

Research

Recent Publications

- Berthoud, R., Lakey, L., and McKay, S. (1993). *The Economic Problems of Disabled People*. London: Policy Studies Institute.
- Morris, J., Ed. (1996). *Encounters with Strangers: Feminism and Disability*. London: The Women's Press Ltd.
- Orgad, S. (2005). *Storytelling Online: Talking Breast Cancer on the Internet*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.
- Zirinski, R. (2005). *Ad Hoc Arabism: Advertising, Culture, and Technology in Saudi Arabia*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc.

Announcement

The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) is proud to announce its forthcoming International Training Course on Gender, Development and Participatory Governance. We would be pleased if you could pass on this information to anyone who might benefit from the course.

The new date for this year's session is: 14 November- 2 December 2005. It will take place at KIT's training centre in Amsterdam. The course addresses a number of questions, including:

- What is gender analysis and why is a rights-based approach important in development?
- How can we enhance women's political effectiveness?
- What is the role of civil society in holding governments accountable for gender equality commitments?
- How can marginalized groups be assisted to claim citizenship and equal rights?

The course offers participants:

- Theoretical and practical knowledge of gender, development and participatory governance
- Information about, and analysis of, international instruments for achieving gender equality
- Strategic skills to ensure the prioritisation of gender equity in the development and governance agenda
- The opportunity to share relevant experiences and materials among participants from different countries

For further details on course contents, entrance requirements and registration, please visit the course website <http://www.kit.nl/development/html/gdpg.asp> or write to: gender@kit.nl

Campaign for the Visibility of Disabled Women in the UN Convention

Since 2002 the United Nation's Member States have been negotiating "A Comprehensive and Integral Convention

on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities." Although the human rights of persons with disabilities are fairly well respected in the actual draft, the gender perspective is missing nearly throughout the document. The special needs and discriminations of women with disabilities are hardly mentioned or referred to. Disabled women remain invisible so far. Therefore the organisations NETZWERK ARTIKEL 3 and Sozialverband Deutschland (SoVD) started the campaign "Towards Visibility of Disabled Women in the UN Convention!" You can support this campaign on: www.un-disabledwomen.org

Arab Women's Forum Website:

<http://www.awfarab.org>

A Resource for Action in the Arab Region

ECWR's Arab Women's Forum is a network of activists and NGOs from 16 Arab countries convened by ECWR to support a region-wide Arab women's movement. The Forum provides partners with mutual support, information sharing, trainings and joint action. The AWF's website, www.awfarab.org was launched in Dec. 2004 and is a center for information on women's political and legal status in 22 Arab countries - information that is often difficult to access but absolutely necessary to activists fighting to end the discrimination against women in their country.

F i l m s

The Day I Became a Woman

In her first feature film, Meshkini visually unfolds the stages of womanhood in a series of three vignettes. Hawa is about to turn nine, the age where she has to cover herself. She can no longer play in the streets with boys, especially her best friend Hassan. Ahoos is threatened with divorce by her husband, the local mullah and relatives if she doesn't stop cycling. Hoorah, bound to her wheelchair, spends her inheritance on everything she could not afford in her youth.

Covered Girls

The camera lens focuses on Muslim-American adolescents in New York, wearing full-length dresses and headscarves. Preconceptions about a misunderstood culture are challenged. Tavasha composes rap songs, Kiren is a basketball coach and Amnah has a black belt in Karate. Their daily experiences are documented, whether in a Brooklyn mosque or a recording studio in Harlem. After 9/11 when they were pushed, spat upon and threatened, these girls find themselves torn between religious extremism and the American dream.