IFC Events
This fall, IFC hosted its annual Open House, a lunch for new women faculty at the Colleges, and a student activist lunch with performance artist/activist Ruth Pongstaphone, along with some other co-sponsored events, featured in this newsletter on prisons and on the election. We have a number of exciting events planned for spring, including:

Lecture by Rachel Teukolsky, Vanderbilt, “George Eliot and Hannah Arendt: Philosophies of the Pariah” (February)

Lunch for Grace Berry award recipients (t.b.d.)

Restorative Justice Workshops for Scripps students, staff, and faculty, facilitated by California Conference for Equality and Justice, co-sponsored with SCORE and Scripps IDEA initiative (February)

Panel on disability with Alison Kafer, Embrey Professor of Women’s & Gender Studies, UT Austin, and Susan Burch, Professor of American Studies, Middlebury, co-sponsored with Scripps Core III (March).  

Symposium on policing, women and public health (March) with keynote by Andrea Ritchie. See p. 3 for details.

NEW IN THE IFC LIBRARY:
IFC added 71 books and 28 films to the IFC library in 2017-18. Visit our library page for a full listing of our materials. If there is an item you’d like us to purchase, just email us.

kanopy, Now Streaming
Honnold-Mudd library has partnered with kanopy video streaming service providing free access to thousands of independent and documentary films. Over 200 films are available in the category of Gender Studies.

Grace Berry Awards 2018
This year’s recipients of the Grace Berry Award for Women in Graduate Studies are Mofoluwave Adeniyi and Jung-Hsien Lin. The award supports women students at CGU and is made possible by a gift from Pomona alumna Margarita Horner in honor of Grace Berry, the founder of the Pomona Branch of AAUW. Mofoluwave Adeniyi is a doctoral student in CGU’s School of Community and Global Health. Before coming to CGU, she was a primary care physician in rural, underserved communities in Nigeria. She plans to use her degree to affect public health on a wider scale and hopes to ultimately become Minister of Health in Nigeria.

Jung-Hsien Lin is a doctoral student in Cultural Studies at CGU, where she received an M.A. in English. Her research focuses on Lacanian psychoanalysis, gender theories, and 20th-Century American literature, specifically the role of love and desire in constructing modern discourses of an ethical subject. She is working with Eve Oishi and David Luis-Brown, addressing Lacan’s theory of “feminine jouissance.”

A luncheon will be held in spring to honor the recipients and present their work. A call for applications for next year’s award will go out in March.
Valerie Thomas (English and Africana Studies, Pomona) was featured in a Morning Edition story, "When the ‘White Tears’ Just Keep Coming." [Listen here.]

Rachel VanSickle-Ward (Political Studies, Pitzer) was quoted in Ms. Magazine’s "25 Feminist Experts React to the 2018 Election Results".

Suyapa Portillo Villeda (Chicano@-Latino@ Studies and Transnational Studies, Pitzer) spoke with Univision about the 2018 election results. She was also quoted in the Voice of San Diego article "Everything You Need to Know About the Migrant Caravan, and Those That Came Before."


Lara Rann (Music, Scripps) received the Gertrude Rivers Robinson Annual Meeting Travel Award to attend the Society of Ethnomusicology in Albuquerque in November.

Claremont at NWSA 2018

The Claremont Colleges were well represented at the November 2018 National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Just Imagine, Imaging Justice: Feminist Visions of Future, Dream Making and the Radical Politics of Futures, in Atlanta:

Amanda Apgar, Pomona, presented "The Right to Correct: Disability, Prosthetics, and Prison" and moderated the panel "Sexual Violence in Art and Activism: Promises, Pitfalls, and Possibilities."

Aimee Bahng, Pomona, moderated the panel "Doing Justice to Octavia E. Butler’s HistoFuturist Imagination: The Archive and Beyond."

Victor Bene, Pitzer ’19, presented "Reading Resistance: Black Queer Maroon Archival Aesthetics."

Piya Chatterjee, Scripps, was a presenter on the panel "What does Justice for/in Palestine look like? A Praxis of Transnational Solidarity," as well as moderator for "Academic Freedom for Whom? Islamophobia, Palestine and Campus Politics."

Joe Parker, Pitzer, presented "Gendered Indigenous Subaltern Praxis in the Americas: Reading Spivak on Justice" on a panel moderated by Ellen Rentz, CMC, "Gender in Latin American Indigenous and Environmental Movements."


Tiffani Smith, CGU ’17, was on the roundtable "Self-Visioning and Space-Making: The Sista Scholar Collective" and also presented "Freedom from Representation: A Critical Analysis of Aung San Suu Kyi’s Response to Human Rights in Myanmar."

Spotlight on Zayn Kassam

Zayn Kassam, John Knox McLean Professor of Religious Studies at Pomona, was elected as status committee director at the American Academy of Religion. She will represent the concerns of the four status committees (LGBTQ Persons in the Profession; People with Disabilities in the Profession; Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession; and Status of Women in the Profession) to the AAR board. Zayn has also been appointed director of the Pacific Basin Institute at Pomona College. She serves as coordinator for Pomona’s Gender and Women’s Studies Program and Napier Advisory Board at Pilgrim Place. She also serves on editorial boards for Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion and Journal of the American Academy of Religion. Recently, she edited Women in Asian Religions (2017) and co-edited Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism (2018). She also serves on the IFC Steering Committee as Pomona GWS representative.

Spotlight on Suchi Branfman

Suchi Branfman (Scripps Dance) has been teaching a dance class at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC), a men’s prison in Norco; three Claremont students also have participated. This fall, she did a “tour” of colleges and conferences to present her work in prison, “Dancing Through Prison Walls.” She visited Long Island University, Bard College, Performing the World Conference (NYC), National Dance Educators Organization Conference (San Diego), Imagining America National Conference (Chicago), The Space Upstairs (Pittsburgh), Higher Education in Prisons National Conference (Indianapolis), and Art + Practice, a gallery in Leimart Park. She also taught a dance class at Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana in October. See next page for a photo of Suchi’s class at CRC.
Prison Abolition Series
In November, IFC and Liwam Nerayo worked with the Prison Abolition Group to organize screenings of *Symbols of Resistance* and *Cointelpro 101* with the Freedom Archives filmmakers Claude Marks and Nathaniel Moore. Professor José Calderón from Pitzer College joined the conversation following *Symbols of Resistance*, sharing memories of the Chicano movement in Colorado, the legacy of the Chicano activists and his continuing work with farmworkers through his classes. Both films are available in the IFC Library.

Other 5C Prison Abolition events included workshops with CRC staff member and Scripps alum Jess Heaney. Erin Runions (Religion, Pomona) and Val Thomas (English, Pomona) participated in the club's panel, "A Conversation on Prison Abolition and Sexual Violence," along with Scripps alum Tiombe Wallace and Vonya Quarles, executive director of Starting Over.

Q&A with Nathaniel Moore, Claude Marks and Jose Calderón.

Coming this spring:
Policing, Women and Public Health
On March 8, IFC will present a daylong symposium on police violence and public health, with a focus on LGBTQ people and women of color. At its national conference in November, the American Public Health Association adopted a statement declaring police violence to be a public health issue. Relatedly, the San Francisco-based Do No Harm Coalition is engaged in a study, The Justice Study, with a team of health researchers from Santa Clara University and UCSF, to investigate the health outcomes in communities with law enforcement violence. The symposium will include speakers from these organizations and other scholars and activists addressing topic areas such as trauma and mental health, homelessness, immigration, and alternatives to policing and incarceration. Keynote speaker is scholar-activist-attorney Andrea Ritchie, author of the 2018 book *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color*. IFC is working with Scripps alumna Jess Heaney ('08) of Critical Resistance to plan the program. Watch for details!

Crossroads' Holiday Open House is December 15, 1-4 p.m., 1269 Harvard Ave. ALL ARE WELCOME!

The gardening project at the California Institution for Women is continuing, with IFC sponsorship. Sue Castagnetto and Deborah Mindry organize the Saturday morning visits. If you are interested in doing some gardening with women inside, contact Sue at scastagn@scrippscollege.edu.

Taylor Lyle speaking on the panel with Susan Bustamante, Sarah Fiske-Phillips, and Natashia Deón, moderated by Sue Castagnetto

For their final project for their Scripps Core III Antiracist Transnational Feminist Coalition class with Piya Chatterjee, Mackenzie Rutherford and Emma Mei Li produced a panel discussion on reentry and readjustment post-prison. The panel was the culminating event in the Prison Abolition Club's fall series. Panelists were Taylor Lyle, an organizer with the California Coalition of Women Prisoners; Susan Bustamente, a current resident of Crossroads, Inc., who also was chair of Convicted Women Against Abuse while at CIW; Sarah Fiske-Phillips, Associate Director of Crossroads; and Natashia Deón, a defense attorney and author. Sue Castagnetto moderated the panel. The entire discussion may be viewed here. Forms to volunteer with the California Coalition of Women Prisoners are available at IFC. Various volunteer opportunities are available, including letter writing, prison visits, and other activities.

Suchi Branfman's dance class at CRC (Photo: Cooper Bates)
Meet IFC's Student Staff

Daniela Bond (She/Her) is a junior at Pomona College and a Posse scholar from Miami, Florida. She is majoring in Media Studies and minoring in Psychology. She is also the Title IX Advocacy Director for ASPC. Last summer, she interned at the Feminist Majority Foundation in Los Angeles. In her free time, she loves reading and watching movies/TV shows.

Hannah Weissler (She/Her) is a senior at Scripps College, majoring in Politics and minoring in Psychology. At IFC, Hannah does social media, manages library resources, and does event planning. She was an intern at the American Association of University Women, where she researched institutional barriers facing female faculty in higher education in tenure acquisition and lobbied on Capitol Hill for gender equity-related bills. Hannah has also interned with Congressman Jamie Raskin and D.C. Public Schools’ Compliance and Policy Division. She hopes to continue working in policy, focusing on education and on how current policies are affecting women and other marginalized groups in the classroom.

Liwam Nerayo (She/Her) is a junior at Pomona studying Public Policy Analysis with a concentration in Biology. She enjoys practicing Tigrinya with her parents, visiting LA’s Natural History Museum and walking by the Pomona College Farm. Liwam has been helping to organize prison-related programs. She is excited to explore resources that center womyn in international black liberation movements. She also works with the 5C Prison Abolition Club and the Claremont Christian Fellowship. Liwam would like to create events that explore the intersections of a black feminist praxis, prison abolition and public health.

Annamae Sax (She/Her/They/Them) is a first year graduate student at CGU in Applied Women’s Studies with a concentration in Cultural Studies. She received a double Bachelors from the University of Arizona in 2018 in Creative Writing, focusing on Poetry, and in Gender and Women's Studies, focusing on Queer, Trans, and Sexuality Studies. She also blogs for the Kingsley and Kate Tufts Poetry Blog. Her interests are outreach, healing, and transformative justice for LGBTQIA+ survivors of sexual assault, as well as prison reform/abolition and understanding addiction.

News from Alums

Jett Bachman (GWS, Pomona, 2015) is Youth Educator for the Early Childhood and Elementary Initiative at Day One, a violence prevention, education and services organization for youth in New York City.

Adriana di Bartolo (AWS, CGU, 2008; Education, CGU, 2012) has been appointed Associate Dean of Students at Scripps College.

Evelyn Gonzalez (FGSS, Scripps, 2018) works for the main office of YouthBuild Charter School in Los Angeles. She plans to pursue graduate work in Public Health at Boston University in fall 2019.

Alison Kafer (Women’s Studies in Religion, CGU, 2005) has been named to the Embrey Chair in Women’s & Gender Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. You can find her book Feminist, Queer, Crip in the IFC Library. She will be visiting Claremont in late March for a symposium on disability.

Andrea Kozak (GWS, Scripps, 2012) received her J.D. from Columbia Law School and works at the Disability Rights Center in New York City.

Romarilyn Ralston (GFS, Pitzer, 2014) was invited to speak at the Presidential Session "Imagining a World Without Prisons Through a Feminist Lens" at the NWSA in November. She recently received the 2018 Civil Rights Advocacy Award from the Orange County Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women.