Making Connections:

Violence Against Women and Reproductive Justice

“The denial of women’s autonomy is the essence of violence against women.”

Irene Weiser, Stop Family Violence

Is there a “war on women” in the U.S. today? In 2011, state legislatures passed more restrictions on access to abortion than in any previous year. So far in 2012, Arizona banned abortion after 18 weeks, Virginia legislators proposed to require women seeking abortions to submit to physically invasive ultrasounds, Title X family planning funding is under attack, North Carolina legislators refused to compensate women whom the state had subjected to forced sterilization, and many states still shackle incarcerated women during childbirth.

Meanwhile, reports of rampant violence against women abound—sexual violence in the military and on college campuses, intimate partner violence in the home, sex trafficking of women and girls, and the systemic violence of poverty and the prison industrial complex. Native American, immigrant and GLBT women experience some of the highest rates of sexual assault, yet Congress has so far refused to extend the protections of the Violence Against Women Act to cover these groups.

On the 35th anniversary of the death of Rosie Jimenez—the first woman to die as a result of the Hyde Amendment restricting public funding for abortion—this symposium brings together Smith alumnae working on violence against women and reproductive justice with longtime feminist activist Kim Gandy of the Feminist Majority Foundation to discuss connections between interpersonal and systemic violence against women and increasing restrictions on women’s reproductive lives.

Friday, October 26th

5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Reception for Alumnae and Faculty
Wien Atrium
Ford Hall
Green Street

Saturday, October 27th All panels and sessions will take place in Seelye Hall

9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Check In
Seelye 207

9:30 a.m. Welcome & Introduction of Speaker: Marilyn Schuster, Provost of Smith College
Seelye 201 Opening Speaker: Kim Gandy, Vice President and General Counsel, Feminist Majority Foundation
10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Opening Plenary: Reproductive Justice and Bodily Autonomy
Moderator: Carrie Baker, Smith College SWG
Seelye 201 Panelists: Candace Gibson, ’07; Sophie Godley, ’93; Jessica Lewis, ’94

11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Break-Out Discussions:

Prostitution & Sex Trafficking, Kate Connelly

Immigration & Reproductive Justice, Candace Gibson

Debunking HIV/AIDS Prevention Myths: Understanding the Roles of Racism, Homophobia, and Misogyny in the Epidemic, Facilitated by Sophie Godley
This session will explore the ways in which racism, homophobia, and misogyny have prevented effective HIV prevention programs from reaching those most in need, including Black gay men, married women, and youth.

Sexual Violence and Disaster, Facilitated by Alisa Klein
There is ample evidence that the rates of perpetration of, and victimization by, sexual violence increase in situations of disaster. We will examine this phenomenon, and discuss practical and policy approaches to reducing the risk of sexual violence in and after disasters. Alisa Klein, the driver behind the National Sexual Violence Resource Center’s National Project to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Violence in Disasters, will also share information about the work that is currently being done to influence national and federal policy to address the prevention of sexual abuse in disasters.

Intimate Partner Violence, Lisa Young Larance

Pregnant Teens and Violence, Jessica Lewis

12:45 p.m.-2:00 p.m. LUNCH
Networking, mentoring lunch with alumnae and students
Alumnae Center Advance sign-up required.

2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Closing Plenary: Violence and Bodily Autonomy
Moderator: Kristin Bumiller, Amherst College Political Science
Seelye 201 Panelists: Kate Connelly ’95, Alisa Klein, ’91, and Lisa Young Larance, ’91

3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks: Kim Gandy, Vice President and General Counsel, Feminist Majority Foundation
**Speaker Biographies**

**Kate Connelly, ’95 Government**
Kate Connelly has been a federal prosecutor since 2002. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, she investigated and prosecuted child pornography offenses, human trafficking offenses, weapons offenses, violent crimes, and bank robberies. She investigated, indicted, and successfully prosecuted a high profile prostitution ring charged with violating racketeering and money laundering statutes. Kate is the former coordinator of the D.C. Human Trafficking Task Force. She spent several years prosecuting domestic violence, child abuse and neglect cases, and sexual assault cases. From 2009 to 2010, while on detail from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Kate served as Special Counsel to Director Robert S. Mueller, III of the FBI. She is currently the Deputy Chief of the U.S. Attorney’s Office’s Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Kate clerked for the Honorable Mary M. Lisi, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Kate graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 2000.

**Kim Gandy, Vice President and General Counsel, Feminist Majority Foundation**
Kim Gandy is the Vice President and General Counsel of the Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation, responsible for a portfolio of policy issues relating to equality for women and girls. Gandy served as national officer of NOW since 1987 and served as national president of the organization from 2001 to 2009. Ms. Gandy is an experienced public policy practitioner, who has worked on a range of issues related to economic policy, education policy, health policy, international policy, media policy, and reproductive, sexuality and other human rights policies. She was integrally involved in the drafting of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, as well the landmark racketeering case, *NOW v. Scheidler*. In her home state of Louisiana, Gandy was co-founder of a domestic violence shelter program, wrote legislation on family violence and child support, and led the statewide lobbying coalition of women's organizations.

**Candace Gibson, ’07 Government/Spanish**
Candace Gibson is a Reproductive Justice Fellow at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH). Candace received her J.D. from the University of Utah College of Law in May 2012. As a law student, Candace received the Frankel Public Interest Fellowship to assist Jane’s Due Process with their judicial bypass and community outreach work in Texas and received the Spurgeon Public Interest Fellowship to finance her summer internship at NLIRH. During her internship, she researched, wrote, and blogged on immigrant women in detention centers and deportation proceedings. She has completed clinics with the Immigration Department at Holy Cross Ministries, working on U-Visa and VAWA applications, the Civil Clinic at the Salt Lake City Immigration Court, where she researched and drafted legal memoranda regarding the intersection of criminal law and immigration law, and the Legislative Clinic with Utah State Senator Ross Romero. Prior to law school, she worked as a program coordinator at Comunidades Unidas, a nonprofit organization in Utah committed to eliminating health disparities in ethnic and refugee communities.
Sophie Godley, ’93 Women’s Studies

Sophie Godley is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health at Boston University School of Public Health. Sophie has been working in the field of public health since 1993. Her areas of expertise include adolescent health, sexual health, implementing science-based prevention programs, and incorporating popular media into public health education. Sophie served as the deputy director of the AIDS Action Committee in Massachusetts for six years, overseeing prevention and education programs. Prior to this work, she was director of the Office of Adolescent Health and Youth Development at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health from 1999 to 2004 and also worked for Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts. In 2010, she received the Gail Douglas Award for Public Health Practice, given to a practitioner who has made an outstanding contribution to public health education, research, and service. Sophie received her Master's degree in public health from the University of Washington.

Alisa Klein, ’91 Women’s Studies

Alisa Klein is a consultant specializing in public policy analysis, advocacy, and strategic planning for the prevention of, and response to, interpersonal violence, most notably sexual violence and child maltreatment. Her areas of expertise include sex offender-related policy, restorative and transformative justice, preventing and responding to sexual violence in situations of disaster, and public health prevention. Alisa has worked extensively with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, and the Division of Violence Prevention at the CDC. She is the author of *Sexual Violence in Disasters: A Planning Guide for Prevention and Response*, co-authored the Ms. Foundation for Women publication *A Reasoned Approach: Reshaping Sex Offender Policy to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*, and has published numerous other articles on preventing sexual violence. Alisa also serves as a facilitator of writing groups for incarcerated women through the organization Voices from Inside. Alisa has a Master’s degree in International Policy from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Lisa Young Larance, ’91 Women’s Studies/History

Lisa Young Larance currently serves as the Domestic Violence Intervention Services Coordinator at Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County (CSSW) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. A Fulbright Scholar and social work practitioner, Lisa is the founder of two innovative community-based programs providing intervention, advocacy, and support for women who have used force in their relationships: [Jersey Battered Women’s Service Inc.’s Vista Program](http://www.jerseybatteredwomen.org) and CSSW’s [RENEW Program](http://www.csw.org). In addition, Lisa and CSSW colleagues wrote and developed *Meridians for Incarcerated Women*, a prison-based program for women who have perpetrated, survived, and/or witnessed domestic violence. Lisa chaired the first national conference addressing women’s use of force titled: “When SHE Hits HIM: Why Gender and Context Matter.” Lisa and Shamita Das Dasgupta are guest coeditors of a forthcoming special issue of *Violence Against Women* focused on battered women’s use of non-fatal force in their intimate heterosexual relationships. Lisa has an MSW from Washington University in St. Louis.
Jessica Lewis, ’94 Women’s Studies/Biology
Jessica Lewis serves as Deputy Director of the Connecticut Women’s Health Project, a research group at Yale School of Public Health dedicated to young women’s reproductive and behavioral health. Her research projects focus on teen pregnancy and parenthood, prenatal care, HIV and STD prevention, health disparities, and adolescent intimate partner and family violence. Ms. Lewis holds a master’s degree in family therapy and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program in Social Welfare (with a Certificate in Women’s Studies) at the Graduate Center, City University of New York/Hunter College School of Social Work. Her doctoral research centers on intimate partner violence among pregnant adolescent couples.