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CSW Update Newsletter

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Director's Message

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COMING IN FALL 2015

Feminism + the Senses

message from the director



This final issue of the 2014-2015 academic year presents a range of research supported by CSW.

In “Border-Crossings between East and West Europe,” Renata Redford, a doctoral student in the Department of Italian who received the CSW Jean Stone Dissertation Fellowship in 2014, writes about how “borders, often understood as imaginary constructs, are inherently problematic and evolving sites from which to reframe thinking about belonging.” She also addresses current discourses regarding the feminization of migration and some writers whose work reveals a “private history of the East European female body in Italian.”

Carolyn Abrams and Ana G. Luna received a CSW Travel Grant to give a conference presentation in 2014. Their article, “The Reality of the

Researcher: Addressing Assumptions and Biases,” provides an overview of their work on researcher bias and provides some guidelines for best practices in avoiding bias in doing research on women. Both recently received Master’s degrees from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

Lisa Bloom, a CSW Research Scholar, presents some work from her current book project in “Judith Hersko’s Polar Art: Anthropogenic Climate Change in Antarctic Ocean-scapes.” Bloom received a CSW Tillie Olsen Grant to support her research, which examines Hersko’s “Pages from the Book of the Unknown Explorer,” a project that addresses climate change and notions of heroic exploration by creating a fictional narrative of a woman polar explorer in 1930s.

In “Inflammation and Depression: Why Do Women have a Higher Risk for Depression than Men?,” Mona Moieni presents the results of a study using endotoxin. Moieni, who is a doctoral student the Department of Psychology and received the CSW Elizabeth Blackwell, MD, Award in 2015, reports the results: “First, we found that women showed greater increases in depressed mood in response to an inflammatory challenge. This may mean that women are more sensitive to the mood changes that may accompany an increase in inflammation.”

Alessandra Williams, a doctoral student in the Department of World Arts and Cultures, received a CSW Travel grant to support her research, which she presents in “Mixing Puppetry with Ethnography, part two: The ‘Fugitive’ Terms of Contemporary Indian Dance.” In the article, Williams writes about the work of Ananya Chatterjea, a choreographer who seeks to promote “a radical postmodern dance practice in which choreographers transcend cultural limitations by building solidarity with artists inquiring into the aesthetic forms of communities of color and the cultural activist research of their dancers.”

Finally, an article on the 2015 CSW Awards describes the recipients and their impressive work as scholars and activists.

Hope you have a wonderful summer break! See you in the Fall!

– Rachel C. Lee