Color, Hair and Bone: The Persistence of Race into the 21st Century

More than sixty participants from throughout the U.S. and Canada gathered at Bucknell for the conference held on Sept. 26-28. By all accounts, the conference was a resounding success. As one Bucknell participant recalled in a note to the conference organizing committee: "The breadth of subject matter examined in the intellectual work brought to the conference was really wide-reaching and thought-provoking...This conference really helps to put Bucknell on the map regarding the contemporary study of race."

The conference officially opened on Thursday evening with welcoming remarks by Steve Bowen, the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Wahneema Lubiano of Duke University was the first keynote speaker. Lubiano provided a lively start to the conference with her talk, "For Race," in which she argued for the continuing salience of the race concept. Lubiano spoke directly to the scholarly controversy over "race," noting that some academics have abandoned it as a "contaminated" notion. In defense of "race," Lubiano noted that even though "it is not real...we know how little difference that makes." Citing the widespread use of the concept Lubiano even ventured, provocatively, to ask "Does the brain want 'race'?" She concluded her talk by reflecting on the notion that "race consciousness" appears to be inextricably linked with mastery and narratives of "the heroic."

Kendall Thomas, law professor at Columbia, gave the second keynote lecture, "AIDS, Race and Sexual Democracy," on Friday afternoon. In his talk, Thomas powerfully argued that the shift in focus to the AIDS crisis in Africa and to other nations outside the U.S. has deflected attention from the fact that the majority of new AIDS cases in the U.S. are African American. Thomas argued that the current image inside the U.S. that AIDS is "curable" is a powerful illusion that obscures the reality of suffering and death for scores of African Americans. In Thomas's view, global AIDS activism and the U.S. government's focus on AIDS elsewhere has provided a convenient alibi for not dealing with the AIDS crisis of African Americans.

On Friday evening, activist and poet Sonia Sanchez, Bucknell's Poet in Residence, enthralled the audience in a packed Bucknell Hall with readings from a wide variety of her poems. Sanchez introduced each of her pieces with a vivid anecdote and held the audience captive as she virtually sang many of her selections. She ended her riveting performance with a challenging call to the audience, asking "Can you say peace in the midst of war?"

Videos of Wahneema Lubiano's and Kendall Thomas's talks are available at the Race/Gender Resource Center.

Susan A. Reed is Co-Director and Visiting Assistant Professor in the Race/Gender Resource Center.
**Womb Wars**

By Margaret Fairfield '05

This semester marks the beginning of a year-long film, lecture and discussion series on campus. *Womb Wars*, presented by the Women's and Gender Studies majors and minors and other interested students, is a collection of films, guest speakers, and panels that address the relationship between reproductive technologies, culture, and power. The focus of discussion for the fall semester is abortion. The students in charge of organizing *Womb Wars* chose abortion because it is an important topic in reproductive technologies, but one that is seldom discussed on the Bucknell campus because of its controversial nature. The Women's and Gender students hope to promote a respectful atmosphere in which members of campus who identify with pro-life and pro-choice positions on abortion can come together for a considered, intellectual exchange.

**Service Learning Workshop**

On October 18-19, 2002, Professor Coralynn Davis attended the Service Learning in Women's Studies Workshop at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. As stated in the workshop flyer, "Service-learning shares with women's studies an interest in educating students to take an active role in public life, an openness to interdisciplinary scholarship and a commitment to reflexivity. With its emphasis on campus-community partnerships and civic engagement, service learning allows both students and educators in Women's Studies to synthesize feminist theory and practice. At the same time, the service-learning movement can gain a great deal from feminist scholarship on gendered models of service and citizenship, gender as a category of civic analysis, and related topics. This highly interactive workshop will offer a valuable opportunity to address these issues, as well as key practical questions and challenges." Professor Davis intends to work with the new Service Learning Center at Bucknell to create more opportunities for service learning within the Women's and Gender Studies Program.
Women's Worlds 2002 and the Women's Movement in Uganda

The Eighth Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Women's Worlds 2002, convened at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, from July 21-26. It was organized around the theme "Gendered Worlds: Gains and Challenges". Panels were organized around specific topics including Gender and Education; Gendering Agriculture and the Environment; Women, Peace and Conflict; Gender, Water, Sanitation and Housing; Gender and Globalization; Women, Culture and Creativity; Gendering the Young Voices; Women's Movements: Activism and Conceptual Developments; and Women's and Men's Studies.

About 2,500 delegates from 90 countries attended. The Department of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University in Kampala organized the conference in collaboration with NGOs and sectors of civil society active in gender-focused research. The Congress brought together scholars, activists, young people, civil society organizations, government agencies and international development partners.

Elizabeth Crespo (Bucknell) participated in a panel titled "Women's Studies in Global Perspective" along with Karen Dugger (Towson), Esther Wangari (Towson), Lillemor Westerberg (Sweden) and Lena Ampadu (Towson). Her paper can be found at the website of the National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women. [http://pages.towson.edu/nctcrw/working%20papers/ptorricco/WMST.html](http://pages.towson.edu/nctcrw/working%20papers/ptorricco/WMST.html)

The Congress offered many opportunities to learn about the women's movement in Uganda. The opening ceremony was a truly remarkable experience because it was witness to the outstanding dialogue that the nongovernmental organizations have engaged in with the Ugandan State. The Congress was opened by President Yoweri Museveni amidst an imposing display of security. He remarked on the importance of compulsory primary education for both boys and girls as a way to promote gender equity and economic development. He emphasized the empowering effects on girls of being able to grow up seeing women occupy positions of power in government. Zoe Bakoko Bakoru, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development seemingly took on the role of spokesperson of the women's movement in parts of her speech when she addressed the President and members of parliament that were present by acknowledging the steps the government has taken to promote gender equality, while laying out the issues that the women's movement considers still need to be addressed.

As Aili Mari Tripp, author of Women and Politics in Uganda has pointed out, "Uganda has become a leader in women's rights in Africa. "In the mid-1980s the women's movement became one of the major societal forces in Uganda and has played a significant role in improving the status of women". (Tripp, 2001, [http://pro.harvard.edu/abstracts/045/045011TrippAili0.htm](http://pro.harvard.edu/abstracts/045/045011TrippAili0.htm)) Uganda went from a situation where women had almost no visibility in politics to a situation at the turn of the century where women were involved at almost every level. The women's movement has been successful in gaining the government approval of affirmative action policies resulting in a situation where women hold 24 percent of seats in parliament, and 30 percent in local government along with appointments to key ministerial, judicial and special commission positions.

The Ugandan women's movement grew dramatically in a very short time after the National Resistance Movement led by Yoweri Museveni took power in 1986. Unlike the situation in many African countries where organizations and institutions are controlled by a ruling party or regime, the Ugandan women's movement gained momentum by remaining autonomous. As a result, women's organizations expanded their agendas, became a significant political force and challenged the system of political patronage that was split along ethnic, religious and regional lines (Tripp, 2001). Nonetheless, this autonomy is the subject of one of the debates within the women's movement. As women have gained seats in the government it is questioned if they have become more loyal to the government than to the cause of women's emancipation. In addition to Tripp's book, Sylvia Tamale's When Hens Begin to Crow: Gender and Parliamentary Politics (1999), is a required text to consult on this theme.

The next Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea in 2005.
Calls for Papers, Proposals, and Presenters

Durable Inequalities in Latin America: Histories, Societies, Cultures, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Stony Brook University
This program promotes research on the problem of how and why Latin America has sustained the world’s most radically unequal societies and cultures. Application deadline: February 15, 2003. Further information available from Paul Gootenberg, Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Stony Brook University, 100 Nicolls Road, SBS N-333, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4345. Phone: (631) 632-7517. Fax: (631) 632-9432. E-mail: pgooten-berg@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

Ethnic Identities and Transformation: The Meaning and Experience of Ethnicity in the 21st Century, Center for Ethnicities, Communities, and Social Policy, Bryn Mawr College
The concentration for 2003-2004 is Cultural Resiliency and Transformation: Construction of New Communities/Coalitions. Application deadline: January 15, 2003. For more information see website: www.brynmawr.edu/ethnicities/. or contact Karen Sulpizio, Administrative Assistant, Center for Ethnicities, Communities and Social Policy, Bryn Mawr College, 101 N. Merion Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899. Phone: (610) 526-5050. Fax: (610) 526-7476. E-mail: kssulpizi@brynmawr.edu.

Ford Foundation Fellowships for Minorities
Application deadlines: Predoctoral, November 20, 2002; Dissertation, December 4, 2002, and Postdoctoral deadline is January 8, 2003. See website for complete eligibility information: national-academies.org/fellowships. For further information and application contact: Fellowship Office, GR 346A, National Research Council of the National Academies, 500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. Phone: (202) 334-2872. Fax: (202) 334-3419. E-mail: infodell@nas.edu.

Gender and Sexuality in African Literatures and Film
Papers are invited for a critical collection of essays on gender and sexuality in African literatures and film. Papers should provide in-depth analyses and discussions of significant issues on gender and sexuality, their impact on the construction of identity, as well as on male-female relations on the continent and its Diaspora. Please contact Ada Uzoamaka Azodo, Ph.D. Dept. of Modern Languages, Indiana Univ. Northwest, Gary, Indiana 46408. E-mail: azodo@iun.edu. Or Maureen N. Eke, Ph.D. Dept. of English, Central Michigan Univ. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859. E-mail: ekemn1@cmich.edu. Deadline for submission of papers: November 30, 2002.

Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University
The application deadline is January 15, 2003. For more information see website: cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/gender or Carole S. Vance, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University, 722 W. 168th Street, Ninth Floor, New York, NY 10032. Phone: (212) 305-5656. Fax: (212) 305-0315. E-mail: cvs1@columbia.edu.

Sex, Race, and Globalization, Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies, University of Arizona
The Sex, Race, and Globalization project explores the imbrications of sexuality, gender, and race with economic, political and informational processes across local, regional, national and transnational scales. Application deadline: December 1, 2002. For more information see w3.arizona.edu/~lgbcom or contact Laura Briggs. Phone: (520) 626-3431. Fax: (520) 626-1181. E-mail: lgbbs@u.arizona.edu.

Rockefeller Humanities Fellowships: Shared Inheritance: Comparative Studies in Creativity and Performance in the Mississippi-Gulf-Caribbean Region, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University
The application deadline is January 15, 2003. For more information contact Thomas F. Reese, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University, 100 Jones Hall, New Orleans, LA 70118-5698. Phone: (504) 865-5164. Fax: (504) 865-6719. E-mail: rtsclas@tulane.edu. Website: stonecenter.tulane.edu.
Coming Events
Fall 2002

Monday, October 28
Gallery Theatre, 7pm
Film, *Legal But Out of Reach*
Women's and Gender Studies Series, WOMB WARS: *Culture, Power and Reproductive Technologies.*
Interviews with six women who decided upon abortion but were faced with financial impediments due to inadequate public funding. Discussion to follow, facilitated by Margaret Fairfield, '05.

Tuesday, October 29
Coleman 252, 4:30pm
*Race/Gender Faculty Colloquium*
Elizabeth Crespo (Sociology) & Lourdes Vazquez (Rutgers University)

Tuesday, October 29
Bucknell Hall, 7:30pm
*Tri-Lingual Reading*
Lourdes Vazquez (Rutgers University) & Angele Kingue (French and Francophone Studies)
A tri-lingual reading in French, Spanish, and English. Co-sponsored with the Foreign Language Programs, the Spanish Department and the Stadler Center for Poetry.

Tuesday, November 5
Arches Lounge, 4:00pm
*Women’s and Gender Studies Reception for Faculty*

Tuesday, November 5
LC Forum, 7pm
*Abortion: A Spectrum of Feminist Perspectives.*
Panel Discussion, Women's and Gender Studies Series, WOMB WARS: *Culture, Power & Reproductive Technologies.* Sponsored with V-Day Bucknell.

Thursday, November 7
Room & Time TBA
Pamela Cole (Penn State) will speak on cross-cultural aspects of emotional development based on her research with families in Nepal and surrounding countries. Co-sponsored with the Psychology Department.

Sunday, November 17
Bucknell Hall, 8pm
*Poetry Reading by Sonia Sanchez*
Sonia Sanchez, acclaimed poet and activist, is the Stadler Center for Poetry poet-in-residence.

Monday, November 18
Gallery Theatre, 7 pm
*Kabul, Kabul*
Film and discussion with Afghani/American filmmaker Sedika Mojadidi. Kabul, Kabul was made in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

Monday, November 25
Gallery Theatre, 7pm
Film, *If These Walls Could Talk.* Women's and Gender Studies Series
WOMB WARS: *Culture, Power & Reproductive Technologies.*
In this trilogy, women face different social and political climates in choosing what to do about unplanned pregnancies in 1952, 1974, and 1986. Discussion to follow, facilitated by Liz Wilmarth, '03.
COMING EVENTS
SPRING 2003

Wednesday, February 19  Women's and Gender Studies Speaker,
LC Forum, 7:30 pm  Shahnaz Kahn, Global Studies & Women's Studies, Wilfrid Laurier
University
Muslim Women in North America After 9/11

Wednesday, March 19  Women's and Gender Studies Speaker
LC Forum, 7:30 pm  Charis Thompson, History of Science, Harvard University, will speak
about reproductive technologies.

Sunday, March 30  Barbara Neely, an author of African-American detective fiction will
Evening  read from her work.

March  Ana Maria Shua, an Argentinean writer will lecture on contemporary
Date and Time TBA  Latin American women writers in the 'era of globalization'.

Race/ Gender Faculty Colloquies by Norlisha Crawford (English) and Sonia Krucks (Women's
and Gender Studies Faculty Associate)

Would you like the R/GRC to co-sponsor a lecture or event on race/ ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, nationality, disability, or other
issues of diversity and social inequality? The R/GRC has funds to co-sponsor events. Please contact Elizabeth Crespo
(crespo@bucknell.edu) or Susan Reed (sreed@bucknell.edu).

Check our Calendar of Events at http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/rgrc for updated information.

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