Making Connections: 
Violence Against Women, Reproductive Justice, 
and Bodily Autonomy

“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 am-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, ’94; Jessica Lewis, ’94  
11:30 a.m.-12:30 a.m.  Break-Out Discussions:  
- AIDS, Sophie Godley  
- Pregnant Teens and Violence, Jessica Lewis  
- Sexual Violence and Disaster, Alisa Klein  
- Child Exploitation, Kate Connelly  
- Intimate Partner Violence, Lisa Young Larance  
- Immigration & Reproductive Justice, Candace Gibson  
12:45 p.m.-2:00 p.m.  LUNCH  
Alumnae House Conference Room  
Networking, mentoring lunch with alumnae and students  
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  
Seelye 201

Speaker Biographies:

Kate Connelly, ’95  Government  
Kate Connelly has been a federal prosecutor since 2002. As an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia she investigated and prosecuted child pornography offenses, human trafficking offenses, weapons offenses, violent crimes, and bank robberies. She also 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. 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 United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. Kate graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 2000.

Kim Gandy  
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*.

**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, ’94, SWG**

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, and her areas of expertise include 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 her work at the AIDS Action Committee, she was director of the Office of Adolescent Health and Youth Development at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health from 1999 to 2004. She received her Master’s degree in public health from the University of Washington.

**Alisa Klein, ’91, SWG**

Alisa Klein is a public policy 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 specific areas of expertise include sex offender-related policy, restorative and transformative justice, preventing and responding to sexual violence in situations of disaster, working collaboratively across disparate disciplines, and public health prevention. 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 topics related to the prevention of 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 Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies with.

**Lisa Young Larance, ’91, SWG/History**

Lisa Young Larance works with Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County in Michigan, where she has been a voice for survivor advocacy and offender accountability. Lisa’s work focuses on understanding and addressing the gendered nature of intimate partner violence. She has implemented gender-informed and gender-responsive domestic violence programming for the Michigan Department of Corrections and has provided training to judges and others on the complexity of understanding and addressing women’s use of force in their intimate heterosexual relationships. Lisa is also consulting Harmony House staff, in Hong Kong, China, on the development of their program to serve women who have used force. Lisa is a published author
and editorial review board member for the international, interdisciplinary journal *Violence Against Women*. She has an MSW from Washington University in St. Louis.

**Jessica Lewis, ’94, SWG/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.