



# CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONSORTIUM ON  
RACE, GENDER, & ETHNICITY

## Ford/Casey Fund New CRGE Research

**M**ore than \$220,000 in new research monies will support CRGE studies on the effects of economic development and welfare reform (Ford Foundation funding) and disparities reduction of disadvantaged children and neighborhoods (Annie E. Casey Foundation).

### Follow-Up Funded by Ford

Approximately \$140,000 from the Ford Foundation will fund "The Effects of Poverty and Welfare Reform Among Female-Headed Families in the Rural Mid-South: A Collaborative Follow-Up Study." The study's principal investigator is Dr. Bonnie Thornton Dill. The project director is Dr. Tallese Johnson, who was recently hired by CRGE.

The study builds on earlier Ford-funded research by Dill and colleagues that examined poor female-headed families in two rural Mississippi counties in the early 1990s. The current study will investigate coping and survival strategies of low-income, single mothers. This follow-up will allow comparison of data collected before and after the implementation of TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families), thus making possible an assessment of the impact of the 1996 reauthorization legislation.

In addition to initiating this follow-up study, Dr. Johnson will design a project on rural poverty and submit a proposal for funding to several federal agencies and foundations.

Dr. Johnson joined CRGE as a research associate in October 2002. Her research interests include poverty, welfare reform, and the intersection of gender, work, and family among poor people. She is working on issues that link public policy and

welfare reform and serves as co-director of the Poverty and Welfare Research Interest Group. Dr. Johnson also works with Professor Kathleen Mullan Harris (UNC-Chapel Hill) on a project that analyzes the relationship between gender of children and mothers' employment. Johnson and Harris draw on data from the Three City Study, a survey of primarily low-income single-mother families living in Boston, Chicago, and San Antonio. Dr. Johnson was awarded a Ph.D. in sociology by the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2000. She recently completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



**BONNIE THORNTON DILL, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, AND TALLESE JOHNSON, PROJECT DIRECTOR**

### Action Briefs Funded by Casey

The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) has awarded \$83,000 in initial grant monies for CRGE to coordinate and

*continued on page 3*

### FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

AMY MCLAUGHLIN, PH.D.

**A**s we enter our fifth year, the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity (CRGE) remains dedicated to its goals of promoting and advancing intersectional scholarship and transferring knowledge gained to the upcoming generation of scholars.

With completion of our successful first semester of the CRGE Interdisciplinary Scholars Program (CrISP), training of the next generation became a reality. And as we watched our cohort of first-year graduate students negotiate their first semester, interesting parallels emerged between their experiences as new scholars and ours as a relatively young research center: parallels included establishing a sense of place, defining goals, creating interdisciplinary ties, and emerging with viable new research/knowledge on intersectionality.

Establishing a sense of place on such a large campus is an important first step for both incoming graduate students and newly established research centers. CRGE has spent its early years defining its mission, developing research program areas, and funding research interest groups. These internal structures are instrumental in broadening our integration into the campus and laying a blueprint for future growth.

Valuable, creative ties have been forged between CRGE and campus institutions such as the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the African Diaspora and the Maryland Population Research Center. These centers and others promote research agendas located at the overlapping areas of our respective missions. Our relationships are mutually beneficial and provide shared opportunities for expansion.

For example, CRGE, the Driskell Center, and the Maryland Institute for

*continued on page 3*

## The Women's Health Movement: *Into Our Own Hands*

LAURA A. LOGIE, PH.D. STUDENT,  
WOMEN'S STUDIES

*Into Our Own Hands: The Women's Health Movement in the United States, 1969-1990* by Sandra Morgen is a polished and knowledgeable book providing an extremely thorough account of the feminist health movement. The book's triumph is Dr. Morgen's ability to describe the many challenges facing the movement, while giving hope that progress can be made by women who will continue to work individually and collectively for a healthier, more equitable, and just world.

Dr. Morgen begins her analysis in 1969 with stories that allow the reader to appreciate the significant contributions of women in grassroots movements. She writes: "The forty-five women I interviewed include leaders and staff of key women's health advocacy organizations ... From the voices and experiences of women who have built the women's health movement, I have endeavored to forge a coherent historical study of a movement that was almost always experienced locally but that quickly achieved national and then international scope." Through ethnographic fieldwork, interviews with leading activists, a survey of early 1990s women's health-movement organizations, and documentary material from feminist health clinics and advocacy groups, Dr. Morgen shows us not only how the women's health movement started—but how it weathered adversity.

By focusing on the concepts of collective identity and social memory, she emphasizes the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and ethnicity among organizations and, most importantly, among the diverse group of feminist women who revolutionized women's health care.

*Into Our Own Hands* is divided into two major parts. The first presents the women's health movement as a collection of historical conceptions, origin narratives of 49 programs and centers that are part of the women's health movement. Specifically, Dr. Morgen writes: "I embrace the metaphor of conception not

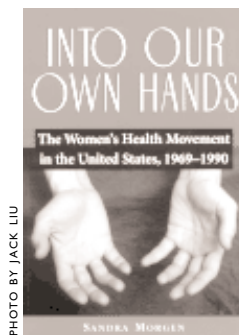


PHOTO BY JACK LIU

**INTO OUR OWN  
HANDS: THE  
WOMEN'S HEALTH  
MOVEMENT  
IN THE UNITED  
STATES, 1969-1990,  
SANDRA MORGEN,  
2002, RUTGERS  
UNIVERSITY PRESS,  
ISBN 0-8135-3071-7.  
DR. SANDRA**

**MORGEN IS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER  
FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY,  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON.**

just because it is obvious for a movement whose heart was women's reproductive experience and health, but because I want to underline the process by which this national social movement was imagined and enacted."

In part two, Morgen explores how modern social movements are experienced and structured as political forces. Specifically, Dr. Morgen calls for the subversion of dominant power relations among women's health organizations: "It requires that those who bring class or racial privilege into an organizational context be open to hearing and changing how that class or racial privilege operates to silence, marginalize, and overwhelm others. More significantly, it requires structural change within organizations and within the larger society."

Throughout, we see aspects of historical, political, social, and economic accomplishments and challenges faced by women's health activists who have scored important gains, both within the biomedical community and the smaller collectives focused on improving health care choices available to women through advocacy and policy. The National Black Women's Health Project is among the groups discussed.

Dr. Morgen concludes the book with this statement: "the women's health movement has succeeded in demonstrating that improvements in women's health care depend not just on technological advances in medicine, but on social policies and practices that eradicate poverty, sexism, racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination and injustice. Given that insight, there is a long road ahead." ■

### Lecture: Adultified Children

Dr. Linda Burton, director, Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts, and professor of human development, family studies, and sociology, The Pennsylvania State University, will present a lecture **Thursday, noon, March 20 in the Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall**. Dr. Burton's talk is co-sponsored by CRGE and the Maryland Population Research Center, and entitled, "Growing Up a Little Faster: An Ethnographic Life Course Perspective on Adultified Children."

### Writing Ethnography: *Coming of Age*

Dr. Carol Stack, ethnographer and author, will visit campus spring semester. Dr. Stack will participate in the CRGE **graduate colloquium, April 17**, and give a campus talk co-sponsored by CRGE and the Maryland Population Center, **Friday, noon, April 18 in Room 2309, Art Sociology Building**. At the colloquium, Dr. Stack will use her book *Call to Home: African Americans Reclaim the Rural South* as an illustrative reference on writing ethnography. *Call to Home* chronicles Black reverse migration to the South, a region of the country that has seen a tremendous social, moral, and economic rebirth. Her campus lecture will focus on her new book, *Coming of Age at Minimum Wage*, which examines the geography/demography of work, place, youth, race, and inequality among adolescents who work in fast food establishments.

### CRGE Campus Report

You may have received a recent email request to participate in CRGE's campus report, "Research on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity at UM: Perspectives on Diversity." The report will include campus research that focuses on the intersections of race, gender, and ethnicity. It will be designed to facilitate grant writing, fundraising, and various other projects. Your help is needed to ensure that campus researchers who currently fall within our area of inquiry participate in this project. If you would like to participate or if you know of someone who should be included in this report, please contact Dr. Amy McLaughlin, CRGE assistant director, (x51651). ■

produce two “Research/Action Briefs for Disparities Reduction.” These briefs will document the policies, practices, ideologies, and interactions that produce current social disparities in neighborhoods and in children’s lives; in addition, the briefs will offer a menu of promising strategies, tools, interventions, and other resources intended to reduce these disparities.

Disparities in access to jobs and education for welfare recipients and racial-

ethnic disparities in high school dropout rates will be the foci. Each brief will include major research findings, promising practices, and policy implications and will serve as resources for AECF-sponsored community workshops; workshops will help participants reexamine situations and encourage them to envision relevant change strategies for the disparities they face in their particular locations.

AECF is dedicated to improving major systems that serve disadvantaged children, transforming neighborhoods, and promoting accountability and innovation. CRGE

is working with the AECF Respect Advisory Board (made up of nationally known scholars) to develop research topics that cover pressing issues of contemporary concern and are of immediate relevance to the Casey Foundation’s work.

The current “Research/Action Briefs for Disparities Reduction” are expected to be the first in a series of research briefs to be funded by Casey and put to use by advocates, practitioners, communities, and AECF staff specializing in specific disparities. ■

FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

*continued from page 1*



Technology in the Humanities are working together to bring a co-sponsored post-doctoral program to campus.

CRGE also has provided students with the tools to create space to pursue their research interests. These students are primed for intellectual development within their individual academic departments and within CRGE as well.

CrISP scholars have reported that the Consortium offers an important sense of belonging to campus life, one not available to many incoming graduate students. For example, CrISP scholar Mia Reddy (American Studies) says, “Before I had even set foot into a University of Maryland classroom, I had a space on campus that was welcoming... Since then, over the semester, the Consortium has provided me with an endless number of personal and academic resources.” CrISP scholar Clare Jen (Women’s Studies) writes, “Even before fall classes started, I knew I had a space at [CRGE] where I could form new connections and glean different perspectives apart from and in conversation with my home department... I automatically belonged to a cohort of incoming graduate students from different departments who were and are all interested in pursuing intersectional research.”

CrISP scholars are able to establish some important connections. Keeley McGill (Sociology) says, “I appreciate having the opportunity to meet faculty from different departments...I don’t think that the other first-year students in

my [department] are able to have that experience so early in their graduate programs.” As well, Clare Jen believes that CRGE has allowed her to “engage with faculty members across the university in generating ideas, questions, and possible areas of research involving intersectionality and healthcare.” These intellectual connections and institutional relationships are laying the groundwork for CRGE and the University of Maryland to become a national leader in intersectional work.

Another important area of growth shared by the incoming scholars and CRGE as an institution is the process of further specifying our missions and activities. As CRGE becomes larger and more successful, our plans increase in depth and scope. For example, we are presently creating a campus report that documents the diverse intersectional research that takes place on this campus. We foresee using this product as a basis for promoting campus collaborations, developing future grants, and initiating new programs.

While the CrISP scholars are still in the very first year of their graduate programs, they have benefited from exposure to a variety of activities that will serve them well as they too further define and expand their goals. As Keeley McGill says, “...I am learning how professional researchers work and about grant writing, funding, and other aspects of the profession.” Clare Jen notes the value of her Consortium experience in “creating surveys and questionnaires, [and] budgets ...[and in discovering] the institutional and cultural complications of conducting human subject research, networking with other scholars, data analysis, and the politics of grant writing and submission.”

And since specifying and refining a field of study is such a critical step in developing a research agenda, Mia Reddy says she has found the following activities especially useful: “collecting and compiling information for the CRGE campus report on intersectional work, attending CRGE colloquia and a seminar in intersections, and working with the Intersections, Identities and Inequalities Research Interest Group.”

The parallels between the experiences of a young research center and those of our young scholars may be useful to illustrate the multiple facets of our growth. Our successes can be measured in the movement of our students and institution beyond campus boundaries to significant contributions within a growing field of study. Our goal is to achieve national recognition for CRGE and the University of Maryland while at the same time providing access to the skills and opportunities that will propel our CrISP scholars forward to their own highly achieving careers. In doing so, we will create a network of intersectional scholars branching out from the university—scholars who excel at interdisciplinary and multi-methodological approaches to scholarship on race, gender, ethnicity, and other dimensions of difference.

Funding to continue the CrISP program into 2007 has been granted by the graduate school. This means that more graduate students will have the opportunity for this unique academic experience. We look forward to your participation in our mutual process of growth, and we thank the campus community for its continuous support. ■

## Illicit Drug Use Among Inner-City Women: Untangling Structural Influences

STEPHANI HATCH, PH.D., COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Drawing data from a larger-scale study of selected Atlanta communities, the following analysis seeks to identify the conditions associated with women's involvement in drug use. The central research question addressed is as follows: What are the social and experiential circumstances that potentially contribute to drug use among women? In attempting to answer this question, it is evident that there are multiple and interrelated conditions and life circumstances potentially resulting in drug use. A profusion of combined factors contribute to the use of drugs and typically converge on the lives of drug users. The origins of drug use are found at multiple levels of social, situational, and personal life.

### Data and Methods

The women in this sample (n=122) were recruited from the streets of Atlanta from 1997 to 2000, originally as part of a larger multigenerational study. The chosen neighborhoods represent, in part, prototypical inner-city communities deeply impacted by illicit drugs. The majority of the sample is African American (89%) and 9.4% White, making it somewhat representative of the communities from which it was drawn. Recent recruits into drug use are the concern of this analysis; therefore, the focus is on younger women. Participants range in age from 18 to 47, with a mean of 25 years. Their educational attainment is 11.5 years; this average is very similar to their mothers' (as measured by the parent study), indicating virtually no intergenerational increment to achievement. The mean total personal income in the 30 days prior to the interview was approximately \$492 for the young women.

Three life domains are examined with regard to two outcomes: having ever used drugs and current drug use. They include participants' positions in overarching systems of economic inequality and attendant life strains; integration within social institutions; and activities, relationships, and experiences as structured by interpersonal milieu and normative practices. The first domain, which measures economic resources and life stresses, explores conditions that determine individuals' positioning within the overarching economic structure that can result in general life strains. Life strains are related to a lack of financial resources, lessening the ability to provide for necessities such as housing, food, childcare, and transportation. The second domain investigates each participant's institutional integration. Institutions examined include religion, marriage, and employment. Having a spouse, regular work, and attending church frequently potentially offer the development of social

capital, additional resources, and greater opportunities. The third domain concentrates on social and experiential indicators that provide the more proximal contextual factors that may contribute to drug use. These indicators include use of drugs by family members, or use of drugs with the partner, and engagement in illegal activities (other than drug use) by household members. No one aspect within these domains inevitably leads to or has a protective effect against drug use, and it should be emphasized that all the domains vary in significance to past and present drug use.

### Results

Major findings reveal differentiation with regard to both an individual's history of drug use and current use of drugs. Findings suggest that general life strains increase the likelihood of drug use, but not current drug use. Three institutional integration indicators (religion, marriage, and/or employment) operate as protective mechanisms and reduce the odds of having ever used drugs, while the sole protective factor of current drug use is participation in organized religion. Finally, more proximal and contextual indicators, such as family drug use or a partner's drug use or other illegal activities, are better predictors of current drug use but not of ever having used drugs. Identifying different antecedents to current drug use and past drug use is an important finding of this research, especially because of its relevance to policy issues.

Differences in the predictors for having ever engaged in drug use, versus current drug use, speak to the diversity of factors that influence drug use behaviors. Past drug use at any time during the life course, whether the use was experimental, casual, intermittent, or regular, stems from one set of conditions; current use, which concentrates on more regular and frequent use, has a different set of antecedent conditions. Specific pathways containing indicators that are associated more with background conditions, such as general life strains throughout the life course, are better in predicting the likelihood of whether a respondent has ever/never used drugs, while pathways with proximal indicators, such as family or partner drug use, predict more recent and current use of drugs.

This research stems from direct observation of the effect of the drug-use economy on the lives of women, both users and nonusers, in the observed Atlanta community and in others similar to it. In communities that suffer from a high concentration of unemployment and poverty, the drug economy and its subculture further marginalize community members. While this research focuses on people exposed to drug use, findings also suggest that there are a number of protective factors that help uphold the backbone of this community. Many women, living under the same disadvantaged circumstances as the drug users, do not use drugs. Because the community is made up of people with many heterogeneous backgrounds, there is a great deal of differentiation in life experiences.

With regard to this analysis, measures that capture achieve-

ment in and attachment to social institutions, such as family, religion, and economy/labor force, and proximal levels of social influence indicate some of the factors that can vary in this community and that provide some level of resilience to the drug subculture. It may be that this study was unable to observe additional experiences that relate to abstinence from drugs and resilience after drug use. More work needs to be done to explore which differences in the lives of individuals may lead to increased resilience and more social involvement in community organizations.

This analysis provides a limited exploration of three domains. These domains and their multiple indicators should not be considered exhaustive. The conceptualization of these three domains provides a general view of the types of indicators that may contribute to drug use and other illicit behaviors.

### Research Limitations

It is imperative to acknowledge the limitations of this analysis and the multiple considerations in this and future research. First, this largely African American sample does not allow for the effects of race to be included in the quantitative analysis. However, this inquiry does provide greater understanding of the heterogeneity within a particular minority group. Minority populations are often compared against those within dominant groups, but previous research has rarely provided insight into status differences that emerge within a given group. Second, because the income range is restricted, the power and impact of economic status is probably underestimated. Third, the number and selection of indicators was chosen to support a suitable level of statistical power in the multivariate models, and therefore, this analysis cannot take into consideration every potential influencing factor available in the data set. Although the results should be accepted and interpreted with caution, they do have the potential to lay the foundation for testing of more extensive models in the future. Finally, while several of the major findings discussed are theoretically plausible, the cross-sectional design of the study precludes any conclusions concerning causality. In the absence of longitudinal data, any assumption regarding causality in the interpretation of the findings should be, at the most, tentatively accepted.

### Implications for Social Policy

Policy associated with drug use and abuse places a great deal of emphasis on the costs to society and the methods that support prohibition and punishment with little attention to the interrelationship between social structure and the individual. Policy trends have centered around a heavily supported War on Drugs, beginning in the 1980s Reagan-Bush Era, continuing through the Clinton administration in the early to mid-1990s. During this time, only a relatively small increase in public funds has been directed toward rehabilitation and drug treatment, with little effort to improve or offer community based prevention and intervention involving harm-reduction methods, such as

needle exchange, and treatment programs that are more gender specific, less male oriented, and available without health insurance or at a low financial cost. Thus, men and the middle class, for example, are likely to have varied exposure to and experience with the deleterious effects of drug use and abuse.

Ultimately, policy needs to be informed by research that acknowledges the intersection of gender, race, and class in the etiological, concurrent, and consequential effects of illicit drug use and other similar social problems. This analysis distinctly demonstrates a need for greater differentiation in conceptualizing outcomes and building research on the assumption that the social and economic conditions of individuals' lives are of the utmost importance in gaining a clearer understanding of social problems. ■

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## Creating History: The Sculpture of Meta Warrick Fuller

RENÉE ATER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY  
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

My research focuses on the African American sculptor Meta Warrick Fuller (1868-1978), who was active as an artist from 1900 to the late-1930s. Currently, I am revising my dissertation, "Race, Gender, and Nation: Rethinking the Sculpture of Meta Warrick Fuller," in order to create a larger monograph on Fuller and her art. Fuller was one of the first recognized Black sculptors of her time.

As I investigated Fuller, I became absorbed in the historical discussion of her as a "race artist" and "genius" and in the total focus on her now iconic statue *Ethiopia Awakening* (1920-21). I also was interested in Fuller's position as an artist in the important transitional period of the early 1900s when sculptors moved away from the Beaux-Arts tradition of naturalism to creating form that increasingly focused on the physical handling of the material and the psychological impact of the work.

ETHIOPIA AWAKENING, 1920-21:  
"AMERICA'S MAKING EXHIBITION"  
VERSION LOST

At the height of Fuller's artistic production in the 1920s, she created her life-size sculpture, *Ethiopia Awakening*. *Ethiopia Awakening* has become the single-most important object in Fuller's oeuvre. To a large extent, the rest of her sculpture has been ignored because it does not fit neatly into the Black nationalist narrative constructed around this one work. In reviewing the literature, I discovered that the scholars of art history have focused on the way this work anticipated the ideals of the Harlem



Renaissance in its symbolic representation of a new radicalized African American identity. But, as my research advanced, I began to realize that Fuller's art is not only about genius and race. Nor is it simply a marker in the narrative of the ascendancy of Black culture. Neither is it a mere illustration of historical events. Fuller's work is inclusive of history and race, religion and gender, art and nation.

The focus of my study is the art Fuller created after her return from Paris in 1902, concluding with her modeling of *Ethiopia Awakening* in 1921. Central to my evaluation of her sculpture was an inquiry into its interaction with social and political movements of the early 1900s. By analyzing the cultural and historical events that shaped Fuller's work, I intended to provide a nuanced exploration and, therefore, a more complex understanding of the content of her work as it relates to artistic form. I picked five works as case studies. My selection was based on two criteria: the work had to exist in museum or private collections and it must elucidate the intertwining of race, gender, and nation in the early twentieth century. The sculptures chosen for examination include *The Wretched* (1903), *Emancipation* (1913), *Peace Halting the Ruthlessness of War* (1917), *Mary Turner: A Silent Protest Against Mob Violence* (1919), and *Ethiopia Awakening* (1921-22).

I decided not to highlight biography for two reasons: First, in the mid-1980s, historian Judith Nina Kerr wrote an important dissertation on Fuller, which assembled, for the first time, the facts of Fuller's life. Second, although biography is important for understanding an artist's creative output, biography—until now—has been the sole means for evaluating Fuller's work. While Kerr's study documents over 164 of the artist's works and provides significant information on the artist's life, it does not offer an in-depth analysis or cultural/social context. Rather than simply reiterate the facts of Fuller's life, I wanted to resituate her in the complicated historical past that she occupied—a past shaped by her identities as an African American, as a woman, as an artist, as a wife and mother, as a Victorian, and as a member of an elite group that W.E.B. Du Bois called the "Talented Tenth."

After her return from Paris in 1902, Fuller was one of the first sculptors to create positive images of the Black body. Race was an important component of her work. She frequently contested dominant ideas on race that emphasized the scientific superiority of Whites, and she participated in the construction of a new image of the African American. As she constructed a racially autonomous self, her art became part of a concerted effort by the African American community to reshape and redefine itself.

Thus, Fuller's sculpture played an important part in the envisioning and shaping of a nation that included African Americans. Though often taking ideologically different positions, the Black intelligentsia hoped—through literature, music, art, and science—to create a nation based on merit. Their rhetoric challenged prevailing notions of nation. Fuller's images participated in this redefinition by creating positive symbols of a Black nation rooted in the historical past.

PEACE HALTING THE RUTHLESSNESS  
OF WAR, 1917:  
COLLECTION OF  
CAMILLE O. AND WILLIAM H.  
COSBY, JR.



Gender issues were critical to Fuller's work as well. She struggled to balance the vicissitudes of being a Black female artist, a wife of a prominent doctor, and a mother of three boys. Motherhood became one of the principal identities from which Fuller could express herself and her opinions about the world in which she lived. In such sculptures as *Peace Halting the Ruthlessness of War* and *Mary Turner: A Silent Protest Against Mob Violence*, Fuller used motherhood as a site of radical agency and employed her art for social commentary, condemning violence against women and children.

Unlike previous scholarship that has frequently isolated Fuller from significant historical contexts, I positioned Fuller as an active participant in early twentieth-century life. My study began with an examination of the ways that early historians discussed Fuller as a "race artist" and "genius." As I scrutinized the ways in which Fuller and her art were discussed by historians and biographers, I concluded that Fuller's past and her relationship with Auguste Rodin had been mythologized with the full assistance of the artist. Historians constructed Fuller's "genius" in terms of masculinity; they further obscured her gender in favor of highlighting artistic creativity unleashed by the words and touch of the male artist. Tracing her academic training and her Paris exhibitions, I examined Fuller's three years in Paris and the influence of Rodin on her style and subject matter. Because African American artists frequently have been excluded from specific artistic practices, I wanted to emphasize that Fuller was part of a thriving community of sculptors in Paris and owed a deep intellectual debt to the art of Rodin.



EMANCIPATION, 1913:  
MUSEUM OF THE NATIONAL CENTER  
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS,  
BOSTON, MA

By employing case studies in my dissertation, I explore each of the five sculptures, highlighting the visual and historical context of each. For example, my primary focus in chapter 3 is the monumental sculpture that Fuller created for the fiftieth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Simply titled *Emancipation*, the seven-foot plaster was modeled for the 1913 National Emancipation Exposition in New York City. Unlike other Civil War memorials

of the time, which either focused on the fallen war hero or on Abraham Lincoln as liberator, Fuller's sculpture placed African Americans front and center. By memorializing this community, Fuller reinterpreted the Civil War monument. Not only was her interpretation fundamentally different, she restructured the historical narrative to include Black women.

My chapter on *Peace Halting the Ruthlessness of War* considers the plaster sketch that Fuller submitted to the Massachusetts Branch of the Woman's Peace Party art contest in 1917. Long thought lost, I located the sculpture in the basement of Fuller's surviving son. Subsequently, the work was purchased for the collection of Camille O. and William H. Cosby, Jr. I place *Peace Halting the Ruthlessness of War* in the historical context of World War I with the politics and activities of the Woman's Peace Party. In the creation of this work, Fuller was inspired by the poetry of Tennyson and by scriptural passages from Corinthians 1:15. Fuller referenced centuries-old artistic traditions of the apocalypse through her iconography. I offer an interpretation of the sculpture as an apocalyptic vision: a harsh rendering of the violence of war as well as the violence directed towards women and African Americans.

In my final chapter, I return to a discussion of *Ethiopia Awakening*, placing it in the larger historical context of the 1921 "America's Making Exposition." Hosted by New York City in celebration of the contributions of immigrants to American society, this festival and pageant provided the framework for Fuller's conception and execution of her sculpture. I argue that her rendering of a pseudo-Egyptian woman emerging from wrappings is symbolic of the self-emancipation of a race attempting to prove its worth to a society that has excluded African Americans from full participation as American citizens. I explore the ways in which *Ethiopia Awakening* emerged at the nexus of a profound African American interest in Egypt as well as in Ethiopia as essential ingredients in the shaping of racial consciousness. This quest to assert African American historical significance in the larger context of world and American history is at the core of Fuller's work. ■

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## PLANS UNDERWAY: CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN'S LABOR STUDIES

*continued from page 8*

of African American and other women of color. While the formal institutionalization of a center will await additional campus and external funding, current plans include continuing the well-regarded Women of Color (WOC) seminar, incorporating junior faculty into the WOC group, publishing WOC seminar papers as an anthology, beginning to videotape interviews, and securing additional external funding. ■

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## KUDOS

**Linchun Li**, our CRGE website coordinator, also serves as our staff photographer, beautifully documenting our speakers, audience members, and staff. Our CRGE website gets over 11,000 hits each month! Point your browser to [www.umd.edu/crge](http://www.umd.edu/crge) and explore the interesting photos and features, including our CRGE events calendar, resources page, and graduate colloquium agenda.

**Dr. Lynn Weber**, visiting CRGE faculty member, recently served as chairperson of the South Carolina Advisory Committee for the Institute for Women's Policy Research. The Committee's report, "The Status of Women in South Carolina," was released in November 2002. ■

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### Plans Underway: Center for African-American Women's Labor Studies

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In the fall of 2000, the Afro-American Studies Program (AASP) received a planning grant from the Ford Foundation to consider the establishment of an interdisciplinary research center focused on the study of work in the lives of Black and other racial/ethnic women. Dr. Sharon Harley, principal investigator/project director, and Caitlin Phelps, program coordinator, with Mary Helen Washington and Bonnie Thornton Dill, spent a year and a half exploring the best strategies, projects, and public and academic programs for such a center. Despite the continuous presence throughout history of African American women in the labor force, a research center dedicated to documenting the history and/or the contem-

porary lives of working women of color does not exist.

A variety of AASP and campus-wide activities help to support the founding of The Center for African-American Women's Labor Studies (CAWLS) at the College Park campus. The University of Maryland is an obvious choice for the location of such a center, considering the success of the two Ford Foundation-funded research seminars, "The Meanings and Representations of Black Women and Work" and "The Meanings and Representations of Work in the Lives of Women of Color," as well as the community outreach efforts of AASP.

Dr. Harley and her steering committee assembled scholars on and off campus, labor activists, and policy analysts to create a community in which to develop ideas and strategies. An advisory board and a steering committee have been selected to help 1) formulate the center's mission; 2) advise on possible center projects, including yearly research seminars, postdoctoral fellowships, scholarly research publications, summer teacher/curriculum development institutes, and community based public programming (i.e., confer-

ences and workshops); and 3) identify sources of additional funding.

Major goals of the proposed center for the 2002-2004 period are to

- document work in the lives of women of color, beginning with a series of videotaped interviews with female corporate executives, beauticians, businesswomen, union activists, nursing aides, and academics;
- sponsor and facilitate participation by junior faculty in the "Work in the Lives of Women of Color" research seminar;
- sponsor an annual public forum addressing key policy issues related to the working lives of Black and other racial/ethnic women;
- secure support for a working meeting to finalize the essays for a proposed anthology on women of color and work; and
- publish newsletters twice yearly and create a CAWLS website.

One of the major goals is ultimately to have both an endowed chair and a center dedicated to the study of work in the lives

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