



International Sociological Association Research Committee for Women in Society (RC32)



Newsletter # 5
Fall 2017



Message from RC32 Co-Presidents



A Happy New Year to all RC32 members and friends of RC32. Believe it or not, we have almost completed our four-year tenure as co-chairs of RC32. We appreciate all the support we've received from members and ISA Executive Office during this period. In our final newsletter message, we will outline all that we accomplished and challenges ahead.

For now, we are completing preparations for RC32 participation in the ISA Congress in Toronto, Canada, in July 2018. We are pleased to announce that RC32 will be introducing two workshops on publishing in scholarly journals and developing mentoring relationships between senior and junior scholars in our field. Both workshops will give RC32 members an opportunity to come together and share ideas and resources that will facilitate career development, especially for junior scholars. We look forward to your participation and encourage you to attend these workshops.

We warmly congratulate Aiko Ikemura Amaral, winner of the RC32 Junior Scholar Essay Competition. Her paper is entitled "You cannot cross the border in a pollera: Identity among Female Bolivian Market Vendors in Brazil". Aiko is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Essex in the U.K. We look forward to meeting and presenting Aiko her award at the RC32 Business Meeting held during ISA Congress in Toronto, Canada in July 2018.

There is still time for RC 32 Members to apply for a Travel Grant to present their accepted papers at the ISA Congress in Toronto in July, 2018. Submissions will be accepted till January 31st, 2018. Please see the attachment we are sending again for travel grant applications.

In the next couple of months, we will be announcing the call for nominations followed by election of officers for the RC32 Board. Evie Tastsoglou our immediate Past President of RC32 will chair the nominations committee assisted by Daisy Onyige and Maria Carmela Agodi. We thank each of them for their service to RC32 in this very important capacity.

Josephine (RC 32 co-Chair) will be serving as an elected member on the nominations committee for President and Vice President of the ISA Research Council. The nominations committee is comprised of five members who are regular individual members in good standing and who will be ineligible as candidates for any of these positions. The deadline for submitting nominations for President, Vice Presidents, and Executive Members is January 31st, 2018.

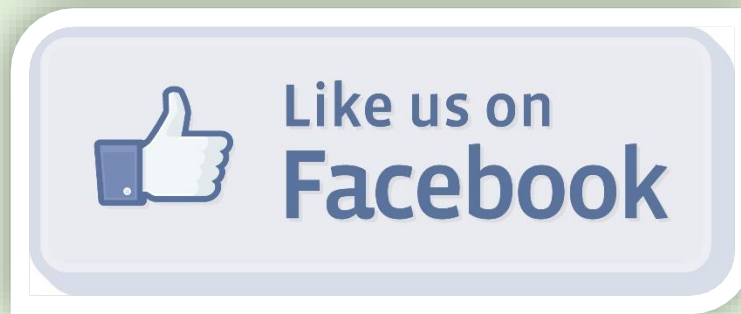
Meetings attended and publications of RC32 co-Chairs

Josephine (RC 32 Co-Chair) attended the Association for Women in Science and National Science Foundation ADVANCE/GSE Program Workshop on “Broadening Participation: Intersectionality” in Washington, D.C. October 8-10, 2016. She participated in the New Grantee meeting where she presented a progress report on the Florida Atlantic University ADVANCE IT Catalyst grant project on “Transforming Faculty Gender Diversity at FAU”. Josephine is a Co-PI on this grant. Josephine was also co-organizer and co-facilitator with Solange Simoes (RC32 Secretary/Treasurer) of a workshop on “Teaching about Feminist Pedagogical Responses to Right Wing Political and Religious Movements in Local and Global Perspectives” at the Winter Meeting of the Sociologists for Women in Society in Atlanta, Georgia from January 25-28, 2018. RC32 members Melanie Heath (Chair Elect), Marlese Durr, Manisha Desai, and Bandana Purkayastha also served as co-facilitators in this workshop.

Akosua (RC32 Co-Chair) was elected as the President of the African Studies Association of Africa (www.as-as.org) in December 2017. On behalf of RC32, congratulations Akosua. In May, Akosua presented a paper entitled “The Changing Face of Feminism: Millenials in Ghana,” at the Women in Africa and the Mediterranean Conference, held under the auspices of the African Feminist Network” In June, she was closing keynote speaker for the 35th International Visual Sociology conference held in Montreal, Canada. Her presentation was entitled: “Whose Africa? Representing the Self, Retelling our Stories.” In August, she also delivered her inaugural lecture as a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences on the topic “Who are we and whose are we? Identity and Transforming the Nation.”

Finally, as co-Chairs of RC32, we support women globally who are taking a stand and fighting against sexual harassment in the workplace, including in Hollywood. While some may feel that women are taking this too far and sensationalizing the issue, we know as feminist sociologists that that these are not new or current issues. What is new is that time is up for us women to confront these dialogues which society has normalized and disregarded for centuries. Hooray for the #MeToo and #Time's Up Movements!!!

Akosua and Josephine



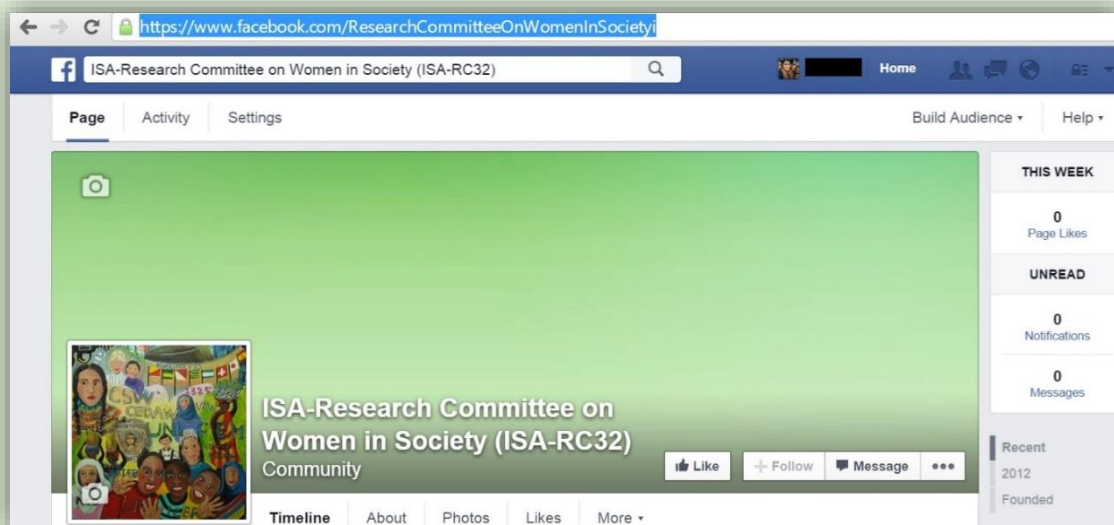
RC32 on Facebook

“Like” our page on FB and join the 191 members who have already done so!

In order to reduce the communication work load for the secretary and create a more vibrant environment within which RC32 members could exchange information and get updates on various conferences and RC32-related events, we have created a Facebook Page for RC32 (See below). Such news as announcements of promotions, publications, jobs, conferences, etc. will be communicated via our Facebook Page and will be administered by our newsletter editor. Please send such news via Facebook messages.

All announcements, information, instructions from the ISA, Co-presidents, and members of the board or Regional Representatives that are directly related to core RC 32 business will continue to be shared via our secretary.

If you already have a Facebook account, all you need to do is find our page on Facebook (ISA-Research Committee on Women in Society (ISA-RC32)) and “Like” it. You will then receive our updates on your Newsfeed. If you do not have a Facebook account, create one (!) and follow the above-mentioned steps. If you do not want to be on Facebook, you will still be receiving updates through emails as well as our newsletter. So no worries! No one is left behind!



FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TORONTO 2018....

Dear Colleagues,

I realize many of you are anxious to know about our funding for Toronto. Here are the guidelines and application form for funding for our next ISA meeting in Toronto.

As members of ISA and RC-32 you can apply for two categories of funding: Either the ISA registration grant or the RC-32 travel grant. Please note that ISA and RC-32 have limited money to disburse so funding will be competitive. As in earlier cycles of funding, the amounts are unlikely to cover your entire travel so please plan accordingly.

For RC-32 funding:

- RC-32 will provide a small number of awards up to a maximum of \$500. (Please note the range is from 300-500, so \$500 is not guaranteed);
- you have to be a member of ISA and RC-32;
- priority will be given to scholars from B and C countries, and for students in B & C countries, In addition, after we make our initial shortlist of people who might get funded, we will also prioritize people who have been RC32 members for at least two years;
- Scholars from A countries, if we have money remaining;
- We will assign the money after all the applications are in, not on a first-come-first-serve-basis;
- The money can only be used for support of travel and /or hotel. Money will be disbursed after receipts have been submitted. ISA will require original receipts. If receipts are required for other funding sources outside ISA, then copies of those funding requests have to be submitted to show that the RC-32 money is required to cover some of the travel/accommodation costs;
- We have moved RC-32 money to the ISA central office so all disbursement will follow the process set by ISA.

For rules for funding directly from ISA (i.e. not from our research committee) please look at the ISA announcement below. Note those applications go through RC-32 (i.e. will be submitted to RC-32, but we will simply choose the applicants and send the names to ISA).

We will accept applications for funding till January 31, 2017. Please send the RC 32 application form below to rc.32.presidents@gmail.com

The announcements of who receives funding will be finalized by late February 15, 2017.

THANK YOU,

Solange Simões, RC-32 Secretary /Treasurer

Guidelines for registration grant application submission

Each Research Committee (RC), Working Group (WG) and Thematic Group (TG) is responsible for allocating registration grant(s) to active participants selected by its Board, following the criteria established by the ISA.

Eligibility

Registration grants can be allocated to individual ISA members in good standing (i.e. who have paid the individual membership fee) who are active participants in the Congress program.

How to apply

An e-mail requesting a registration grant must be sent by the participants directly to the RC/WG/TG Program Coordinators by January 31, 2018. Requests can be submitted to only one RC/WG/TG. Multiple requests will not be considered.

E-mail addresses of the Program Coordinators of the RC/WG/TGs are available in the relevant RC/WG/TG section:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/programs.html>

Decision

The Board of each RC/WG/TG will review all applications and recommend the allocation of available funds by February 15, 2018.

Grant allocation

Registration grant code will be provided to the selected individuals by the ISA Secretariat so that all successful applicants can register with this code to the conference before the early registration deadline March 20, 2018.

For information on ISA individual membership see:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership/>

For information on Congress registration see:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/congress-registration/>

See grant application on the next page:

**APPLICATION FOR A REGISTRATION OR TRAVEL GRANT FOR THE XIX ISA
WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, TORONTO, JULY 15-21 2017.**

GRANT FROM WHICH SOURCE?	ISA or RC-32?
GRANT BEING SOUGHT:	REGISTRATION OR TRAVEL and/or Accommodation (please specify)
NAME:	
INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION (OR INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR):	
APPLICANT'S MAILING ADDRESS:	
PHONE:	
EMAIL:	
FAX :	
DESCRIBE THE NATURE OF YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, PROVIDE DETAILS ON ALL APPLICABLE CATEGORIES.	Session organizer (Name of session, RC-32 session number):
	Name of paper and co-authors (if any)

Since we have limited amount of money, please provide any additional information that make you a strong candidate for this grant.

I intend to attend the ISA XIX World Congress in Toronto. I understand that I will not receive any funding if I am unable to participate in the ISA meetings.

I will produce all copies of travel and/or registration papers in order to receive the money during the conference.

Signed: (NAME).

News from the Regions

Thanks to our Regional Representatives from Africa (Daisy Onyige and Agatha Eguavoen), Asia (Bula Bhadra), and North America (Roberta Villalón) for their contribution to this section. Here are their reports from across the globe.

AFRICA (Report by Daisy Onyige and Agatha Eguavoen)

So much have been happening and still happening within the scope of research committee (RC32) with the Africa region. In giving an overview of our activities and representation in the region, we will want to start with the recruitment of our students (Post Graduate) and colleagues into ISA and RC32 in particular.

Within the past two years, we have been able to introduce over 25 members from Africa into the RC32 group and the International Sociological Association. The members include seven males and eighteen females. We are happy to announce that most of the new African members are currently making concerted efforts to ensure that they can attend the ISA conference in Toronto.

Furthermore, within the last two years, at least four international major conferences took place within the African continent, and were attended by some members of the RC32.

The first conference was the 10th Anniversary Conference of the Center for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) at University of Ghana. The theme was: *“Gender & Women’s Studies for Africa’s Economic and Socio-cultural Transformation”*. This event took place on the 27th – 29th October, 2016.

Prof. Amina Mama was the keynote speaker, and she properly situated Gender and Women’s Studies as a panacea for Africa’s Development and Transformation.

1. The second conference was organized by the Institute of Gender Studies, University of Benin, Nigeria. The theme was: *“Strengthening Policy Implementation in a Contemporary World”*. This conference took place in July, 2016.
The focus of the conference was on the problem encountered by the gender and equal opportunities bill recently at the National Assembly of Nigeria as an indication of the barriers still on the part of gender equality in Nigeria. Participants recognized the need and urgency for experts especially in women’s studies, across the country to synergize strategies for addressing social, cultural and political barriers to gender equality in Nigeria.
2. The third conference was the 22nd Annual National Conference of the Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Practitioners Association (NASA) with the theme: *“Contours of Change, Modern Conflict and Mode of Production in Nigeria”* 6th – 9th November, 2017, at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

This association brings together all Anthropological and Sociological Practitioners both within the academic and non-academic sectors to examine the various emergent conflict situations that are threatening the existence and peace of the country.

The main focus was in the restructuring of the political structure of the country, in search of true federalism, and fundamentalism in religious conflict, women and children in conflict situation.

Other International Conferences were also held such as: *"International Conference on Gender and Security"* organized by the Centre for Gender and Social Policy Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. 25th – 9th May, 2017. *"Entrepreneurship Financial Inclusion and Economic Development"* which was organized by LAPO Institute on Microfinance and Enterprise Development – 2017 held on 23rd – 25th, August, 2017. The conference seeks to discuss developmental issues as it concerns microfinance, enterprise development and financial inclusion for women of the world especially the African women.

The trending issue(s) in most African countries now is that of human trafficking, Fulani herdsmen menace, Libyan black slavery trade, terrorism and the implications of all these activities on women, children and the youths. Women and children in Africa are the most vulnerable to the social, economic and natural disasters that occur in their environment. In November 2017, twenty six (26) women and girls believed to be Nigerians were said to have been killed while they attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya. The bodies of the women were brought to the southern Italian Port of Salerno by a Spanish ship, and prosecutors opened up an investigation into the death of the women. These women were victims of human trafficking. Hundreds of Africans and Nigerians are also being traded as slaves in Libya. These Africans were stranded at Libya on their way to Europe. Trafficking in women and children is an established and complicated issue, often intertwined with illegal migration and transnational organized crime. In spite of various governments and non-governmental efforts to combat human trafficking, the problem seems to be increasing at a frightening pace. In fact, the changes in political and economic climates, freedom and relative political stability may have made female migrants from the African continent more vulnerable than ever before to modern day slavery.

Dr Onyige's presentation on "Economic globalization, poverty and human trafficking", at the African Studies Seminar series, which took place on the 9th of November 2017 at the University of Oxford, was aimed at highlighting the association between economic globalization poverty, and human trafficking in Nigeria. The paper tried to show how global economic inequalities facilitated trafficking in persons in Nigeria as well as worsening already existing gender inequality. The problems of human trafficking,

terrorism, and modern day slavery cuts across almost every country in Africa, with women and children bearing the brunt of these menace.

We hope to organize a regional workshop on gender issues

ASIA (Report on India by Bula Bhadra)

Are Legal Reforms Catalyst to Gender Justice? The Indian Saga

The Saga

A 29-year-old Dalit Law student was brutally raped and murdered on April 28, 2016 near Kochi in Kerala and her intestines ripped out, bringing back memories of the 2012 Delhi gang rape that triggered widespread protests. According to an autopsy report, the woman was beaten savagely after the rape and her intestines were pulled out using a sharp-edged weapon on Thursday. At least 30 injuries were found on her body (*Times of India* May 3, 2016).

On May 9, 2017 the decomposing body of a woman was found near the Industrial Model of Township in Rohtak, Haryana. It turns out that the girl, 23, was gang-raped and, as if the horror wasn't enough, her skull was smashed with bricks. The horrendous incident happened in Sonipat after she was abducted by a group of men, one of whom she knew (*India Times*, June 19, 2017). These examples could be multiplied.

The constitution of Indian explicitly enshrines formal equality for women with its edict of equality (Article, 14), non-discrimination on the basis of sex (Article, 15); positive discrimination in favour of women (or affirmative action) (Article, 15); equality and non-discrimination in employment and service conditions (Article.16); and right to life and liberty (Article, 21). There are also some protective legislations which were enacted in the first thirty years after the constitution came into being; but it is only during the last five decades starting with United Nations International Women's Decade (1976-85) that women's concerns were highlighted in the official discourse of post-independent India.

In the last one and half decade or so, the spates of brutal rapes where women have suffered or lost their lives have witnessed a steady increase in India. The official statistics published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the Government of India is itself a testimony to this stark reality. Although a marginal decrease occurred in 2015 in case of rape , the category of offences such as sexual harrassment, assault or use of criminal force to women with intent to disrobe, voyeurism, and stalking along with Kidnapping and abduction of women increased. Most noteworthy is the rape of girl children.

STATES WITH THE WORST RATES, NUMBERS OF INCIDENTS

State	Incidents	Per 1 lakh female population
Delhi	2,199	23.7
Chhattisgarh	1,560	12.2
Madhya Pradesh	4,391	11.9
Odisha	2,251	10.8
Rajasthan	3,644	10.5
Maharashtra	4,144	7.3
UTTAR PRADESH*	3,025	3.0

*Surprisingly low rate suggests widespread non-registration of rape cases

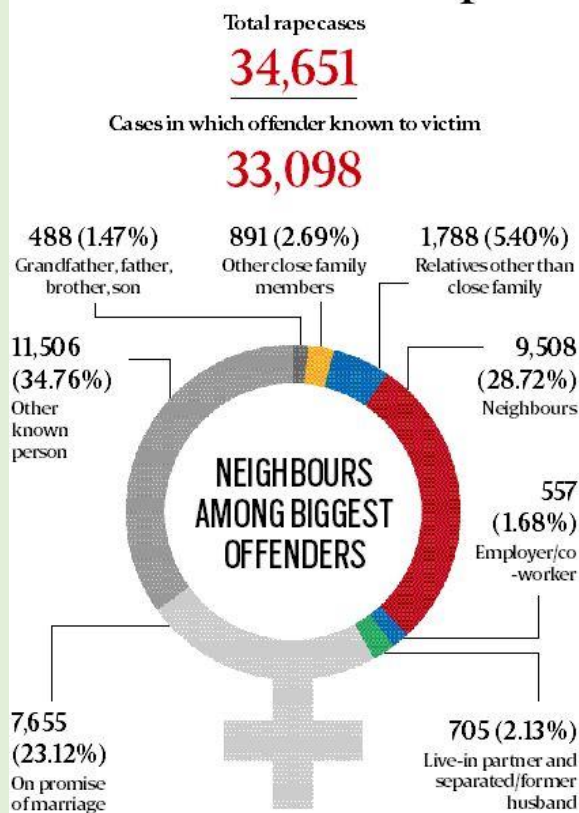
OVERALL CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Delhi tops rate chart, UP has biggest national share

State	Cases	Per 1 lakh female population	%age contribution to all-India total
1 Delhi	17,104	184.3	52
2 Assam	23,258	148.2	7.1
3 Telangana	15,135	83.1	4.6
4 Odisha	17,144	81.9	5.2
5 Rajasthan	28,165	81.5	8.6
6 Haryana	9,446	75.7	2.9
7 West Bengal	33,218	73.4	10.1
8 Tripura*	1,267	68.2	0.4
9 Madhya Pradesh	24,135	65.5	7.4
10 Chandigarh*	463	64.8	0.1

*Fewer cases, but small populations raise the rate

Offender known to rape victim in over 95% cases

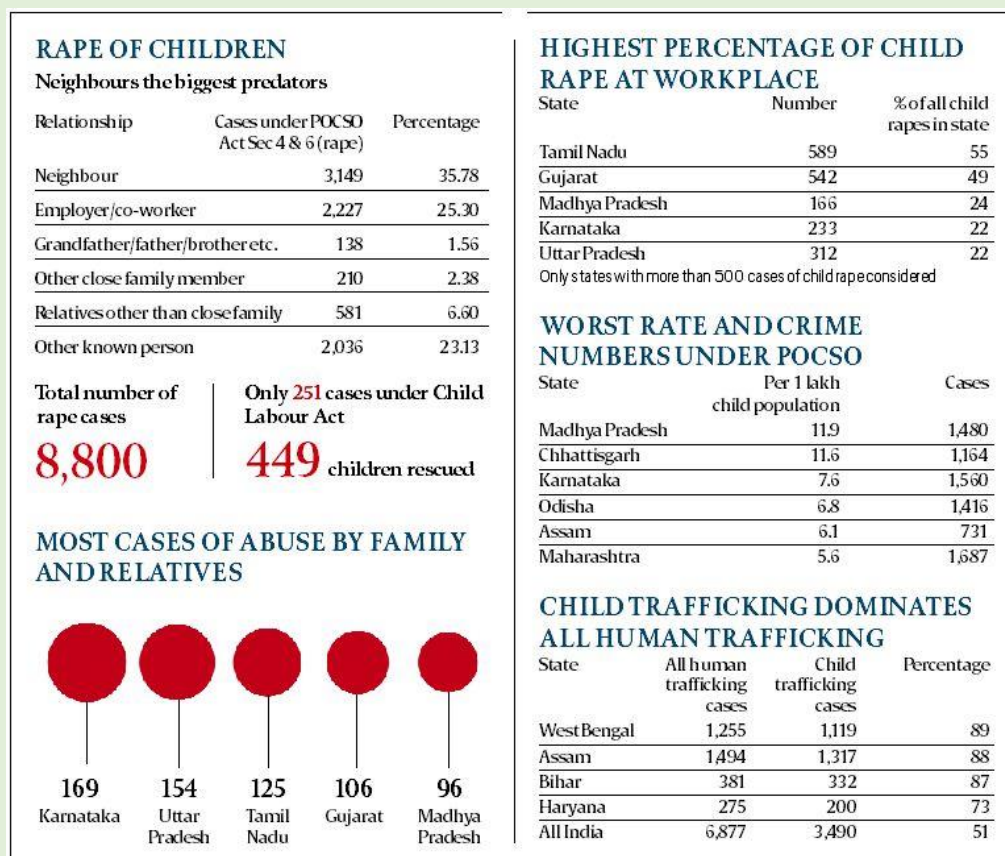


STATES WITH THE LEAST KNOWN/RELATED OFFENDERS

(And therefore, most unknown/unrelated offenders)

West Bengal	73.6 %
Arunachal Pradesh	83.1%
Odisha	85.5%
Assam	90.9%
Bihar	91.6 %

16,966 RAPE CASES
involving women between ages of 18, 29 – 49% of all cases
96.1% CHARGESHEETING RATE
in rape cases; 89.4% in overall crime against women



Assam and West Bengal have recorded the highest number of trafficking cases both among adults and children. The two states also have a high rate (incidents per 1 lakh population) of trafficking. Sources said the high number of cases were linked to the fact that these states bordered Bangladesh and to Middle Eastern countries.

Law as Legislation and Law as Practice:

‘After 2013 Amendments /Nirbhaya Rape’

Briefly put, the all-encompassing Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013, passed as a result of the Verma Committee Report, strengthened anti rape laws and punishments for sexual violence. Under the new anti rape laws, the death penalty is provided for in two situations: where the victim is left in a vegetative state and where there is a repeat offense. The word “rape” itself was also amended; to reflect the circumstances of the Nirbhaya crime, a man is now guilty of rape “if he inserts, to any extent, any object or a part of the body . . . into the vagina, urethra or anus of a woman” (Talwar 2013, p. 40). Gang rape has become a new offense. Apart from all these, a new crime that was introduced and was not provided for in the country’s earlier legislations was “voyeurism” which means the recording or viewing images, movies, or any such media material without the

permission of the person portrayed or screened in them would result in penal punishment. Life imprisonment is also introduced.

However gruesome gang rapes did not disappear after 2013 legal reform or even the number of rape. Numbers are generally elusive and often do not tell the full story. But sometimes numbers do indicate the trend to decipher the success or failure of social fact like legislative reform. "When attempts to improve the status of women are made through incremental reforms that are not grounded in an understanding of how women's oppressions are constructed, *Reform of rape laws* will not materially improve the status of women when the point of rape laws is their non-enforcement" (Lahey, 2002, p. 114). "No amount of alteration in the legal system will deliver unless it is supported by the sanction of society" (Justice J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of India, 2nd March 2013 at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India). Rape as violence and infliction of harm and expression of power relation is acknowledged only after women's movement with which legal reforms and practices have not been able to keep pace with. *Rape trials before and after 2013 amendments along with corresponding judgments imply that even when conviction is secured the legal discourse continues to reflect patriarchal and misogynist values.* That is why 'in India the feminists view concern judgments which even take a progressive position on the issue of corroborative evidence in rape trials, are in the end based on notions of women's 'chastity' and so-called 'traditions of Indian society' (Menon, 1999, p. 284). After Nirbhaya was raped, India's quick action and timely changes to the criminal law is surely commendable; however, passing a law does not guarantee action. India's court system is absolutely inundated with cases while also being severely short-staffed for the population of 1.23 billion people. *The court system is said to be backlogged for 466 years, working with an average of fourteen judges per one million people.* As *The Guardian* reported, of the 706 rape cases filed in New Delhi in 2012, only one ended in conviction: Nirbhaya's. Also, while the Indian Finance Commission decided to re-fund the fast-track court system until March 2015 to prosecute the Delhi gang rape defendants, only half of the fast-track courts set up in 2000 are still functional as of August 2014 due to their ineffectiveness and a lack of funds (Rukmini, 2014). A Report on Fast track courts by Partners for Law in Development (PLD) shows that fast-track courts now function with the existing infrastructure and no additional judges. None of this bodes well for the prospect of a truly fair trial, and that spells trouble for everyone involved. This report serves as a reminder that we shouldn't confuse results with action, and that we should demand legal reform with care (Gopinathan, Sept 7, 2017).

Feminists/women's activists gradually grew disenchanted by the role of law reform to deter or prevent rape or sexual assault from happening for they saw a *disconnection between enactment of new laws and their implementation that is between Law as Legislation and Law as Practice.* This disappointment did cause a shift in how women's organizations chose to engage with law. Instead of focusing on demanding law reform, some

organizations focused on taking up individual women's cases in courts, while others focused on the lack of institutional support for women and created women's centres to provide women with legal assistance, health services and counselling (Kapur and Cossman 1996). Ganguly (2007) argues that while feminists have continued to look at the state with scrutiny for their role in perpetuating women's oppression, they nevertheless have to maintain their engagement with the state for legislative reforms. Such was the case after the Nirbhaya rape; women's rights organizations knew they had to set the path for others to follow and petition the government for overhauling legal change. The discourse on women's bodily integrity and dignity continued to be propagated in public spaces as well as in private homes. The emerging voices from the people especially youth reflected changing ideologies that violence against women is as much of a men's issue as it is a women's, as evident from a demonstrative poster which said, "Don't tell your daughter not to go out, tell your son to behave properly." The shifting ideologies were also reflected in the motto "Don't get raped," which was revolutionized to "Do not rape" to place the emphasis on men's actions instead of women's. The other slogans raised were, "*Mahilaein mange azadi, sadak pe chalne ki, raat mein nikalne ki, kuch bhi pehenne ki*" ("Women demand freedom, to walk on the streets, to go out at night, to wear anything they like") (Al Adawy, 2014). Many slogans were based on the principle that a woman's dress, mobility, or her disposition had nothing to do with getting raped. There were posters and placards that carried the slogans "Don't teach us how to dress, teach men not to rape," "My voice is higher than my skirt," and "Your gaze is the problem so why should I cover myself up?" (Al-Adawy, 2014). The protests therefore raised larger questions relating to sexual violence and discrimination against women. The electronic and digital media platform also provided a space to express concerns regarding rape, and constituted a movement within itself in the months following the Nirbhaya incident. Social media sites like Facebook and the mobile messaging app WhatsApp were used to articulate anguish about the brutal gang rape. Online petitions were signed to demand justice in the case. In fact, during the general election campaign of 2014, every major political party vowed to commit to women's security issues, though it is a different issue altogether that none of these parties nominated many women candidates in the election.

It is now widely acknowledged by the feminists of all persuasions that failure of the law to achieve desired change for women is also linked to larger socio-economic and cultural scenario. That is, the law reform contains within it distinct limitations. Kapur and Cossman are right when they wrote that "legal system itself contributes to the gap between the formal guarantees of gender equality and the substantive equality that plague women's lives" (1999. p.197). In fact, instead of law it is patriarchy which is a pervasive social phenomenon needs to be changed. As law is one locus of male supremacy only "legal efforts to end women's subordinate status cannot effectively change or cripple patriarchy and its ensembles unless they are undertaken in the context

of broader economic, social, and cultural changes” (Polan, 1982, pp. 301-302). In fact, it was Engels who first pointed out that since legal inequalities are reflection of social inequalities the law could not constitute a solution to women’s oppression. He maintained that paper equality could do little to eradicate inequalities that are embedded in socio-economic conditions (1972, pp. 80-82).

Conclusion

Mackinnon, a feminist lawyer has shown that so-called ideals of neutrality and objectivity, which are cornerstones of legal and juridical systems, are in effect celebration of masculinity and maleness which have taken for granted as universal values. According to her, when the state is neutral, “it will be most male; when it is sex blind, it will be most blind to the sex of the standard being applied” (MacKinnon 1983, p. 658). In a growing juridification of life, law and justice are an integral part of lived experiences of men and women in today’s world. That is, differences in women and men’s social, economic, and legal conditions affect the way they encounter law and justice in their lives, and their everyday experience of law and justice simultaneously shapes the patterns of social, economic, and legal rewards and miseries. Law and criminal justice system are somewhat crippled to provide gender justice to women in need as the very nature of law and its functioning has made deliverance of gender justice structurally to a great extent a pipedream or a castle in the sky. The so-called legislative reforms are not catalysts to gender justice but are just a simple modernization of the legal system as critical part of the neoliberal social order of contemporary India. The logical query in this regard is why “Rape law reform is not a feminist ‘success’ story?” (Larcombe 2011, p. 27). The question then is not only how inert, declining and even “record low” rape conviction rates are to be understood or explained, but also, and perhaps more urgently, what is to be done about them? To conclude, it can be said that the solution is however embedded in the movement for the introduction of Feminist Lawmaking rather than Modernization in Legal Reform. Gender justice may not be then that much of a castle in the sky.

[For a detailed analysis see, Bhadra, Bula, “Recent Rape Law Reforms in India: Catalyst to Gender Justice or Modernization in Legal reform?” (Ed.) S. Shahidullah, *Crime, Criminal Justice, and the Evolving Science of Criminology in South Asia: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh* (London, UK: Palgrave and Macmillan, 2017), pp. 359-382.]

- **References (available upon request)**

NORTH AMERICA (Report by Roberta Villalón)

2017 was, without any doubt, one of the most interesting years regarding Gender Matters in the United States. While gender issues had been worked through and brought up to public attention by thousands of organizations and movements for decades, it was not

until this year that a fusion of these ceaseless efforts came to the fore in reaction to the blunt and extreme misogyny of the newly elected President Trump. If anything positive could be said at all about his Presidency, is that he awoke and unified massive movements for equality, mostly along gender/sexual, racial/ethnic and immigration lines. The Women's March first held after Trump's Inauguration in January 2017 (and repeated one year later), showed with remarkable strength a widespread commitment for the respect of women's rights and the promotion of gender equality. The march brought together people from all branches of feminism, from the most to the least radical, and welcomed many who were clear about their intolerance of the injustice being openly promoted by the new administration. While Gender Equality was the main focus, a set of diverse issues were brought up in a beautifully intersectional way: gender, sexual, racial, ethnic, class, age, ability, and immigration rights were defended strongly and peacefully. Millions of people joined the march across the U.S. and in other countries and made their message clear: Enough is Enough. The fervor of this March did not die - because of the fact that Trump's comments and actions continued to be clearly sexist, racist, xenophobic, classist and abusive and discriminatory in all forms and shapes, and because the movement was born out of years of grassroots activism with organizations fueling and feeding from the eventful massive awakening. Moreover, other initiatives surged tapping on more specific issues. Relevant to gender, the #MeToo movement became the most notorious, which together with international movements against gender violence, like the "NiUnaMenos" in Latin America, brought up the issue of sexual harassment and gender violence to the front. This movement also built on decades of ceaseless ground activism on this issue, but reached widespread media coverage with the Weinstein scandal in Hollywood which opened a series of demands against public figures and revealed that many victims had been forced to remain silent as part of their agreements to settle demands. The overlap with previous movements such as #blacklivesmatter was made clear by the founders of the #MeToo movement, who stressed that the popularity that was brought to the movement by the cases of famous people should be welcomed but should not overshadow the vast majority of the survivors of gender violence who form the movement and do not get the kind of media coverage or leverage that economic power brings. In other words, there are two remarkable aspects of the gender mobilizations that swept the United States last year: on the one hand, their massiveness, on the other hand, their intersectional quality. The combination is what make them strong. In their light, the year was filled with events and creations that fed this "gender power boost" in the United States, a boost that added to the rising tide of the also intersectional feminist mobilizations across the world and brought a very much needed wave of hope to believe that "Yes, We Can!" -

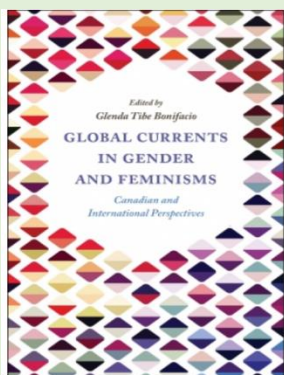
Members' News

We have a winner! Aiko Ikemura Amaral has won the 2017 RC32 Essay Competition for New Scholars from the Economic South on “Migration, Citizenship, Identity and Diversity in the Era of Globalization: Gender and Feminist Perspective.”



The committee for the 2017 Essay Competition for new Scholars from the Economic South on “Migration, Citizenship, Identity and Diversity in the Era of Globalization: Gender and Feminist Perspectives” is pleased to announce the winner, Aiko Ikemura Amaral for her paper titled, “‘You cannot cross the border in a pollera’: Identity amongst female Bolivian market vendors in Brazil.” Aiko Ikemura Amaral is a PhD student at the University of Essex, United Kingdom. Her areas of interest include: Indigeneity, Feminism and gender studies, National/Transnationalism, and Mobility and Migration. The winning paper examines how stigma attached to Bolivian migrants produces an absence of cholitas—the women vendors of Bolivia who are known for their braided hair and pleated skirts (polleras)—in the markets of Brazil. The committee was impressed by the paper’s attention to the intersectionality of race and gender, and its contribution to the research on migration and gender by differentiating between domestic and international migrations and their implications for women.

Committee members: Melanie Heath, Manisha Desai, and Nazanin Shahrokni



Glenda Tibe Bonifacio has a new anthology:

- Bonifacio, Glenda (2017) *Global Currents in Gender and Feminisms: Canadian and International Perspectives*, Emerald Publishing Limited.

<http://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Global-Currents-in-Gender-and-Feminisms/?k=9781787144842>

Anindita Chakrabarti has co-authored a piece on the “politically charged topic” of Muslim personal law in India. Here is the information:

- Chakrabarti, Anindita and Suchandra Ghosh (2017). “Judicial Reform vs. Adjudication of Personal Law,” *Economic & Political Weekly*, LII (49): 12-14.

Karuna Chanana has published a new article. Here is the information:

- Chanana, Karuna (2017). “Gender in the New Education Policy 2016 in the Making: Process and Outcome.” *Higher education for the Future* 4(2): 117-128.

Laura Corradi has a new book on gypsy feminism. Check it out:

- Corradi, Laura (2018) “Gypsy Feminism: Intersectional Politics, Alliances, Gender and Queer Activism” NY: Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/Gypsy-Feminism-Intersectional-Politics-Alliances-Gender-and-Queer-Activism/Corradi/p/book/9781138300330>

Laura E. Masson has a chapter published in an edited volume. Here are some detailed information about the chapter and the book:

- Masson, Laura E. “Women in the Military in Argentina: Nationalism, Gender, and Ethnicity,” in *Gender Panic, Gender Policy (Advances in Gender Research)* edited by Vasilikie P. Demos and Marcia Texler Segal.

Purpose: This chapter analyzes the gender/sexuality/race system through which the Argentine Army was constructed as the representative of the nation and guardian of its essential values. I will focus on the challenges faced because of the

implementation of gender policies by the Ministry of Defense from a rights-based perspective in the institutional matrix of the military, structured through gender and race hierarchies.

Design/methodology/approach: This chapter is based on findings obtained through my experience as a member of the Gender Policy Council for Defense (GPC), from its creation in 2007 to the present, and my fieldwork on the Argentine Armed Forces.

Findings: The resistance to the implementation of gender policies in large part stems from the defiance of the “national ideal” – incarnated by the Argentine Army – constructed upon gender and race inequalities.

Research limitations/implications: Gender inequalities have generally been excluded and ignored in political analysis and in the study of nations and nationalism. For this reason, it is difficult to recover the missing links of history and give women’s lives and gender relations the importance they deserve in analyses of power. The chapter contributes to this task. Practical and social implications: The resistance to the implementation of the policies sponsored by the GPC of the Ministry of Defense should be evaluated from a gender and ethnoracial perspective.

Originality/value: Research on women in the Argentine Armed Forces is still limited.

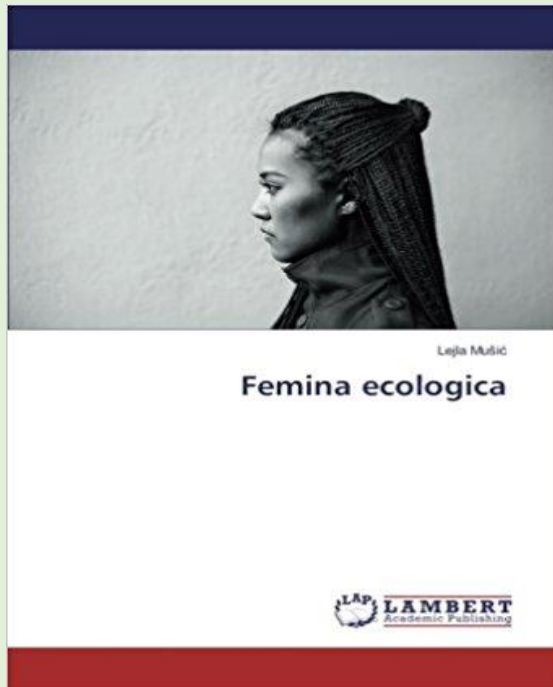
Keywords: Women; military; nationalism; ethnicity; gender policies; Argentina

Book summary

Using diverse theories and methods including analysis of online data, feminist critical discourse, fieldwork, grounded theory, and queer theory, this edited volume explores gender panic and policy in the United States as well as Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Japan, Russia, Sweden, and subnational populations. Contributors consider a range of issues from the meaning of learning to play the traditional female role in order to develop a contemporary heteronormative romantic relationship to the difficulties of fairly accommodating non-binary people in traditionally gendered settings or the problem of implementing a gender-neutral rape law in a prison system that is structurally gendered. Gendered policies pertaining, particularly, to women and their fertility as a result of panics over low birthrates are explored as are issues relating to the validation of and problems with binary gender categories in elite sports. The impact of UN gender equality initiatives including LGBT equality on nation-states is also examined.

Lejla Mušić, has a new book on eco-feminism titled “Femina ecologica”

<https://www.amazon.com/Femina-ecologica-Lejla-Mu%C5%A1i%C4%87/dp/3659853992>)



Theme: First female philosopher Hypathia and her tragic death is less known while as Minoan era of governing the island Crete represents the egalitarian society, in which females were equal as men, in profession, life and family. It is necessary to conduct the deconstruction and demystification of patriarchal approaches to society and education, in order to form contemporary sociological theory involving the female authors and their accomplishments. The eco feminist movement was founded during the radical and turbulent social changes of the early 1980s. The aftermath of war, global environmental movements and minority rights movements have joined forces to create significant subversion and an imitative position

towards the patriarchal-based theories. Major sociologist author and pragmatist, Nobel Prize Winner, who gained doctoral degree from Yale University and organized Hull House project for investigating the immigrant behavior, influenced the eco feminist pragmatism of the Charlotte P. Gilman, and Caroline Bartlett Crane.

Deepti Shrivastava visited women prisoners as one of the members of Prison Advisory Committee of Chattisgarh Government in India.

Tanaka Sigeto has a new piece:

- Tanaka, S. (2017) "Another Science War: Fictitious Evidence on Women's Fertility and the 'Egg Aging' Panic in 2010s Japan" *Advances in Gender Research*, 24:67-92.

IN MEMORIAM: DR VANAJA DHURUVARAJAN

(Prepared by Peruvemba S. Jaya)



It is with a deep sense of sadness and grief that we report the sad demise of Dr Vanaja Dhruvarajan, who passed away in Montreal on December 14, 2017.

Dr. Vanaja Dhruvarajan was a senior scholar and professor of Sociology at the University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba. She was an adjunct professor at Carleton University in the Pauline Jewett Institute for Women's Studies and the Department of Sociology. She completed her undergraduate education in India in 1959 and got her Masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1964 and 1981 respectively. Her teaching and research interests included Globalization, Family and Socialization, gender, Anti-Racism and Knowledge Monopolies. She had done research in India and Canada and published several articles and books, which include *Hindu Women and the Power of Ideology*, and *Gender, Race and Nation: A Global Perspective* (co-authored). Her most recent publications were *Crossing the Laxman Rekha: Diasporic Women and Their Struggles for Autonomy* published in 2015 and *Crossing the Laxman Rekha: One Woman's Struggles Against Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Bias* published in 2017. She was also part of the Book Project Collective which consisted of seven women led by Rashmi Luther who co-edited a book of first person accounts from immigrant women in Canada, published in 2015. The title of the book is *Resilience and Triumph: Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories*.

Dr. Dhruvarajan served as president of Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association in 1998-2000, as president of Canadian Women's Studies Association in 1986-87, and as Ruth Wynn Woodward Endowed Chair in Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University in 1994-95. She also served on the boards of several professional, university, Government and community organizations. In 2002, in recognition of her contributions to the University of Winnipeg, she was inducted as a fellow of United College. She was one of the recipients of YM/YWCA Woman of Distinction award in 1996.

Over the years, she promoted anti-racism and anti-sexism in her teaching, research, writing and community activism. Here are a few examples of such activities. She developed a course on "Women of Colour in Canada," which she taught several times. In 2004 she developed and taught a graduate level course "Knowledge Monopolies, Anti-racism and sexism in Higher Education" at the University of Toronto and taught it again in summer session of 2005, as well as at Carleton University in fall 2005 and 2006. She also developed a course titled "Gender and Race in the 21st century" and taught this course for the department of Sociology at University of Ottawa. She has also written papers on the impact of knowledge monopolies in higher education and my contributions to feminist activism; and has organized conferences and colloquia on the topics of gender and race, and given many talks to varied audiences. She was a founding member of Association of Researchers and Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.) founded in 2005.