Christine Verschuur (dir.)

Vents d'Est, vents d'Ouest
Mouvements de femmes et féminismes anticoloniaux

Graduate Institute Publications

Biographies of Contributors

DOI: 10.4000/books.iheid.6324
Publisher: Graduate Institute Publications
Place of publication: Genève
Year of publication: 2009
Published on OpenEdition Books: 20 July 2016
Series: Genre et développement. Rencontres
Electronic EAN: 9782940503827

http://books.openedition.org

Electronic reference
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Larissa Barbosa is Brazilian and a journalist who has been living in Switzerland for 4 years. After working as an activist with the community and free radios movements in Latin America, she achieved a Master in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva where she started reflecting and doing research on gender, development and international migrations but also on feminism, gender and postcolonial theories. In 2007-2008 she was an assistant with the Gender and Development Programme of IUED, now the Graduate Institute, Geneva. In June 2008, she was admitted in the Swiss doctoral school on gender studies (2008-2011). Her PhD
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Nomboniso Gasa was the Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality in South Africa. A political activist against apartheid whose first of many detentions was at age 14 in the former Bantustan, Transkei, she has a keen interest on feminisms in Africa. She is pursuing postgraduate research at the University of South Africa’s Department of History. Her current research focus is primarily on “Ubudoda: The making of a man amongst amaXhosa”, a feminist study of the process of male initiation, drawing from comparative experience across the continent and other rites of passage, including those undergone by women diviners and spirit mediums. She has previously published on gender, democratisation and political transformation in South Africa and Nigeria (where she worked for several years). She has written and published extensively in newspapers and journals on political and social commentary, culture and identity and development issues.

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A sociologist, researcher and activist, Eileen Kuttab has been assistant professor of sociology since 1981 and was director of the Women
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Candida Laguna has lived in the city of Estelí, Nicaragua, since 1986. She studied social sciences at the National University and law at the Centro Universitario Regional del Norte (CURN). She worked as a librarian and teacher at the Biblioteca Nacional de Nicaragua for 5 years and has also worked to the Escuela de Agricultura y Ganadería in Estelí, where she had a key role in defending the worker's rights as secretary of the workers' union. From 1996 to 2000 Candida worked with the Women's Collective of Matagalpa (a city near Estelí) where she has asserted her gender consciousness through the debates, workshops and marches of the organisation. In 2000, together with other women of the neighbourhoods of Estelí, Candida founded a feminist organisation, AMEX, where she was the coordinator and a member of the directing committee for 7 years. She has been a member of the Red de Mujeres at the national and local levels. She now works with the organisation Entre Mujeres, also based in Estelí, where she is in charge of defending human rights. Her work focuses on the struggle against violence on women and children.

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Fatou Sarr is a researcher at IFAN (Institut fondamental d’Afrique noire), Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, where she directs the Gender and Scientific Research Laboratory (www.sengenre-ucad.org). She taught at the Faculté universitaire N.D. de la Paix in Namur, in Belgium, from 1985 to 1991. She has a pluridisciplinary educational background: a doctorate in anthropology and political sociology from the University of Paris VIII, a PhD degree in social work from the University of Laval, Quebec, a graduate degree in environmental science from the University of Dakar and a master in economic and social administration from the Aix-Marseille II University. She is the author of many publications on women entrepreneurship, gender issues and social movements. She has also been an international expert for the United Nations for over ten years and has supported about fifteen African countries on gender training and the development of national gender strategies.

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Dr. Jurema Werneck is an activist of the antiracist feminist movement who works mainly with the black women’s movement in Latin America. She is also a qualified doctor who has worked on marginalised women’s health from the perspective of the Afro-Brazilian cultural tradition. She is currently the coordinator of Criola (an NGO) and she has published extensively on bioethics, health and human rights in international and Brazilian magazines. She is a member of many feminist and anti-racist associations in Latin America and the Caribbean, where she actively participates in the struggle for more equitable health policies for Afro-descendent populations.
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