Welcome to the Autumn 2007 newsletter. This has been a busy year, the highlight of which was our successful conference ‘Gender 2007: East Meets West’ (see full report and pictures inside). This was a truly international event, with delegates from countries in Asia, Europe and Africa, and provided a marvellous opportunity to exchange ideas, network and debate – as well as making new friends. Organising the conference was hard work, but ultimately enjoyable and satisfying. I would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to the success of the conference and especially our students who helped organise and run it. We are planning a follow-up conference for 2009.

We are not intending to be idle in 2008. We will be hosting a conference on Violence Against Women in honour of Jalna Hanmer, one of the foremost feminist scholars and activists in the field. Full details of the conference, to be held on 30th May 2008 can be found on the back page.

During this year we also embarked on collaboration with the Centre for Women’s Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. Dr Nishi Mitra from TISS, spent a month with us from February to March, and I went on a return visit in August. We have also initiated a visiting scholar programme and will welcome the first participants in this scheme in 2008. For details see the CWS website.

This year, as last, we held two graduation ceremonies, the main one in the spring, followed by a party at Haleh Afshar’s house in Heslington village, and a smaller event in the summer with a celebration in the Centre. Thanks are due to Haleh, as always, for letting us take over her house for the day. With two recently awarded PhDs, three more theses just submitted and five more PhD students due to submit soon we are hoping that at next year’s ceremonies there will be more women’s studies PhDs conferred than ever before.

Stevi Jackson
Tomoe Kumojima (2006) sent a recent graduation photograph and writes: Hello, my dearest friends!! As you know, I am doing my PhD course in English literature here in Japan. I am working on travel writings by British women who visited Japan around the turn of the 20th century. And the biggest news is that I’m going back to the UK from this October, as a part of the course, to carry out some research. It’ll be for a year, so I hope I can see you all there again sometime!

Vanita Sundaram (2004) has been appointed as Lecturer in Education at university of York, starting 1st October and writes: .... so any old CWS'ers who thought I might have gone missing might be interested (terrified!) to know I’ll be hanging around here for just a bit longer!

Mina Rai (2005) is now working in London with a legal non-profit organisation called ‘Rights of Women’ which gives free legal advice to women. Their mission statement: to attain justice and equality by informing, educating and empowering women on their legal rights. Everyone can find out more at www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Jieyu Liu (2004) has moved from the University of Glasgow to the University of Leeds to take up the post of Academic Fellow in Department of East Asia Studies.

Helen Graham (2004) has been appointed as the Vera Douie Fellow at the Women’s Library and is working on histories of the Women’s Liberation Movement and the movement's representation in contemporary culture.

Joan Heggie (2003) visited York recently to speak about her career path at the Centre’s 'Life after Women's Studies' career day. Joan said she found it ‘an interesting and empowering day’. Joan also participated in a two part Radio 4 Broadcast entitled ‘Cleaning out the Camps’ which investigated the attitude and policy of the armed services towards homosexuality over the last 60 years hosted by Eddie Mair.

Joan writes: for the programme I was interviewed about my PhD and current research project with 2 other academics. The programme gives a good overview of the effect of the Wolfenden Report on the subsequent 1967 Sexual Offences Act as well as some information about the particularities of the military situation.
For more information go to:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/cleaningoutthecamp/

Daniel Grey (2004) is in his 4th year of a PhD in History at Roehampton University (hopefully submitting by Christmas) on "Representations of Infanticide in England, 1880-1922".

Trev Broughton (CWS/English) teamed up with former MA students Jo Gill (1986-7) and Margaretta Jolly (1988-9) to offer a workshop on 'Teaching Life Writing' at the recent 'Renewals' Conference at Royal Holloway. Both Jo and Margaretta currently teach aspects of Life Writing at the University of Exeter (Dept of English). The idea was to think about changes that have taken place since they studied Auto/Biography with Trev at the Centre nearly twenty years ago. Jo's new book Anne Sexton's Confessional Poetics is forthcoming (University Press Florida 2007), as is Margaretta's: Intimate Archives: Women's Letter Writing and Feminist Relations, 1970-2005 (Columbia University Press 2007).
Margaretta Jolly (1988) writes: I am living in Exeter where I am Senior Lecturer in the Dept of English, University of Exeter. I have just finished a book on letter writing as a political art in second wave feminism, and have also published on Greenham and the women's peace movement, feminist community, coming out stories, feminist heterosexuality, pedagogy and life writing. I love what I do, and have very fond memories of the Women's Studies MA at York as an inspiration in much of my research. I'd be curious to know what has happened to others from my year at the Centre. My latest adventure has been to join the Academics' Blockade at Faslane nuclear submarine base on 7 January, at the end of which I was arrested along with about 30 others for our non-violent blockading of the main gate. I can't say I suffered, with all the singing and dancing of the protesters and then the surreal treat of sharing a cell overnight with my mother and sister! If anyone else wants to protest the government's determination to fund a new round of weapons of mass destruction, see faslane365.org (and enjoy the legacy of Greenham.) The above photo of me shows me asking protestors about whether they can remember their dreams before a protest, and if they believe in the political unconscious.

I also include a picture of myself and my dad sitting in the rain in front of the main gate, waiting a little forlornly to see if the police will arrest us!

Polly Cassidy (2005) took part in the first ever podcast on the blog The F Word where she and two feminist friends discuss women’s issues of the day including such subjects as the UK’s recent cabinet reshuffle (with fewer women) and the first time ever equal prize money at Wimbledon for Women and Men. To download the podcasts please go to: http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/2007/july #000983

Claire Coady (2005) has passed her ATT (Association of Tax Technicians) exams and is now a qualified Tax advisor as an Associate at Deloitte in London.

Renseke Hoekstra (2004) wrote recently: After my internship at the United Nations last year I spent some time working for Womankind (NGO) in London as a volunteer. But I decided I wanted to do more than just research and am now training to become a human rights solicitor. Amazingly, yes, I am studying for a law degree in London at the moment :) (part-time)! It is really hard work (and I have to struggle myself through boring subjects like contract law), but other than that I am really enjoying it and hope to put it to good use in the near future.

Emma Robertson (2000) will be leaving Leeds Metropolitan University to take up an appointment as Lecturer in British History at Sheffield Hallam University.

Yvette Taylor (2004) has received an ESRC small grant to research 'From the coal face to the car park: The intersection of class and gender in women's lives in the North East' (May 2007-April 2009). The project website is at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/geps/research/soc/womanslivesnortheast.htm
In April, Yvette presented 'Turf Wars: Working-class lesbians' non/participation in scene spaces', at the American Association of Geographers, San Francisco and her book Working Class Lesbian Life: Classed Outsiders has just been published (see Papers and Publications section).
I-Hsin (Anna) Chen (2005) wrote recently: After I returned to Taiwan in October 2005, I began my career as a semi-fulltime English instructor at an adult language centre. I've also worked for a local academic publishing house as a freelance translator. Last year I finished my first task entitled Diaspora and Hybridity, authored Virinder S. Kalra et al. This translation title will be published soon. I have enjoyed these jobs, as I do my work out of my deep interest in the English language.

The year 2007, I think, has marked a changing point in my personal life. Earlier this year South African Primate Desmond Tutu visited Taiwan, raising critical discussions about the political-cultural reconciliation between different ethnic groups in Taiwan's historical context. Given the timing, I wrote some short critiques for the China Times (one of Taiwan's major newspapers) on Antjie Krog's postcolonial writing and issues about the potential of women's literary/art production in Taiwan. It's quite apparent that Taiwanese people's understanding about such new themes is yet to be established.

Most significantly, in June I wrote a short story and a poem for the annual contests of two literary awards in Taiwan, one held by the China Times and the other by the United Daily News. Though according to the tradition and related rules I must compose my works in Mandarin, I infused various linguistic qualities of English into my writing. Ever since I came back to Taiwan I have been dedicating myself to the practice of creative writing, particularly fiction and poetry, in English (I do love to write in this language!), so I hope my innovative, experimental voice in both these pieces will earn recognition from the examination boards (usually composed of well-known local writers, poets, and professors). I have confidence in my works, and the final results will be issued officially this autumn. I'm sure this experience would be an important event in my self-identity as a young writer and poet. But of course it also means I have to study even harder. Aside from working, reading, and hanging out with a few English-speaking friends, I am currently planning to travel to several places in the world and then go back to Britain next year for my PhD, focusing on African/postcolonial literature in English.

Joanna Woodiwiss (2004) has been appointed Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Huddersfield.

Obituary

Dr Anne Witz January 1952-December 2006

Anne Witz, who was one of our MA external examiners from 2001 to 2004, died after long illness just before Christmas 2006. Anne contributed a great deal to Women's Studies and her death represents a major loss to feminist scholarship.

I first met Anne in 1990 when I invited her to act as external examiner for sociology and women's studies at the University of Glamorgan. I was immediately impressed by her, both professionally and personally. Our friendship was cemented when Anne was appointed to the University of Strathclyde in 1996, where I then worked and where we both taught on the MLitt in Women's Studies. For the next two years I found myself with a friend and colleague who provided not only intellectual stimulation but also shared more frivolous pleasures: good food and drink, films and shopping.

Over the years my admiration for Anne's formidable intellect and the breadth and depth of her knowledge grew. Her work often addressed key debates of the time, from her early contributions to the theorisation of patriarchal relations to her more recent attention to the body and social theory. But she did not chase after current academic fashions; she set her own agenda and never compromised on her high standards of scholarly rigour and careful argumentation. As a result, her analytically incisive interventions always made a difference and took debates forward. She has left a legacy of truly inspirational work.

Stevi Jackson
**Baby fest**

This year a whole new Baby section has had to be created as there has been a proliferation of babies in the last few months! So, in strict chronological order;

**Felicity Ruth Rytky** was born to Andrea Barber (2004) and Jeremy on 10th April -7lb 3oz

For those or you who are regular readers of the newsletter you may remember the arrival of Andrea’s first baby, now Big Brother Tate (3).

Andrea is now juggling the joys of being a mother of two (such as managing a supermarket shop with two children and a trolley, the delights of toilet training! and the first days of pre-school for Tate.

**Haleh Afshar’s** (Politics) daughter’s wedding featured in these pages last autumn and this summer Haleh was able to celebrate the arrival of her grand daughter **Kate Haleh Newton** born to Molly and her husband Phil on 28th April weighing in at 6lb 12 ½ oz.

**Kate Haleh**

**Dawit Manuel Habtemariam** was born to Madi Gilkes (2000) and husband Fred on 21st May weighing 8lb 12oz.

And to top it all **Carrie Coltart**, our own PhD student gave birth to son **Giuseppe** (6 July - 7lb 15oz) not long after handing in her PhD thesis! Well done Carrie on both counts!

**Giuseppe**

Congratulations to all the new parents and to the Babes - may you all thrive and give your parents much joy!
Postgraduate news

Congratulations to Lee Ronald (2007) who has been awarded a PhD for her thesis ‘Sensuality and the Construction of the World: Theorising Sensuality, Contemporary Reading’

Congratulations to Julie Palmer (2007) who has been awarded a PhD for her thesis ‘The Visible Techno-foetus: ultrasound imagery and its non-medical significances in everyday contexts’.

CWS news

Congratulations go to Jyothsna Belliappa (CWS PhD) was awarded the runner-up prize for the International Award for Excellence in the area of diversity in organisations, communities and nations by the International Journal of Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations. Her paper, ‘Our Palms Are Not Meant Only for Henna: Agency, Tradition And Modernity In Contemporary Bollywood Films’, was one of the ten highest-ranked papers emerging from the referee process and according to the selection criteria outlined in the referee guidelines.

Congratulations to Julia Carter (CWS MA) who has won the ESRC +3 Competition Award and will now be starting her MPhil/PhD studies at the Centre.

Congratulations to Sanja Kurd (CWS PhD) who has won an AHRC collaborative award under the Religion and Society programme.

New Post Graduate Diplomas. This academic year (2007/8), the Centre is able to offer PG diplomas in all three Women’s Studies degree programmes;

- PG Dip in Women's Studies
- PG Dip in Women’s Studies (Humanities)
- PG Dip in Women’s Studies (Social Research)

The course will available for students who wish to follow the three term taught MA course but not write the dissertation.

For more information go to: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws/gsp/cwspgdips.htm

Congratulations to Anna Piela (CWS PhD) who has won a photographic contest for a cover photograph of the NISAA magazine (an Islamic women's magazine) which is published in Canada.

E Badi Palace in Marrakesh

The photograph can be seen on the cover at www.nisaamag.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=10032

Professor Gabriele Griffin (Women’s Studies) has been awarded an International Distinguished Scholarship at Queen’s University, Ontario.
This year we began a DelPHE (Development Projects in Higher Education) collaboration with the Centre for Women’s Studies at The Tata Institute for Social Sciences in Mumbai and with Warwick, Bristol and London Metropolitan Universities. The main aim of the project, which is supported by the Department for International Development and the British Council, is to develop an MA programme in Women’s Studies. It is also intended to foster research, especially in the area of women and violence, in which TISS has a strong track record. This first year has entailed staff exchanges, with three members of staff from TISS visiting UK institutions and three of us visiting India. York hosted Nishi Mitra earlier in the year, while I made the return trip to India.

My role was to contribute to teaching on existing Women’s Studies MA modules and to help develop course materials (along with Irene Gedalof from London Metropolitan University and Ann Stewart from Warwick). I spent four weeks at TISS in August and September and was teaching on MA modules on feminist theory and sexuality. The students were interested and interesting and I learned a great deal from them, as well as from my colleagues. It was a privilege to spend time with Indian students and academics and to have the opportunity to explore what women’s studies and feminism mean in an Indian context.

I also had the opportunity to explore Mumbai. It is a vibrant and crowded city, home to some of India’s glamorous super rich as well as to the largest slum in Asia. The contrasts are stark and very visible. Learning to negotiate the everyday tasks of getting around was a challenge, as this was my first time in India – but I was very well looked after by my colleagues.

I would like to thank Nishi Mitra, Anjali Dave and Chhaya Datar in particular for their warmth and hospitality and for making my stay so rewarding.
Learning new things every time.

In the spring term 2007 a postgraduate module entitled ‘International Cooking’ took place at Prof Gabriele Griffin’s house. It was an impromptu continuation of the ‘Diaspora and Gendered Identities’ one that had taken place in the previous autumn term, and its participants gathered every Wednesday at Gabriele’s house to cook for each other, and talk about their country.

from left to right; back row, Huang Yi, Alice, Christine front row; Irene, Zita

The competition for ‘best international chef’ was stiff, as students prepared fantastic dishes from their home country - in the end certificates for outstanding cooking skills were awarded to everyone!

Christine’s salad

Participants had the chance to sample the best food from Hungary/Romania, Bangladesh, Singapore, Malawi, Spain and China – with many of the cooks importing particular delicacies from their country specifically for the feast they prepared.

It was a wonderful opportunity to have delicious and convivial dinners - much missed in the summer term, not least by Gabriele!

New collaborative research training venture with the Centre for interdisciplinary Gender Studies, University of Leeds

The Centre for Women’s Studies is proud to announce a new collaboration with the Centre for interdisciplinary Gender Studies, University of Leeds. In June 2007 we were granted an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Collaborative Research Training Award for doctoral students which will enable Leeds and York to work together on research training provision in Humanities for its MA and doctoral students. Funded for two years (2007-9) we will run joint sessions for MA and PhD students from the Centre for Women’s Studies, York, and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Research, Leeds, on research methodological issues. This will be a fantastic opportunity for MA and PhD students from neighbouring universities to meet each other and network both academically and socially. To support this networking the training programme includes a Virtual learning Environment (VLE) which will enable students and staff to work together through wikis and other online facilities. Sessions will take place in York and Leeds alternatingly. The sessions centre on the topics ‘Researching Across Cultures’ (York); ‘Reading Gender + Sexuality Historically’ (Leeds); Constructions of the Self + Self-reflexivity in Research (York); Interpreting Visual Culture (Leeds); and Designing your PhD: Research Methods in Research Context (York). The last session is an awayday where students present and discuss their work.

We are very happy to have been granted this award and are looking forward to this collaboration. More details can be found on our website – do go and visit!
Once upon a time there was a PhD student who set out to discover how the first generation of young people that have been bought up with digital technologies (the iGeneration) now resource and shape their social networks through technology.

The commencement of my research, now some 3 years ago with an MA by Social Research at the Centre for Women’s Studies was about social connections on the Internet and focussed on discussions about Internet dating on Internet newsgroups. The PhD required a new focus and the world of digital communication does not stand still and change occurs at a rapid pace. The launch of Social Networking Sites such as Facebook in the UK and Australia in 2006 opened up new ways for individuals to manage their social connections and became the focus of my research.

A comparative element of data collection was to pool data from both the United Kingdom and Australia. I travelled to Australia in September 2006 to attend the Association of Internet Research (AoIR) conference in Brisbane. I then continued to travel down the coast to Sydney where the main thrust of the data collection took place at Melbourne University, where I stayed at Ormond College for 2 months.

Since my return to the UK in December 2006 my research has been published in a special edition of the Australian based journal Media and Culture M/C Journal: ‘Going Live: Converging Mobile Technology and the Sociability of the iGeneration’. I also have forthcoming paper with ICS, amongst numerous publications in the press.

Presently I am working with Sarah Blow and Nicole Mathison on Girly Geek Dinners a project to encourage women to be involved with and to grasp the opportunities within the media and technology industry. I hope to launch these events at The University of York from October 2007. For more information about girly geeks please got to:

For more about my research, forthcoming activities etc please get in touch via the Centre for Women’s Studies and Sociology Department at York and visit my website:
http://mazphd.googlepages.com/mazhardey%27swebsite

And of course I can be found on Facebook!

‘Gender 2007 - East Meets West’ conference at the Centre for Women’s Studies

On 3-5 July 2007 the Centre for Women’s Studies held an international conference, entitled ‘Gender 2007 – East Meets West’. This conference followed on from a postgraduate conference at the University of Leeds, held the previous year, and was so successful that as part of our collaborative relations with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at Leeds, we agreed to run this year’s event.

The conference was for academics and postgraduates, and co-organized between postgraduate students, especially Petra Nordqvist, Jyoshna Belliappa, and Anna Piela as well as many others, from the Centre and Professors Gabriele Griffin and Stevi Jackson. It attracted around 120 people from all over the world. Among them were significant delegations from Ewha Women’s University in South Korea, from Taiwan, from Hong Kong, as well as from Jordan, Turkey, Nigeria, Israel and a host of other European countries. It also brought to York some of the leading sinologists in the UK including Prof Delia Davin, Prof Harriet Evans, and Dr Maria Jaschok. We were extremely proud to welcome such a range of national and international visitors.

We were also delighted that the conference was excellently supported internally by Professor Haleh Afshar (Women’s Studies and Politics) who spoke eloquently on Muslim women in Iran; Professor Mary Maynard (Social Policy) who reminded us of the issues of aging in a global context as one of the topics frequently insufficiently addressed in Women’s Studies, and Prof Felicity Riddy from the English Department who kindly agreed to open the conference in her capacity as Pro-Vice Chancellor.

The range of participants reflected the international diversity of the postgraduate students that are hosted by the Centre for Women’s Studies.

Many of our own postgraduates participated both in the organizing of the conference, in facilitating at the conference, in giving papers, taking photos (the ones published in this issue were taken by our very own Cirihn Malpocher, now a 3rd-year PhD student) and – not least – entertaining the conferees at the party on the Wednesday night. The social highlight of the conference was a party in The Edge, Wentworth College, where the Women’s Studies Centre PhD student Rosey Hill performed with her rock band ‘Fake Tan’, drawing onto the dance floor in particular all the international participants whose cultures celebrate karaoke, and encouraging mass dancing – a good antidote to sitting and listening to papers – and eating well in between – all day.

‘Gender 2007 - East Meets West’ conference: South Korean delegation (photograph courtesy of: Cirihn Malpocher)

One of the most fascinating aspects of the conference was the discussion – in a number of papers - about the very different ways in which concepts such as modernity might be understood in countries such as China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, relative to north-west European countries. There were also significant contributions on a range of gender issues from trans-identities, to sexuality, to cross-border marriages, domestic violence, new masculinities, changing understandings of the family, female labour and gender in
cultural production including film and TV. The conference provided an excellent platform for exploring future collaborations with senior staff from South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, and a second conference is planned for Spring/Summer 2009. Watch this space!

‘Gender 2007 - East Meets West’ conference – Hong Kong delegation (photograph courtesy of: Cirihin Malpocher)

Three of Sik-Ying Ho’s PhD students wrote to us to tell us how they experienced the Conference.

Anna Ng Hoi Nga writes: What impressed me most about this conference is not just what people have presented about gender, women and life in the global and regional context, but also the individual persons I had come across in casual chatting, dining and dancing. Every one of them has demonstrated their specific ways of presenting their own gender in the year 2007. The conference is like a sewing thread which has sewed up every individual’s own gender performance and every piece of their writing to form a colorful gender map, which manifests the beauty of varieties and propels us to think about the future development of gender and humanity as a whole, and which motivates us to work harder on our own part to create a better living space.

Hu Yiqian writes: Conferences are always unpredictable for me. Although every time I have the agenda and schedule in my hands, I have no idea which kind of presenters I would encounter, how she/he will present his/her work, which kind of perspective and framework she/he would use to analyse the people and the society we lived in. I am really glad to be part of this conference ”East meets West”, I strongly agreed with Dr. Sang Wha Lee from Seoul that as Asians, we are not homogeneous. Sik-Ying and Jie Yu reminded us the potential danger of simplifying the complexity of our social realities whether we are researchers who are “outsiders” from different cultures or “insiders” who have different life backgrounds than the research participants in the same culture. The meaning of divorce as explored by Sun Nam Kim in North Korea has also told me that the context always is important to understand the life experience of contemporary women. I really appreciated this opportunity to be familiar with new topics, to exchange with scholars with different perspectives and to relocate myself with other gender researchers.

Ding Yu writes: The conference is truly interactive and useful. The folks are interesting and they bring up important issues and new food for thought in the realm of gender studies. I have excellent feedbacks from my presentation audience which let me know how I should improve my paper and thesis. I really appreciate what they have raised and questioned. I want to say thank you for all your efforts in putting together such a wonderful conference! I will definitely go for the next one!

Tania Angeloff (visiting scholar 2003) writes from Paris: These three days were stimulating like it scarcely happens to me during a conference. And I left with more questions than answers, which is exactly what research is about……the stimulation of the conference is still in the air.
‘Gender 2007 - East Meets West’ conference
Photo Gallery

Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Felicity Riddy opening the conference

Taiwanese delegation: left to right:
Terri He (final year PhD), Pei-Chia Lan (Prof Sociology, National Taiwan University), Yi-Han Wang (final year PhD), Hsing-Miao Chi (3rd year PhD), plus two students also studying in the UK

Kate (Maclean) makes her point! (final year PhD)

Speakers Galore!

Professor Haleh Afshar OBE (Politics, University of York)

Professor Mary Maynard (Social Work and Social Policy, University of York)
Professor Pei-Chia Lan  
(Sociology, National Taiwan University)

Prof. Cho Joo-hyun  
(Keimung University, South Korea)

Some of our lovely helpers left–right: Kate Maclean, Trish Green, Corinna Tomrley and Meghan Reid.

Shopping……. and browsing on the bookstall

More CWS conference helpers being thanked by Professor Stevi Jackson (far right), left–right: Juhyun Woo, Sun Nam Kim, Hsing Miao Chi, Yi-Han Wang, Terri He, Jyothsna Belliappa, Kate Maclean, Trish Green, Julie Palmer, Petra Nordqvist, Janet Peukert and Zita Farkas.

Dr Jieryu Liu (CWS 2004, University of Leeds)

Professor Stevi Jackson thanking all the participants and closing the conference  
(Director CWS, University of York)
My exploits in rock

Hi, I’m Rosemary Hill, CWS PhD student and rock ‘n’ roll singer. You may remember me from such performances as Fake Tan at East Meets West Gender Conference. Fake Tan are a feminist rock band made of Claire Adams from Leeds Metropolitan University on bass and backing vocals, Julia Downes from Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at University of Leeds on drums, and me on guitar and lead vocals. We were asked to provide the entertainment for the Wednesday night and were delighted to accept.

As we would be the only band on the bill it was thrilling to know that the stage would be ours entirely, and, after a long indulgent sound check, we changed into our almost-matching fluorescent outfits and hit the stage.

I don’t know if Judith Butler’s theory of performing sex helps me when I’m on stage, but pretending I’m in Cheap Trick playing the Budokan certainly does. “Good evening conference go-ers!” I shouted, and we were off! Nipping through four self-penned disco tunes: the Kate Bush / Slint inspired ‘Across The Moor’; ‘Top Gear’ for which we have been described as ‘a bunch of feminists making a racket’, a comment I found much more complimentary than I think was intended; a song about ‘how the gender system works in everyday life, and booze’ – ‘Boy’s Club’; and ‘Floodin’, about the recent floods in Yorkshire. It was fantastic to see so many people – including Gabrielle, Stevi and Ann KN – dancing and we loved the synchronised routines going on.

We then had a short break during which Ann thanked the conference organisers and distributed beautiful roses to all involved. Claire stuck hers to her bass, other people wore theirs in their hair – it was just like 1967.

Then we were off again with four more of our own songs, this time much heavier and rocking: the abortion song ‘Sabbath’; ‘Red Riding Hood’, the real story of how Red Riding Hood’s mother did not send her to her death at the jaws of the wolf, but gave her a pistol to protect herself with. Oh an a knife too; our Invasion of the Body Snatchers meets Shiela Jeffrey’s epic, ‘Ethel Forgets’; and finally our ode to Donna Haraway ‘It’s So Hard’. It was fantastic. We enjoyed ourselves immensely and a gig that had caused some anxiety (how will we play to an audience who are bound to have such different tastes?) became a triumph.

Then there was music (Boney M, Abba, Paramore, but sadly for Ann no Spice Girls) and dancing and chatting and everyone had a lot of fun. Heart’s ‘Alone’, a prime opportunity for some air guitar and melodramatic dance moves, signalled the end of an excellent evening.

Other things Fake Tan have done this year are played the Subtext magazine launch party organised by CWS MA student Laura Way, performed at Ladyfest Leeds with members of the influential punk band The Raincoats, travelled to Berlin to play at the Ladyfest there, and performed at numerous Ladyfest benefits and other out-of-town gigs.

If you want to hear more of Fake Tan we of course have a myspace (www.myspace.com/faketanrock), or contact me about CDs with beautiful artwork (rlh504@york.ac.uk).
Papers and Publications


In August 2006 Sue Mendus (Politics) delivered the Simone Weil Lectures on Human Values at the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne. From October to December 2006, she was Visiting Fellow at the Research School for Social Sciences, Australian National University, Canberra where she completed a book on Political Integrity and also gave lectures on Slavery, and on Religious Toleration. In August 2007 she returned to ANU to deliver the Freilich Lectures on Tolerance, under the title 'Religious Toleration in an Age of Terrorism' and to present the keynote address at a conference entitled 'Negotiating the Sacred: Religion and Education'.


Just published, *The Militant Suffragette Movement in York* by Krista Cowman, (1994) Professor of History, University of Lincoln. The flamboyant campaign of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) drew many women into the fight for votes. Professor Cowman looks at the use of militant tactics in York, and at the web of interconnected regional militant activities, including the Doncaster arson campaign of 1913. She examines the roles of key York WSPU members including Violet Key Jones, Annie Pearson & Mrs Coultate, their involvement in activism and York's place in a shadowy network of support that sought to undermine the Cat and Mouse Acts by providing a network of safe-houses for released prisoners. Available on campus from the Borthwick Institute (come into the JBM library, turn right, Borthwick reception on 1st floor). ISBN 978-1-904497-21-9. £4.00.

Ladyfest Leeds was an extravaganza of female creativity held in a number of venues in Leeds in April. Run by a collective, the not-for-profit festival attracted hundreds of attendees and provided a platform for around one hundred artists. Lizzie Guinness and Melanie Maddison were two former CWS students who were heavily involved in organising the festival - both still now a bit exhausted from the amount of work they both put into helping it happen!

Ladyfests have been held all over the world since the first one in Olympia, USA in 2000. They are a positive and creative opportunity to highlight women in music and the arts. They also allow attendees, artists, musicians and organisers a crucial opportunity to meet, share skills and build networks.

Our festival encompassed a wide range of the arts, including - theatre, music, dance, comedy, spoken word, performance art, visual art and film. Alongside this, there were workshops (on themes diverse as men in feminism, juggling, the history of feminism in west Yorkshire), participatory craft projects (bunting and postcards), stalls selling amazing crafty-wares and a daily festival newspaper, the Ladypress, and not forgetting - a punk rock roller disco!

Our musical extravaganza was held at Joseph’s Well and featured a diverse range of acts including Phoebe Kreutz (anti-folk from New York, and a new favourite of former CWS student Polly Cassidy), the 70s punk legends The Raincoats, Fake Tan (with CWS student Rosey at the helm), up and coming Leeds-based Sky Larkin, Hello Cuca and many many more.

The Carriageworks hosted much of the other creative endeavours. Melanie co-curated two exhibitions, including a visual history of UK Ladyfest art and exhibition of German photographer Elena Stoehr. We were fortunate to collaborate with the Birds Eye View film festival and hosted a night of internationally acclaimed films including Until the Violence Stops. A comedy night featured up-and-coming female comics such as Jo Neary. Theatrical performances included Dignity (challenging modern-day slavery) and Lady in Red (shortlisted for an Amnesty International Award) as well as a wide range of dance performances.

The Holy Trinity Church hosted two nights of experimental art. EXP24 screened experimental and avant-garde film from Leeds and beyond. The Termite Club showcased experimental music and performance art and an ongoing exhibition throughout the week. Art also reached further into the city with exhibitions in The Light shopping complex and Becky Bowley’s performance piece hosted in Oxfam’s window.

All these events attracted a diverse range of people and we were excited to get coverage in a wide-range of local and national media - we were in the Guardian and on BBC Look North among others, and we hope that this raised the profile of the festival.

Organising the festival was exhausting but a fantastic opportunity for all those involved. We have all learnt so much - none of us having put on such an event before - and it has proved life-changing for many. It was amazing to facilitate an event that showcased all the wondrous creative talent of women - locally, nationally and internationally and to provide a space right in the heart of Leeds which was proudly feminist and queer.

For photos and further information about the festival, please check out www.ladyfестleeds.co.uk. If you missed out on going to our Ladyfest, do not fear! There are a number of other ladyfests happening in the UK this year including in Leicester and Bristol. In 2008, Ladyfest London will return!
Ann Kaloski-Naylor (previous chair of YLAF) writes:
May I remind everyone that the wonderful international York Lesbian Arts Festival is at the end of October. The fest focuses on lesbian, bi and trans art and fun, and is open to, and enjoyed by, all women (no sexual identity test necessary! and YLAF operates a very broad and inclusive interpretation of 'woman'). Men may attend most events as guests of women, or on application to organisers.

What is the Festival? From the web site: http://www.ylaf.org.uk

Two Great Days - One Big Weekend Celebration.

YORK LESBIAN ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTS
three fantastic fun-filled events, packed with talented lesbian performers, artists and authors. 27th October is One Big Sexy Gay day at the Racecourse. While on 28th October we'll be Rocking the City Centre.

The BOOK FESTIVAL returns in two spaces on three floors with Jackie Kay, Sarah Waters, Rhona Cameron and a host of lesbian authors (Racecourse)

CLUB DIVA will party on two floors from 8.30pm till 2am, bringing you the biggest, the sexiest the most lesbian disco/club night in the UK. (Racecourse)

The stunningly popular and entirely FREE STREET CONCERT is going ahead on Sunday 28th October (mid-day, outside M&S - fabulous every year). We are very lucky to have this event in York, and though I am no longer YLAF Chair, many CWS people help out or attend for the sheer fun and (artistic) stimulation of it all.

Book now! http://www.ylaf.org.uk

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**Feminist Theory Lecture**

**Professor Toril Moi, of Duke University**

Many of you will know that the Centre hosts the international, interdisciplinary academic journal *Feminist Theory* (published by Sage), of which both Prof Gabriele Griffin and Prof Stevi Jackson are founding co-editors, together with Prof Sasha Roseneil who used to be at the University of Leeds but has recently moved to Birkbeck College London. From time to time, *Feminist Theory* hosts a public lecture, supported by Sage, and we are very pleased to announce that this year, on Tuesday, 20 November 2007, at 6.30pm, Professor Toril Moi of Duke University will give the 2007 Feminist Theory lecture, entitled "I am not a woman writer":...on feminism, theory and literature'. She will argue that recent theories of women, sex, and gender have challenged the category of woman. The value of literature (and the other arts) has also been called into question. Have the new gender theories made feminist criticism obsolete? Does it still make sense to claim, as the first feminist critics did, that literature and other arts are crucially important to feminists?

The lecture takes place in London, at the Tate Modern (a wonderful opportunity to see this fantastic museum and meet some of the leading feminists in the UK). This lecture which is sponsored by Sage Publications (http://www.sagepub.co.uk/home.nav), the publishers of *Feminist Theory*, will be followed by a wine reception. For more information and tickets (£8, concessions £6) please go to Tate Modern web page: http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/eventseducation/talksdiscussions/10140.htm
**Violence Against Women: Histories, Methodologies, Activism and Research**  
**A One-Day Conference in Honour of Jalna Hanmer**

30 May 2008, 10.00am-5.30pm

On Friday, 30 May 2008 the Centre for Women’s Studies will host a one-day conference on *Violence against Women* in honour of Jalna Hanmer, a long-term researcher and activist in this field as well as in Women’s Studies. Gabriele Griffin, as well as many other members of staff in the Centre for Women’s Studies, the University of York and beyond have enjoyed many collaborative ventures with Jalna Hanmer, and we would like to celebrate her life and achievements, as well as the long way that work on violence against women has come in the last forty years or so.

Among the confirmed speakers at the conference are renowned international researchers in the field including Prof. Catherine Donovan, Prof. Jill Radford, Prof. Liz Kelly, Prof. Jeff Hearn, Prof. Marianne Hester, Julie Bindel (journalist and activist) and many others. The topics to be addressed will include issues in domestic violence; rape in war and war crimes; men and violence; violence and representation; and histories of activism and research in violence against women.

More details of the event can be found on the Centre for Women’s Studies website (www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws). The cost for the conference will be £23.50 to include morning/afternoon tea and coffee, as well as lunch.

We very much hope that many of you will attend this event, and will come on 30 May 2008.

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**Good websites**

For this years CWS seminar series please go to: www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws/gsp/sem.htm

For those interested in the history of the women’s peace camp at Greenham Common there is a website compiled by two filmmakers in conjunction with the Guardian Women’s Page in response to a film that was made to commemorate 25 years since beginning of Greenham Common Peace camp. It is a rich collection of photos, film, songs and stories from the women that went to protest at the US Army base 25 years ago. Go to www.yourgreenham.co.uk

**Matrix Reloaded**

The Women’s Committee of the Student Union issued a special edition of their zine ‘Matrix reloaded’ to celebrate the Vagina Monologues production of last term.

Look out for the copies of the new edition of the zine at beginning of the Autumn term in the CWS Common Room, which will include such topics as; What is Women's Committee about?, Women We Love, Abortion Rights, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Endometriosis, Tarantino/film violence article, American Cosmo, 'grey rape', self-immolation in Afghanistan, 'Trumpet' review and much more.