

## **GPN Events 2014**

## **Magda Anchondo and Eleuthera Sa, Co-Chairs**

In 2014, the Gender and Policy Network (GPN) at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University worked to raise awareness and offer a space for conversations about gender and policy issues among policy students and faculty. Through a number of events, including discussions and lectures, GPN sought to bring gender perspectives into a wide range of policy areas and to foster students' interest in gender and feminist issues.

### **March 17, 2014, Field trip to the UN Commission on the Status of Women in NYC**

GPN steering committee members attended the 58<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is an annual gathering of UN Member States that evaluates progress, identifies challenges, and sets global standards for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. GPN members attended 4 events:

1. Addressing Violations of Sexual and Reproductive Health and rRights of Women Living with HIV in Health Care Settings (UNDP, UNAIDS)
2. Gender Statistics and Data Revolution in the Context of Post-2015 Agenda (UN Women Mexico, INMUJERES)
3. More than Mothers: Reflections on Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the MDG's and the Post-2015 Agenda (OHCHR, Amnesty, Center for Reproductive Rights)
4. Care and Sustainable Economy in the Post 2015 Development Agenda (Germany, Uruguay)

Interesting snapshots of the day included Harvard Lecturer on Law and Global Health Alicia Yamin's comments that the international community is still afraid of women having pleasure during sex. She also stated that people are interested in having sex, not planning their families, when deciding whether to use contraceptives. Members of the international community shared a renewed interest in reducing discrimination by healthcare workers to HIV/AIDS patients at government health centers and hospitals and emphasized that more comprehensive discrimination laws need to be introduced. Furthermore, in the post-2015 MDG agenda, the international community should move beyond reducing maternal mortality rates and provide better services for expectant and new mothers. GPN members also met with Margaret Hempel (MPA '89) from the Ford Foundation and later with two previous GPN co-chairs. Ms. Hempel urged us to seek out different internships, take the opportunity to learn program evaluation and stressed the importance of finding good supervisors for a successful career.

### **March 25, 2014, Breakfast with Dan Grossman, Vice President for Research, Ibis Reproductive Health, co-sponsored with the Center for Health and Wellbeing**

Dan Grossman described his company's work on gathering data on abortion in the United States and Latin America. He also encouraged students to use evidence in their future policy decisions.

### **April 6, 2014, SAOC Panel on "Extending the Anne-Marie Slaughter and Sheryl Sandberg Debate to Women of Color"**

Panel speakers included Dr. Angélica Pérez-Litwin, Toni De Mello, MPA-URP '08 and Elizabeth Lindsay, MPA-URP '07 (filling in for Stefanie Brown James); moderated by Visiting Prof. Julia Rubin. **Panel**

**speakers were chosen by GPN co-chairs.** Some of the key points specific to women of color that were raised:

1. Leaning in has its limitations - Recounting her own experience, Dr. Pérez-Litwin pointed out that women do lean in at the workplace, but are challenged by the racial lens through which other people examine them. Social perceptions and ethnic biases act as barriers to promotion and leadership positions that women, especially women of color, face in the workplace.

2. Take on multiple mentorships - Toni De Mello recommended that women of color seek out multiple mentors, to ensure exposure to different viewpoints. She also pointed out the need for having mentors who are colleagues, and not just those who are ahead of you.

3. Gender wage differentials have greater implications for women of color. Addressing the gender leadership gap and the wage gap is very important for women of color, as they are more likely to be the sole breadwinners of their households. Hence, lower wages and salaries for women of color, on average, could mean reduced welfare and living standards for households of color on average.

### **April 15, 2014, Leadership lunch discussion with Prof. Nan Keohane**

Nan Keohane shared her views on how to be an effective leader, based on her experiences as the former President of Duke University and on her scholarly research. The discussion centered around how men can be more effective arbiters of providing women *and men* appropriate time off for maternity and paternity leave and how it's up to both genders to end workplace discrimination and advocate for equal pay for equal work.

### **April 28, 2014, Sexual Assault in the Military: What's going on? What's being done?**

Jill Loftus, Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention (Co-sponsored with the Center for International Security Studies, CISS)

#### **A Panel Discussion on Institutional Responses to Military & Campus Sexual Assault**

Jill Loftus (Department of the Navy), Melinda Henneberger (Washington Post), Gina Smith (Pepper Hamilton, LLP), and Michele Minter (Vice Provost for Institutional Equity and Diversity)

A daylong symposium centered on how the military and college campuses have handled and currently address sexual assault. Jill Loftus explained her role within the Navy to students over a lunchtime event and her current work to improve how the Navy addresses sexual assault cases and how it trains military personnel to prevent assault from occurring. A panel discussion in the afternoon also highlighted how the media has reported on both topics with special emphasis and discussion from Henneberger and Hamilton on the trial of two Navy midshipmen. Minter outlined Princeton's recent efforts to increase campus sexual assault awareness, strategies to help decrease the number of assaults and ways to encourage more people to come forward.

### **September 16, 2014, GPN Introductory and Brainstorming Meeting with new MPPs and MPAs**

### **September 30, 2014, GPN Student Internship Presentations with Shasti Conrad (Malala Fund), Ricky Hurtado (My Brother's Keeper) and Meagan Reed (VAWA – White House)**

MPA2s shared their internship experiences that focused on gender and policy with incoming MPAs and MPPs. The MPA2 students described their efforts to support Malala Yousafzai to improve girls'

education, to prevent the school to prison pipeline for boys and men of color, and to assist the research and drafting of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

**October 6, 2014, Dinner discussion with Kirsten Moore, MPA '98, Director of Partnerships, Everytown for Gun Safety**

Ms. Moore shared her experiences with working at *Everytown for Gun Safety*, the new non-profit created out of the merger of *Mayors Against Illegal Guns* and *Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America*. Her work includes connecting advocates, activists and survivors in the domestic violence and sexual violence communities in pursuit of legislation that will protect women, men and children from abuse. The student discussion addressed not only future gun violence legislation, but also how gun violence particularly affects vulnerable groups, including sexual assault and abuse victims.

**October 14, 2014, Unintended Pregnancy and Contraception with Abigail Aiken, Postdoctoral Research Fellow**

Aiken focused on a well-known paradox in the measurement of unintended pregnancy: women frequently report feeling happy about pregnancies they also classify as unintended. She focused on women in Texas of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Given the high and persistent rate of unintended pregnancy in the US, and the disparities between racial and ethnic groups, understanding how to interpret women's attitudes towards pregnancy is important for ensuring adequate access to contraception, fulfillment of contraceptive desires, and effective targeting of preventative strategies.

**October 16, 2014, Prospect Lunch discussion with Senator Olympia Snowe**

Senator Snowe (Ret.) shared her experiences as a woman on the Hill and offered advice on women entering politics and running for public office to graduate students. Some of her discussion also highlighted what has "gone wrong" in Congress in recent years, her campaigns for women's rights and health issues, and the role of women in congressional politics.

**November 5, 2014, Lunch discussion with Rohini Pande, MPA '91**

Pande's presentation presented key programmatic and policy findings from her book, *Violence Against Women and Girls: Lessons from South Asia*. The book takes stock of the types of violence perpetrated against women and girls in South Asia throughout their lifetimes, analyzes drivers of this violence, and documents work undertaken by hundreds of actors in the region to address the problem of violence against women and girls. The book also provides good practice examples and recommendations for policy and programming regarding such violence that can inform the government, private sector, NGOs, researchers, and other stakeholders working on prevention and response to violence against women and girls in the region.

**November 12, 2014, Book Discussion with Professor Betsy Paluck on *Bad Feminist***

Students and Professor Paluck discussed Roxanne Gay's book *Bad Feminist*, and how students felt some of the book's theories resonated with their lives and women in America.

### **November 18, 2014, Leadership Lunch with Nan Keohane and MPA2s**

Professor Nan Keohane provided leadership and career advice for women in the workplace, to MPA2s in an intimate lunch discussion. Students asked how to have a good work and personal life balance, how to negotiate a salary and fight discrimination in the workplace.

### **December 2, 2014, Reproductive Justice Lunch with Silvia Enriquez, Principal, Conway Strategic**

Enriquez led the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health as its executive director for 8 years. During her tenure, NLIRH became the leading organization working to advance the reproductive health and rights of Latinas. Her discussion highlighted her recent nationwide efforts to break stigma surrounding abortion and to advance reproductive rights.

### **December 3, 2014, Lunch discussion with Shirin Ebadi, Iranian lawyer, former judge and human rights activist and founder of Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran (Nobel Peace Prize winner, 2003).**

In an engaging discussion with Shirin Ebadi, WWS students learned about Ebadi's efforts to fight for improved human rights in Iran and her success as the first female judge in Iran prior to the Iranian revolution in 1979. She encouraged students to have hope, campaign for those less fortunate, and to seek justice in whatever ways they can.

### **December 3, 2014, Smashing Stigma Power Hour: A conversation about abortion rights and a Woo's personal story**

Co-chair Eleuthera Sa led a short discussion on abortion rights followed by an MPA's personal story about her own abortion. The student chose to tell her story to draw attention to the personal nature of abortions and the difficulties she faced both in getting the abortion and post-procedure.

### **February 18, 2015, Public talk and dinner with Dr. Willie Parker (*co-hosted with 2015 GPN co-chairs Emily Black and Andrea Michelsen*)**

Parker, MD, MPH, MSc, travels to Jackson, Mississippi to perform abortions at the last remaining abortion clinic in the state. The clinic, known as the Pink House, because of its intentional color, is operated by the Jackson Women's Health Organization (JWHO). The organization has served women and families in Mississippi for 17 years, and has been the sole reproductive health care provider offering abortion services in the state since 2002. Parker outlined his personal religious reasons for performing abortions, describing it as a compassionate act for women, sometimes in desperate situations. The student discussion included abortion's controversial role in American politics and its ties to race and gender policy dynamics in the U.S.