

## Recent Publications

- Antrobu, P. 2005, *The Global Women's Movement: Origins, Issues and Strategies*, London, Zed Books.
- Ricciutelli, L., Miles, A., & Mc. Fadden, M.H. (eds). 2005, *Feminist Politics, Activism and Vision*, London, Zed Books.
- Kerr, J. Spenger, E., & Symington, A. (eds). 2005, *The Future of Women's Rights*, London, Zed Books.

## Call for Papers

### **Journal of International Women's Studies Special Issue: Women's Bodies, Gender Analysis, and Feminist Politics at the Fórum Social Mundial**

Since its inauguration in 2001, the World Social Forum (WSF) has gained increasing importance as a venue for strengthening alternatives to the neoliberal agenda for globalization. The WSF has been described as both a process and an event, following an agreed upon set of principles in its planning and convening in order to foster new forms of organization and movement building. Nevertheless, this is an evolving, fluid phenomenon as the World Social Forums have given rise to several regional, local and thematic social forums.

Many women and some feminists have participated in various ways in these forums: as organizers, workshop presenters, participants and malcontents. Along with the Association for Women's Rights and Development AWID's triennial global conferences, the WSF offers women's organizations predictably scheduled opportunities to network with activists from distant locales and other sectors. However, the experiences of women working in this expansive and sometimes overwhelming environment have been uneven and contradictory, and the roles played by gender analysis and feminist politics often ambiguous.

For this special issue of the *Journal of International Women's Studies* we are seeking contributions in a range of genres from women who have direct experience with organizing or attending one or more of the World Social Forums or regional/local forums organized under the auspices and according to the principles of the Fórum Social Mundial. Submissions might include theoretical or analytical essays, reflective narratives, activity reports or evaluations, manifestos, press releases, posters or other ephemera. *JWS's* intention is to collect materials documenting the range of experiences and activities occurring under the tent of the WSF so that feminist practice within the Social Forums can gain in effectiveness. We also

believe it is important to begin to archive this activism as it happens.

With the tri-partite polycentric forums planned for Caracas (Venezuela), Bamako (Mali), and Karachi (Pakistan) in January 2006 and the first US Social Forum scheduled for Atlanta in 2007, the Social Forum process is on the cusp of gaining new visibility in the US media. This, therefore, seems a precipitous juncture for gathering our thoughts and recollections about this evolving phenomenon.

Please submit your contribution to the editors no later than April 30, 2006 following the guidelines posted on the *JWS's* website at [www.bridgew.edu/JIWS](http://www.bridgew.edu/JIWS)  
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The *Journal of International Women's Studies* is an online, open-access, peer reviewed journal that provides a forum for scholars, activists, and students to explore the relationship between feminist theory and various forms of organizing. *JWS* is currently indexed with the Library of Congress, the MLA International Bibliography, The International Bibliography of Social Sciences, Elsevier Bibliographic Databases, Ulrich's Periodicals, the Gale Group, and at <http://webster.bridgew.edu>

## Films

### **Afghan Alphabet by Mohsen Makhmalbaf** *Iran/ Afghanistan 2001, Documentary, color, 45'*

In this poignant visual diary, Makhmalbaf interviews children in villages near the Iranian-Afghan border, questioning those who are not going to school after the fall of the Taliban. One young female Afghan refugee attending classes held by UNICEF reveals her unwillingness to uncover her face even though she cannot see clearly. What she fears is the horrifying God created by the Taliban, particularly if she were to unveil.

### **Cousins, by Lyess Salem** *France/Algeria 2003, Short fiction, Color, 32'*

Driss is to spend a month in Algeria, his native country, which has deeply changed ever since he left. He meets Nedjma, a distant cousin, who is slightly conservative and timid. He awakens in her a desire for independence and freedom, yet her hand is promised to Amran.