminism.

Journalism major Kiara Childs joined the student staff this semester. In addition to providing regular office support, Kiara has taken on major responsibility for our Facebook page and our Tumblr presence. We’re grateful to have the benefit of her social media expertise and interest — and especially pleased to get the news, just as we go to press, that she is declaring a second major in gender and women’s studies!

From time to time over the years, but not often, we’ve been the lucky host site for a student internship, providing a learning experience in exchange for valuable assistance with special projects, from editorial help on Feminist Collections to developing social media outreach. This semester, our internship good fortune has multiplied: Ashley Annis, a gender and women’s studies major, is serving as an editorial intern, helping me move Feminist Collections along and learning as much as she can about the publishing process for an academic journal. Ashley compiled this issue’s “Periodical Notes” column and is writing a book review essay to be featured in the next issue.

History major Jamie Lilburn, as part of earning a certificate in gender and women’s studies, is working with us as a research intern for the Wisconsin Women Making History (WWMH) project. Jamie is fact-checking biographies that will be added to the WWMH website. In addition, she is interviewing some of the founding partners of WWMH, and she’ll be using that interview material to draft an article about the history of the project.

Amanda, Kiara, Ashley, and Jamie are all UW–Madison students. Also helping us this semester is Eve Kheraz, a graduate student in the UW–Milwaukee’s School of Information Studies, who is doing fieldwork in collection development and selection with our GWS librarian, Karla Strand.

Speaking of our librarian, Karla deserves a huge shout-out for successfully defending her doctoral dissertation on “the role of public libraries in the alleviation of information inequality and poverty in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa!” Karla will head to South Africa in April to receive her D.Phil. in person at the University of Pretoria’s graduation ceremonies.

Also in April, our office will be exhibiting at the 2016 Summit on Women, Gender, and Well-Being here in Madison. You can find out more about that conference here: women-studies.wisc.edu/WSC/annualconf.htm.

Correction: In the print version of our Winter–Spring 2015 issue, a contributor to one of the books reviewed in “The Feminist Ex-Fundamentalist” (pp. 6–13) was misnamed. The PBS producer who wrote the foreword to Bonnet Strings: An Amish Woman’s Ties to Two Worlds was Callie T. Wiser (not Wright; see p. 7).
The nexus of race and sexuality in Black women’s lives is fraught with controversial knowledge that includes complex historical legacies, taboos, stereotypes, racism, sexism, and violence. Pornography, even without racializing it, is equally as controversial. These recent books by Black feminist scholars bravely address these issues with the purpose of disrupting the discourse of representation, respectability, and dissemblance within feminist thought, African American studies, and porn studies. They offer complex historical, ethnographic, literary, and postmodern visions for a more liberating Black female sexuality. All three texts respect, honor, and build on the rich legacy of Black feminist scholarship, which values and centers lived experiences in pursuit of self-determination — a core principle of Black feminist thought. They also draw on the evolving and increasingly influential body of queer-of-color research, which sees sexual pleasure as a subversive force and teaches us about the multi-dimensional possibilities of embodied pleasure in expressing our desires.

I approached these texts having never participated in the sex wars within feminist studies or invested much thought into the pros and cons of pornography. However, as a Black woman, I am fully aware of and impacted by the culture of dissemblance (silence, shame, masking, secrecy, disavowal of sexuality, protection from exploitation) and the politics of representation and respectability (don’t be the stereotype; if you act like a stereotype you are deserving of abuse) around Black women’s sexuality. The search for alternatives to these lived and widely theorized experiences is what fuels all three of these book projects. Two of the books deal directly with the rarely studied or discussed subject of Black women in pornography, while the other concerns sexual transgressions by Black women in post–Civil Rights era novels, written during the Golden Age of porn (1960s–1970s) and in the immediate aftermath of the sexual revolution.

The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography is the least complex of the texts. Jennifer Nash’s goal is to expand the Black feminist discourse on Black female sexuality and representation beyond one of violence, victimhood, pain, and injury. She writes, “What would it mean to read racialized pornography not for evidence of the wounds it inflicts on black women’s flesh, but for moments of racialized excitement, for instances of surprising pleasures in racialization, and for hyperbolic performances of race that poke fun at the very projects of race?” (p. 1). Nash’s methodology is the close reading of four films — Lilith, Sex World, Black Taboo (1985), and Black Throat (1985) — with a chapter dedicated to each one. In a phenomenal and extremely valuable opening chapter, “Archives of Pain: Reading the Black Feminist Theoretical Archive,” she deconstructs the traditional discourse and politics of representation and objectification that have dominated feminist and popular rhetoric, and presents an introduction to and an overview of the various feminist viewpoints on pornography: anti-pornography feminism, pro-pornography feminism, sex-radicalism, and feminist porn studies. If you don’t know the ideas and literature of the feminist sex wars, this is a great place to start.
lays out her alternative reading of Black women in pornography — one centered on ecstasy, pleasure, and performance.

Nash pays cursory attention to the sociocultural historical moments in which the films are made. Her discussions simply concern how the Golden Age (1960s–1970s) of pornography borrowed from the Blaxploitation/“blax-porn-tation” genre; and how the Silver Age (1980–1990s) of porn was related to President Reagan’s establishment of the Meese Commission (headed by Attorney General Edwin Meese) to study pornography’s effects, and the Commission’s findings, which relied, in part, on the work of anti-pornography feminists. Everyday Black politics and culture, outside of the pornographic and Blaxploitation film industries, are not factored into her analysis. Her counter-readings of pornographic representations of Black women are insightful and legitimate, but her close readings don’t have as much impact.

The basis of Nash’s counter-readings is that the films do not rely on the conventions of pornographic films — conventions that include the dominance of the Black male phallus, race loyalty narratives, inclusion of the money shot (a man ejaculating), the imperative to make bodies visible, reliance on unnamed racial fictions, and the hyper-visibility of stereotypes. Nash’s arguments would be weightier if more context was provided to illustrate the complexity and multidisciplinary nature of the subject. However, her alternative readings do give readers insight into the tropes within pornography, and into how certain films upset racist and sexist industry practices, as well as upsetting the Black feminist theoretical archive’s theories of representation and resistance in favor of a Black feminist theory of sexual subjectivities of pleasure and ecstasy. Nash has earned her place among a new generation of Black feminist scholars calling for what Trimiko Melancon, in the next work reviewed, describes as “postmodern modalities of black womanhood…wherein women’s roles and positionalities are not contingent upon particular racialized dictates,” many of which are socially constructed (Unbought, p. 51).

Melancon, in Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality, and Representation, is more successful at giving us complex close readings, in this instance of post–Civil Rights era novels about sexually transgressive Black women. By transgres-
The novels of the Black women writers’ renaissance were my first Black feminist texts. Before my academic career began I devoured the fiction of these writers, who were responsible for me becoming a women’s studies major, in which I was then introduced to the scholarly writings of Audre Lorde, Barbara Christian, Patricia Hill Collins, Angela Davis, bell hooks, and other Black feminist theorists, as well as to the idea that “fiction is a true way of telling.”4 Melancon draws on the work of these scholars as well as that of Nash and Miller-Young. As she demonstrates, her trope of transgression is well suited to understanding past and present notions of race, gender, and sex and in constituting a new era of feminist thought concerning Black female sexuality and subjectivities.

Mireille Miller-Young’s A Taste for Brown Sugar: Black Women in Pornography is the most complex of the three texts under review. By the time I finished this book my knowledge about the industry in general, and particularly about Black women in porn, had expanded significantly. Everyone interested in understanding the industry and the people, especially the Black women involved, in front of and behind the cameras, should read this book cover to cover — not necessarily to change their opinions, but to know what they’re talking about. The first sentence in the book — the epigraph on page 1 — is from porn star Jeannie Pepper: “You are not supposed to talk about sex because you are already assumed to be a whore.” Despite such a deep understanding of the ugly and complex intersection of race, gender, and sex, Jeannie embraces and works hard at her career, seeking to be viewed as a complex person. Her agency, as well as the agency of other Black women in the industry, is what Miller-Young uncovers and asks readers to recognize as she calls for a rethinking of agency, a central concept in feminist thought:

I propose to open up the concept of agency by moving away from readings of its equivalence with resistive (sexual) freedom. We might instead read agency as a facet of complex personhood within larger embedded relations of subordination…Agency then might be seen as a dialectical capacity for pleasure and pain, exploration and denial, or progressive change as well as everyday survival. (p. 17)

My preconceived notions about the book had more to do with the author than with the topic. Miller-Young and I both have academic appointments at the University of California Santa Barbara. She is in the Department of Feminist Studies, and I am the feminist studies librarian. I have conducted research orientations for and consultations with her students. I have added porn industry publications to the library collection to support her research. At cocktail parties and campus events we have lamented the state of scholarly publishing, and she has shared the very harsh and critical responses she has experienced in presenting her work on Black women in pornography. And frankly, an early presentation of hers left me quite dis-
appointed. In contrast, after years of research, feedback, re-visioning, maturation, and staying true to her vision, her first book is surprisingly impressive and a significant contribution. Miller-Young was trained as a historian, and her text is foremost a history and ethnography of Black women in pornography that deserves serious attention from historians. The historical scope is from the turn of the 20th century to the early 21st century. The ethnographic voices are from the 1980s forward. Miller-Young uncovers a vast missing archive of Black pornography and erotica in libraries and private collections, including vintage photographs, which range from the beautiful, seductive, raunchy, and humorous to the OMG — and this is just in “Sepia Sex Scenes: Spectacles of Difference in Race Porn,” the book’s first chapter! She also covers the often-written-about Golden Age of pornography, discussing the emergence of what she refers to as “soul porn,” which describes “how black people interacted with and performed in porn through the uses of soul, as well as how whites’ fascination with black sexuality is represented in porn through the iconography of soul” (p. 67). Black women’s role in Black-cast soul porn and Blaxploitation films is treated in Chapter 2, “Sexy Soul Sisters.”

Like its Golden Age, porn’s “video revolution,” or Silver Age, has also been much written about for its expansion of and economic impact on the industry. Miller-Young demonstrates that the soul porn era was mostly about Black male sexuality, and shows in her coverage of porn’s video revolution that Black actresses were critical to the substantial growth of the industry. Here she is able to introduce and feature one of her primary interests and contributions to the scholarship: the labor, experiences, and perspectives of Black porn actresses. At the beginning of Chapter 3, “Black Chicks: Marketing Black Women in the Video Era,” we meet porn star Angel Kelly. Before we get Angel’s full story, Miller-Young takes us back and provides an indepth analysis of the culture, major players, and industry in the 1980s, when Kelly became a star. This indepth historical and cultural contextualization enhances the richness of the text and appears throughout. In Chapter 4, Miller-Young introduces useful concepts such as the one in the chapter title (“Ho Theory”) as well as “hip hop pornography” to interrogate Black female sexuality at the convergence of hip hop and pornography. Her Black feminism embraces such concepts as Black feminist pornographies, erotic capital, erotic sovereignty, and illicit eroticism. She also finds new applications for and critiques of the politics of representation, dissemblance, and respectability, which are all staples of feminist thought. The historiography, combined with the Black feminist analysis and the voices of the actresses and the others involved in the production and distribution of porn, helps us see and learn how actresses market their labor. Moreover, we see and learn how Black women in porn challenge industry discrimination, marginalization, pay inequality, stereotypes, and harsh representations of Black female sexuality.

The ethnographic approach, also a major strength of the text, supports Miller-Young’s case for an agentive Black subjectivity. Many of the popular representations and myths about the industry and the women who work in it are dispelled. We learn first-hand from Black women porn actresses why they “do it,” pun intended. The reasons vary: some are obvious, and others will surprise you, but really shouldn’t if you think about what motivates most of us to do the work we do. The actresses profiled at length, besides Angel and Jeannie, are Sinnamon Love, Sasha Brabuster, Carmen Hayes, and Desiree West (although we don’t get Desiree’s first-hand account). The book also introduces some of the “Black feminist pornographers” behind the camera, including Diana DeVoe, Pinky, Vanessa Blue, Damalli XXXPlosive Dares, and Abiola Abrams, whose voices are featured in two chapters, but who also, along with others, are heard throughout.
Miller-Young discusses some of the same films that Nash does, and references many more, covering at length *KKK Knight Riders* (1939), *Lialeh* (1974), *Sex World* (1977), *Let Me Tell Ya 'Bout Black Chicks* (1985), and *The Call Girl* (1986). Primary sources other than the actresses include directors, producers, distributors, agents, crew, actors, archival film and photographs of private collectors, press materials, video box covers, trade publications, and personal interactions on sets and at conventions. All of this adds up to a decade of fieldwork and a beautiful book. All images are quality, full-color reproductions on heavy glossy paper.

There is a wide audience for this well-researched and well-produced book. As I’ve tried to show, the scope of Miller-Young’s project is large. The general public as well as researchers from film and media studies, history, sexuality studies, African American studies, labor studies, critical race studies, sociology, and anthropology will appreciate *A Taste for Brown Sugar*.

As marginalized subjects within Black, white, and feminist communities, Black women have a long, embattled history and tradition of challenging and subverting systems of oppression and the social norms and conventions that have contributed to their marginalization and exclusion. Authors Nash, Melancon, and Miller-Young and their brave projects continue that tradition of transgression in the interest of social change, by adding a diversity of Black women’s voices, experiences, desires, fantasies, ecstasies, and pleasures to the dominant sexual narratives — narratives that are often steeped in racial and sexual fictions. More importantly, they’ve created new knowledge: a Black feminist politics and thought that allows for a Black female sexuality — a sexuality that transcends theories of representation, respectability, and dissemblance and demonstrates the complex nature of Black women’s sexual identities on Black women’s own terms.

Notes
1. I do, however, hugely regret missing the “Authors Meet Critics” session for *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography* at the 2014 National Women’s Studies Association conference.

2. A theoretical framework of growing significance in feminist thought.

3. Thinking and writing these last few words made me realize that the Black Lives Matter movement, despite the involvement and leadership of Black women, is being defined by the Black male experience just as the Civil Rights and Black Power movements were.


[Sherri L. Barnes is the librarian for feminist studies, LGBTQ studies, and U.S. history at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She also co-coordinates the humanities collection group and oversees the library’s scholarly communication program.]
The 2015 Supreme Court victory for gay marriage, the heightened attention toward racial discrimination after Michael Brown’s death in Ferguson and others elsewhere, and the emphasis of the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign on income inequality have all renewed a focus on the importance of intersectionality in feminist theory and activism. Feminism Unfinished, a compact history of the last century of American feminism, argues that the intersections of gender with race, class, and LGBT issues have been an important part of feminism's focus for much longer than is usually acknowledged in histories of its movements.

Authors Dorothy Sue Cobble (Rutgers), Linda Gordon (New York University), and Astrid Henry (Grinnell) each contribute one of the book’s three sections, offering their interpretations of the movement for women’s rights during the years between the passage of the 19th Amendment and their 2014 publication date. Their narrative asserts that the 20th century can be seen as a continuous story of women agitating for social and political change, and that by examining the overlooked leaders of its many movements, one can find a long but often neglected intersectional tradition in American feminism.

Cobble begins with the period between the 1920s and 1960s — a time often disregarded in feminism’s history as a lull between the efforts of suffragists and the “renewed” consciousness of the Second Wave. Instead, Cobble argues, that period was an era of dedicated “social justice feminists” doing groundbreaking work as they “looked to the largest social movements of their day, the labor and civil rights movements, as the best vehicles to achieve their vision of women’s rights in a more inclusive and egalitarian society” (p. 4). By examining the work of women leaders in both labor and civil rights, this section offers a fuller view of how activists considered racial and economic justice issues key to securing better lives for women in the United States.

Gordon picks up the timeline from the 1960s through the 1980s to offer a view of Second Wave feminism, or the “women’s liberation movement,” as more than a white, middle-class effort. Like Cobble, she offers examples of women leaders with a “diversity of political identities and backgrounds” who, like the social justice feminists before them, used their perspectives to fight for the rights of women across ethnic and class lines and connect these rights to racial and economic realities across the country (p. 75). Gordon also counters the worn stereotype of the liberation movement as the work of “humorless, sexless reformers,” revealing the profound humor present alongside the passion for social progress.

Finally, Henry begins her section in the 1990s amid the backlash of the New Right to the gains in reproductive and social rights made by the Second Wave. Henry’s is a narrative of feminism reclaimed by Generation X and Millennials who grew up with the feminist “mindset” that they could be anything, only to discover that “sexism and
gender discrimination have continued, albeit sometimes in new forms that make them difficult to address” (p. 168). Henry charts the continuing journey of feminists to fight sexual violence, discrimination, and economic exploitation all while striving to protect and grow the political gains of the 20th century. She argues that through both print and a massive online presence, this most recent feminism has achieved a level of both global reach and individuality that was unprecedented in previous movements, but one that also raises important questions about the meaning and direction of a “feminism so inclusive it stands for everything” (p. 189).

The three sections of *Feminism Unfinished*, and the many women and movements therein, all stress the importance of inclusivity and intersectionality throughout a continuous century of women’s activism. While readers may find cause to argue with the extent of this historic inclusion, the theme of continuity rather than “waves” of activism is one deserving of consideration. This holistic view of the last century serves as a poignant reminder that feminism’s progress has not been a steady upward trajectory of inevitable progress and gains, but a series of great leaps forward punctuated by substantial setbacks and backlash. Nor are the women making those gains part of a monolithic movement, or even a series of cohesive waves, but a collection of diverse activists with different needs and goals, all striving for social, economic, and political change to better their lives and those of their communities and loved ones. This narrative also drives home how enormous the privilege is of women who are able to reject the feminist label while still reaping the benefits of those activists; and it demands a reconsideration of what it means to be a woman in modern America.

Note

1. The term *intersectionality* in this context was coined, and the concept explicitly developed, by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw in the late 1980s. See in particular her groundbreaking 1989 article, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics,” in *University of Chicago Legal Forum* vol. 140, pp. 139–167.

[Elzbieta (“Bess”) Beck is a former student worker in the GWS librarian’s office who still avidly reads everything she can on women’s history.]
Book Reviews

RE-VISIONING WOMEN, EMPOWERMENT, & GLOBAL POVERTY

by Mridu Markan


I'm getting ready to leave a small, dilapidated room in North Kolkata, India, where the water closet and wash basin are set against a wall of Bollywood superstar posters. I've just facilitated a successful meeting with brothel-based and street-based female sex workers who are partnering with the National HIV Programme to halt the HIV epidemic in the state of Kolkata. As a technical officer for the National Programme, I have met with these community representatives to review their estimates of the population's need for condoms, which will be provided free of cost by the Indian government. The HIV epidemic in India is concentrated, and female sex workers remain a high-risk group. As I leave the drop-in center, a sex worker comes to say goodbye, remarking, “Using condoms has made me appreciate my agency — it has empowered me!” Several years later, what still captivates me about this conversation is the nuanced understanding of how a simple idea, initiative, or solution can empower women and change the trajectories of their lives forever.

Today, as the world faces numerous conflicts and crises, empowerment of women is unanimously viewed as critical in achieving a better future for all. As we have reached the 2015 deadline for the UN’s Millennium Development Goals, it has become increasingly clear that women and girls need to be at the center of all national and global development initiatives and dialogues. But why should we focus on global women in development? One main reason would be what author, artist, and activist Betsy Teutsch refers to, in 100 under $100: One Hundred Tools for Empowering Global Women, as “the so-called Girl Effect” (p. xiii) — the idea that when girls are educated, marriage and childbearing get postponed and higher-skilled jobs are more likely to be obtained. This in turn promotes development, builds the economy, and ends the cycle of poverty.

Working through a gender lens, Teutsch has focused on poverty alleviation. Rather than limiting her work to one specific domain, she has courageously covered a range of realms to compile innovative and transformative ideas that improve the lives of women and their families, as well as communities, societies, and nations. The result is an ingenious and unique toolkit of a hundred simply designed, yet effective ways — each costing less than $100 — to alleviate extreme poverty for women in the Global South. These simple and replicable tools have been organized into eleven different sectors: general health, girls’ and women’s health, energy, water and sanitation hygiene (WASH), domestic technology, subsistence farming, construction, transportation, information and communication technology, financial inclusion, and legal tools. Teutsch dedicates the volume, which is published by She Writes Press, to “all who engage in Tikkun Olam — Repairing the World.”

100 under $100 is eye-opening and compelling. Its concise and easy-to-understand writing style makes it a valuable resource for a wide audience of students, activists, feminist scholars, business entrepreneurs, community leaders, young change-makers, and development professionals. Emphasizing an individual’s power to change the world, it fills the reader’s heart with hope and inspiration. The pages are visually appealing, full of images of women and girls working toward attaining empowerment, and the photographs are carefully chosen to depict women as vibrant, strong, and action-oriented rather than as passive victims of situations. Despite the simple nature of the brilliant tools featured, implementation of those tools can present numerous challenges, but the author presents those realistically. The book’s layout is engaging, with suggestions for reader engagement, ideas for the classroom, and action notes.

This volume provides a wealth of practical ideas for building the local capacity of a community. Some of the tools that personally resonated with me included these:

Solar Ear: This company in Botswana offers a $50 hearing aid with solar-charged batteries, an affordable and environmentally conscious alternative to American hearing aids (p. 17).

Bike-Powered Machines: Global Cycle Solutions, based in Tanzania and run by medical engineer Jodie Wu, offers a bicycle-powered cell phone charger, a “detachable maize sheller” that the company boasts pays for itself in only one month, and other machines that can be connected to and powered by a bicycle (p. 40).

Eco-Briquettes: “[These] might look like mud pies, but they are serious business, creating high-quality, clean fuel from waste.” As an alternative option for cooking fuel, Eco-Briquettes are more efficient than firewood and can be made by hand (p. 42).
**Book Reviews**

**Treadle Water Pumps:** KickStart International’s $30 “Money Maker Hip Pump” allows women and children to more easily irrigate their farms by replacing hand-operated or diesel-fueled pumps with a “light-weight, female-friendly design” (p. 82).

**Bottle Bricks/Ecobricks:** Andreas Froese, a German architect, along with Susanne Heisse, founder of Pura Vida, discovered a way to use plastic bottles filled with dirt or trash to build homes and schools. Teutsch points out that “[b]ottle brick construction is community-based, creating shared structures” (p. 98).

Initiatives like these and the many others described in the book will encourage readers to start doing their own part to help alleviate poverty in the world and make a meaningful impact. These low-cost solutions, rather than re-inventing the wheel, have the potential to disentangle the world’s most pressing problems. *100 under $100* is a welcome contribution to effective praxis. Gender scholars and community practitioners especially will find Teutsch’s work lucid, informative, and enlightening.

**Note**

1. “The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) — which range from halving extreme poverty rates to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 — form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and all the world’s leading development institutions.” Read more about the MDGs at [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals).

[Mridu Markan is completing a master’s degree at the University of Wisconsin in the Department of Gender & Women’s Studies. She has also been a teaching assistant for GWS 103: Women and Their Bodies in Health and Disease. Her current work focuses on intimate partner sexual violence among men who have sex with men in Delhi, India.]
OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GENCEN

Three times a year, the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) at Michigan State University gathers producers’ and distributors’ summaries, in GenCen's Gendered Perspectives on International Development (GPID) Resource Bulletin, of selected audiovisual productions about global gender and women’s issues. We have partnered with GenCen to make those summaries available to a wider audience by reproducing the Bulletin’s “Audiovisuals” columns here in Feminist Collections.

The film, podcast, and radio summaries below, grouped by producer or distributor, are reproduced with minor changes from the Spring 2015 issue of the GPID Resource Bulletin. To obtain a free copy of any issue of the Bulletin, which also summarizes such useful resources as journal articles, books, and technical reports and lists upcoming conferences, grants, calls for papers, and study opportunities, contact GenCen at gencen@msu.edu.

FILMS FOR ACTION

Young and Gay in Putin’s Russia
2014, 35 minutes (5 parts)

When Russian President Vladimir Putin banned “gay propaganda” in June of 2013, Russia’s LGBT community went from being stigmatized as a fringe group to being treated as an enemy of the state. The legislation made homophobia not only accepted but actively encouraged in Russia, and led to a depressing rise in homophobic attacks and murders. The purpose of the law, which essentially bans any public display of homosexuality, is to prevent minors from getting the impression that being gay is normal. And that means that if you’re young and gay in Putin’s Russia, you’re ostracized and cut off from any kind of legal support network. The documentarians traveled to Russia ahead of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics to investigate the effects of the country’s state-sanctioned homophobia. They took a ride in Moscow’s gay taxi service, heard about the rise of homophobic vigilante groups, and met Yulia, who runs LGBT self-defense classes.

Madame Phung’s Last Journey
2014, 87 minutes
icarusfilms.com/new2015/mme.html

Where does theater begin and real life end? Madame Phung and her transvestite singers travel around Vietnam, setting up makeshift fairground attractions, performing songs and sketches, and being met with both fascination and hostility from local people. The film is a poignant look at a mostly unglamorous life featuring the struggles of head troubadour Phung, a former monk who fell in love with another monk and embarked on a unique type of migrant work. Amid ups and downs, hostility, and discrimination, the touring party makes a living and forms a bond that is captured candidly by documentarian Nguyễn Thị Thắm.

Congo: The Doctor Who Saves Women
2015, 52 minutes
icarusfilms.com/new2015/doc.html

Dr. Denis Mukwege is a gynecologist and the founder of Panzi, a hospital whose primary mission is treating women who have been raped and are thus casualties in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s decades-long war. At the hospital, in the Kivu district of the country, Mukwege and his mostly female team provide reconstructive surgery and psychological counseling, as well as literacy and other programs designed to help patients reintegrate into a society that has a history of shaming and ostracizing rape survivors. Mukwege and others call the rape epidemic in the DRC a crime of war. The widespread sexual assaults create a climate of terror that rival groups use to their advantage, with the ultimate goal of laying their hands on valuable resources.
The film highlights the atrocities perpetrated on Congolese women, but also offers vivid accounts of their resilience and determination not to be defined by the crimes committed against them. From Senegalese filmmaker Angèle Diabang, this film offers the intimate testimonies of women who have been treated at Panzi, along with the perspectives of psychologists and doctors who work there.

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS IN EUROPE (ICRSE)**

*Sex Workers Are the Solution, Not the Problem*
2014, 11 minutes

In this short video, sex workers from Serbia, Macedonia, Spain, Turkey, and Romania talk about the human rights violations they face. Agata Dziuban from ICRSE presents powerful, evidence-based arguments that states should decriminalize sex work and that if an effective global HIV response is to be achieved, sex workers must be involved and heard.

**MEG SMAKER, DIRECTOR**

*Boxeadora*
2014, 16 minutes
boxeadorathemovie.com

Since Castro’s revolution, Cuba has been a boxing powerhouse, with more than 19,000 male boxers — and more Olympic gold medals in boxing than any other country in the world. Also since the revolution, however, women have been banned from boxing. The short documentary follows a Cuban woman named Namibia who has secretly been training as a boxer for five years. At age 38, Namibia has just two more years of eligibility to compete in Olympic boxing, so she tries to leave Cuba to follow her dream. This film by Meg Smaker, a U.S. filmmaker who is also a competitive boxer, won the Documentary Shorts category at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival in 2015. (Note: Not yet in commercial distribution when this issue of *Feminist Collections* went to press.)

**NEST COLLECTIVE**

*Stories of Our Lives*
2014, 60 minutes
www.thisisthenest.com/sool

On June 30, 2013, the NEST Collective began collecting and archiving the stories of persons from Kenya who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or intersex, with the purpose of telling stories that are not often heard and to characterize the queer experience in Kenya. After several months of touring and collecting hundreds of vivid, compelling stories, NEST turned some of those true stories into short films and put them together in this anthology.

**REALIZING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (RESURJ)**

#SexRightsTopia
2014, 3 minutes
www.resurj.org/blog/sexrightstopia

People across the world continue to experience violence, stigma, and discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Women are often denied access to sexual and reproductive health services, or are treated badly when they do get access; many undergo unsafe and criminalized abortions that place their health and lives at risk. Young people lack necessary information and services that respect their confidentiality and autonomy. Women, men, and transgender people are being sexually harassed, intimidated, repressed, and even imprisoned or killed for protesting or gathering publicly in many countries around the world. Gender-based violence continues to harm people and communities everywhere. On Human Rights Day in 2014, RESURJ invited individuals to join them in asking, What would the world be like if sexual rights were upheld and enjoyed by all? What would it take to create an enabling environment where all people, in all their diversity, can exercise their sexual rights? What would this “SexRightsTopia” look like?
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**STRAND RELEASING**

**Mala Mala**
2014, 89 minutes
strandreleasing.com/films/mala-mala

The critically acclaimed documentary *Mala Mala* explores the intimate moments, performances, friendships, and activism of Puerto Rican drag queens, trans women, and other gender nonconformists. The film features Ivana, an activist; Soraya, an older sex-change pioneer; Sandy, a prostitute looking to make a change; and Samantha and Paxx, both of whom struggle with the quality of medical resources available to assist in their transitions. Hailed as “sensitive and thoughtful” by *The New York Times* and winner of the audience award for documentary film at the Tribeca Film Festival, *Mala Mala* affirms that the quest to find oneself can be both difficult and beautiful.

**WOMEN MAKE MOVIES**

**India’s Daughter**
2015, 62 minutes
www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c898.shtml

*India’s Daughter* is the powerful story of a 23-year-old medical student who in 2012 was brutally gang-raped on a Delhi bus and later died from her injuries. The news made international headlines and ignited protests by women in India and around the world. BAFTA-winning filmmaker Leslee Udwin, herself a victim of rape, went to India inspired by the protests against sexual assault. With an all-Indian crew, Udwin got exclusive, first-time, on-camera interviews with the rapists and their defense attorney, none of whom expressed remorse. The defense attorney went even further, stating that “immodest” women deserve what happens to them. An impassioned plea for change, *India’s Daughter* pays tribute to a remarkable and inspiring young woman and explores the compelling human stories behind the incident as well as its political ramifications throughout India. But beyond India, the film lays bare the way in which societies and their patriarchal values have spawned such acts of violence globally.

**Feminism Inshallah: The History of Arab Feminism**
2014, 52 minutes
www.wmm.com/filmcatalog/pages/c890.shtml

The struggle for Muslim women’s emancipation is often portrayed stereotypically as a showdown between Western and Islamic values, but Arab feminism has existed for more than a century. Its unique history is shaped by, and inseparable from, assertions of national identity and the fight for liberation from colonialism. This groundbreaking documentary recounts Arab feminism’s largely unknown story, from its taboo-shattering birth in Egypt by the feminist pioneers up through viral Internet campaigns by today’s tech-savvy young activists during the Arab Spring. Moving from Tunisia to Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, filmmaker and author Feriel Ben Mahmoud tracks the progress of Arab women in their long march to assert their rights and achieve empowerment. Featuring previously unreleased archival footage and exclusive multigenerational interviews, this film is an indispensable resource for women’s, global feminist, Middle East, and Islamic studies.
**PERIODICAL NOTES**

**SPECIAL ISSUES/THEMATIC SECTIONS**

This column highlights special issues or thematic sections of journals that do not otherwise explicitly focus on gender or feminism.


Partial contents: “Barriers and Facilitators to Engagement and Retention in Care Among Transgender Women Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus,” by Jae Sevelius, Enzo Patouhas, JoAnne Keatley, & Mallory Johnson; “Physical Activity Disparities in Heterosexual and Sexual Minority Youth Ages 12–22 Years Old: Roles of Childhood Gender Nonconformity and Athletic Self-Esteem,” by Jerel Calzo, Andrea Roberts, Heather Corliss, Emily Blood, Emily Kroshus, & S. Austin; “Is Being Out About Sexual Orientation Uniformly Healthy? The Moderating Role of Socioeconomic Status in a Prospective Study of Gay and Bisexual Men,” by Larissa McGarry & David Huebner; “Structural Stigma and Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenocortical Axis Reactivity in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young Adults,” by Mark Hatzenbuehler & Katie McLaughlin; “Structural Stigma and Cigarette Smoking in a Prospective Cohort Study of Sexual Minority and Heterosexual Youth,” by Mark Hatzenbuehler, Hee-Jin Jun, Heather Corliss, & S. Austin; “Sexual Orientation and Gender Differences in Makers of Inflammation and Immune Functioning,” by Bethany Everett, Margaret Rosario, Katie McLaughlin, & S. Austin.


**CENTAURUS** v. 55, no. 2 (May 2013): Special issue: “Beyond the Academy: Histories of Gender and Knowledge.” Issue editors: Christine von Oertzen, Maria Rentetzi, & Elizabeth S. Watkins. Publisher: John Wiley & Sons. ISSN: 0008-8994 (print), 1600-0498 (online). Available electronically to licensed users through Wiley Online Library and EBSCOhost.


Partial contents: “‘Northern Girls’: Cultural Politics of Agency and South China’s Migrant Literature,” by Wanning


**THE MUSLIM WORLD** v. 103, no. 3 (July 2013): Special issue: “Muslim Women and the Challenge of Authority.” Issue editors: Juliane Hammer & Riem Spielhaus. Publisher: Hartford Seminary. ISSN: 0027-4909. Available electronically to licensed users through EBSCOhost, ProQuest, and Wiley Online Library.

in Indonesia,” by Tutin Aryanti; “‘Women Are Believers in Their Own Right’: One Muslim Woman’s Challenge to Dominant Discourses Shaping Gender Relations in Islam,” by Anna Piela; “When Islam and Feminism Converge,” by Fatima Seedat.


Compiled by Ashley Annis

Miriam Greenwald
EIGHT BOOKS AND ARTICLES WHITE FEMINISTS SHOULD READ... by Lucie Witt, at bit.ly/1V7DDnb.
The title of that blog post, dated February 8, 2016, continues with “for Black History Month,” but of course the value of these recommendations doesn’t expire.

“White feminists have a bad history of ignoring Black women at best,” writes Witt. To help remedy that history of ignoring, she makes some suggestions of books and essays that “all touch on or center around critical historical context.” Here are the authors and titles; you can read what Witt has to say about them on her blog.


THE 2016 AMELIA BLOOMER LIST: The Amelia Bloomer Project’s annual list of “recommended feminist literature for birth through 18” — sponsored by the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association’s Social Responsibility Round Table — is out! See this year’s list of more than 50 selected books, broken down by fiction and non-fiction for early readers, middle-grade readers, and young adult readers, at ameliabloomer.wordpress.com.

One of the “top ten” titles on this year’s Amelia Bloomer list is WE SHOULD ALL BE FEMINISTS, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Anchor Books, 2015). The personal essay in the pocket-sized, 52-page booklet is adapted from Adichie’s famous 2012 TEDx talk at an annual conference focused on Africa. The Bloomer project committee recommends it for grades seven and up; it is indeed extremely approachable and a quick read. It’s certainly making news in the world: the U.K.’s Guardian reported in December 2015 that the Swedish edition (Alla Borde Vara Feminister) was being distributed to every 16-year-old in Sweden.

Compiled by JoAnne Lehman
**Books Recently Received**

Some publishers routinely send us new books or other materials to consider for review in Feminist Collections (FC). We list all such titles here, and those that meet the inclusion criteria for our bibliographic periodical, New Books on Women, Gender, & Feminism (NB), are indexed in that publication as well. Not all titles received in the office are reviewed or indexed; nor is receipt of a complimentary copy necessary for that title to be reviewed in FC or indexed in NB. Those books we receive that are not selected for review are added to the University of Wisconsin library collections or donated to other worthy recipients.


DANCING IN RED SHOES WILL KILL YOU. Decker, Donna. Inanna, 2015.


Feminist Collections (v. 36, nos. 3–4, Summer–Fall 2015) Page 19


NO OUTLAWS IN THE GENDER GALAXY. Shah, Chaynika; Merchant, Raj; Mahajan, Shalini; and Nevatia, Swati. Zubaan, 2015.


Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women’s Studies Resources
Feminist Periodicals: A Current Listing of Contents
New Books on Women, Gender, & Feminism
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2016 Publications of the Gender & Women’s Studies Librarian
Print journals:
Feminist Collections
(ISSN 0742-7441)
Vol. 37, Nos. 1–2, Winter–Spring 2016
Vol. 37, No. 3, Summer 2016
Vol. 37, No. 4, Fall 2016

New Books on Women, Gender, & Feminism
(ISSN 1941-7241)
Nos. 68–69, Spring–Fall 2016 (double issue)

Electronic journal:
Feminist Periodicals
(ISSN 1941-725X)
Vol. 36, No. 2, Spring 2016
Vol. 36, No. 3, Summer 2016
Vol. 36, No. 4, Fall 2016

[Feminist Periodicals is available free of charge at library.wisc.edu/gwslibrarian/publications/feminist-periodicals
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