

Recent Publications

Chatty, Dawn. *Organizing Women: Formal and Informal Women's Groups in the Middle East*. Oxford: New York: Berg Publishers, 1997.

Deakin, Nicholas. *In Search of Civil Society*. Hampshire: Palgrave, 2001.

Hann, C.M. & Dunn, Elizabeth. *Civil Society: Challenging Western Models*. London: Routledge, 1996.

Macdonald, Mandy, Sprenger, Ellen & Dubel, Ireen. *Gender and Organizational Change: Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice*. New York: Women Ink, 1997.

McCarthy, Kathleen D. *Women, Philanthropy, and Civil Society*. Bloomington; Indiana University Press, 2001.

Sweetman, Caroline. *Gender in the 21st Century*. New York: Women Ink, 2000.

Announcement

H-Gender-Mideast is an international electronic network for social scientists and humanists interested in scholarly exchange on issues of gender in the Arabic speaking Middle East & North Africa, Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran, Central Asia, Western Asia (Pakistan, Bangladesh, India), the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to build a network in tune with shifting geographical articulations and to bring together gender-focused issues from within a wide range of (inter) disciplinary positions.

In addition to facilitating transnational dialogue and cross-regional networking, H-Gender-MidEast serves as a resources nexus within and through which discussions, research projects, announcements of conferences, workshops, seminars, policy debates and educational programs on gender issues are

engaged. It's on-line activities include reviews of books, journals and exhibitions, reports on new archival or bibliographical sources, new software, datasets and CD-Roms. Four times a year H-Gender-MidEast publishes an index of recently published articles and books relevant to its geographical focus.

Established at the beginning of this year, H-Gender-MidEast invites scholars, researchers and graduate students (Ph.D. level) to participate in building a network across new geographical and philosophical boundaries. To join H-Gender-MidEast write to: h-gender-mideast@h-net.msu.edu

H-Gender-MidEast is sponsored by H-Net, Humanities and Social Sciences On-line and The Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (IGWS) at the American University in Cairo (www.aucegypt.edu/igws). It is advised by a board of international scholars (<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~gend-mid/>)

Films

On Boys, Girls and the Veil

Directed by Yousry Nasrallah
72 minutes

Nasrallah, in his documentary "On Boys, Girls and the Veil", takes us on an exquisite tour of a subject normally over-dramatized by the West. Taking the debate beyond the simplistic approach and with familiarity rarely seen, young men and women talk about the 'hijab' and its social implications. Most of the youths regard the head scarf not primarily as a religious obligation, but as a social construction that symbolizes a girl's respectability or sexual innocence. When talking amongst themselves, however, the young men acknowledge the sexual double standard.

Return to the Dying Rooms

Directed and produced by Brian Woods and Kate Blewett
24 minutes

Due to the one child per family policy that was introduced in China in 1979, infanticide is on the rise. Coerced abortions, sterilization, drowning babies, etc. are all means to get rid of unwanted pregnancies. China's dying rooms are orphanages/death camps where unwanted unhealthy baby boys and healthy baby girls are abandoned and left to die. The documentary "Return to the Dying Rooms" uncovers the grave human rights violations that take place in state-run Chinese orphanages where children are tied to chairs, starved, and neglected to the point of torture.

Blackboards

Directed by Samira Makhmalbaf
85 minutes

"Blackboards" directed by Iran's youngest female director is shot in a mountainous region of Iran, close to the border to Iraq, where a group of teachers with blackboards strapped to their backs wander from village to village offering their services to anyone they meet in exchange for money or food. Their blackboards not only serve teaching purposes they also serve as shields, as shelters, and some people even use them to barter for brides. The film depicts the suffering of the Kurd refugees who long to reach their homeland. It also highlights the importance of education in a society where children are desperately trying to stay alive and often question the necessity of being able to read and write. Moreover, it also tackles the theme of love, childhood innocence as well as the cynicism of the war between Iran and Iraq.

Awards
2000 Prix du Jury, Cannes Film Festival