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HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: TOWARDS AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ASIA REGION edited by Ma. Cynthia Rose Bauzon Bautista, June Pagaduan and Satur Ocampo

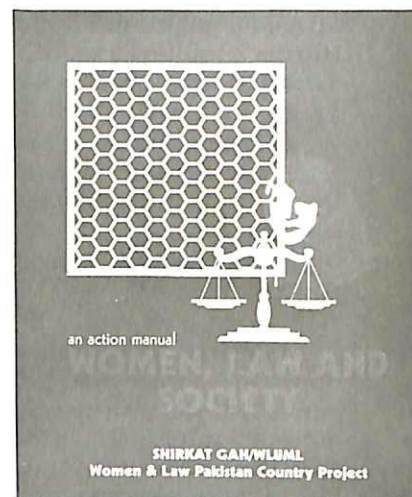
Human Rights and Health Professionals documents the Seminar on Medical Ethics, Torture and Rehabilitation, which gathered health professionals from different countries in Asia engaged in human rights work and the care of torture victims. The themes tackled during the seminar include ethical issues surrounding the involvement of health professionals in torture, the physical and psychological consequences of those who suffer from it and the issues in the care of torture victims with special needs—women and children. The seminar was also a chance for the caregivers to reflect on the nature of their relationship with torture survivors, to release tensions and pent-up emotions from years of engagement with human rights victims. (*Philippines: UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies, 1997, 311 pages*)

DIALOGUE OF RELIGIOUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS: THE FINAL DOCUMENT edited by Mark Daly

Religion has always figured in the social discourse leading to human rights violations. Christianity, for example, has been used to justify colonial expansion and the subjugation of one nation by another. Hinduism has been used to keep mil-

lions of people "untouchable." Muslim fundamentalism has been invoked to maintain priestly supremacy and male domination. Buddhism has been used to justify racism and militarism. Throughout history, religious doctrines have been invoked to rationalize exploitation and oppression.

From 1-6 March 1996, 15 people from different parts of Asia and from different religious backgrounds met to reflect and dialogue on how religious people across faiths and institutions can further contribute to the promotion of a discourse promoting and protecting human rights. *Dialogue of Religious on Human Rights* documents that meeting. Broad-ranging and rich are the experiences, knowledge and wisdom represented in that dialogue of human rights activists, ex-political detainees, feminist theologians, theological scholars and community workers. One of the important points highlighted in the participants' sharing of experiences and discussions is the need to integrate spirituality and social activism; to counter greed, inequality and hate not only through political action but also through the promotion of a spirituality based on respect for nature and other human beings. Spirituality, the participants agreed, needs to be rooted in real justice and mercy. (*Hong Kong: Asian Human Rights Commission and Asian Legal Resource Centre, 1996. 132p. ISBN 962-8161-01-6*)



WOMEN, LAW AND SOCIETY: AN ACTION MANUAL FOR NGOs edited by Cassandra Balchin

As in other countries, the laws applicable and customs practiced in Pakistan are the outcome of historical experience, combined with local structures of power and cultural specificity. This produces the "living law"—the rules that, in reality, govern women's lives and determine the space within which they strategise for their survival.

Women, Law and Society is part of a series of publications of Shirkat Gah, in line with its Women and Law Pakistan Country Project. The aim of the series is to share the diversity of women's situations and experiences and increasing women's options. Published in English, Urdu and Sidhi, *Women, Law and Society* reports numerous real-life stories taken from

reported court cases, newspaper reports and stories told to researchers and community workers of Shirkat Gah. For quick reference, a chart comparing customary practices in the four provinces of Pakistan with statutory law precedes each section of the manual. The essential elements of the practical application of statutory law and custom have also been visually highlighted.

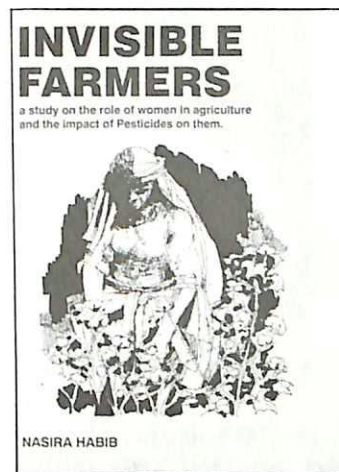
Women Law and Society builds up on the first two publications: *A Handbook on Family Law in Pakistan*, which provides a detailed examination of superior court case law favourable to women, and *A Chart of Customary Practices in Comparison to Statutory Law*, a product of Shirkat Gah's more than two years' research of customary practices. (*Pakistan: Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre, 1996. 159p.*)

THE TRADE IN DOMESTIC WORKERS: CAUSES, MECHANISMS AND CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION edited by Noeleen Heyzer, Geertje Lycklama à Nijeholt and Nedra Weerakoon

This book is the outcome of the Regional Policy Dialogue on "Foreign Women Domestic Workers: International Migration, Employment and National Policies" held from 10-14 August 1992 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The essays, selected papers presented in the dialogue, provide an overview and synthesis of the causes, mechanisms and consequences of the trade in domestic workers. Collectively, they analyse the interrelated structural forces both international and national and, in particular, the role of the State in the individual situation of women migrant workers – within the family, household and wider kinship and community networks. They also trace the full cycle of international migration, examining both ends of the migration process, from sending to receiving countries.

This book aims to guide the framing of policy that would maximise the positive outcomes and

minimise the negative effects of overseas employment for domestic workers. The issues identified for policy intervention include the recruitment process, the profits of agents, the indebtedness of workers, the sending of remittances, the legal protection of the workers, their own disrupted family life and their difficulties in reintegration. (*Malaysia: Asian and Pacific Development Centre, 1994. 247p. ISBN 967-9928-45-4*)

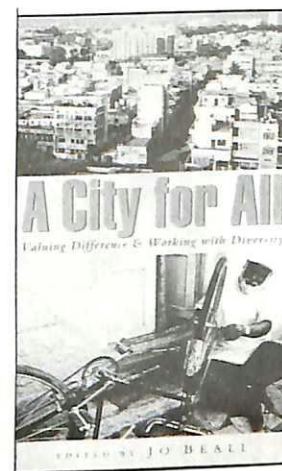


INVISIBLE FARMERS: A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND THE IMPACT OF PESTICIDES ON THEM by Nasira Habib

In 1995, the sale of pesticides in Pakistan was pegged at Rs. 9 billion. About 90 percent of the total amount of pesticides sold were used in the cotton crop sector. Though women generally are not the ones who spray pesticides in the fields, they are in direct contact with these poisonous substances because they take part in on-farm activities: soil preparation, sowing, weeding, harvesting, etc. But since women are not considered end-users of pesticides, they are rarely the focus of research, training and information campaign on the impact of pesticides on farmers. As a result, the adverse effects of pesticides on women's health has not been integrated into rural development plans and programs of either government and non-government organizations.

Invisible Farmers throw some light on the plight of women ad-

versely affected by the use of pesticides. Specifically, the study provides information on the impact of pesticides on women's health and the environment. It also provides an overview of the extent of the use of pesticides in Pakistan, and compares this with the standards set forth by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. (*Malaysia: Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific and Pakistan: Khoj-Research and Publication Centre, 1996. 129p. ISBN 983-9381-00-8*)

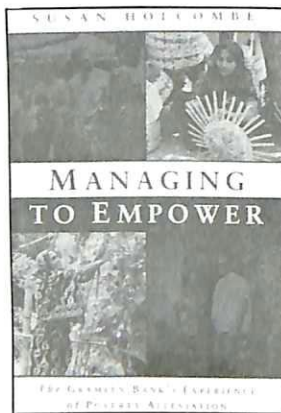


A CITY FOR ALL: VALUING DIFFERENCE AND WORKING WITH DIVERSITY edited by Jo Beall

By the turn of the century more than half of the world's population will live in urban areas, with the cities of the South being host to more than half the world's absolute poor. The rapid pace of urbanization is thus forcing a rethinking of development priorities. Sustainable human development in an urbanizing world must address best practice in urban development, including participative approaches in urban partnerships and the achievement of a gendered city, recognizing and responding to the needs of both women and men.

This book opens with an introduction to the issues of urban development, taking a human development perspectives as its central theme.

Best practice in sustainable human settlements is explored through analysis of the nature of diversity in the city, organizational and participative issues and the question of gender. The contributors then go on to illustrate the experience and practice of living and working in the city, supporting secure homes and neighborhoods, designing for the inclusive city, creating sustainable urban environments and, lastly, organizing for best practice in the city. Throughout, the contributors concentrate on valuing differences, working with diversity, and creating an enabling development for an inclusive city. (UK and USA: Zed Books Ltd., 1997. 298p. ISBN 1-85649-478-0)



MANAGING TO EMPOWER: THE GRAMEEN BANK'S EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION by Susan Holcombe

Instead of searching mainly for models of poverty alleviation, this examination of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh looks at how successful efforts are actually managed. Using approaches drawn from modern management theory, Dr. Holcombe investigates the management of the Grameen Bank, an organization with nearly two million borrowers, a repayment rate of 98 percent and a track record of successful poverty alleviation.

Holcombe poses the important question: should an organization seeking to alleviate poverty through

participation and empowerment themselves have participatory and empowering management styles? In the case of the Grameen Bank, she finds that it skillfully combines centralization and decentralization in ways that do empower and motivate field staff effectively. The implications for the management of development NGOs are enormous. (UK and USA: Zed Books Ltd., 1995. 203p. ISBN 1-85649-316-4)

GENDER IN PROJECTS AND ORGANIZATIONS: A CASEBOOK edited by Jeanne Frances I. Illo

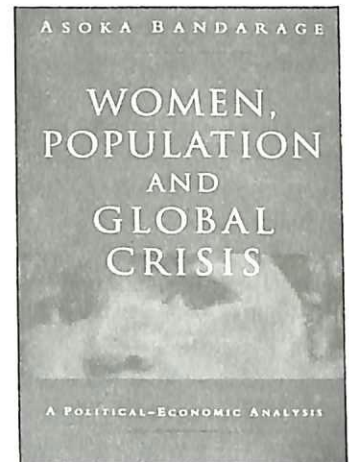
For the past five years or so, gender training workshops in the Philippines that employed case analysis approach had used training case materials that were generated by the Women's Studies Program of the Institute of Philippine Culture in 1990. In 1995, the government's National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the IPC Women's Studies collaborated on a research program and a series of workshops to produce a fresh set of cases that could be used in place of, or along with, existing cases.

This volume covers seven new cases – four from the workshops and field studies and three from previous research studies of IPC. These cases can be used in training various groups of people to apply gender analysis skills to their work. The cases can also be used to train trainers for case analysis workshops. Towards this particular aim, this volume includes a set of training notes and discussion guide questions. (Philippines: Institute of Philippine Culture of the Ateneo de Manila University and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, 1996. 174p. ISBN 971-8610-34-0)

WOMEN, POPULATION AND GLOBAL CRISIS: A POLITICAL-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS by Asoka Bandarage

It has been widely assumed that over-population is one of the root

causes of global crisis. Even amongst feminist and environmental movements, the common wisdom on popu-



lation has never been seriously critiqued. Synthesizing Third World, feminist, socialist and ecological thinking and solutions, Bandarage provides a historical overview of the population question and places the population-poverty-environment-security debate within a broad theoretical perspective.

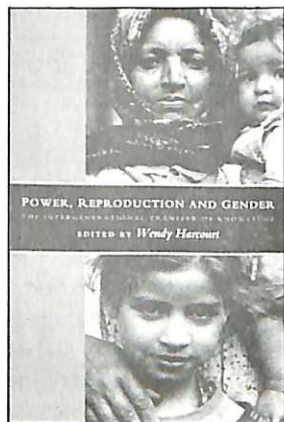
The first part of the book looks at conventional ideologies of population control – from Malthusianism to the contraceptive revolution. In part two, the author develops an alternative analysis of “overpopulation” – exploring the roots of the environmental crisis, violence and inequality en route. Critiquing capitalism, industrialism, patriarchy and white supremacy, Bandarage knows how population control acts as another dimension of our essentially hierarchical world order – and one that is moving us inexorably towards violence and destruction.

Finally, Bandarage explores new global visions and efforts towards peace, justice and ecology and argues for a new partnership paradigm that stresses the interconnectedness of life. (UK and USA: Zed Books Ltd., 1997. 397p. ISBN 1-85649-428-4)

POWER, REPRODUCTION AND GENDER: THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE edited by Wendy

Harcourt

This book explores issues of health, empowerment, sexuality and reproductive rights—issues fundamental to the on-going international development debate on population and gender.

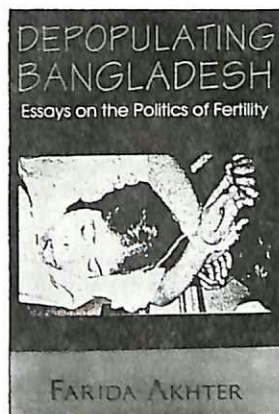


The rapid changes being brought about by modernity, new medical and social practices and development institutions often throw up the ethical dilemma for feminist researchers and activists: Can we change cultural behavior, sexuality and gender relations; and should we? Tensions that arise in acknowledging both family planning knowledge and practice have forced changes onto different cultures with little regard for the potential impact, and that the techniques and knowledge can be, in themselves, of great use to women. This book highlights such tensions and ethical concerns of the “population” project that are too often blithely ignored. (UK and USA: Zed Books Ltd., 1997. 205p. ISBN 1-85649-426-8)

DEPOPULATING BANGLADESH: ESSAYS ON THE POLITICS OF FERTILITY by Farida Akhter

The essays in *Depopulating Bangladesh*, written from 1981 to 1995, document the depopulating strategies imposed on Bangladesh by international agencies like the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank and others. Primarily written for national and international audiences in different seminars, Akhter's essays address various questions on population control and reproductive rights that were raised within the national and international feminist movement.



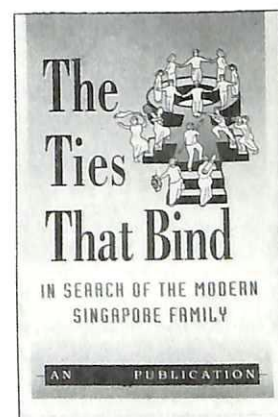
Akhter argues that there are serious differences between how sisters in the South and the North view and deal with reproductive rights, technology, population control and many other relevant issues. Implications of the demands raised by the Northern women-led movement are not necessarily positive for women in the South. There is also an increasing trend by which “feminists” are coopted by patriarchal institutions responsible for the oppression of women in countries like Bangladesh. Akhter advocates strong international solidarity between women in the North and South who look at the issues from the point of view of class. (Bangladesh: Narigrantha Prabartana, 1996. 182p. ISBN 984-467-045-4)

THE HEALTH OF WOMEN: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE edited by Marge Koblinsky, Judith Tomyan and Jill Gay

This book, the product of the 1991 National Council for International Health's Conference on Women's Health: The Action Agenda, addresses women's need for informa-

tion and services to help improve their health and overall situation. Aside from highlighting the major threads of experience in providing women of all ages with health care, this volume also suggests concrete ways to redress international inattention to women's health, as well as specific targets for moving from concern to action.

The book also fleshes out the guiding principles for promoting women's health issues and concerns that were brought forth in the conference. These principles are: gender-specific data are essential in ensuring equitable and effective sharing of resources; health workers, planners and advocates must confront gender discrimination; women's health begins in infancy, thus attention must also be given to the adequate nutrition, health care and education of girls, young women and mothers; and the quality of women's lives is an indicator of their ability to develop and maximise their potential. Therefore, women's empowerment through training, education and participation is essential to promoting women's health. (USA: Westview Press, Inc., 1993. 291p. ISBN 0-8133-1608-1)

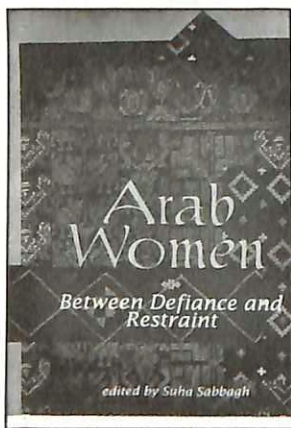


THE TIES THAT BIND: IN SEARCH OF THE MODERN SINGAPORE FAMILY by the Association of Women for Action and Research

The Ties That Bind examines how far women in Singapore have pro-

gressed. The writers who come from diverse backgrounds — academe, journalism, social work, civil service, legislature — cover a wide spectrum of topics ranging from a historical overview of the Singapore family to a look at multi-generational and nuclear living arrangements. It also documents the struggle of low-income woman heads of households as well as a woman's experience of changing status from full-time professional to full-time mother. There are also reflections on living in an extended family, a personal experience of aging and one male's view of how men see women. The last essay looks at the impact of national policies on women and their family.

Besides reaffirming the family as the country's most important institution, the essays reveal that women, regardless and in spite of their circumstances — single, married, divorced, rich, poor, educated, uneducated — continue to be the centre of family life. (*Singapore: AWARE, 1996. 208p. ISBN 981-00-7917-6*)



ARAB WOMEN: BETWEEN DEFIANCE AND RESTRAINT edited by Suha Sabbagh

The lives of Arab women today are complex, diverse and multi-faceted. Faced with constricting laws and social customs that hold them back from full participation in society, some women, as a result, lead lives of passive submission. Others however rage against those institu-

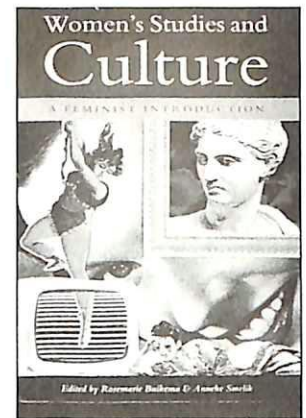
tional obstacles, organize other women to challenge male domination of their public and private lives and seize every opening, large or small, to move the rights of women to the next step.

Arab women labor in dangerous factories and unmechanized fields. They keep families intact and care for their children without access to modern technology; sometimes even without electricity or clean water. But they also fill medical and engineering schools in universities throughout the Arab world. They are creating some of the greatest art and literature of their rich cultures. They serve bravely in overwhelmingly male parliaments. And they organize and fight — with and without men's consent — for incremental democratic gains and sometimes for their own rights as women.

This collection brings together various Arab women writers and other experts and analyses the lives, the diverse roles and the means of overcoming the challenges that confront women in today's Arab societies. The essays examine feminism, women's education and daily lives, women's views of Islam and women Islamists, and women's roles in war and literature. There are interviews with women political leaders such as Palestine's Hanan Mikhail Ashwari and Jordan's Leila Shàraf. (*USA: Olive Branch Press, 1996. 267p. ISBN 1-56656-187-6*)

WOMEN'S STUDIES AND CULTURE: A FEMINIST INTRODUCTION edited by Rosemarie Buikema and Anneke Smelik

Buikema and Smelik offer a synthesis of the feminist critique of Western culture in this valuable introduction to feminist cultural studies. The first half of the book explores the development of feminist academic practice, particularly as it has developed in Western universities in the last two decades, and scans the full range of feminist theory including a

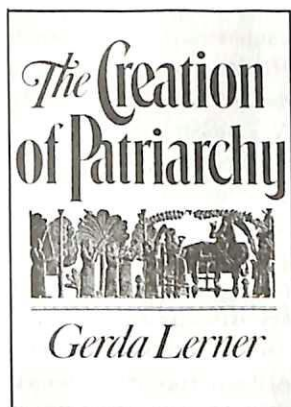


comprehensive coverage of the equality/difference debate and the postmodern challenge to that debate. The chapters in Part One also examine the impact of women's studies on linguistics, literary theory, popular culture, history, film theory, art-history, theater studies and musicology. In Part Two, the various essays explore the politics, theories and methods of feminist study including psychoanalysis, black criticism, lesbian studies and semiotics.

A particularly clever device used by the book to make theory concrete is the use of the novel *The Color Purple*, an analysis of which is woven throughout the book. There are also a number of practical aids intended for both teachers and students. There is also, at the end of each chapter, a short list of literature recommended for further study, as well as a complete bibliography at the back of the book. Designed as a course material, this introduction to feminist cultural studies also includes a set of student assignments for each discipline to encourage students to tackle the subject matter independently. A glossary at the back of the book, which explains the central concepts within feminist cultural studies, is another helpful feature of this book. Originally published in Dutch in 1993. (*USA and UK: Zed Books, 1995. 226p. ISBN 1-85649-312-1*)

THE CREATION OF PATRIARCHY by Gerda Lerner

First published in 1986, *The Creation of Patriarchy* is the first of two volumes of Gerda Lerner's study of the historical development of ideas, symbols and metaphors through which patriarchal gender relations were incorporated into Western civilization. Tracing the changes in metaphor or images for gender, Lerner shows that



the creation of patriarchy was not a "single event," but rather a process that had spanned a period of nearly 2,500 years (from approximately 3100-600 BC) and which occurred at different paces and at different times in several distinct societies. In this sense, Lerner poses a critical challenge to the notion that patriarchy was the result of a kind of radical "overthrow," which altered existing power relations in society.

Lerner not only departs from traditional Marxist historical-class analysis but also reverses long held Marxist assumptions about the origins of the family and the woman question. Lerner proposed that the appropriation by men of women's sexual and reproductive capacity preceded the formation of private property and class. Lerner's inquiry begins in the Ancient Near East in the 4th millennium BC, particularly Mesopotamia, and ends in approximately 400 BC, around the time of the rise of Hebrew monotheism. (USA and UK: Oxford University Press, 1986. 318p. ISBN 0-19-505185-8)

LEADING OUT: WOMEN CLIMBERS REACHING FOR THE TOP edited by Rachel da Silva

Leading Out brings together the voices of more than 25 women who eloquently capture the exhilaration and daring of mountain adventure—from all-women treks in Nepal to modern solo ascents in the Cascades.

Eight pitches up the North Face of Saint Exupery in Patagonia, Sue Harrington explores the complexities of climbing with a spouse; Lorraine Bonney takes on the subject of environmental responsibility in her first-hand account of the 1990 Everest Environmental expedition; Nancy Kerrebrock tells a delightful story of the unique challenges climbing and motherhood pose; Janet Roddan's gripping story of an ice climb of Polar Circus in the Canadian Rockies will pull you from your armchair and propel you into that magical, chilling world.

Also included are writings by climbing foremothers such as Gwen Moffat and Dorothy Pilley and the contemporary international perspectives of Australian great Louise Shepherd and Bachendri Pal—the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest.

Packed with riveting accounts of high peak ascents and fascinating narratives by some of the world's top climbers, *Leading Out* is an inspiring testament to women's achievements and a must-have book for every climber. (USA: Seal Press, 1992. 358p. ISBN 1-878067-20-6)

WRITING SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND ASIA IN ENGLISH: AGAINST THE GRAIN, FOCUS IN ASIAN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LITERATURE by Shirley Geok-lin Lim

Shirley Geok-lin Lim puts together her previously published essays focusing on South East Asian and Asian English-language literature. Grouped into three parts, the 10 chapters of this collection demonstrate that local speech, national language and national canons have much to tell not only about place and region but



also about the nations of the imagination. In Part One, Lim examines the relationship between the critic's multiple and shifting subject positions—woman, Chinese, Malaysian, Asian, post-colonial—and cultural texts.

Part Two covers the work of Timothy Mo, Sulfikar Ghose and Kamala Das whose works do not fit easily into the borders of country literatures but are testimonies nonetheless to the postmodern condition of the transnational writer. Finally, in Part Three, Lim tackles Malaysian and Singapore literatures, examining the differences between early and contemporary writings and how identities of "woman," "nation," and "race" become constituted in texts, and how texts get reconstituted in the context of nation formation.

Born and raised in Malaysia, Lim is a professor of English and Women's Studies and has been writing on Asian English-language literatures since the mid-1960s. (London: Skoob Book Publishing, 1994. 202p. ISBN 1-871438-49-7)

REGENERATION by Pat Barker

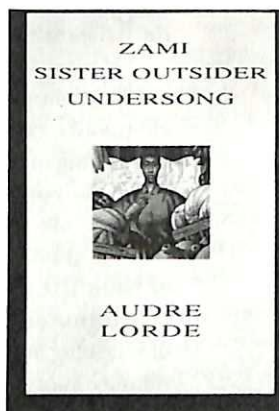
Pat Barker won the 1995 Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*, the third in a trio of novels that is part war saga, part exploration of gender, war/peace, class and modern psychiatry and a wholly intelligent, compelling and complex weaving of fiction and history. *Regeneration* is the first of Barker's trilogy. It starts in 1917, a

year before the Armistice. Siegfried Sassoon, noted poet and decorated war hero, refuses to continue serving as a British Officer in World War I and proclaims the war a senseless slaughter. Officially classified "mentally unsound," Sassoon is sent to



Craiglockhart, a special hospital for shell-shocked and traumatized soldiers of the British Empire. There, he meets Dr. William Rivers, who is tasked to restore Sassoon's "sanity" (the better to send him off to mainland Europe's trenches) and other patients, including fellow poet and officer Wilfred Owen. Sassoon and Rivers did meet in real life in Craiglockhart (so did Sassoon and Owen). Robert Graves, also poet-soldier and a close friend of Sassoon also figures in *Regeneration* and in the two other books in the trilogy (along with Owen).

Barker however is not interested in retelling what happened or what may happen during the real-life encounters of her characters. Rather, she builds her story on what it meant, this encounter of real and imagined men wrestling with nightmares of carnage, dreams of valour and homoerotic brotherhood, and the confusions attendant to a collapsing era. In the book and in real life, Sassoon rejoined the British army and got sent back to the frontline. He survived the war. (USA: Plume Books, 1993. 251p. ISBN 0-452-27007-3)



ZAMI/SISTER OUTSIDER/UNDERSONG
by Audre Lorde

This compilation edition binds together three of Audre Lorde's best books: *Zami*, *Sister Outsider*, and *Undersong*. Combining biography, mythology and history in *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, Lorde records her own experiences as a West Indian in America and the growth of her emotional and sexual resonance with women. *Zami* grows up, goes to high school and college in New York City, and looks for women like herself. She discovers Afrekete, a kindred spirit whose passion and will match her own. Ultimately, she learns to deal with racism, sexism and opposition to her lesbian identity, and musters the spirit to retain her individuality.

In *Sister Outsider* (1984), Lorde tackles the complexities of her multiple identities. In the essay "Poetry Is Not a Luxury," Lorde declares that poetry is a "vital necessity of our existence."

Published just months before her death, *Undersong: Chosen Poems Old and New* (1992) covers 30 years of Lorde's poetry. Here, Lorde demonstrates her mastery of the love poem, but she writes with equal passion and eloquence about everything: from a conversation to her identity as a black woman. (USA: Quality Paperback Book Club, 1993. 651p.)

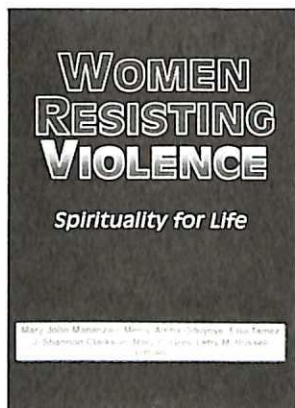
FEMINIST READINGS OF PHILIPPINE FICTION: CRITIQUE AND ANTHOLOGY
BY SYLVIA MENDEZ VENTURA

Ventura detects the coexistence of feminist consciousness and its unconscious repression in short stories by Lilia Pablo Amansec, Edith L. Tiempo, Tita Lacambra-Ayala, Kerima Polotan and Ines Taccad Cammayo. She also examines the representations of women by four male fictionists—Nick Joaquin, Rony V. Diaz, Gregorio C. Brillantes and Jose Y. Dalisay Jr.

Except for young Dalisay, all these writers were most productive during the so-called Golden Age of Philippine Fiction in English, an age when feminism was a non-word in literary discourse. An analysis of their stories within the contemporary feminist environment opens them to fresh insights that the traditional male canon would normally overlook. (Philippines: University of the Philippines Press, 1994. 280p. ISBN 971-542-046-X)



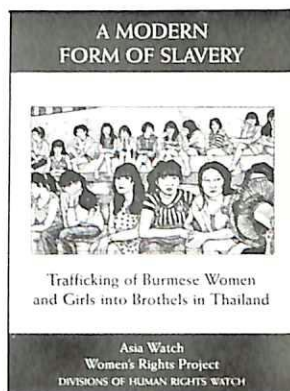
WOMEN RESISTING VIOLENCE: SPIRITUALITY FOR LIFE edited by Mary John Mananzan, Mercy Amba Oduyoye, Elsa Tamez, J. Shannon Clarkson, Mary C. Grey, and Letty M. Russel



In December 1994, 45 feminist theologians from around the world met in Costa Rica to discuss the impact of violence against women. For a full week these theologians dialogued on the many forms of violence suffered by women: economic, military, cultural, ecological, domestic and physical violence. *Women Resisting Violence* is one of the offshoots of that meeting. This valuable resource contains the conference papers grouped into four major themes: (1) cultural and ecological violence; (2) domestic and physical violence; (3) economic and military violence; and (4) women's struggle for life. Aside from the papers, the book also carries the final statement issued by the theologians at the end of the conference. This important document called for the development of an alternative anthropological and theo-ethical discourse on violence against women, and also a commitment to a set of concrete action plans including, among others, calling the churches' attention to their accountability on the global phenomena of trafficking of women, creating a global fund for women in theology with limited resources and signifying opposition to

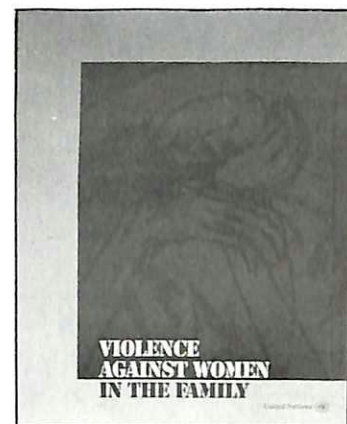
the attempts to patent life forms and other impositions of GATT-WTO that impact negatively on the environment. (*Philippines: St. Scholastica's College-Institute of Women's Studies*, 1996. 184p. ISBN 1-57075-080-7)

A MODERN FORM OF SLAVERY: TRAFFICKING OF BURMESE WOMEN AND GIRLS INTO BROTHELS IN THAILAND by Asia Watch and The Women's Rights Project



Thousands of Burmese women and girls are trafficked into Thai brothels every year where they work under conditions tantamount to slavery. *A Modern Form of Slavery* documents the violations of internationally-recognized human rights committed against Burmese women and girls victimised by trafficking. This short but powerful document is based on in-depth interviews with trafficking victims. The stories they tell are harrowing. Subject to debt bondage, illegal confinement, various forms of sexual and physical abuse and exposure to HIV in the brothels, the victims of trafficking also face wrongful arrests as illegal immigrants if they try to escape or if Thai police raid the brothels. Once arrested, the women and girls may be subjected to further sexual abuse in Thai detention centers. They are then taken back into prostitution by brothel agents who play on their fear of arrest on return to Burma. (USA:

Human Rights Watch, 1993. 160p. ISBN 1-56432-107-X)



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

Women are more often at risk from those with whom they live and that many of them live constantly with the threat of "domestic violence," whether battery, rape, incest or emotional abuse. Family privacy, guilt and embarrassment and traditional customs and culture have often hidden this violence. This United Nations publication is the result of research into literature pertaining to violence against women in the home. Primarily concerned with the physical and mental abuse of women by their husbands and lovers, it nevertheless touches upon abuse by other family members and upon abuses against other women in the family, e.g. sexual abuse of female children in the family. The main concern, however, of this volume is "wife battery" or "domestic violence."

First published in 1989, this 1994 volume has three main parts: a discussion of the context of the study; a description of the current responses to the problem and recommendations for short- and long-term strategies to confront violence against women in the family. (USA: *United Nations*, 1994. 120p. ISBN 92-1-130133-5)



STRATEGIES FOR CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A RESOURCE MANUAL

The International Bill of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights enumerate basic human rights as well as establish general rights for victims of domestic violence. Women's inherent rights and protection from this kind of violence are also provided by such instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice For Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power.

This manual was prepared in line with the UN General Assembly's resolution (45/114) urging Member-States to develop and implement policies, measures and strategies within and outside the criminal justice system to respond to the problem of domestic violence. Specifically, this manual provides a range of options and strategies that are being used to tackle domestic violence in different parts of the world. There are also information about actions being done by the police, by prosecutors, by health service workers, by social service workers, by women's groups and government agencies to respond to the problem of domestic violence. (New York: United Nations, 1993, 1995. 122p. ISBN 92-1-130-158-0)

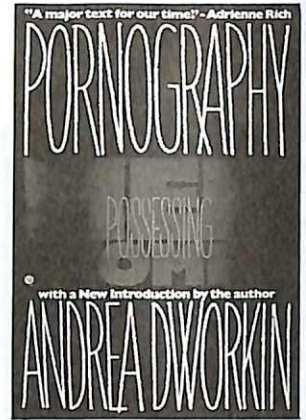
The Evil That Men Do

by Pi Villanueva

When I was 15, I wanted so much to be "one of the boys." Boys, I thought, did fun things; girls stayed home and made doilies. And I thought I was smart. It was while hanging around with the boys that I got my introduction to hard-core pornography. I remember, it was one of those high school party over at a classmate's house. At close to midnight, the boys started disappearing into the house den, leaving us girls to gossip in the living room. But being an honorary boy, I was soon let in on the "secret" and told that I can join the rest of them big boys if I wanted to. The big mystery turned out to be a porn movie called *Deep Throat* starring Linda Lovelace, who the boys told me was porn superstar of the moment.

I was out of that room in a flash. "This is sick," I remember telling one of the boys before walking out.

Fast forward to 1997. I just read Andrea Dworkin's *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, and I'm still reeling from the experience. Someone asked me how it was. I don't know, I said. Well-argued treatises are not supposed to hit you in the gut, only in the head. It's not just Dworkin, but other feminist writers as well who are able to combine meticulous research, clear thinking and solid prose who can make your world seem like it's been turned upside down. In *Pornography*, Dworkin dove deep into this most terrible of crime against women, to surface with a lucid examination of the real source of pornography – the power system that creates and perpetuates the systematic rape of women, and the culture that makes people inured to this violation. I emerged from *Pornography* with a



clearer understanding of a subject which, almost 20 years since Dworkin's book rolled out of the presses, continues to fire up and sometimes divide the women's movement.

Dworkin's *Pornography* was first published in 1979, the same year I saw that grimy betamax in a dark den. Linda Lovelace, a.k.a. Linda Marchiano, also figures in Dworkin's book. Marchiano and other women who survived pornography made me see where that retching, sickening feeling came from. "Every time someone watches that film, they are watching me being raped," Marchiano said. Another woman intoned, "They knew a child's face when they looked into it. It was clear that I was not acting of my free will. I was always covered with bruises...It was even clearer that I was sexually inexperienced. I literally didn't know what to do. So they showed me pornography to teach me about sex and then they would ignore my tears as they positioned my body like the women in the pictures and used me."

I have long stopped wanting to be one of the boys. Boys don't always do fun things. As Dworkin made it plain in her book, boys also do evil, nasty things to girls.