

E-SOURCES ON WOMEN & GENDER

Look what the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) and *MS. Magazine* have put together: a **2009 GUIDE TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES** programs. Starting from the website of either NWSA (www.nwsa.org/msmag) or *MS.* (www.msmagazine.com/womensstudies), you can search by state, type of degree offered, or name of institution. Did you know that there are twenty-three colleges and universities in Wisconsin listed as offering women's/gender studies? They range from the likes of Carthage College, which has a sprinkling of undergraduate courses but no minor or major, to the UW–Madison with its free-standing undergraduate major and master's degree (as well as an undergrad minor and a graduate certificate). If your institution is not listed, contact NWSA to be added to the database.

ALICE WALKER'S GARDEN at www.alicewalkersgarden.com is the official website for the well-known writer. It includes an official biography by the officers of the Alice Walker Literary Society, photos, information about the books, a selection of previously unpublished poems, links to the author's blog, and a reflection about how she learned on a visit to South Korea to approach being in her sixties.

Among the many things I didn't know until compiling this column: The director of the movie *Kit Kittredge: An American Girl* is a Canadian woman: Patricia Rozema, who also happens to have directed, among many other films, the fabulous *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* (1987). Pick up hundreds of tidbits like these and find some fascinating films by browsing or searching the **CANADIAN WOMEN FILM DIRECTORS DATABASE** (<http://femfilm.ca>), created by University of Toronto librarian Margaret Fulford. In English and French.

Sabine Hikel's blog, **CONFABULOUS** (www.confabulous.ca, subtitled "Dancing at the Revolution in a Great Pair of Shoes"), "confabulates" about "politics and pop culture from a Canadian perspective...for a funny, fearless, female audience." Sabine's confabulations include a category she calls "Feminist Friday" — weekly short video blurbs, with Sabine as talking head, on news items, good and bad, of interest to feminists.

The **EUROPEAN FEMINIST FORUM** (<http://europeanfeministforum.org>) is "a space for discussions on how to re-politicize the feminist movement in Europe and to explore feminist agendas needed in today's Europe. The forum is committed to fostering an open and diverse dialog among European feminist and to creating a space for feminists to come together, meet each other and bring about change in Europe." Site is in English, Spanish, French, and Russian; includes links to publications and "affinity groups" (e.g., Secularism, Peace and Security, Migrant Feminist Agenda, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Lesbians/LGBTI, and Masculinity, Violence and Feminism).

"The pharmaceutical industry wants people to think that sexual problems are simple medical matters, and it offers drugs as expensive magic fixes. But sexual problems are complicated, sexuality is diverse, and no drug is without side effects." The feminist working group at the **NEW VIEW CAMPAIGN** that brought the book *A New View of Women's Sexual Problems* (Routledge) into being in 2002 also has an Internet presence at www.fsd-alert.org, complete with the text of the group's manifesto, which opens with this: "In recent years, publicity about new treatments for men's erection problems has focused attention on women's sexuality and provoked a competitive commercial hunt for 'the female Viagra.' But women's sexual problems differ from men's in basic ways which are not being examined or addressed."

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) offer a special collection of free, interactive, and self-guided **ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS**

ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN at http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages.php?category_id=867. Tools include podcasts, videos, slideshows, PowerPoint presentations, quizzes, tutorials, and more.

The UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S DATABASE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN at <http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/> has tried to collect and share information “on the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for, including best practices in, combating such violence,” using a questionnaire distributed to UN member states in 2008. One might wonder how successful an endeavor that relies on voluntary responses at the national level can be. As of March 2009, when the database was launched online, information had been received and entered for 34 countries and received for just 27 more, and interestingly, the U.S. is not among those that responded. (The UN has 192 member states). Even for members that have not responded, however, the database lists laws that exist in those countries related to violence against women.

DOWNLOADABLE PUBLICATIONS

One World Action, *JUST POLITICS: WOMEN TRANSFORMING POLITICAL SPACES* (2008). 51p. Download full report, large-print version, or Spanish translation from http://www.oneworldaction.org/papers_documents_archives/reports/Just+Politics

OXFAM PUBLICATIONS offers a collection of ten papers under the title *LEARNING FOR ACTION ON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION*. At <http://publications.oxfam.org.uk/>, type “learning for action” in the title search box at the top of the page. Downloadable as PDF or Word documents. Papers in the set address issues of women’s leadership and empowerment in Haiti, Chile, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Palestine and Israel, Britain, Cambodia, and Honduras.

Shirkat Gah—Women’s Resource Centre, Lahore, Pakistan, *TALIBANISATION & POOR GOVERNANCE: UNDERMINING CEDAW IN PAKISTAN, SECOND SHADOW REPORT* (April 15, 2007). 46p. In PDF from http://www.shirkatgah.org/pubs_women_law&rights.htm (then choose title of publication). Note: CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.

At the website for WOMEN LIVING UNDER MUSLIM LAWS (<http://wluml.org/english/index.shtml>), one can download “dossiers” — collections of articles that “explore and synthesize a broad range of feelings, interpretations and strategies of women on issues of feminism, nationalism, internationalism, and religion.” The latest, *DOSSIER 29: MECHANISMS AND STRUCTURES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY* (July 2008), includes such articles as “Structures and Mechanisms for the Attainment of Gender Equality: The African Experience,” by Pethu Serote; “Implementation of Gender Equality Standards in Central and Eastern Europe — Mission (Im)possible?” by Anna Wilkowska-Landowska; “The Hong Kong Position on Gender Equality,” by Anna Wu; “Mechanisms to Promote Gender Equality in Malaysia: The Need for Legislation,” by Zarizana Abdul Aziz; and “The National Machinery for the Protection and Promotion of Women’s Rights in Sri Lanka,” by Chulani Kodikara.

○ Compiled by JoAnne Lehman