

FEMINIST STUDIES REVISED TEN YEAR PLAN
12/1/05

I. Introduction

Feminist Studies is an interdisciplinary field that investigates how relations of gender are embedded in social, political, and cultural formations. Such interdisciplinarity refers specifically to a mode of critique that challenges existing disciplinary boundaries and fosters a rethinking of the relationships between knowledge, power, and expertise.

Averaging over 180 undergraduate majors, UCSC is home to one of the oldest and largest departments focused on gender and sexuality studies in the United States. The Feminist Studies Department at UCSC emphasizes theories and practices derived from multiracial and multicultural contexts. Both the undergraduate program and the proposed graduate program are intended to provide students with a unique interdisciplinary and transnational perspective. Since its founding as Women's Studies in 1974, the department has contributed significantly to the development of internationally recognized feminist scholarship. With the institution of the proposed Ph.D. in Feminist Studies (2007-2008), the department is poised to solidify its place as one of the premier departments of its kind in the United States.

While maintaining the obvious need for a focus in the United States and for comparative work, the current transnational and interdisciplinary approach to feminist studies represents a new and much-needed emphasis in the Humanities Division that will also make Feminist Studies at UCSC a cutting edge site for emergent knowledge formations. At the undergraduate level, there is a need for a greater comparative horizon, one that extends both backward in time and across geographic regions. Given the demographics in California, projected immigration into the United States, the multinational and global character of economic developments, and the vast cultural shifts worldwide, students in California are increasingly challenged to confront issues of gender, race, sexuality, and class from a global perspective.

The Feminist Studies Department supports — indeed showcases, in its faculty, curriculum, and proposed graduate program — the goals and objectives of the planning process. Through the proposed graduate program and its undergraduate curriculum, it seeks to 1) strengthen UCSC's position as a major university by becoming the visible premier center for graduate feminist studies research; 2) improve access for the diverse population that comprises California today by focusing its research and teaching efforts on transnational intersections of gender, sexuality, race, nation, and class and by recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty; and 3) promote innovation and enhance academic quality at both undergraduate and graduate levels by featuring innovative methods (collaborative graduate research, team-teaching, etc.) and rigorous interdisciplinary training in its undergraduate and graduate curricula.

II. Current State of the Department

There are seven faculty members in the department, which changed its name in the spring of 2005 from Women's Studies to Feminist Studies in conformity with the proposed graduate program title and in order better to reflect the focus of the discipline on methodology.

Feminist Studies completed several hiring objectives since its 2001 ten-year plan. In 2002 Assistant (now Associate) Professor Gina Dent joined the department, and in 2004-2005 the department made two additional hires: Professor Karen Barad and Assistant Professor Felicity Schaeffer-Grabiell.

Below is a list of the current core faculty in Feminist Studies.

Bettina Aptheker, Professor of Feminist Studies and History

African American women's history and a strong emphasis on women of color, race, sexuality, and movements for political, social, and economic justice; women's history and culture; feminist pedagogy; lesbian studies; Jewish women's studies; women's spirituality

Anjali Arondekar, Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies

South Asian studies, colonial historiography, feminist theories, queer theory, cultural studies, critical race studies, nineteenth-century interdisciplinary studies

Karen Barad, Professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Philosophy

Feminist theory, physics, twentieth-century continental philosophy, epistemology, ontology, philosophy of physics, cultural studies of science, feminist science studies

Gina Dent, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Legal Studies

Africana literary and cultural studies, popular culture, legal theory, prison policy

Emily Honig, Professor of Feminist Studies and History

Gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in modern Chinese history; comparative labor history; transnational studies of women, gender, race, and sexuality, with a focus on movements for gender and sexuality rights throughout the Third World

Radhika Mongia, Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies

Feminist theory; critical race studies; Marxist, postcolonial and poststructuralist theory; critical historiography; history of migration law and formations of the modern state; cultural studies

Felicity Schaeffer-Grabiell, Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies

Border and hemispheric studies, globalization, transnational feminisms, migration and technology

In addition to the core faculty, there is a rich concentration of feminist faculty in other departments working in transnational and/or comparative contexts. Nine such faculty have agreed to serve as Principal Faculty for the proposed Feminist Studies Graduate Program

Committee, and another seven have lent their support as Associate Faculty. They join the approximately fifty additional Affiliate Faculty who routinely teach courses that count towards the department's undergraduate and graduate parenthetical notation requirements. The department was founded on and continues to be fostered by this cross-divisional interdisciplinarity, which has now been built into the structure of the proposed graduate program in Feminist Studies.

III. Graduate Program in Feminist Studies

The Feminist Studies Department at UCSC proposes to establish a Feminist Studies Graduate Program matriculating its first class in the 2007-2008 academic year (assuming final campus approval by the end of the 2005-2006 academic year).

The Feminist Studies Graduate Program is designed to foreground transnational analyses that move beyond traditional notions of the international and the comparative to formulate problem-based research methodologies and to develop an institutional structure that situates the formation of knowledge within a collaborative learning environment. This combination of interdisciplinary, transnational, and cluster-based research makes the feminist studies graduate program unique and distinguishes it from others in the United States, including the important and innovative program inaugurated in 1999 at UCLA.

The Feminist Studies Graduate Program aims to provide students with rigorous training in feminist methods and modes of inquiry with two objectives: first, to train teachers and scholars; and second, to serve the needs of other professionals who are either planning or pursuing careers in areas such as public policy or human rights research and advocacy. This approach to graduate training is designed to attract students with various types of career goals who will benefit from exposure to and collaboration with each other.

With one of the largest undergraduate feminist/women's studies departments in the nation and as an internationally recognized center for feminist scholarship, UCSC is particularly well situated to undertake this initiative. Conceived as a collaborative, cross-divisional enterprise, the Feminist Studies Graduate Program will draw upon and consolidate the strengths of a range of existing units and research clusters engaged in feminist scholarship across the university. These include the Institute for Humanities Research; the Institute for Advanced Feminist Research (IAFR); the Center for Cultural Studies, especially its Queer Theory Research Cluster and its Research Cluster for the Study of Women of Color; the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community; the Center for Global, International, and Regional Studies; the South Asia Studies Initiative; and the Chicano/Latino Research Center with its project on Feminist Translations in the Americas. Collaborating departments with particularly strong feminist faculty include American Studies, Anthropology, Art, Community Studies, History, History of Art and Visual Culture, History of Consciousness, Literature, Latin American and Latino Studies, Politics, Psychology, and Sociology.

The Principal Faculty of the Feminist Studies Graduate Program will consist of the seven core faculty in Feminist Studies and nine members of the Feminist Studies Affiliate Faculty. This

body will be responsible for the graduate curriculum, the admissions process, the supervision of graduate students, and the ongoing governance of the program. In addition, seven Associate Faculty have agreed to teach and advise periodically for the program.

This Ph.D. program builds upon the department's longstanding **Parenthetical Notation** in Women's Studies (now Feminist Studies) offered to graduate students in other departments. Since 1993 Feminist Studies has offered a notation for graduate students in seven cooperating departments: Anthropology, History, History of Consciousness, Literature, Politics, Psychology, and Sociology. Thirty students have completed such notations. Forty-three are currently in the program, with eleven additional applications pending. Since the introduction of graduate fellowships in the 2001-2002 academic year, the number of students has quadrupled. Feminist Studies proposes to maintain this program as a notation in Feminist Studies when the graduate program is officially approved. This will also encourage a wider enrollment in Feminist Studies graduate courses.

Feminist Studies has offered eleven **graduate courses** since 1995. Another fifteen courses have been offered in other departments by members of the Principal Faculty of the Feminist Studies Graduate Program, and an additional ten by Associate Faculty. Given the large number of graduate courses within the field of feminist studies, as well as the scope of debates they cover, the majority of the department's curriculum is already in place. By linking currently available courses to a structure that identifies thematic emphases, the program's strengths in transnational feminism will be complemented by the various epistemological strains that undergird emerging research trajectories.

To facilitate the problem-based, collaborative version of graduate education proposed, the curriculum and advising structures of the Feminist Studies Graduate Program will be organized around rigorous interdisciplinary training and the activities of **research clusters**. These clusters are conceived of as multi-year, flexible rubrics that will orient students toward changes in the organization of knowledges and provide them with interlocutors in their pursuit of both an object and an epistemology. Clusters will serve to guide students through the curriculum in ways that locate their individual projects within existing or emergent interdisciplinary fields and will offer students collaborative and unified learning experiences.

Thus, the first-year course load will consist of seminars in feminist theories and feminist methodologies (taught by rotating members of the Principal Faculty of the Feminist Studies Graduate Program), followed by a third-quarter course to prepare students for cluster-based research (FMST 200-201-202). The latter will serve as an introduction to collaborative scholarship and allow students an opportunity to think carefully about the epistemological shifts required by such a joint enterprise. Though admission to the program will be partially based on consideration of a student's fit within a cluster, students will be given the opportunity to formally identify into clusters at the end of their first year. The four research clusters are Disciplining Knowledge; Culture, Power, Politics; Technologies of Modernity; and History and Memory.

The emphasis on interdisciplinary, transnational feminist scholarship, combined with a unique approach to collaborative research, distinguishes the proposed Feminist Studies Graduate Program from other such programs, both within the UC system and elsewhere. The program,

moreover, will coalesce an already existing, vibrant community of scholars and will provide a critical and substantial bridge between feminist methodologies and ways of knowing across disciplines. The establishment of the Feminist Studies Graduate Program is essential to the continued consolidation of feminist theory and praxis at UCSC and to the maintenance of its position as an internationally renowned center for innovative feminist scholarship in an era of rapidly changing knowledge formations.

IV. New FTE in Feminist Studies

The department proposes three new FTE for Feminist Studies between now and 2010-2011: 1) Science, Technology and Medicine; 2) Policy Studies (with a possible emphasis in sexuality studies); and 3) Political Economy/Political Theory.

Although the graduate program would be able to sustain itself minimally with the current number of seven FTE in the department (with some revisions downward of course requirements for the degree), a figure of ten is optimal for the health of both the graduate and undergraduate programs combined. This number corresponds to recommendations that have been made in external reviews, both of the Feminist Studies Department and of other departments planning graduate programs in the Division.

- 1) At build-out, the department would like to have a thriving program in **Science Technology and Medicine (STM)** that bridges the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences divisions. The program would seek to establish strong ties with natural and social scientists, interfacing with existing efforts in Philosophy and History of Consciousness. Areas of mutual focus may include developments in new medical technologies, science policy studies, science education, and science ethics. Many different synergistic arrangements with this new and burgeoning area of intellectual inquiry are possible. The STM program would also seek collaborations with the new Bio-Info-Nano Research and Development Institute (BIN-RDI) and the Center for Integrated Marine Technologies (CIMT).

The other two positions likewise seek to build on existing program strengths and add pragmatic social scientific dimensions to the interdisciplinary and transnational offerings of the graduate program and the undergraduate program.

- 2) A position in **Policy Studies**, with a possible emphasis on issues of sexuality, would not only bolster the proposed new undergraduate concentration in Sexuality Studies (see page 6), but it would also help strengthen Science, Technology, and Medicine by adding a practical policy dimension to its focus. This position would also possibly interface with multi-divisional initiatives related to health and public policy. Finally, it would strengthen the policy-oriented inflection that the department hopes to establish for students in the proposed graduate program.
- 3) The proposed position in **Political Economy/Political Theory** seeks to provide intersections with the graduate program in Politics subsequent to the separation of Gwendolyn Mink and the possible separation of Sonia Alvarez, by offering feminist transnational perspectives on

issues of political economy and political theory. It will also help compensate for the separation of Wendy Brown, former Women's Studies political theorist now at UC Berkeley.

Justification for FTE Requests

All three proposed positions add to the interdisciplinary, interdivisional goals of the future Feminist Studies Graduate Program, and each of them also enhances the work of current faculty in the department. Position one will provide Karen Barad with a colleague, for the minimum of two feminist science studies faculty required to launch and cultivate this area of inquiry, with Anjali Arondekar providing a historical dimension to the field. Position two will enhance the work of colleagues Gina Dent, Emily Honig, and Felicity Schaeffer-Grabiel in relation to issues of legal theory and law, international rights movements, social change, and transnational migrations. Position three will also complement the work of Radhika Mongia and Gina Dent in areas of transnational law, migration, and economic and political theory. Finally, the three positions requested will enable Feminist Studies to seek extramural funding from agencies and foundations that are not normally accessible to humanities scholars (see below under Development Opportunities).

In addition, these three areas contribute to the recently revised proposed undergraduate concentrations:

1) **Culture, Power, and Representation**

Focuses on representation as both political and aesthetic. Situates the study of everyday life practices and cultural forms in the context of larger political and historical relations.

2) **Law, Politics, and Social Change**

Examines social change through legal, economic, and political processes. Emphasizes movements for social justice and struggles over gender, race, class, and sexuality.

3) **Science, Technology, and Medicine**

Explores how science, technology, and medicine reshape relations of power and knowledge. Highlights the centrality of ethical concerns and values in the scientific production of gendered, raced, and sexed bodies.

4) **Sexuality Studies**

Examines institutions and power relations through the category of sexuality. Explores bodies and practices across geographical and cultural borders.

These revised concentrations address changing fields of knowledge in feminist studies on the one hand and build on existing strengths and ongoing preoccupations of the discipline on the other. Concentrations one and two represent ongoing areas of strength and inquiry, while concentrations three and four represent currently small but ever-growing, newer fields of feminist inquiry that respond to national and international trends in interdisciplinary feminist-oriented work.

As currently envisioned, Law, Politics, and Social Change contains the most course offerings, while Science, Technology and Medicine and Sexuality Studies contain the fewest. Thus the proposed new positions will increase offerings in the latter two concentrations, while maintaining a core Feminist Studies faculty focus in the former, as the faculty shift some of their offerings to the graduate level.

V. Undergraduate Curriculum

Currently, Feminist Studies majors must complete eleven course requirements and one senior comprehensive requirement:

- (1) Introduction to Feminisms (FMST 1A or 1B)
- (2) Feminist Theories (FMST 100)
- (3) Racial and Gender Formations in the U.S. (FMST 145) or an approved, similar course
- (4-10) Seven additional upper-division courses
 - *Five or six must be in the student's chosen concentration. There are five concentrations: 1 - Representations; 2 - Race, Class, and Ethnicity (within the US); 3 - Nations and Cultures (outside the US or comparative with the US); 4 - Movements, Institutions, Policy, and Legal Studies; and 5 - Theory.
 - * The remaining one or two must be from another concentration.
- (11) One women's history course
- (12) Senior comprehensive requirement:
 - Choices include writing a senior thesis, producing a senior project, participating in a senior seminar taught by Feminist Studies core or affiliated faculty, or teaching a student-directed seminar.

The curriculum has been in place for ten years. Thus, since 2004 and subsequent to the External Review, the Department of Feminist Studies has been involved in curriculum revision to reflect changes in the discipline, the specializations of current faculty, and the transnationalization of feminist studies more generally. The revised curriculum will be submitted to the Division and CEP for approval in 2005-2006.

In the revised curriculum Feminist Studies majors must complete ten course requirements and one senior comprehensive requirement:

- (1) Introduction to Feminisms (FMST 1)
- (2) FMST 80 (or another 80 course taught by affiliated faculty)
- (3) FMST 100 (an upper-division bridge course for majors only; writing intensive)
- (4) FMST 101 (Feminist Theories, renumbered from 100 to 101)
- (5-8) Four upper division courses in the student's chosen concentration
 - The four new concentrations will be: 1) Culture, Power, and Representation; 2) Law, Politics, and Social Change; 3) Science, Technology, and Medicine; and 4) Sexuality Studies (see descriptions above)
- (9-10) Two upper division electives
- (11) Senior comprehensive requirement:

Choices include writing a senior thesis, producing a senior project, participating in a senior seminar taught by Feminist Studies core or affiliated faculty, or teaching a student-directed seminar.

VI. Staff FTE

Feminist Studies has a long history of being understaffed and has repeatedly petitioned the Division for relief. At the present time the Division funds Feminist Studies staff at 1.42 FTE. In 2000, the Feminist Studies Executive Committee voted to use departmental funds to augment the second staff position from .42 to .84.

The department continues to advocate for full and immediate funding by the Division of the department assistant position at either .84 or 1.0 FTE, bringing the department's total staffing to 1.84 or 2 FTE.

With the further projection of a graduate program, the department anticipates and requests an allocation of a third 1.0 staff FTE to Feminist Studies in the 2006-2007 academic year, when the department will be actively recruiting for the first year of matriculating students in the graduate program, slated to be operational in 2007-2008.

VII. Space Needs

Feminist Studies is delighted at the prospect of being housed in the new Humanities Building. The department is currently in negotiations with the Division to house the Feminist Studies Library in the new facility with an allocation of 450-470 square feet. The department also anticipates needing 350-370 square feet of additional space for a graduate lab with the start of the graduate program in 2007-2008.

VIII. Development Opportunities

The three proposed new positions (see page 5) will enable Feminist Studies to compete for external funding in the form of grants not normally accessible by humanities faculty. For example, in science, technology, and medicine, there would be the possibility of applying for National Science Foundation Science and Society Program grants (www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5324&org=SBE), while in the Social Sciences, the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) would be another source of extramural support.

The Feminist Studies Executive Committee has met with Nora Sweeny, the Humanities Development Officer, to target ways to build upon the department's already strong fundraising history. The anticipated movement of the Feminist Studies Library to the new Humanities building, the celebration of the department's 30th anniversary, and the launch of the graduate program all present significant giving opportunities. Major events that target gifting opportunities are being planned to mark three decades of feminist studies at UCSC, and the

department will be meeting with development office staff regularly to take advantage of this and other opportunities.

For the past eight years, the department has produced a notable annual newsletter, *The Wave*. The newsletter is mailed each summer to over 2,000 alumnae, faculty, donors, staff, and members of the community. It is also emailed to current Feminist Studies Parenthetical Notation graduate students and undergraduate majors, and is posted and archived on the department's website at <http://feministstudies.ucsc.edu/newsWaveArchive.html>. A donor response envelope is included in the mailing. The department will consult with Nora Sweeny on ways to improve its communications plan. One idea is to initiate quarterly emails to the newsletter mailing list containing a link to the department's website which would host timely content or commentary on current events, along with instructions on donating to the department.

Feminist Studies has also been actively working with the development office to build the 21st Century Feminist Scholarship Endowment (established in 1999-2000 with a gift from Peggy Downes Baskin and MRC Greenwood, followed by a direct mailing campaign) so that the department can more vigorously and reliably support graduate fellowships, visiting scholars, and ultimately an Endowed Chair in Feminist Studies. Feminist Studies will develop a careful plan for building this endowment, setting specific goals for 2005 through 2015.