

Southern Connecticut State University
Women's Studies Program
Presents

The 8th Annual Women's Studies
Graduate Conference

**“Trafficking Humans:
An Interdisciplinary Approach
Addressing Sex & Labor Exploitation”**

To be held on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University
Saturday, October 30, 2010

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS ON INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORK

The problem of human trafficking has become increasingly pandemic in recent years. Social institutions such as the government, the media, the military industrial complex, corporations, and the criminal justice system are all complicit in maintaining the silence that encompasses the sex industry. The truth is, millions of women and children are trafficked globally for commercial, sexual, labor, and service purposes. Much of the world has yet to learn that the problem of sex and/or labor slavery is a reality on both a global *and* a local level. There is a great necessity for global awareness and acknowledgment that humans are currently being trafficked in almost every country. As uncomfortable as the subject may make the public, we need honest dialogue or the industry will continue to thrive uninhibited. This graduate conference will serve to raise society consciousness about this current, global issue. The academy (particularly women's studies) has the responsibility and the resources to educate those who would listen and help put an end to labor and sexual exploitation. An interdisciplinary approach will allow us to better understand the issue and create solutions to combat it. Examining the history, economics, philosophy, and theory behind human trafficking will help us understand why the industry began and continues unabated. Sociology and psychology will aid us in understanding the demographics that are most readily targeted and how to address the traumatic effects exploitation can have on an individual's sense of self. Outside the academy, work that is conducted in the field is generally practical in nature and yields the most concrete results (some survivor needs might include: housing, translation, legal services, crisis intervention, and safety/protection). All of these disciplines support each other in ending human exploitation of all kinds. The conference is not limited to the aforementioned fields, however, as the problem of trafficking humans can always benefit from new perspectives.

PROPOSAL FORMAT: Graduate students, undergraduate students, and community scholars and activists from all disciplines and fields are invited to submit proposals for individual papers, complete sessions, panels, or round tables. Poster sessions, performance pieces, video recordings, and other creative works are also encouraged. For individual papers, please submit a one-page abstract. For complete panels, submit a one-page abstract for each presentation plus an overview on the relationship among individual components. For the poster sessions and artwork, submit a one-page overview. All proposals must include speaker's/speakers' name(s), affiliation(s), and contact information (address, E-mail, & telephone number). Please also indicate preference for time of day; all attempts will be made to honor schedule requests.

PANELS: Each 50-75 minute session usually includes three presenters and a session moderator, but individual presenters may request an entire session for a more substantial paper or presentation. Presenters are encouraged, though not required, to form their own panels. The conference committee will group individual proposals into panels and assign a moderator. Please indicate in your contact information if you are willing to serve as a moderator.

POSTERS, ART DISPLAYS, & SLIDE PRESENTATIONS: A poster presentation consists of an exhibit of materials that report research activities or informational resources in visual and summary form. An art display consists of a depiction of feminist concerns in an artistic medium. Both types of presentations provide a unique platform that facilitates personal discussion of work with interested colleagues and allows meeting attendees to browse through highlights of current research. Please indicate in your proposal your anticipated needs in terms of space, etc.

In keeping with the conference theme, suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

History of Trafficking
Economy of Human Trafficking
Theories of Trafficking
Human Trafficking Field Work
Consciousness Raising
Creative Approaches to Trafficking
Trafficking & Anthropology
International Communication
Law Enforcement & Trafficking
Trafficking & the Media
Political Science & Trafficking
Social Work in Trafficking
Empowerment of Survivors
Human Trafficking & Women's Studies
Religion & Trafficking
Counseling Trafficking Survivors
Trafficking & Intersectional Analysis
Human Trafficking, Human Rights
Trauma Recovery in Trafficking
Re-entry into Society

Philosophy of Human Trafficking
Psychology of Trafficking
Sociology & the Sex Trade
Activism against Trafficking
Educating the Masses
Artistic Expression to Fight Trafficking
Legal/Policy-making & Trafficking
Sex & Labor Slavery Education
Research/Statistics on Trafficking
Global & Local Intervention
Public Health & the Slave Trade
Survivor Narratives
Non-violence & Trafficking
Feminist/Womanist Intervention
Global Networking on Trafficking
Trafficking in the Borderlands
Child Labor/Prostitution
Trafficking & Globalization
Prevention & Rehabilitation of Slavery Survivors
Trafficking & Government

We also invite your ideas and suggestions. Conference sessions will juxtapose cultural, generational, and geopolitical perspectives in order to examine narratives on labor and sexual exploitation of women and children. Expect to leave with new ideas about the modern slave trade and to become equipped to join the fight against the world-wide trafficking of humans.

Submission Deadline:

Postmarked by September 1, 2010

Please submit proposals and supporting materials to:

Women's Studies Graduate Conference Committee
Women's Studies Program, EN B 229
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

Or via email to:

womenstudies@southernct.edu, with attention to Graduate Conference Committee. If you have any questions, please call the Women's Studies office at (203) 392-6133.

Please include name, affiliation, E-mail, standard mailing address, and phone number. Proposals should be no longer than one page, with a second page for identification information. Panel proposals are welcome.

Announcing Our Keynote Speaker: Sister Rose Bernadette Gallagher

Sister Rose's first assignment as a Maryknoll Sister was to mission in Wuchow, China in 1948. This was a turbulent political period between the Communists and Chinese Nationalists, as both forces were fighting for control of the Mainland. As Americans, foreigners were seen as enemies of the people. Some were in prison—she was under house arrest for ten months, and then evicted to Hong Kong.

The years 1951-1976 were rich in content and service to men, women, and children as they fled to safety to Chai Waan, a refugee settlement created at the eastern part of the Island. The basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter were the immediate needs, followed by community meetings with women; building on their innate potentials, programs were offered to rebuild confidence, restore personal dignities, offer training programs for leadership in community, microfinance for family stability, and fun activities to recapture one's own cultural values.

Eager to return to Mainland, China, Sister Rose went on to the University of Chicago to do a Master Degree program in Contemporary Chinese Studies from 1980-81; this followed by appointment to two teaching positions in China. From 1982-85, she taught at Xian Jiaotong University, privileged to share English teaching skills with student professors, the majority of whom had been victims of violence and abuse during the Cultural Revolution. In 1985 until 87, she taught at Beijing University, challenged by both under-grads and graduate students as they struggled to master research methodology and writing skills.

Eager to assist in the plight of women and children, Sister Rose was assigned to Bangkok, Thailand in 1992. She directed a Maryknoll Safe Shelter, with headquarters in Bangkok for women who had been trafficked from neighboring countries, young girls sold into prostitution, and children left homeless by departed migrant parents. The shelter offered a welcoming environment, counseling services, education classes for children, medical assistance, and ongoing efforts to bring each person to her basic wholeness in view of the traumas suffered. Three Centers were set up in the provinces that continued basic programs of empowerment, healing, and affirmation.

In January, 2006, she went to Nanyangachor, Sudan to mission with the Toposa tribal people. Although her stay was very brief, poverty was evident in the faces of the women as they toiled daily for the families basic needs; poverty in the faces of the girl-child, deprived of basic education to develop into young adulthood. Here, as elsewhere, being a female carried with it, the scourge of being not equal to the male.

At present Sister Rose serves with others as a Maryknoll Sister, with NGO status at the United Nations. Her focus is the empowerment of women in all phases of life; protection for the girl-child against all forms of violence; and importantly, today's modern form of slavery – Human Trafficking.

