

Bridging through Stories: Families, Work and Gendered Migration across the Global Village

2016 SYMPOSIUM



friday, march 25, 2016 | Lbj student center | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Presented in conjunction with the 2015 – 2016 Common Experience theme, Bridged through Stories: Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico, an Homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera

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CENTER FOR
DIVERSITY AND
GENDER STUDIES

Schedule

Welcome and Coffee

Ballroom | 8:30-8:45 a.m.

Audwin Anderson, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, Texas State University

Opening

Ballroom | 8:45-9 a.m.

Morning Keynote Speaker



Ballroom | 9–10 a.m.
The Real Life of Migrants and Our Response

James C. Harrington

Director, Texas Civil Rights Project

Morning Sessions

Concurrent Sessions | 10:15 a.m.-noon

Lunch Keynote Speaker



Ballroom | 12:15–1:45 p.m.
The Things That Get Erased: Insights into Stories,
Intersectionality and Social Justice
The Honorable Mary E. González
State Representative for House District 75

Afternoon Sessions

Concurrent Sessions | 2-3:45 p.m.

Closing and Awards

Ballroom | 4-4:30 p.m.

Audwin Anderson, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Diversity and Gender Studies, Texas State University

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Awards

2016 Outstanding Women's Studies Scholars

Outstanding Faculty Scholars

Patti Giuffre, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Sociology Texas State University

Deborah Harris, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology Texas State University

Outstanding Student Scholar

Kami Rutherford

Master's Student, Department of Sociology Texas State University

Outstanding Career Achievement

Sharon Ugalde, Ph.D.

University Distinguished Professor, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Session Locations

Morning Sessions

Education, Art and the Immigrant Experience of Women Room 3-5.1	Women and the Global Labor Force Room 3-10.1	Europe's Migration Dilemma Panel Room 3-14.1	Global Health Issues Room 3-15.1
Adrianna M. Santos, Ph.D. Vehículo for a Voice: Testimonio, Trauma and Resistance in Josie Mendez-Negrete's Las hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed Hannah Fenster "Against Interpretation" Against White Supremacy?: Adding Sontag to Theoretical Discourse of Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Sarah Castillo Artistic Expressions and Conocimiento: Art as an Embodied Practice Nama Namakshi, M.Ed. Experiencing Mathematics: Describing the Beliefs of Three Minority Girls about their Experience of Mathematics at the Middle School Level	Mayra Avila La Pena Negra: Women Recall the Bracero Program, 1942-1964 Danielle Phillips, Ph.D. Bridging Stories of Women's Migrations: Irish Immigrants and Southern African American Domestic Workers in New York, 1880-1940 Choi Young Ji Family as an Important Unit of Modernization and its Roles: A Perspective on Developmental Modernization in Korea Maggie Chamberlain Impacts of Apparel Production on the Global Labor Force	Moira Di Mauro- Jackson, Ph.D.; Margaret Eleanor Menninger, Ph.D.; Antonio Gragera, Ph.D.; Kayla Hill, M.A. Europe's Migration Dilemma – What Can Be Done to Fix a Broken System?	Kelly Dyer Panic in the "Land of the Morning Calm": An Autoethnography on Emergency Contraceptive in South Korea Kimberly Lee, Ph.D.; Jenna Stewart Perceptions of the Work Family from a Team Leadership and Feminist Perspective in our Healthcare Environment: The Crucible of the Globa Village Wayne Paris, Ph.D; Irene Fuentes, Kaitlir Roberts, Taylor Nix, Sarah Floyd The Effect of an Interprofessional Educational Simulation Exercise on Student Perceptions Wayne Paris, Ph.D; Katherine Bisson, Tina Fleet, Eduwem Turner, Laine Foith, Tiffany Lutz, Emily Roman, Gordon Storey An Initial Assessment of the Working Families Success Model Among the Homeless and Underserved in Dallas, Texas

Afternoon Sessions

Concurrent Sessions | 2–3:45 p.m.

Storytelling as	Women, Politics	Gender Equality	Women and
Pedagogy	and Immigration	Panel	Migration Panel
Room 3-5.1	Room 3-10.1	Room 3-14.1	Room 3-15.1
Cindy Peña, M.A. "Testimonios" of Immigrant Daughters: How to "sobresalir" in their Education Adam Odomore Challenges to Female Education in the Developing World and International Efforts to Address those Challenges Samantha Alexander, M.P.A.; Patricia M. Shields, Ph.D. Texas Women City Managers: Their Stories of Success Brandon L. Beck, Ph.D.; Susan M. Croteau, M.Ed.; Katherine Lewis, M.Ed. Transcend(ing) the Binary: Building a Family through Shared Stories and Mentorship in a Student Organization	Mariam N. Erkin, M.A.; Catherine Hawkins, Ph.D. Arranged Marriages Among Pakistani Families: Shared Narratives and Bridged Stories Moira Di Mauro- Jackson, Ph.D. Bridging through Stories: Migrants' Voices in Translation —The Use of Italian as Portal to the West Jessica Foumena Women and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa Today	Thomas Longoria, Ph.D.; Darlene Budd, Ph.D.; Lynne L. Manganaro, Ph.D. Support for Gender Equality Duty Strategies among Local Government Officials in Texas	Gloria R. Velásquez, M.P.A., M.A.; Alba Melgar, M.A. Patriarchy and Women Migration Around the World

Symposium Abstracts

Morning Speaker Sessions

EDUCATION, ART AND THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN

Room 3-5.1 | 10:15 a.m.-noon

Vehículo for a Voice: Testimonio, Trauma and Resistance in Josie Mendeznegrete's Las hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed

Adrianna M. Santos, Ph.D.

Instructor, Department of English Texas A&M University-San Antonio

The memoir *Las hijas de Juan: Daughters Betrayed* (HJDB), by Josephine Mendez-Negrete, is a groundbreaking feminist text that offers a point of focus on the problem of violence against women. Through a powerful *testimonio*, Mendez-Negrete explores how interpersonal violence against women is normalized partly through society's imposition of gender roles and institutional violence. The text portrays the particular nuances of immigrant communities within the context of the systemic violence of intersectional oppressions, exploring how state intervention in domestic violence and incest act upon the immigrant (undocumented) family. The memoir exposes the stakes in reporting this kind of violence for survivors and examines their relationships with law enforcement and the justice system. HJDB also reveals the connections forged between survivors, and through this intervention, points to how we may begin to combat this issue on a global level.

"Against Interpretation"... Against White Supremacy: Adding Sontag to Theoretical Discourse of *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Hannah Fenster

Master's Candidate, Department of Comparative Literature University of Georgia

This presentation addresses gaps in the budding theoretical discourse surrounding Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 2013 novel *Americanah*. Existing criticism places the novel in conversation with theories of postcolonialism, cosmopolitanism and diaspora, but these approaches fail to name the novel's main function as a direct anti-racist critique of American host culture. To streamline the discussion of the novel's relevance to current social discourse in the United States, this paper adopts Susan Sontag's notion in "Against Interpretation" of resisting the search for a theory to "fit" the text, instead investigating the novel as a work of art whose emotional impact gives it an activist angle that challenges Anglo-American cultural hegemony in a practical way. The paper also

makes space for a reflexive discussion of the ethical and methodological drawbacks of using Sontag as an anti-theoretical framework.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND CONOCIMIENTO: ART AS AN EMBODIED PRACTICE

Sarah Castillo

Master's Candidate, Bicultural Studies program University of Texas at San Antonio

In the artistic process of identity formation, I have found that reflexivity best articulates the autoethnographic process in understanding self-concept and identity formation. In this work, the feminist research methodologies of autoethnography and Gloria E. Anzaldua's Mestiza Consciousness informs the way an artist can practice visual art as method to understanding identity. Inspired by my personal experience with art as a form of healing and understanding the fragments of identity, I'll look at how developing a connection between the practice of art-making, meaning making and feminist research methodologies expands self-concept and benefits the artist. The results are presented through photographic self-portraits and noted observations recorded during the process presented in prose. Through the combination of interdisciplinary research, writing and visual art, this project displays my personal approach to understanding identity as it is channeled through art.

Experiencing Mathematics: Describing the Beliefs of Three Minority Girls about Their Experience of Mathematics at the Middle School Level

Nama Namakshi, M.Ed.

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Mathematics Texas State University

This paper presents the findings of a qualitative single-site study conducted in 2011 at a middle school in central Texas involving three minority female middle school students, describing their experience of school mathematics by exploring their beliefs. Studies on female experiences with mathematics, the practice of educational deficit thinking, and minority students' beliefs about mathematics provide a rationale for and underpin the conceptual-framework of this study. Data was collected through interviews, classroom observation and documents. The key findings of this study suggest that the participants value mathematics and perceive it as a useful problem-solving process; are proactive, visual, persistent learners who enjoy inquiry-based learning but dislike group work; and tend not to perceive themselves as successful students of mathematics.

WOMEN AND THE GLOBAL LABOR FORCE

Room 3-10.1 | 10:15 a.m.-noon

La Pena Negra: Women Recall the Bracero Program, 1942-1964

Mayra Avila

Doctoral Candidate, Department of History University of Texas at El Paso

Women and families' survival depended on the female ability to adapt and survive the circumstances of the uncertainty caused by the male absence caused by the Bracero Program. "La Pena Negra: Women Recall the Bracero Program" historicizes the negotiation of empowerment and disempowerment of women in Mexican society during the Bracero Program. Using archival documents and oral life histories, this paper links and examines the roots and routes of discourses, cultural practices and political strategies shaping the female experience in Mexico while the male members of their families worked in the United States between 1942 and 1964. Recentering the narrative through a gendered framework brings forth the personal, emotional and social changes undergone by women for survival and necessity. Most importantly, these personal experiences add to an understanding of the effects a transnational immigrant labor program had on women.

Bridging Stories of Women's Migrations: Irish Immigrants and Southern African American Domestic Workers in New York, 1880-1940

Danielle Phillips, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies Texas Woman's University

My paper is a kernel of my current book project, which is a comparative study of the labor and migration histories of Irish immigrants and southern African American women who worked as domestic servants after having migrated to the state of New York during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The paper explores how Irish immigrants and southern black women became central to debates about race, migration, citizenship and domesticity that circulated across the Atlantic. By focusing on these intersections, the paper moves beyond individual case studies of Irish immigrants and southern African American domestic workers and provides a gendered counterpart to comparative studies of Irish immigrants and African American working men.

Family as an Important Unit of Modernization and Its Roles: A Perspective on Developmental Modernization in Korea

Choi Young Ji

Master's Candidate, Department of Sociology Seoul National University

Modernization in Korea has been understood in line with production such as industrial or economic growth rather than reproduction such as family or welfare. Therefore, viewing family as a unit of modernization has been commonly and scholarly neglected although strong familialism played a major role during the modernization process and until now. Unlike the common knowledge that family is a private sphere, during this era, the linkage between society and family has not loosened but is equipped with a new form of developmental modernization. In order to seek this change, this paper analyzes newspaper articles during the 1950s to '80s and examines the complicated roles of family. In general, women were guided to practice participatory citizenship in family rather than in labor market or politics. To make developmental citizens, the state separated work and family and gave different roles and charges to different sexes.

IMPACTS OF APPAREL PRODUCTION ON THE GLOBAL LABOR FORCE

Maggie Chamberlain

Master's Candidate, Department of Sociology Texas State University

The apparel industry increasingly employs the use of the global labor force to carry out its manufacturing and production needs. This global labor force, which is primarily female and third world, is especially vulnerable to exploitation by employers. Apparel industry workers are documented as facing long work days, abuses from their employers and unsafe working conditions. Through an in-depth examination of the sociological literature and an application of theoretical frameworks provided by George Ritzer and Allan Schnaiberg, this paper provides a preliminary examination of the apparel industry and its human impacts, followed by an outline of the implications this industry has for consumers. Additionally, this paper provides alternative options to the traditional source of apparel and strategies consumers can employ in order to decrease consumer dependence on the exploitative apparel production system.

EUROPE'S MIGRATION DILEMMA PANEL

Room 3-14.1 | 10:15 a.m.-noon

EUROPE'S MIGRATION DILEMMA – WHAT CAN BE DONE TO FIX A BROKEN SYSTEM?

Moira Di Mauro-Jackson, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Margaret Eleanor Menninger, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of History Texas State University

Antonio Gragera, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Kayla Hill, M.A.

Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages

In October 2013, around 360 people fleeing African states died when their boats capsized a mile from Sicily. The tragedy focused world attention on the risks taken regularly by migrants and asylum seekers looking to enter Europe. After all, this was not an unusual event: Between 2000 and 2014 more than 20,000 people died attempting to cross the Mediterranean. Managing migration and asylum seeker flows into Europe is a major challenge for the European Union and its member states. What can be done to address the humanitarian situation on Europe's borders? To what extent could new EU proposals — such as the creation of processing centres outside of the EU — lead to meaningful improvement? And what would a balanced and comprehensive European migration policy look like?

GLOBAL HEALTH ISSUES

Room 3-5.1 | 10:15 a.m.-noon

Panic in the "land of the Morning Calm": An Autoethnography on Emergency Contraceptives in South Korea

Kelly Dyer

Master's Candidate, Department of Women's and Gender Studies University of South Florida

This autoethnographic account engages feminist standpoint theory to examine my experience purchasing Norlevo, an emergency contraceptive pill, in South Korea (Korea) as a Guest Native English Teacher (gNET) American woman in 2014. The policies limiting women's access to reproductive information and resources in Korea

can be traced to Korea's post-war "family-planning programs," which sought to control the country's population growth to spur economic development. These policies are correlated with Korea's increased desire for English language learning as they have become a prominent global economic force. While Korea continues to compete in the global system and employ English language teachers, gNET women are overlooked in terms of providing reproductive health information and resources while living in Korea. I argue a need exists for multicultural approaches about women's reproductive health information geared toward gNET women in South Korea.

Perceptions of the Work Family From a Team Leadership and Feminist Perspective in Our Healthcare Environment: The Crucible of the Global Village

Kimberly Lee, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Graduate Programs Director, School of Health Administration Texas State University

Jenna Stewart

Master's Candidate, School of Health Administration Texas State University

Our healthcare system is becoming more diverse, including a collection of many cultures both from patient and caregiver perspectives, serving as a crucible for a growing trend of the global village of cultures, ethnicities, perspectives, needs, leadership and follower styles. Dr. Lee's recent research (2014) first examined the quantitative trends in a healthcare system of seven companies using data relative to the most critical aspects of teaming. In a qualitative phase of the study, nine focus groups surfaced the "work family" as prevalent and delineated the team leader as creating a positive culture for the "work family" to thrive. The most positive team leaders were women. Ms. Stewart's current research examines the roles of women in healthcare leadership roles from a feminist perspective. Her research further provides nuances as to why and how women lead in healthcare teams and the impact on diversity and plurality in our healthcare system.

The Effect of an Interprofessional Educational Simulation Exercise on Student Perceptions

Wayne Paris, Ph.D.

Director, Master of Science in Social Work Program Abilene Christian University

Irene Fuentes Kaitlin Roberts Taylor Nix Sarah Floyd

Master's Candidates, School of Social Work Abilene Christian University The Intergroup Contact Theory, as first described by Allport (1954), suggests that when members of different groups collaborate, they reduce prejudice and stereotyping. This allows the group to function at its best. Many studies have investigated the effect this theory has on organizations and healthcare teams. When groups participate in collaborative exercises, interprofessional education and team unity are enhanced (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006). However, the impact that collaborative educational exercises have on personal perceptions of professional attitudes and skills between different ethnic groups and genders has not been widely studied.

Undergraduate and graduate student involvement in the conducting of trauma exercises provides unique professional learning experiences that reach beyond the classroom and the traditional educational process. The opportunity to analyze trauma exercise data in collaboration with faculty enhances the learning experiences for both faculty and students from an evidence-based practice perspective.

An Initial Assessment of the Working Families Success Model Among the Homeless and Underserved in Dallas, Texas

Wayne Paris, Ph.D.

Director, Master of Science in Social Work Program Abilene Christian University

Katherine Bisson Tina Fleet Eduwem Turner Laine Foith Tiffany Lutz Emily Roman Gordon Storey

Master's Candidates, School of Social Work Abilene Christian University

Under the umbrella of Working Families Success (WFS) model of the Communities Foundation of Texas, the CitySquare Community Development Agency has been providing a structured education and training program and evaluating the outcomes as part of a 10-agency cohort in assessing the effectiveness of financial counseling as an important component of helping the underserved in Dallas, Texas, become economically stable and self-sufficient. The WFS model is a comprehensive "approach to helping low-income families achieve financial stability by bundling three services: financial coaching, employment services and income support" (Communities Foundation of Texas, 2015, para. 1). The current work will provide an outline of the WFS model and the initial analysis of its impact on the poor and underserved of Dallas, Texas.

Afternoon Speaker Sessions

STORYTELLING AS PEDAGOGY

Room 3-5.1 | 2-3:45 p.m.

"Testimonios" of Immigrant Daughters: How to "Sobresalir" in Their Education

Cindy Peña, M.A.

While pursuing a master's degree at The University of Texas at San Antonio, I began my research by documenting the educational pathways to higher education of second-generation Latina immigrants. My research focused on two questions: How did daughters of immigrants succeed through their educational career? and What observable cultural traits helped them succeed? I interviewed three second-generation Latinas with post-high school degrees and discussed their intersectional ties to class, race, gender and culture. Employing the methodological concept Gloria Anzaldúa used as her pedagogical tool in *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, I was able to capture the digital testimonios of three Latinas with varying degrees. The end result was a video documentary depicting Latinas' sobresaliendo in higher education capturing and (re)telling their oral histories, creating counter-narratives and their agency, defining their identity, and navigating between two separate cultural worlds.

Challenges to Female Education in the Developing World and International Efforts to Address Those Challenges

Adam Odomore, B.A.

Texas State University

This study explains the challenges that females in developing nations face in regards to attaining an education. These challenges include but are not limited to poverty, religious customs, menstruation, child marriage, war conflicts, patriarchal traditions and antagonism towards Western education. The study examines specific countries, namely Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Yemen, Uganda and South Africa, with the aim of obtaining a good cross section of developing countries with varying circumstances while examining the major international responses that are addressing these obstacles to education of females. This study concludes that while the solutions to the challenges that females face in getting an education are beginning to show some progress, more has to be done, particularly in influencing old cultures through the use of education to create new cultures of equality between males and females.

Texas Women City Managers: Their Stories of Success

Samantha Alexander, M.P.A.

Assistant Director of Public Affairs and Operations Austin Independent School District

Patricia M. Shields, Ph.D.

Professor, Political Science Texas State University

Career paths are easily translated into story. Scholarship on city manager career paths reveals four common prototypes – Long Servers, Ladder Climbers, Lateral Movers and Single-City Careerist. This paper examines the four prototype stories of success in city management. Although not exclusive, these are the stories of men. Using résumé analysis of Texas women city managers (n=41), this study examines the career choices among these successful women. We find that most women's stories of success fall into two categories: Ladder Climbers and Single-City Careerists. We speculate about the factors that contribute to seemingly more limited choices.

Transcend(Ing) the Binary: Building a Family through Shared Stories and Mentorship in a Student Organization

Brandon L. Beck, Ph.D.

Lecturer, Department of Curriculum and Instruction Texas State University

Susan M. Croteau, M.Ed.

Doctoral Student, School Improvement Texas State University

Katherine Lewis, M.Ed.

Doctoral Student, School Improvement Texas State University

At Texas State, we have found that the student organization "Transcend" provides a family for transgender and non-binary students. In this family, students who are often marginalized in other aspects of campus life find opportunities to use shared stories to bridge from their campus experiences to their gendered experiences. Storytelling provides members a sense of belonging to the group. Advisors and allies provide support within the Transcend family and advocate and educate across campus so that other faculty can be supportive as well. In this paper, we will discuss the ways that Transcend provides a family for transgender and non-binary students at Texas State. We will include shared stories from the members and discuss the role of mentoring.

WOMEN, POLITICS AND IMMIGRATION

Room 3-10.1 | 2-3:45 p.m.

Arranged Marriages Among Pakistani Families: Shared Narratives and Bridged Stories

Mariam N. Erkin, M.A. Catherine Hawkins, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Social Work Texas State University

There is a considerable body of literature regarding arranged marriages in South Asian communities living in the Western world. Most of the literature is focused on Indian, Bengali, Afghani and Nepali families. Very limited literature exists on the impact of arranged marriages in Pakistani communities, especially pertaining to immigrant families living in the United States. This qualitative exploratory study examines key aspects of Pakistani culture and family life. It addresses such issues as forced marriage vs. arranged marriage, gender-based bias, cultural identity and tradition, religious beliefs among Sunni Muslims, first- and second-generation immigrant patterns and online marketing of matrimony sites. As a Pakistani-origin immigrant living in the U.S., the primary author has personal experience with the complex interaction of these sociocultural factors. The presentation will provide a brief overview of the scholarly literature as well as a summary of shared narratives. In addition to writing an autoethnography of her own story, the author conducted several informal interviews with close family and friends who reside in both in the U.S. and Pakistan. The identities of the participants are altered in respect to specific relationships in order to protect their confidentiality. Through noting shared narrative themes, the lived experiences of these women are "bridged through stories." Of particular note, they disclosed the pivotal role of religion in shaping the ancient tradition of arranged marriage as well as influencing modern adaptations. The purpose of the presentation is to foster a better understanding of arranged marriages in contemporary Pakistani households across different sociocultural contexts through shared narratives.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF NORTH KOREAN REFUGEE WOMEN: THE POLITICS OF TESTIMONIES AND THE VIOLENCE OF REPRESENTATION

Seung Gyeong Ji, M.A.

Doctoral Student, Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies University of Minnesota

This paper is a critical engagement into the imperial gaze toward North Korean women migration and the violent representations of North Korean refugees in the sociopolitical campaign of "Choson Exchange" and "Liberty in North Korea" on U.S. soil. Through participatory observations and rhetorical analysis, I explore three political

events that were held in the University of Minnesota during 2014-15. My analytical points are the ways in which white saviorism reiterates and objectifies North Korean migration women in alignment with the constructions of "third world women." These representations efface the complex historical backgrounds of the political conflicts between the U.S., China, South Korea and North Korea since the Cold War, while dramatizing and victimizing North Korean women's histories. Furthermore, "Choson Exchange" represents North Korean women as the pure and backward subjects as well as a new wasteland for the Western frontiersmen or newly emerged Asian entrepreneurs for neoliberalism.

Bridging through Stories: Migrants' Voices in Translation — The Use of Italian as Portal to the West

Moira Di Mauro-Jackson, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Foreign writers have attempted to use Italian as their Lingua Franca throughout the ages. Writers from the Middle Ages, for example, used Italian when seeking to express certain notions, like love (attempting a Petrarchian Sonnet) or attempting to write in Italian as "outsiders" (as Montaigne, Byron and Pound did later). But in the new immigration advent of the last 20-30 years, we see an immigration of bilingual authors who choose to write and inscribe their original culture in Italian. Italian thus becomes the language of introduction or passage allowing the Eastern mentality to reach the west. Like many contemporary writers, Italian allows these authors to inhabit a space of their own, to inscribe their own identity. These are works in translation, but instead of using the Italian language solely as a communicative device or a literary preference, Italian becomes a condition of being, allowing the world to hear a louder "voice."

Women and Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa Today

Jessica Foumena

Doctoral Student, College of Media and Communication Texas Tech University

While Americans are still trying to figure out whether they should elect their first female head of state, numerous African countries have made this bold move years ago. Liberia, Central African Republic and most recently Mauritius are the African countries currently led by women. Therefore, women are not just on the rise in African politics, they rule. As girls, African women have been prepared to hold important responsibilities. In fact, African women are the cornerstones of their communities. For most of them, they are more likely to take great personal pride in ensuring the well-being of their families rather than seeking public recognition. Raised in patriarchal societies where their work is generally taken for granted, African women have been taught not to be celebrated, in spite of all their sacrifices and hard work. Unfortunately, this still is

happening in the 21st century. Our world still overlooks the leadership roles taken by African women in politics and in their respective communities. For most people around the globe, the international media narrative still portrays African women as victims. The international community still sees African women as silent and desperate beings who are just waiting to be rescued, when African women are heroines, if not living legends, for their families, their communities and their countries. In this presentation, we will talk about women and politics in Africa today and why the world needs to start having conversations with African women.

GENDER EQUALITY PANEL

Room 3-14.1 | 2-3:45 p.m.

Support for Gender Equality Duty Strategies Among Local Government Officials in Texas

Thomas Longoria, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Political Science Texas State University

Darlene Budd, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science University of Central Missouri

Lynne L. Manganaro, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences Texas A&M International University

This study explores the concept of gender equality duty (GED) as a local government policy innovation. GED legally requires that public authorities take tangible policy actions to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote equality of opportunity between women and men. The paper introduces specific gender-focused strategies that potentially promote gender equality and places these strategies in the context of the innovation literature. A survey of local government officials in Texas is used to answer several questions. First, do public managers support GED policies at different levels compared to other policy innovations? Second, are there differences in levels of support of GED policies based on public manager and community characteristics? This study finds that public managers see some GED policies similarly to other policy innovations. However, those GED policies that have a more explicit gender focus receive less support. We find that community characteristics do a better job explaining support for GED policies compared to individual characteristics. It is of note that administrators in urban and rural communities support GED at higher levels than suburban communities. In addition, white public managers are less supportive of GED than non-white managers. Women are more supportive of GED, but this finding is not statistically significant.

WOMEN AND IMMIGRATION PANEL

Room 3-15.1 | 2-3:45 p.m.

Patriarchy and Women Migration Around the World

The view of gender as a "social construction" has raised questions that have fuelled much of the research in the study of women and migration over the last decade. One of those questions relates to patriarchy, or the hierarchies of power, domination and control men use to rule women. How does patriarchy, which gives men preferential access to the resources available in society, affect women's ability to migrate, the timing of that migration and the final destination?

Gloria R. Velásquez, M.P.A, M.A.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Alba Melgar, M.A.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Modern Languages Texas State University

Women and Gender Research Collaborative Symposium Committee

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