

# E-SOURCES ON WOMEN & GENDER

Our website (<http://womenst.library.wisc.edu/>) includes recent editions of this column and links to complete back issues of *Feminist Collections*, plus many bibliographies, a database of women-focused videos, and links to hundreds of other websites by topic.

Information about electronic journals and magazines, particularly those with numbered or dated issues posted on a regular schedule, is included in our “Periodical Notes” column.

## ARCHIVES AND GATEWAYS TO ARCHIVES

From Iowa State University’s Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, “an online archives devoted entirely to women’s political rhetoric”: **ARCHIVES OF WOMEN’S POLITICAL COMMUNICATION**, <http://www.womenspeecharchive.org/>. Who caught my eye on first browse: Chicago-born Janet Jagan, who became president of Guyana in 1997. Find her profile, as well as her 1999 resignation speech (she resigned due to ill health), in the “President” category, which is shared with twelve other women.

### WOMEN’S STUDIES IN DIGITAL ARCHIVES,

<http://www.bama.ua.edu/~mbarrett/WSinDigitalArchives/Home.htm>: “a starting point for discovering some of the wonderful resources for women’s studies that have only recently become widely available with the practice of digitizing select primary source materials from special collections.” The site is a project of the Electronic Resources and Access Committee of the Women’s Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, and each of the twenty-six archives linked here “has been reviewed by a member...Reviews include a brief description of the archive, tips for searching, and a description of the women’s studies content, including a list of subjects and a list of primary source types.” Examples of just a few of the archives linked to: “African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920,” maintained by the Ohio Historical Society; “Euro Docs: Primary Historical Documents from Western Europe,” published by Richard Hacken, European Studies Bibliographer at Brigham Young University; and “World War II: A Digital Project,” at Southern Methodist University.

## BLOGS

Contributors with various and not always immediately apparent gender identifications and sexualities at **BELOW THE BELT** are “deconstructing gender, one kick to the groin at a time,” in columns titled “Advice,” “Mexico,” “Dating,” “Op-Ed,” “Theory,” “Sociopolitico,” “News,” and “Religion.” Read some thought-stirring posts at <http://feed.belowthebelt.org>.

Wambui Mwangi — assistant professor of political science at the University of Toronto, director of Generation Kenya (a project begun to “mark Kenya’s 50th Birthday...by telling the inspiring story of Kenyan achievements in the last fifty years” and amended after the 2008 post-election violence to include “us[ing] all means at our disposal to present to our country again the case for the importance and beauty of Kenya as a viable historical project”), and member of Concerned Kenyan Writers (“whose purpose is to use writing skills to help save Kenya in this polarised time”) — also maintains a blog, **DIARY OF A MAD KENYAN WOMAN**, which she calls a “refuge for disorderly and disobedient thoughts.” In her post dated February 25, 2008, “Sisters at Heart,” Mwangi describes two very different groups of women in Nairobi who give her hope. “Our country would be safe in their hands,” she says. Find out why at <http://www.madkenyanwoman.blogspot.com/>.

**ECHIDNE OF THE SNAKES** (self-named in honor of “a minor Greek goddess”) has been writing powerfully on all things feminist and political at <http://echidneofthesnakes.blogspot.com/> since 2003. Actually, Echidne herself, who was interviewed about the blog last year on Bloggasm (<http://bloggasm.com/interview-with-echidne-of-the-snakes>), seems to have been joined along the way by a couple of other writers (e.g., “Suzie” and one Anthony McCarthy). A few intriguing recent posts: “Gyn cancer, with an analogy to feminist politics”; “John McCain Loves Women. Really, He Does”; “Bad Girls Who Refuse To Wed. A Feminist Reading.” And a few of the older ones: “Post-Feminism”; “Pornography Goes Mainstream”; “Women and Terrorism.”

Here’s how Deesha Philyaw, the freelance writer behind **MAMALICIOUS! MAKING MULTI-TASKING LOOK GOOD SINCE 1998** (<http://deeshaphilyaw.com/>), describes herself: “Mama. Writer. Chief cook and bottle-washer. Referee. Cheerleader. Christian. Eye-roller. Pop culture junkie. Book freak. Tech-challenged chick. Womanist. Adventurer. Grammar snob. Part-time vegetarian. New iPod nano owner. Joni Mitchell fan. List maker. Calendar checker. Silver lover. Child of the ’70s. Almodóvar fan. Board game aficionado. Recovering TV-holic. Old soul.” Mamalicious writes about everything, and it’s all good: check out some of her categories — for example: “32 Days of Black History” (a blogathon with guest contributors), “Sheroes” (with a fabulous list-in-progress of some forty black female role models), and “Mama-hood” (often about her two young daughters). By the way, Deesha’s writing appears elsewhere on the Internet and in numerous publications, including *Essence* magazine.

At **RANTS OF A FEMINIST ENGINEER** (<http://feministengineer.blogspot.com>), an academic blogging under the pseudonym “Skookumchick” asks, “Is it possible to be a feminist and an engineer?” and answers herself: “I’m trying to be both, and get tenure at the same time.” Among the very cool things at **RANTS** are the history of the founding of “Scientae” – a women-in-science-and-technology blog “carnival” that Skookumchick thought up in 2007, sort of a “best of the blogs” periodic roundup of postings from women scientists and tech types all over cyberspace, writing with an assigned focus each time and linked from different bloggers’ sites – and the contents of the ones she hosted (see the first-ever at <http://feministengineer.blogspot.com/2007/03/scientiae-carnival-1.html> and the first anniversary edition at <http://feministengineer.blogspot.com/2008/02/happy-birthday-scientiae-lets-talk.html>).

Skookumchick announced recently that she has started blogging elsewhere under her real name so that she can write more specifically about her academic work. She’s keeping **RANTS** as a more-or-less personal blog, and keeping the two identities separate for now, so she can continue to say whatever she wants at the original one without jeopardizing...oh, you know, things like tenure. And no, *we* do not know her real name.

## **DOWNLOADABLE DOCUMENTS**

Victor Ricciardi, *THE FINANCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF WORRY AND WOMEN*. Social Sciences Research Network Working Paper Series, 2008. 53p. Abstract and link to PDF at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1093351>.

Robina Wahaj & Maria Hartl et al., *GENDER AND WATER: SECURING WATER FOR IMPROVED RURAL LIVELIHOODS: THE MULTIPLE-USES SYSTEM APPROACH*. Rome, Italy: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), 2007. 32p. [http://www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/water/gender\\_water.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/gender/thematic/water/gender_water.pdf). From the introduction: “Most of the world’s 1.2 billion poor people, two thirds of whom are women, live in waterscarce countries and do not have access to safe and reliable supplies of water for productive and domestic uses... This review examines the impact of water-related projects on women, women’s role in managing water resources and the constraints women face in gaining access to water. It presents lessons learned in promoting women’s participation in decision-making for water management using experiences from several IFAD-supported water programmes and projects. It highlights the innovative activities and catalysts that have helped

to address gender issues in water programmes and projects. And it offers recommendations on how to improve women's access to water resources through equitable development and gender mainstreaming.”

Amy K. Levin, *QUESTIONS FOR A NEW CENTURY: WOMEN'S STUDIES AND INTEGRATIVE LEARNING (A REPORT TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION)*. College Park, MD: National Women's Studies Association, 2007. 45p.  
[http://www.nwsa.org/downloads/WS\\_Integrative\\_Learning\\_Levine.pdf](http://www.nwsa.org/downloads/WS_Integrative_Learning_Levine.pdf)

Avis A. Jones-DeWeever & Barbara Gault, *RESILIENT AND REACHING FOR MORE: CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WELFARE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN*. Washington, DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research, Publication D466, 2006. 68p. ISBN 1-933161-04-3. \$15 from IWPR, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036; free PDF at <http://www.iwpr.org/pdf/D466.pdf>.

Alverno College Research Center For Women and Girls, in collaboration with the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Women's Council, *STATUS OF GIRLS IN WISCONSIN: 2007 REPORT*. 74p. Reports data from 2005. From the introduction: “Since a great deal of information about Wisconsin girls is scattered in many different and often difficult-to-find places and documents, a primary goal of this project has been to centralize the information and to make it accessible, not only in print but also via the internet, to a variety of agencies, groups and institutions who have the needs and interests of Wisconsin's girls in mind. The deeper purpose that motivates this initiative is to improve the quality of lives of girls in the State of Wisconsin. The mission of the report's developers is to assist in this effort by providing a scholarly and impartial, data-based profile of the lives of young women and girls along key demographic, social, and economic dimensions. Consequently this report is provided as a means for promoting discussion of issues that arise from the data.” [http://205.213.164.21/pdf/The\\_Status\\_of\\_Girls\\_in\\_Wisconsin.PDF](http://205.213.164.21/pdf/The_Status_of_Girls_in_Wisconsin.PDF)

## EXHIBITS

Some of the material from University of Wisconsin student Kala K. Kluender's exhibit **WITH WISCONSIN WOMEN: MIDWIVES IN THE BADGER STATE, LATE 1800S TO THE PRESENT**, displayed in the UW's Ebling Library from April 23 to July 31, 2007, is now available online at <http://ebling.library.wisc.edu/historical/wi-women/index.cfm>.

A global exhibit titled **WOMEN, POWER AND POLITICS**, curated by Dr. Masum Momaya, was launched in March 2008 and will be online at the International Museum of Women's website through December. Included are blogs and questions intended to get cyberdiscussions going, but a quick visit on May 1 indicated little interaction so far. *FC* readers can change that! Take a look, at [www.imow.org/wpp](http://www.imow.org/wpp): it's available in four languages (English, French, Arabic, and Spanish).

## OTHER WEBSITES

The **2008 AMELIA BLOOMER PROJECT** of the American Library Association's Feminist Task Force “honors the authors, illustrators, editors, and publishers who give life to books that encourage readers young and old to push the envelope and challenge what it means to be a woman, regardless of ethnicity or social-economic background.” This year's lists of recommended reading for beginning, middle, and young adult readers are up at <http://libr.org/ftf/bloomer.html>.

Free reference sites! **AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY: A RESEARCH GUIDE** at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html> — “named one of the Best Free Reference Web Sites in 2004 by the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of ALA” — and **AMERICAN WOMEN THROUGH TIME** at <http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-timeline.html> — lauded by *Choice Reviews Online* (August 2007) as “an outstanding resource for elementary through high school teachers and their students” — are the projects of Kenneth Middleton, a reference librarian at Middle Tennessee State University who also has a masters degree with an emphasis in American women's history.

Teenage girls, particularly in Wisconsin but elsewhere as well, who are thinking about their futures can read career profiles, explore college options, find out about conferences and essay contests, and even sign up for “an SAT question a day” at **WISCONSIN TEEN GIRLS FORWARD**, <http://teensforward.wi.gov>. The site is sponsored by the Department of Workforce Development, the Girl Scouts of Milwaukee Area, the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Wisconsin Women's Council.

“Women Who Sleep Badly In More Danger Than Men.” “Keeping In Good Shape In Old Age Is Harder For Women Than Men.” “Care Of People With Osteoarthritis May Be Subject To Gender Bias, Study Finds.” Links to these and other articles from popular medical news sources are only one feature of **GENDERBIOLOGY** (<http://genderbiology.net>), a site developed and maintained by former nurse and current academic librarian Melody M. Allison (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). Allison offers links to lots of other content as well: bibliographies of related news, books, periodicals, government documents, history sources, listservs, and institutions. “GenderBiology was created to provide information relating to gender biology and gender medicine for health care professionals, health care consumers, and library and information professionals,” she writes. “All content linked to, including the actual books, was reviewed to make sure that the content related to gender biology and not traditional women's health (reproductive focus).”

**INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S FORUM (IIWF) / FORO INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES INDIGENAS (FIMI)** is “a network of strong Indigenous women leaders from Asia, Africa, and the Americas, whose purpose is to strengthen Indigenous women's networks, increase their participation and visibility in the international arena, and build capacity.” The network is usually referred to by the initials of its Spanish name, **FIMI**. Its site at <http://indigenuswomensforum.org> describes four program areas the organization is focused on: International Advocacy and Women's Political Participation, Human Rights Training and Capacity-Building, Alliance Building, and an Indigenous Women's Fund. Also on the site are links to such resources as the Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women, FIMI's Beijing+5 and Beijing+10 declarations, announcements of grants and scholarships, and publications about violence against indigenous women.

The **MAMAVOTE INITIATIVE** at [www.mamavote.com](http://www.mamavote.com) “was created to educate and inspire mothers with information and perspective about participation in government – as voters and as public servants.” MamaVote, which claims to be non-partisan, offers very basic information about the election process and other political matters in a breezy tone, along with links to sites for the White House, the House, the Senate, both major parties, the League of Women Voters, and a number of political blogs by women. Site visitors can also click a link to register to vote.

The **NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION** website offers access to videos by NWSA members at <http://www.nwsa.org/projects/membervideos.php>. The collection is small so far; it features Valda Lewis's *What is a Women's Studies Degree?* Linda Garcia Merchant's *Las Mujeres de la Caucus Chicana*, Maryann Breschard's *Running in High Heels*, and Alexis Krasilovsky's *Women Behind the Camera*.