

FEMINIST VISIONS

FILMS & OTHER MEDIA ON WOMEN & GENDER

ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP

Three times a year, the Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) at Michigan State University gathers producers' and distributors' summaries, in GenCen's *Gendered Perspectives on International Development (GPID) Resource Bulletin*, of selected audiovisual productions about global gender and women's issues. We have partnered with GenCen to make those summaries available to a wider audience by reprinting the *Bulletin*'s "Audiovisuals" columns here in *Feminist Collections*.



The film, podcast, and radio summaries below, grouped by producer or distributor, are reprinted from the Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 issues of the *GPID Resource Bulletin*. To obtain a free copy of any issue of the *Bulletin*, which also summarizes such useful resources as journal articles, books, and technical reports and lists upcoming conferences, grants, calls for papers, and study opportunities, contact the Center at gencen@msu.edu.

ADRENALINE FILMS

A Quiet Inquisition

www.quietinquisition.com

2014, 65 minutes

At a public hospital in Nicaragua, OBGYN Dr. Carla Cerrato must choose between following a law that bans all abortions and endangers her patients or taking a risk and providing the care that she knows can save a woman's life. In 2007, Dr. Cerrato's daily routine took a detour. The newly elected government of Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist revolutionary who converted to Catholicism to win votes,

overturned a 130-year-old law protecting therapeutic abortion. The new law entirely prohibits abortion, even in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is at stake. As Carla and her colleagues navigate this dangerous dilemma, the impact of this law emerges — illuminating the tangible reality of prohibition against the backdrop of a political, religious, and historically complex national identity. The emotional core of the story — the experiences and situations of the young women and girls who are seeking care — illustrates the ethical implications of one doctor's response.

AGENDA FEMINIST MEDIA

www.agenda.org.za

Love—Gender, Sexuality, and Power

Podcast, 2013, 11:45 minutes

Love has often been placed among the lesser order of priorities against the more important issues that hold our attention in seeking to transform gender relations in Africa. In discussing the concept note for the issue we were reminded of feminists' belief that love has been seen not only as one of the relational contexts where women were likely to reproduce the worst forms of gender inequalities, but these were often the very inequalities they sought to change in the wider world. Love situated women in vulnerable subject positions as love's meaning was invariably determined by patriarchy. Among feminists there are therefore diverse understandings of love, and its absence is cause for equal lamentation. The reason for placing a transformative eros at the heart of the gender debates is to correct the glaringly absent focus on intimacy and love in Africa, and to attempt to legitimate and build its recognition as an important analytic category of research.

BIRDS EYE VIEW

birds-eye-view.co.uk/film-festival

Bastards

2014, 80 minutes

This film is a contemporary morality tale from the Casablanca slums to the High Court. It follows a group of Moroccan women fighting to legitimize their children. As Morocco became the first Muslim regime to grant legal rights to single mothers, British filmmaker Perkin gained unprecedented access over several weeks in the community. Weaving together intimate personal stories with strikingly candid footage, the result is a powerful account of their collective struggle to be heard.

BLOG TALK RADIO

Child Brides

www.blogtalkradio.com/3women3ways/2014/07/12/child-brides

Radio broadcast, 2014, 60 minutes

Imagine being 11 or 12 years old, getting ready for your wedding to a man as old as or older than your father, who makes arrangements to take you back to his home after the ceremony. Now imagine being 5 years old, waking from a nap to find you are married. One 8-year-old Yemeni girl was featured in the news after she died from a ruptured uterus after her wedding night to a man in his 30s. According to the International Center for Research on Women, one in every nine girls in this world will be married before the age of 15. It even happens in America. Suzanne Petroni has more than 20 years of experience in foreign policy and global development, with particular expertise in gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and adolescent health and development. She discusses child brides around the world, what creates the situation, and what happens to these girls.

FILMS MEDIA GROUP

www.films.com

India: A Dangerous Place to Be a Woman

2013, 53 minutes

In December 2012, a young medical student was brutally gang-raped on board a bus to Delhi. Horrified by the attack, 28-year-old British-Asian Radha Bedi travels to India to uncover the reality of life for young women there. Radha has been to India before, but this time she's travel-

ing alone and facing some painful truths about her ancestral homeland. Radha experienced sexual harassment herself in India on past visits, and difficult memories return as she meets girls who've suffered appalling brutality. We come face to face with the father of the Delhi rape victim and Radha meets 15-year-old Tuba, who has horrific burns all over her body caused by an acid attack from a snubbed male admirer.

THE GUARDIAN

Giving a Voice to Marginalized Women in Tanzania

tinyurl.com/l3r7rkj

2014, 3:50 minutes

With the Tanzanian government in the process of formulating a new constitution, women's rights organizations across the country are urging for improved gender equality. Here, a young woman tells of how she was lured away from her village by the promise of work in Dar es Salaam, only to be forced into sexual slavery. She talks about her ordeal and describes how she has since received help from a support group formed to give a unified voice to Tanzanian women.

ICARUS FILMS

www.icarusfilms.com

Bastards: Outcast in Morocco

2014, 83 minutes

This acclaimed film by BBC producer Deborah Perkin documents one woman's fight to have her marriage recognized and her daughter legitimized by the Moroccan judicial system. It is a complex and compelling portrait of Moroccan society and its attitudes toward women, female sexuality, and their position in society and access to education. Through Rabha's story, the Moroccan judicial system is laid open and the contemporary issues facing Islamic women are exposed as they seek to reconcile their desire for increased independence with religious and family traditions.

Mothers

2014, 68 minutes

This gripping cinema vérité documentary shows how China's one-child policy plays out in the daily lives of women in a northern Chinese village, Ma. Town officials must strictly enforce the one-child policy, meeting an annual quota for the sterilization of women who have had more

than one child. On one side are the male deputy mayor, Zhang Guo-hong, and the female local director of women's care, Zhang Qing-mei. On the other is a schoolteacher named Rong Rong, a mother of two who has managed so far to avoid sterilization. Now faced with the prospect of failing to meet their quota, Qing-mei and Guo-hong are determined to make sure Rong Rong doesn't outwit them again. They appear at her house early in the morning, try to track her down through her relatives, and extend a carrot in the form of the residency papers she will need for her second child. Qing-mei also travels through town on her red scooter, spreading the gospel of family planning at rallies and celebrations and trying to exhort as many women as possible to submit to sterilization. This film offers a powerful feminist perspective, as we watch men developing and enforcing reproductive policies for women. Here, women's bodies are not an ideological battleground, but the epicenter of the conflict over the most banal of undertakings: meeting a quota. Eventually, even Guo-hong admits to the camera, "We're just scared of losing our jobs. Do you think I am really committed to this?"

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN (ICRW)

www.icrw.org

Let's Raise Our Voices

2013, 83 minutes

ICRW co-hosted "Let's Raise Our Voices," an event in London that brought together leading experts to discuss strategies for preventing violence against women. Panelists included Mabel van Oranje of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage, Nata Duvvury, co-director of the global women's studies program at the National University of Ireland Galway, and Ravi Verma, director of the ICRW Asia Regional Office. Lynne Featherstone, Britain's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, delivered the keynote address, and Cherie Blair, former first lady of Britain and founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, provided welcoming remarks. During the event, ICRW shared new research on gender-based violence in India, which has been in the spotlight globally after the fatal rape of a young woman on a bus in December 2012. ICRW President Sarah Degnan Kambou gave recommendations for how the global community should invest resources to combat violence against women.

IRIN FILMS

War on Women

www.irinnews.org/film/4984/War-on-Women

2014, 15 minutes

This film explores sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with gripping testimonies from both survivors and perpetrators and insight from analysts and civil society activists. Impunity helps drive the horrific levels of sexual violence in DRC. It is more than a "weapon of war," and is not confined to the battlefield.

NARU MUI FILMS

LaDonna Harris: Indian 101

indian101themovie.com

2014, 63 minutes

This film chronicles the life of Comanche activist and national civil rights leader LaDonna Harris and the role she has played in Native and mainstream American history since the 1960s. In this new documentary, Brannum, the great-niece of Harris, celebrates her life and the personal struggles that led her to become a voice for Native people and her contemporary work to strengthen and rebuild indigenous communities and train emerging Native leaders around the world. Harris's activism began in Oklahoma, fighting segregation and assisting grassroots Native and women's groups. In Washington, Harris introduced landmark programs and legislation returning territory to tribes, improving education and healthcare for Native Americans, ending job discrimination against women, and targeting other pressing issues of the time. For over three decades, her course for legislators, "Indian 101," combatted ignorance about America's most marginalized population. Using interviews, archival footage, and photographs, this film celebrates one of the most important women leaders in Native American and U.S. history.

SONKE GENDER JUSTICE NETWORK

Can't Just Fold Your Arms

vimeo.com/46332577

2014, 56 minutes

Can't Just Fold Your Arms is an inspiring story of moral commitment, a striking portrait of South Africa today, and a necessary, warts-and-all look at the reality of engaging men for women's rights and gender transformation. The film follows three high-profile Sonke activists — Mbuyiselo Botha, Patrick Godana, and Dean Peacock — and a small team of Sonke's younger men as they train, discuss, debate, listen, lecture, laugh, march, sing, inspire, explain, worry, plan, pray, toyi-toyi, criticize, coax, question, organize, and wrestle with South African reality and with one another over a period of two years. At every step of the way, the everyday work of engaging men stirs up bigger issues of strategy, vision, and politics.

VOICES OF WOMEN MEDIA

www.voicesofwomenmedia.org

Apna Haq: Our Right

2014, 18 minutes

Four young girls from the slums of New Delhi created this film in order to help make a change in their community by raising awareness about the lack of toilets and its implications for women. Working together with Feminist Approaches to Technology and Voices of Women media, who provided workshops to train them in multimedia skills, they created a body of photography documenting their everyday lives, a radio show, and short films to campaign for their cause. They seek to launch a movement which will ultimately sway policymakers. This is an inspiring short film displaying the next generation of feminist activists in India.

WOMEN MAKE MOVIES

www.wmm.com

Casablanca Calling

2014, 70 minutes

As political conflict and change sweep the Arab world, this film highlights a quiet social revolution under way in Morocco, where 60% of the women have never attended school. For the first time, Moroccan women are trained and employed as official Muslim leaders or *morchidat*. Charged with teaching Islam based on tolerance, compassion, and equity, they provide vital support and guidance to communities, especially to girls and women. At the film's heart are three *morchidat* assigned to mosques in different parts of Morocco. It follows them for a year on rounds to schools and other sites to provide advice on marriage and employment, champion education for girls and women, caution against early marriage, and help resolve personal problems. Offering unique access to a story we rarely see, this illuminating documentary demonstrates how women's empowerment through moderate Islam is transforming a nation.

Kismet

2013, 57 minutes

Wildly popular, Turkish soap operas have taken the world by storm, with over 300 million viewers in eighty countries across the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, and Asia. With unprecedented access, this film delves into the phenomenon, weaving together excerpts from the major shows, including interviews with their talent and the writers, producers, and directors behind the scenes — primarily women — and portraits of everyday viewers in Turkey, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bulgaria, and Greece. Exploring how the soaps captivate, inspire, and empower women, the film reveals how they break down negative stereotypes and traditional taboos. The soaps openly discuss rape, sexual and domestic violence, child and arranged marriages, and honor killings, while also sparking change in gender relationships, activism against sexual abuse, and a wave of divorce across the Middle East. Invaluable for studies in media and popular culture, *Kismet* discloses how profoundly Turkish soaps penetrate viewers' social and religious realities while encouraging women to transform their lives and strengthening the debate about women's rights across the region.



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