



# Highlights Reel 2018/2020

## UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Gender, Culture & Development

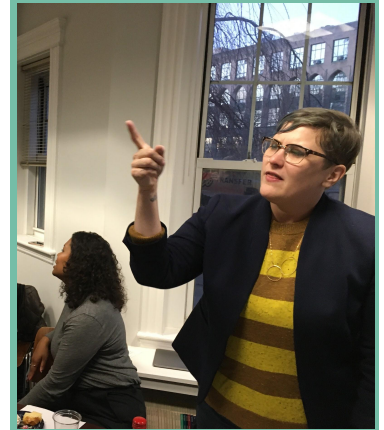
at BU's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program



Sen. Will Brownsberger at UVA's *Peace in Her Time*



*The Unforgettable Queens of Islam* by Shahla Haeri



BU/WGS Director Cati Connell leads annual Seminar Series

Announcing New Young Women's Forum!

First Entry:  
Mousumi Murmu of West Bengal's Diary



Photo: Mousumi's football team with coach and Chandana Dey

### INSIDE

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- Exhibitions
- Special Events
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- Publications
- News + Future



### Women in Politics:

Liz Breadon makes history as the first-ever woman representing Brighton-Allston on Boston City Council (at left, Team Liz in Oak Square)

# SPOTLIGHT:

## Women in Politics

### Liz Breadon Makes History!

### & New E-book on Women's Leadership



Three cheers for Liz Breadon! Liz, who served on the Board of Directors of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate the Brighton-Allston Historical Society, made history on November 5 2019 by winning the

election to become the first-ever woman representing Brighton-Allston on the Boston City Council! Congrats to Liz! Onward!

Gloria Bonder, who heads up the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender, announces new e-book edited by Araceli Alonso and Teresa Langle de Paz. This volume contains 16 articles in English as well as 22 articles in Spanish.

#### Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender

Collaboration, communication and innovation in gender research and practices

[citunescomujer.org/globalnetwork](http://citunescomujer.org/globalnetwork)

## The Time is Now. Feminist Leadership for a New Era

Story here:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/09/new-ebook-on-womens-leadership.html>

# EXHIBITIONS:

## Unbound Visual Arts Peace in Her Time & The Waste Land on Earth?



UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate Unbound Visual Arts (UVA) hosted its 3rd annual Women's History Month exhibition at the Honan-Allston Library Art Gallery entitled *Peace in Her Time: Visionary Women Against War and Violence*. UVA's Executive Director John Quatrale oversaw the exhibition & program; WGS's Brenda Gael McSweeney was exhibit Advisor.

At right, President Pro Tem of the Senate Will Brownsberger interacts on Brenda's photograph titled *Village and Global Women Leaders in West Africa* portraying two pioneers for female education and community harmony, Scholastique Kompaoré and Habibou Ouédraogo. Senator Brownsberger stated, "This photo transports us into the center of leadership deliberation in a different world." The exhibit was co-sponsored by BU's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS), as well as the Gender and International Development Initiatives (GaIDI) of Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center (WSRC).

More info here:  
<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/06/photo-album-for-unbound-visual-arts.html>



UVA's *The Waste Land on Earth?* below featured works by 24 Member Artists and was curated by UVA Executive Director John Quatrale.

More on our UNESCO/UNITWIN Facebook page here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/UnitwinBU/>



From left to right: Brenda Gael McSweeney, Naomi Myrvaagnes, Janet Freedman  
Photo: Collection of Brenda Gael McSweeney



# EXHIBITIONS:

## Beyond the Book XI & *Tender Mercies*



Image credit, "Influenced by Matisse" by Suzette Dorso

Beyond the Book has been presenting exhibitions of book art in the Greater Boston area since 2006. This 2019 exhibition featured artist's books about books—book art inspired by a favorite novel, a book of poetry, an author, a library. The exhibition featured over 100 works of art by over 30 artists from around New England as well as the work of artists in New York, Texas — and even Belgium!

This exhibition was a joint effort involving both the Faneuil and Brighton Branches of the Boston Public Library. Works were distributed between the two branches. Ronni Komarow of Friends of Faneuil Library (FOFL), a UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate, coordinated this exhibition.

More info here:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/11/you-are-invited-to-beyond-book-xi.html>

Ronni's community/parenting/feminist-themed Exhibition, *Tender Mercies*, featured the large-scale (8ft x 8ft x 8ft) art installation "Diary of a Bake Sale Diva" (pictured below) inspired by Ronni's time as bake-sale coordinator for her son's middle school and her 15 years as a Boston Public Schools parent. Previous versions of this installation have been on display as part of Rutgers University's Feminist Art Project Day of Panels in Chicago, 2014, and at the Museum of Motherhood in NYC. More here: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2018/09/save-dates-for-ronni-komarows-upcoming.html>

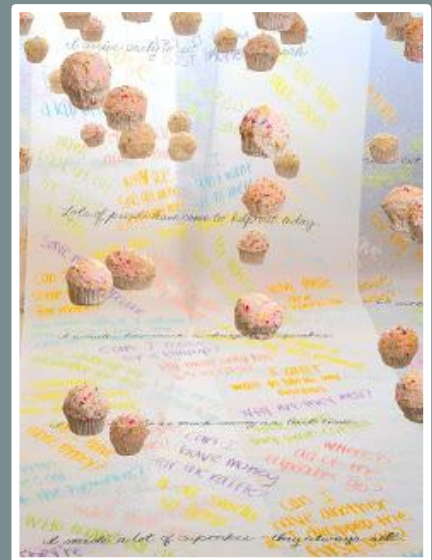
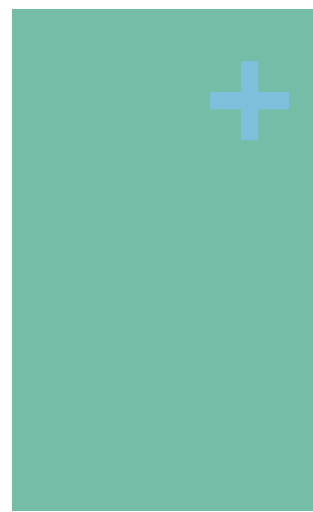


Photo by Eric West





## **SPECIAL EVENT:** Launch of Young Women's Forum & All-Girls Football Team!

We're delighted to announce a new series on our UNESCO/UNITWIN blog! In an effort to amplify grassroots voices in this phase of our UNITWIN, Founding Member Chandana Dey from West Bengal, India proposed a young women's forum. Chandana states "This initial idea came from my interest in a young all-girls' football team. The co-coach is Mousumi Murmu. I thought that it would be interesting to have dialogues with these young women- and perhaps this might lead to some gender awareness and skill building work. Mousumi has been taking computer programming classes, and she will soon be working with a Santal professor in Jadavpur University who works on discrimination. Mousumi's 'WhatsApp diary' (translated by me) makes interesting blog entries. Other UNITWIN partners might have similar stories to share." Here is the first entry in this young women's forum series, by Mousumi Murmu:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/10/announcing-our-new-young-womens-forum.html>



**Caption Photo Above:**  
Mousumi's football team with coach and Chandana Dey  
Courtesy: Mousumi Murmu

**Caption Photo At Left:**  
Football team in Bidyadharpur village with Chandana's friends from abroad  
Courtesy: Chandana Dey



# SPECIAL EVENTS: Women's Empowerment in Niger & MeToo Discussions in West Bengal



Aminata Kiello, pictured at left, has been instrumental in strengthening initiatives dedicated to promoting women's empowerment via the Lions Club of Niamey.

She states "Lions Club Niamey Lantana, of which I am a member, has donated a motorized canoe/ambulance to the populations of the Ayorou Islands in Niger, which has saved lives."

Additional projects assisting the populations in Niger have been carried out during the Presidency of the Lions Club Niamey Lantana in 2018-19 by Nahadjo Amadou Roufaye.

More here:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/07/innovative-programs-in-niger-focusing.html>

"Bolpur Manab Jamin (BMJ) has reaped rich dividends in terms of women's assets & empowerment. One area that still remains out of the aegis of the program is a focus on the issue of violence on women. My thoughts on the need to focus on this aspect of women's empowerment crystallized further in the Me Too movement. Recent path-breaking legislation as well as the Visakha guidelines and the Verma Committee have made me pause and think about how much more dissemination is needed especially with women and men in rural Bengal- the little corner of India I call home." ~ Chandana Dey

More: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/03/gender-sensitization-workshops-in.html>



Chandana Dey speaking to Bolpur Manab Jamin team (photo taken by Debasish, team member, BMJ)

# SPECIAL EVENTS: BAHS's Neon in New England & Chandler Pond Fall Festival



## Presentations on Cultural Heritage: Neon in New England!

The Faneuil Branch of the Boston Public Library hosted in mid-August 2019 a presentation called Neon in New England, earlier hosted by BAHS. The speaker was Susan Mara Bregman, a local community activist and photographer whose book was recently published under the same name. Arcadia publisher stated, "The golden age of neon signs in New England lasted more than 30 years, from the dark days of the Great Depression through the go-go years of the 1960s, but its spectacular legacy remains, if you know where to look!"

More here:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/08/faneuil-library-event-on-preservation.html>

## Chandler Pond Fall Festival: Visit a Women's Heritage Trail Monument!

Alice Gallagher is honored along Chandler Pond as the first woman in Boston's history to have a park, street, or playground named in her memory. She features in the Brighton-Allston Historical Society's Women of Vision - Brighton-Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide. The eventful Chandler Pond Fall Festival took place on Sept 14, 2019, celebrating environmental preservation.

See more on our Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitwinBU/>



Top: Susan with her book  
Below: Image from her book

The Brighton-Allston Historical Society  
Women's Heritage Trail

**Gallagher Park Memorial**

**1891-1988**  
Alice E. Gallagher Park  
In honor of  
**ALICE E. GALLAGHER**  
Her faith and courage  
Pioneering preservation  
Of natural spaces  
Threatened and unloved  
(1891-1988)

**City of Boston**  
Mayor J. White, Mayor 1942

Alice Gallagher was the first woman in Boston's history to be honored by having a park, street, or playground named in her memory.

**2019-2020**  
Alice E. Gallagher Park  
From Women of Vision: Brighton-Allston Women's Heritage Trail Guide at the BAHS website:  
[www.bahsinc.org/WomenOfVisionGuide.pdf](http://www.bahsinc.org/WomenOfVisionGuide.pdf)



# SPECIAL EVENTS: WGS Seminar Series & *Question and Question*



WGS/BU's 2019-2020 Program Theme is Decolonizing Sex, Gender, & The Body. WGS Director, Dr. Catherine 'Cati' Connell initiated and manages this series. In keeping with this theme, the BU WGS Program and GenSex Faculty Group have developed the second annual seminar series that engages scholars across universities to ask difficult questions while discussing their research related to this year's theme.

See more here:

<http://www.bu.edu/wgs/wgs-events/wgs-seminar-series/>

BU's Kilachand Honors College, directed by Professor Carrie Preston, hosted in September 2019 an inter-university conference entitled "The Role of the University in the Crisis of Forced Displacement: Ethics, Innovation, & Immigration." For this conference, Nicole Rizzo (BU/KHC/WGS 2018) directed *Question and Question* by Syrian Playwright, Liwaa Yazji, who later joined the talkback virtually after the performance. Rizzo's Director's Note states, "I was struck by the powerful way in which Yazji gave voice to the experiences of Syrian refugee women that include responses to the traumas of war and (sexual) violence. ... Yazji keeps the violence within the gut-wrenching stories but off the stage where audiences are used to seeing entertaining and provocative material."

BU WGS Program & GenSex  
2019-2020 Seminar Series

## Decolonizing Sex, Gender, & The Body

**Decolonizing Traditions: Native Hawaiian Women and the Question of Feminism**  
Sep. 15 from 12:00-1:00pm in CILSE Room 106B, 610 Commonwealth Ave.  
J. Kēhaulani Kauanui • Wesleyan University  
Co-sponsored by the BU American and New England Studies Program

**On the Violence of LGBT: Decolonizing Trans Studies**  
Oct. 18 from 12:00-1:00pm in CILSE Room 106B, 610 Commonwealth Ave.  
Elijah Edelman • Rhode Island College  
Co-sponsored by the BU American and New England Studies Program

**Placing Bodies in Relation: Affective Geographies of Empire and New Productions of Sex and Race Difference**  
Nov. 1 from 12:00-1:00pm in CILSE Room 106C, 610 Commonwealth Ave.  
Vrushali Patil • Florida International University  
Co-sponsored by the BU Department of Sociology

**Transgender Cyborgs and Climate Change in Postcolonial Taiwan: A New Translation of Ta-wei Chi's 'The Membranes'**  
March 27 from 12:00-1:00pm in CILSE Room 106C, 610 Commonwealth Ave.  
Ari Heinrich • University of California San Diego  
Co-sponsored by the BU Department of World Languages and Literatures

**Gender/Sex is in the Body: How Did It Get There?**  
April 10 from 12:00-1:00pm in CILSE Room 101, 610 Commonwealth Ave.  
Anne Fausto-Sterling • Brown University  
Co-sponsored by the BU Department of Biology

## Question and Question

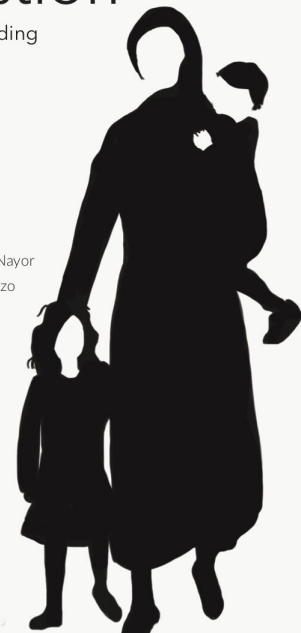
A Staged Reading

Written By Liwaa Yazji

Translated By Clem Nayor

Directed By Nicole Rizzo

Presented at the  
Kilachand Honors  
College at Boston  
University on  
September 27, 2019



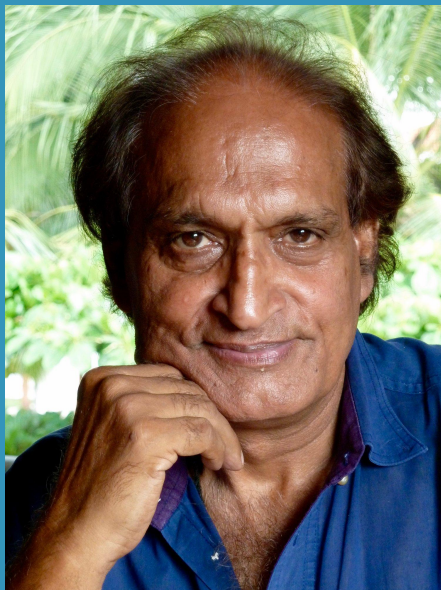
Above Playbill Cover: Rona Moriah

# AWARDS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Fulbright & Excellence in Photography



Yaaminey Mubayi (photo above), who joined our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network as a Founding Member with the New Delhi-based Cultural Resource Conservation Initiative in 2007, announced: "I have received the Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship, enabling me to carry out a research cum teaching program at Mount Holyoke College this academic year, 2019-20. My research focuses on my study of historic water management in Ellora and Daulatabad, Maharashtra, that I have been engaged with for the past several years. I hope to complete the manuscript for my next book on the subject by end year."

More here: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/11/congratulations-to-yaaminey-mubayi-on.html>



Raghu Rai, world-renowned photographer and supporter over the decades of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development, has received a prestigious award from the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris. The Academy of Fine Arts Photography Award–William Klein was established in 2019, and Raghu was honored as the first recipient in November of that year. The award ceremony was accompanied by an exhibition of Raghu's work at the *Palais de l'Institut de France* from United Nations Day October 24, 2019 for one month. Photo credit: Brenda Gael McSweeney. See the Press Release at: <https://www.raghuraicenterforphotography.com/press-2/>

Raghu has also been honored with the prestigious Achievement in Photojournalism Award of the Lucie Foundation on October 28th, 2018 at Carnegie Hall! Raghu's stellar accomplishments include poignant photo features and books on the devastating human impact of the Bangladesh War and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. He has been called the 'father of photojournalism in India' by the Lucie Awards website, and he has produced over 50 compelling photography books on an array of topics. Source & more - Raghu Rai, 2018 Honoree: Achievement in Photojournalism: <http://www.lucies.org/honorees/Raghu%20Rai/> {Visit our BU/WGS Facebook for more!}

# AWARDS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Raffi Freedman-Gurspan



UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate Raffi Freedman-Gurspan has just been honored as a Member of the Governing Board of Directors for the TIME'S UP Foundation! Raffi is a Deputy Director for the All On The Line campaign, a project of the National Redistricting Action Fund. According to the TIME'S UP Foundation website, "TIME'S UP insists upon a world where everyone is safe and respected at work. A world where women have an equal shot at success and security. A world where no one lives in fear of sexual harassment or assault" (see here: <https://timesupfoundation.org/about/>).



Photo credit: Jason Arrol

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Raffi for continuing to fight for gender equity and making the world a safer place!

Please see the announcement from her original Facebook post below:

"I am pleased to publicly announce that over this past winter, I joined the Governing Board of Directors for the TIME'S UP Foundation (c3) and Now (c4) led by my incredible former Obama White House colleague, and now President and CEO, Tina Tchen." ...

See more on our blog here:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2020/05/longtime-unescounitwin-affiliate-raffi.html>



# ONWARDS & UPWARDS: Gabby Newton Nicole Rizzo



Gabby Newton, WGS/BU Program Coordinator for over three years, has recently taken on the role of Program Manager for the Baltimore City Health Department! Gabby is a trailblazing feminist activist who has profoundly invigorated the culture of WGS and the larger Boston University community. She received her MPH from BU in 2019 and is also a BU 2014 graduate, earning a BS in Journalism and BA in International Relations. In April 2019, Gabby was honored with the CAS Award for Outstanding Service for her invaluable contributions to the intellectual and administrative life of BU's WGS. While a student at BU, Gabby also Co-Founded The Women of Color Coalition and Co-Directed the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Activism. Congratulations to Gabby on her next steps! The WGS/BU community will never forget her commitment, character, and fierceness!

Nicole Rizzo, UNESCO/UNITWIN Network Research Associate, graduated *summa cum laude* from BU and the Kilachand Honors College in 2018 with a BA in English and minor in WGS (More on her Kilachand Keystone Project here: <http://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/11/nicole-rizzos-to-stop-treading-water.html>). Nicole: "In Fall 2020, I will continue to develop my research interests in WGS, critical race theory, performance studies, disability studies, and trauma studies at Indiana University Bloomington in the MA/PhD Program. I am grateful to continue working with the UNITWIN Network and look forward to future collaborations with Network Partners, Affiliates, and of course, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney."



Photo courtesy:  
Gabby Newton

**BOSTON  
UNIVERSITY**

**WOMEN'S,  
GENDER, &  
SEXUALITY  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM**

**ALUMNAE**



Photo credit:  
Stephen Vocaturo

# PUBLICATIONS



Cyrus Segawa Konstantinakos, UNITWIN Affiliate, co-edited a photo essay book -- *Reclaiming the Pearl: Uganda through the Eyes of Human Trafficking Survivors* with Agnes Igoye, Humphrey Program Alumna. *Reclaiming the Pearl* features the work of women leaders in Uganda who are promoting gender equity and fighting global challenges such as climate change. The photos capture their compelling work in various regions of Uganda. (Photo credit at right: Latu Sera Kaukilakeba)



Cyrus

Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney's new e-book shares the story of a unique project and the equally remarkable team that led it, headed up by education pioneer Scholastique Kompaoré, which was also captured in Brenda's doctoral thesis entitled *The Negative Impact of Development on Women Reconsidered: A Study of the Women's Education Project in Upper Volta* (now Burkina Faso). The study was based on research Brenda initiated in the late 1970s, with Scholastique's full engagement, aiming to document and evaluate the apparent success of The Women's Education Project. They teamed up with CVRS (Voltaic Center for Scientific Research) and obtained USAID (US Agency for International Development) funding for the work. Brenda discovered a tool designed by the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to measure workloads that she adapted for this research. ATRCW/ECA was co-founded by Dr. Margaret 'Peg' Snyder, an e-book contributor. In turn, Brenda's research findings informed the Project as well as the model of the ATRCW/ECA. According to Brenda and Scholastique ('Scho'): "We have been encouraged to share our work and findings electronically, to make this historic project story more widely available to others who are today also grappling with issues of women's and girls' education, empowerment, and of social justice in West Africa and beyond."



Brenda



Scho



Peg

Photo credit:  
Dulcie Leimbach

# MEDIA & PUBLICATIONS



On the occasion of International Women's Day 2020, a new film on the UNESCO Equal Access of Women and Girls to Education Project was televised in West Africa. Below is the actual television footage of the Project's National Coordinator, Scholastique Kompaoré, who led this path-breaking endeavor in the 1970s. While the film entitled *The Blood of Emancipation (Le sang de l'émancipation)* centers on women leaders who tragically lost their lives in a bus accident at that time, the film Director Jules Ouédraogo is paying tribute to their pioneering contributions in lightening women's workloads and promoting women's empowerment.





# PUBLICATIONS



UNITWIN Affiliate, Jharna Panda's feature on the #MeToo Movement in Kolkata was published in a popular daily on 27 Nov. 2018. In the English synopsis, Chandana Dey underscores that Jharna makes the point that #MeToo covers celebrities in the media, but fails to highlight the sexual harassment faced on a daily basis by city women on the lower social rungs. She focuses on domestic help, notably the carers of old people, and call center workers- who have to travel at all hours. More: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2018/12/just-published-metoo-movement-and.html>



কর্মক্ষেত্রে নারীদের নিরাপত্তার জন্য শুধু কমিটি গঠন লাভ নেই, যদি না তার সদস্যদের সদুদ্দেশ্য থাকে  
**যে সব মেয়েদের কাজে আইনি কবচটুকুও নেই?**



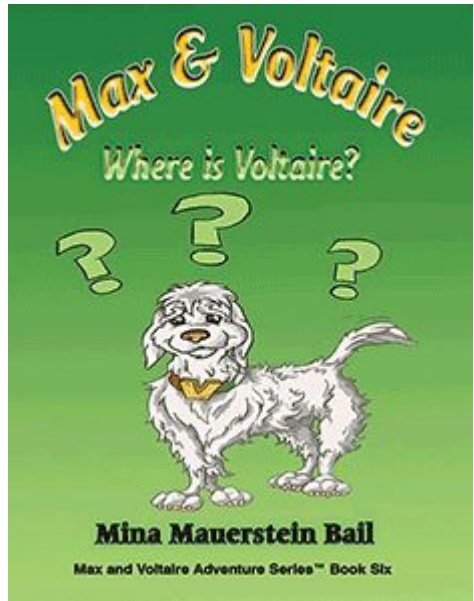
*In the Workplace, Committees to ensure security for women are useless, unless there is goodwill among its members.*

**FOR ALL THE WOMEN WHO HAVE NO LEGAL RECOURSE**

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Mina Mauerstein-Bail's sixth international children's book was published in 2019 – *Max & Voltaire: Where is Voltaire?* "Max and Say What set out on a journey to find Voltaire. The kindness of strangers they meet along the way guides them on their search for their missing friend." Author Mina Mauerstein-Bail is a sociologist, born in Italy, raised in the US, followed by a UN career based in three continents (Courtesy Mina). Read more about Mina and her children's book series at: <https://www.maxandvoltaire.com>



**Mina Mauerstein Bail**

Max and Voltaire Adventure Series™ Book Six

# NEWS



Professor Asha Mukherjee, Acting Registrar for Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan (West Bengal), India and longtime UNITWIN Affiliate, was elected to membership of the Steering Committee of FISP (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de Philosophie) for five years! Asha also had a chapter entitled “Women, Rights and Religion in India: Questioning the Tradition” published recently in *Explorations in Women, Rights, and Religions*, edited by Morny Joy of the University of Calgary, Canada. (Photo courtesy Asha)



Dr. Shahla Haeri’s new book entitled *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender* was published in March 2020 by Cambridge University Press. Find the book’s announcement from the publisher here, including most positive reviews & endorsements: <https://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/history/middle-east-history/unforgettable-queens-islam-succession-authority-gender?format=PB>. Shahla shared with us: “This book is about the extraordinary biographies of several Muslim women rulers and leaders who reached the apex of political systems of their times. Their stories illuminate the complex and challenging imperatives of dynastic succession, electoral competition and the stunning success they achieved in medieval Yemen and India, and modern Pakistan and Indonesia.” (More at [unitwin.blogspot.com](http://unitwin.blogspot.com)) (Photo: Walter Krump)



Dr. Roberta Micallef was featured in the BU Center for the Humanities (BUCH) series “HumaniTeas” in Spring 2020 and “reflected on the intersections of politics, culture, language, and mobility, all of which inform her work as a scholar and as a teacher” (quote from BUCH website). Roberta was also honored with the prestigious BU Susan K. Jackson Award for her powerful and creative impact on BU’s Community! (Photo courtesy BU)



Dr. Barbara Gottfried visited cities and villages in Romania and Poland over July into August 2019 “to study the interactions of women and men, especially through dancing.” She attended a Romanian dance seminar to examine women’s roles in dance and the gendered aspects of folk-dancing. In Poland, she focused on women’s lives and Jewish lives. (Based on an interview with Dr. Gottfried by Brenda and Nicole. Photo courtesy Barbara)



# NEWS



Dr. Catherine ‘Cati’ Connell, Director of WGS, launched the successful and first official WGS Seminar Series in 2018 on the theme “Gendered Institutions, Sexual Cultures: Intersectional Interventions Across Disciplines.” 2019/2020’s theme was “Decolonizing Sex, Gender, & The Body.” In addition to her leadership, management, and teaching responsibilities, Cati published in 2018 the article entitled “‘Thank You For Coming Out Today’: The Queer Discomforts of In-Depth Interviewing” in *Other, Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_: Queer Methods in Sociology* (University of California). (Photo courtesy Cati)



Professor Carrie Preston published an article for *Modernism/Modernity* entitled “Fluidity” engaging with gender-neutral reading and pedagogy. She was featured and quoted in BU Today’s “In Celebration of International Women’s Day” and was highlighted as “The Actor” in Bostonia’s “The Transformers” series. In this article, Carrie discusses her work on organizing a humanitarian/refugees studies/engineering course for students who travel to Lebanon and Uganda. (Photo courtesy: Kalman Zabarsky / BU Photography)



Dr. J. Keith Vincent’s co-edited volume “Reading Soseki Now” was published in Josai University’s *Review of Japanese Culture and Society*. The volume examines Soseki’s works through the lens of gender, opening the possibilities to new readings of female characters. More at: <http://jkeithvincent.com/2019/07/17/1321/>. In 2018, Keith was awarded the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship by the BUCH and in 2019, he was a Suzy Newhouse Fellow in the Humanities, Wellesley College. (Photo courtesy BU)





# NEWS & FUTURE



Dr. Margaret 'Peg' Snyder, a long-standing participant in the work of our UNESCO/UNITWIN, is preparing an article capturing some first-hand history on the vagaries of establishing a women's center at the UN in Addis Ababa, and also the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in New York. Peg was Co-Founder of the African Training and Research Centre for Women of the UN Economic Commission for Africa — a global model (now the African Centre for Gender) — and later the Founding Director of UNIFEM (now UN Women). She is thus ideally positioned to share the inside scoop!



Photo credit:  
Dulcie Leimbach

Dr. Diane Balser led a workshop on women's issues and leadership in Poland for International Women's Day 2019. Women of all ages were there from Russia, Hungary, Romania, the Netherlands, Germany, France and England. She thought the East-West dialogue was fascinating, the Eastern countries having market capitalism basically: what were some of the negative effects that has brought, not just positive, and in Russia, the hard time feminists are having. The younger women raised sexual exploitation, including on the Internet, as another big issue. Indian women, and Muslim women from several countries, looked at sexism and racism. Dr. Balser organized the entire workshop, with a woman from Denmark and one from Hungary, hosted by Reevaluation Counseling. Now after 23 years with BU's WGS, Diane writes "I am traveling widely as a consultant and leader of workshops on global feminist issues."



Photo courtesy  
Diane Balser

Casey Fox, a BU Alumna and UNITWIN Affiliate, continues her work as a peer trauma counselor at the Cambridge Women's Center, which she has been doing for the past seven years! Casey is also pursuing her nurse practitioner degree (MSN) at the MGH Institute of Health Professions -- all the while staying connected to EqualHealth work in Haiti.



Photo courtesy  
Casey Fox



# UNESCO/UNITWIN Network: Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development at BU's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS)



UNESCO/UNITWIN at Boston University's WGS  
Dr. Catherine 'Cati' Connell – Director, WGS  
Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney – UNITWIN Director

+ Highlights Team:

Publisher + Editor-in-Chief Brenda Gael McSweeney  
Editor Nicole Rizzo

We congratulate all participants in the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development for their unique contributions, Sept. 2018- May 2020. UNESCO-Paris renewed our UNITWIN Agreement until August 2023! Our Network aims to share and exchange realities of the field among academics, students, activists. Every effort has been made to credit substantive and creative content herein; we welcome necessary additions or amendments for further acknowledgment.

*Photo Excerpt: Barefoot Photographers of Tilonia, Rajasthan*

More information at: [www.unitwin.blogspot.com](http://www.unitwin.blogspot.com)  
<http://www.bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu/>  
[www.equalityburkina.blogspot.com](http://www.equalityburkina.blogspot.com)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO/UNITWIN  
Network on Gender, Culture,  
and People-Centered Development

