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# THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY FACDIS WORKSHOPS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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*Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity  
for Women Worldwide*

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SPONSORED BY



The West Virginia Consortium  
for Faculty and Course Development  
in International Studies

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November 11-12, 2010

Lakeview Resort and Conference Center  
Morgantown, West Virginia

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## FACDIS ORGANIZATION

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**Director:** Jack L. Hammersmith, Professor of History, West Virginia University

**FACDIS Founding Director** (1980-1997): Sophia Peterson, Professor Emerita  
of Political Science, West Virginia University

**Assistant Director:** Gretchen Peterec

**Administrative Secretary:** Sharon Nestor

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### *Institutional Representatives, Study Abroad Advisers, and Steering Committee (2010)*

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WVU - Parkersburg	Rebecca Phillips	Aaron Crites
West Virginia Wesleyan College*	Kwame Boateng	Kwame Boateng
Wheeling Jesuit University**	John Poffenbarger	Dominick DeFelippis

\* Institutions whose Institutional Representative serves on the Steering Committee until November 30, 2010.

\*\* Institutions whose Institutional Representative serves on the Steering Committee until November 30, 2011.

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### *Workshops Program Planning*

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#### **Central Program Office:**

Program Coordinator: Jack L. Hammersmith, Director, FACDIS

Program Assistant: Gretchen Peterec, Assistant Director, FACDIS

#### **Workshop Chairpersons:**

Ida Mills (Glenville State College)

Rebecca Phillips (West Virginia University at Parkersburg)

Janis Rezek (West Virginia University Institute of Technology)

Patricia Ryan (Fairmont State University)

#### **West Virginia University Center for Women's Studies:**

Ann Oberhauser, Director, Center for Women's Studies

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## *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

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Focusing on:

- **Putting Women's Lives into Context: Power, Family and Economy**
- **Women's Income as the Magic Potion for Development?**
- **Empowering Women: Economic Challenges and Opportunities**
- **Beyond Brothels: Women and Girls in Slavery and Freedom**

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In cooperation with the West Virginia University Center for Women's Studies

Funded by  
State of West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission  
and Participating FACDIS Institutions



PROGRAM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Guide to speakers/workshop leaders can be found at end of the program.

9:30 am-1:00 pm	<b>REGISTRATION: Grand Ballroom Foyer</b> <b>BOOK DISPLAY: Grand Ballroom Foyer</b> Turn left at the front desk.
10:30-11:15 pm	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: Ward Christopher Room</b>
11:30 am-1:00 pm	<b>LUNCH: Governors' Ballroom</b> Welcome: Jack Hammersmith, Director, FACDIS Reflections: Brian Noland, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Recognition: Bruce Flack, Director of Academic Affairs/Vice Chancellor of State Colleges
1:00-2:00 pm	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Sheryl WuDunn</b> Governors' Ballroom
2:00-2:30 pm	<b>Book Signing with Sheryl WuDunn</b> Grand Ballroom Foyer
2:45-3:45 pm	<b>OPENING PANEL DISCUSSION WITH PRESENTERS: Governors' Ballroom</b> <i>Putting Women's Lives into Context: Power, Family and Economy:</i> Fida Adely, Georgetown University <i>Women's Income as the Magic Potion for Development?:</i> Rae Blumberg, University of Virginia <i>Empowering Women: Economic Challenges and Opportunities:</i> Caren Grown, American University <i>Beyond Brothels: Women and Girls in Slavery and Freedom:</i> Jody Sarich, Free the Slaves
3:45-4:00 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
4:00-5:30 pm	<b>First Set of Concurrent Sessions</b>

<b>Topic 1.</b>	<b>Putting Women's Lives into Context: Power, Family and Economy</b>
Room:	Training Room 4 (lowest level; take elevator to Level 1)
Consultant:	Fida Adely, Georgetown University
Chairperson:	Patricia Ryan (Fairmont State University)
Session I:	<b>Educating Women for What? Is Education a Panacea?</b> This session has three primary goals. First, it will provide historical context for thinking about education, the spread of mass-based schooling around the globe and the more recent linking of education with development (economic development and modernization). Second, it will discuss the links between the education of women and the

development of societies. Finally, the bulk of this session will focus on women and education in the Middle East, the current status of women's educational attainment in the region and the ways in which a variety of actors (women, state officials, international development agencies, and academics) characterize the status and significance of women's education in the region today.

<b>Topic 2.</b>	<b>Women's Income as the Magic Potion for Development?</b>
Room:	Seminar Rooms 3-4 (One level down [Floor 2]; take the stairs near the restrooms/coat rack behind the bar and near the Library. At the bottom of stairs make a left down hall, then left again.)
Consultant:	Rae Blumberg, University of Virginia
Chairperson:	Rebecca Phillips (WVU at Parkersburg)
Session I:	<b>Women's Economic Empowerment as the Magic Potion of Development?</b> This session first presents key hypotheses from Blumberg's general theory of gender stratification and her theory of gender and development. (Her general theory posits that women's relative level of economic power [defined in terms of <u>control</u> of income and other key resources] is the single most important – although not the sole – variable affecting the level of gender equality/inequality at levels ranging from micro to macro. Her gender and development theory posits that women and men with provider responder responsibilities tend to spend income under their control differently, with women generally holding back less for themselves and focusing more of their spending on their children's human capital: nutrition, survival, health and education. They also tend to do so more even-handedly for daughters and sons.) Then, it proposes a set of positive consequences of income under women's control – outcomes so favorable that they may be considered a virtual "magic potion" for development. Among the benefits are: defusing of the "population bomb" (as women gain greater say in their own fertility); greater environmental sustainability; less corruption; lower HIV/AIDS prevalence; and extremely strong inverse relationships between women's economic position and armed conflict, both within and between nations. She will present data from her own research in over 40 countries, as well as empirical work by others.



<b>Topic 3.</b>	<b>Empowering Women: Economic Challenges and Opportunities</b>
Room:	Training Room 1 (lowest level; take elevator to Level 1)
Consultant:	Caren Grown, American University
Chairperson:	Ida Mills (Glenville State College)
Session I:	<b>Mobilizing International and Domestic Resources for Gender Equality</b> Governments from around the world met in New York on September 23, 2010, to assess the progress to date and reaffirm commitments to the UN Millennium Development Goals, including MDG3 on gender equality and women's empowerment. Unfortunately, the goals of reducing maternal mortality and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment face the greatest challenges in all countries. This session will review progress toward MDG3 and resources required for meeting global commitments to women and girls.
<b>Topic 4.</b>	<b>Beyond Brothels: Women and Girls in Slavery and Freedom</b>
Room:	Seminar Rooms 1-2 (One level down [Floor 2]; take the stairs near the restrooms/ coat rack behind the bar and near the Library. At the bottom of stairs make a left down hall, then left again.)
Consultant:	Jody Sarich, Free the Slaves
Chairperson:	Janis Rezek (WVU Institute of Technology)
Session I:	<b>The View from the Ground: Slavery and Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> This session will present an in-depth, global view of how women and girls experience slavery and trafficking in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. Forms of sex trafficking and sexual slavery associated with prostitution often receive the greatest attention in American media coverage, yet women and girls are enslaved in a variety of ways that are less known, and, very often, are completely unnoticed in the societies in which they live and are held captive. This session will explore the variety of ways in which women and girls are enslaved in our world today, including within the United States. How do we find them? What resources are available to them? How do these women and girls use their freedom to liberate others? What can be done about the problem in general?
<b>6:00-7:00 pm</b>	<b>SOCIAL HOUR (cash bar): Governors' Ballroom</b> Turn left at the front desk.

<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>BANQUET: Governors' Ballroom</b> <b>EVENING PROGRAM:</b> <i>Walking on Fire: Women in Their Words:</i> Cathy O'Dell <i>FACDIS at 30: Thoughts and Memories:</i> Patricia Ryan, Ann Levine, Sophia Peterson
<b>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12</b>	
<b>7:00 am</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES BREAKFAST: Ward Christopher Room</b>
<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>GENERAL BREAKFAST: Governors' Ballroom</b> Turn left at the front desk.
<b>8:30-10:00 am</b>	<b>Second Set of Concurrent Sessions. Participants will stay in same track as Thursday afternoon.</b>
<b>Topic 1.</b>	<b>Putting Women's Lives into Context: Power, Family and Economy</b>
Room:	Training Room 4 (lowest level; take elevator to Level 1)
Consultant:	Fida Adely, Georgetown University
Chairperson:	Patricia Ryan (Fairmont State University)
Session II:	<b>Gender, Labor and Development: The Case of the Middle East</b> Central to the projects for and concerns about development in the Middle East and North Africa today are labor, and all that encompasses from women's forced labor, to the gendered division of labor, to the global flow of labor, to the gendered impacts of economic restructuring around the world. This session begins with a brief examination of the history of women's economic participation and the gendered division of labor, paying special attention to how both colonialism and increased incorporation into a global capitalist system transformed the gendered division of labor – redefining spheres of work, the private and the public, and ultimately what has come to constitute valuable economic contributions. Then, the session will focus on how issues of gender and development in the Middle East and North Africa are framed in mainstream development literature, considering both the quantitative picture of labor force participation as well as the ideological assumptions about what women's work represents vis-à-vis development, as well as some alternative views of the nature and significance of "work." Finally, we will also consider issues of migration in the region and the gendered dimensions of that migration.



<b>Topic 2.</b>	<b>Women's Income as the Magic Potion for Development?</b>
Room:	Seminar Rooms 3-4 (One level down [Floor 2] take the stairs near the restrooms/coat rack behind the bar and near the Library. At the bottom of stairs make a left down hall, than left again.)
Consultant:	Rae Blumberg, University of Virginia
Chairperson:	Rebecca Phillips (WVU at Parkersburg)
Session II:	<b>The Magic Money Tree: The Gendered Impact of Microfinance</b> The "microcredit movement" is arguably the most successful form of development assistance of the last five-six decades. Clients of "best practices" microfinance institutions (MFIs) grew from near-zero in the early 1980s to about 155 million(!) by the beginning of 2008; over 70% are women. And, among the poorest clients, over 4/5 are women. MFIs deliver income directly to the poor, and they tend to feminize over time because women almost always have better repayment records than their male counterparts. Indeed, most "best practices" MFIs have repayment rates of 95-98%, a level that banks can envy. In addition, because women are more likely to spend income they don't reinvest in their microenterprises on their children's well-being, microcredit not only enhances women's economic empowerment – with all its ensuing benefits – but also the human capital of their sons and daughters. Greater human capital, in turn, increases national income growth. In fact, the World Bank now attributes the recent drop in Bangladesh's poverty rate to the fact that MFIs are currently found in almost every village; meanwhile, the nation's gender gap in primary and secondary education has vanished. Blumberg has studied microcredit in 16 countries around the world and will share her research findings as well as a general overview of microfinance, gender and development.
<b>Topic 3.</b>	<b>Empowering Women: Economic Challenges and Opportunities</b>
Room:	Training Room 1 (lowest level; take elevator to Level 1)
Consultant:	Caren Grown, American University
Chairperson:	Ida Mills (Glennville State College)
Session II:	<b>Gender and Asset Ownership</b> Ownership and control over physical and financial assets are now widely recognized as providing direct and indirect benefits to individuals and households, including the

<b>Topic 4.</b>	<b>Beyond Brothels: Women and Girls in Slavery and Freedom</b>
Room:	Seminar Rooms 1-2 (One level down [Floor 2]; take the stairs near the restrooms/ coat rack behind the bar and near the Library. At the bottom of stairs make a left down hall, then left again.)
Consultant:	Jody Sarich, Free the Slaves
Chairperson:	Janis Rezek (WVU Institute of Technology)
Session II:	<b>The View from Above: Using International Human Rights Law to Fight the Modern Enslavement of Women</b> Almost every nation in the world has laws against slavery and trafficking, yet lack of resources, corruption and other factors that weaken the rule of law commonly leave former slaves without recourse for the crimes committed against them. This is true for all slaves, but is particularly true for enslaved women and girls, who often find themselves culturally and legally marginalized due to their gender and are thus less able to push for successful prosecutions on the local and national levels. This session will explore the ways in which international and regional human rights courts can, and do, step in to give voice to enslaved women and girls when national legal systems fail to do so. As will be shown, under certain circumstances these courts have the power to hold nation-states and individual slaveholders liable for the enslavement of women within their borders and at their own hands. This session will draw on examples of recent cases held in international and regional human rights courts (i.e., in Europe and Africa) to



show that justice may be found beyond national and local legal systems in the fight against the enslavement of women and girls in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

<b>10:00-10:30 am</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
<b>10:30 am-12 noon</b>	<b>Third Set of Concurrent Sessions. Participants will stay in same track.</b>

**Topic 1. Putting Women’s Lives into Context: Power, Family and Economy**

Room: Training Room 4  
Consultant: Fida Adely, Georgetown University  
Chairperson: Patricia Ryan (Fairmont State University)  
Session III: **The Politics of Representing "Other" Women**  
The image of oppressed and passive Arab/Muslim women continues to dominate the public discourse in the United States, as well as elsewhere (even in the Middle East). Why does this image continue to be the focal point of public discourse about the region, even figuring into official discourse about foreign policy decisions in the region? Has the representation of Arab/Muslim women changed much from the colonial discourse, now over a century old, about “saving brown women from brown men?” Which women are left out of such images? Why?

**Topic 2. Women’s Income as the Magic Potion for Development?**

Room: Seminar Rooms 3-4  
Consultant: Rae Blumberg, University of Virginia  
Chairperson: Rebecca Phillips (WVU at Parkersburg)  
Session III: **Hidden in Plain Sight: Gender Bias in Textbooks Worldwide**  
Two of the most dramatic and consequential trends of the last few decades are: 1) the world’s increasing proportion of women who earn – and generally control – cash income; and, 2) the rise in women’s formal labor force participation (overwhelmingly, paid participation) in the globe’s industrial countries – including the most recent members of the “Industrial Club,” e.g., South Korea, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Moreover, women in sub-Saharan Africa raise up to 80% (or more) of the locally grown food crops, and recent FAO statistics show that women raise over half of the planet’s “big three” food crops: rice, wheat and corn. Blumberg carried out research on gender bias in the world’s textbooks in an official background paper for the 2008 UNESCO *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*. Ironically, she found, textbooks

from around the globe almost totally ignore these major economic patterns. Instead, women continue to be underrepresented in those books. Where they are included, they are almost invariably – regardless of country – shown in domestic roles or in the most feminine of “pink collar” occupations. Meanwhile, men are portrayed in most of the interesting, exciting and important activities and almost never in the domestic realm. This “great disconnect” between women’s recent economic achievements and their depiction in textbooks has many repercussions, including acting as an invisible obstacle to girls’ educational achievement in poorer countries.

**Topic 3. Empowering Women: Economic Challenges and Opportunities**

Room: Training Room 1  
Consultant: Caren Grown, American University  
Chairperson: Ida Mills (Glenville State College)  
Session III: **Trading Rights and Health**  
This session will discuss how economic and trade policies shape public health and, specifically, maternal and reproductive health. It will draw upon case studies on women’s health and employment in export sectors in Bangladesh, Egypt, Vietnam, China, Mexico, and Sri Lanka, and will explore how trade liberalization affects the capacity of governments to deliver quality health services, as illustrated by examples from Tanzania and South Africa.

**Topic 4. Beyond Brothels: Women and Girls in Slavery and Freedom**

Room: Seminar Rooms 1-2  
Consultant: Jody Sarich, Free the Slaves  
Chairperson: Janis Rezek (WVU Institute of Technology)  
Session III: **The View from Home: Forced Marriage and Modern Slavery**  
Called a “practice similar to slavery” by the United Nations in 1956 and virtually ignored by the anti-slavery movement since then, forced (or “servile”) marriage subjects mainly women and girls to a condition of life indistinguishable from slavery. This session will use contemporary case studies from around the world to illustrate how the enslavement of women can be hidden from view within the institution of marriage and how once-enslaved “brides” have found lasting forms of freedom. The enslavement of women within marriage is found



virtually everywhere, from the China-North Korean border to the urban centers of Nigeria, from the mountains of Kyrgyzstan to the suburbs of Washington, D.C., yet it remains the least known and the least understood form of modern enslavement. Why?

<b>12 Noon</b>	<b>WORKSHOPS ADJOURN</b>
<b>12 noon - 3:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Luncheon meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education (CIHE)</b></p> <p>Although not part of the official FACDIS program, our workshops are being held in conjunction with the statewide luncheon meeting of the Higher Education Policy Commission Consortium for Internationalizing Higher Education (CIHE). This meeting will also take place at Lakeview Resort immediately following the FACDIS workshops for those who have pre-registered.</p> <p>This meeting will discuss the CIHE's current goals and strategies and seek input on the activities they have planned for Spring 2011. For further information on this meeting or this consortium, please contact Dr. Clark Egnor, Executive Director, Center for International Programs, Marshall University at <a href="mailto:egnor3@marshall.edu">egnor3@marshall.edu</a>.</p>

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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### SHERYL WUDUNN

Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian-American to win a Pulitzer Prize, is a best-selling author, business executive and lecturer. Currently, she is president of TripleEdge, a social investing consultancy, and works as a director with Mid-Market Securities, an investment banking boutique serving the middle market. She is co-author of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, a *New York Times* best-selling book about the challenges facing women around the globe. It has been featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Colbert Report* and many other network television shows. WuDunn has also been leading the development of the *Half the Sky* multi-media effort to create a thoughtful, effective philanthropic strategy that includes an online social action campaign, a documentary series and a television special.

Previously, WuDunn worked at *The New York Times* as both an executive and a journalist; as editor for international markets, energy and industry; as *The Times's* first anchor of an evening news headlines program for a digital cable television channel, the Discovery-Times; in management roles in strategic planning and circulation; and as a foreign correspondent for *The Times* in Tokyo and Beijing, where she wrote about economic, financial, political and social issues. She has also been vice president, in the role of investment advisor for private clients, in the investment management division at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and a commercial loan officer at Bankers Trust.

With her husband, Nicholas D. Kristof, she has co-authored two other best-selling books about Asia: *Thunder from the East* and *China Wakes*. WuDunn won a Pulitzer Prize with her husband for covering China, along with the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement. She has also won other journalism prizes, including the George Polk Award and Overseas Press Club Awards. WuDunn was honored for *Half the Sky* in 2010 with the Beacon Award from the White House Project, a nonpartisan organization that seeks to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors.

WuDunn graduated from Cornell University, where she is a member of the Board of Trustees, chairs the Academic Affairs Committee and is a member of the Board's Finance Committee. She earned an MBA from the Harvard Business School and an MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, where she was a member of its Advisory Council. She speaks Chinese and some Japanese and lectures around the United States and abroad on economic, political and social topics related to women in the developing world, the global economy, China, and the emerging markets. Recently, she spoke to Al Gore and his group of colleagues, including Sir David King, the chief science advisor to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. She has often been quoted in news articles and has discussed philanthropic issues on such television programs as *The Charlie Rose Show* and NBC's *Dateline*.



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## WORKSHOP LEADERS

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### **FIDA ADLEY, Georgetown University**

Fida Adely is an Assistant Professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She is also the holder of the Clovis and Hala Maksoud Chair in Arab Studies. Dr. Adely's research and teaching interests include education in the Middle East and North Africa; development in the Arab world and specifically socio-cultural approaches to the study of development; issues related to women and gender in the Arab World; gender and development more broadly; and Arab society and culture. Her most recent article, "Educating Women for Development: The Arab Human Development Report 2005 and the Problem with Women's Choices," appeared in the *International Journal for Middle East Studies* in 2009. She earned her PhD in Comparative Education and Anthropology from Teachers College, Columbia University in 2007.

### **RAE BLUMBERG, University of Virginia**

Rae Lesser Blumberg is the William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia. Previously, she was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of California, San Diego. Her work revolves around her general theory of gender stratification (e.g., *Sociological Theory* 2:23-101, 1984) and a still-evolving theory of gender and economic development. She has gathered data for her theories in more than 40 countries worldwide where she has worked in development, under the auspices of UNESCO and other UN agencies, USAID, the World Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, international NGOs and individual governments. Her interest in international development work began with Peace Corps service in Venezuela. She received all her degrees from Northwestern University and is the author of over 100 publications. Her theory of gender stratification posits the relative economic power of women vs. men – defined as control of income and other resources – as the most important (although not the sole) variable affecting the level of gender equality. Most recently, her work in gender and development explores the multiple benefits of women's income at levels ranging from the woman and her family to the nation and even the global economy.

### **CAREN GROWN, American University**

Caren Grown is Economist-In-Residence at American University, where she also co-directs the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics. Her recent books include *Taxation and Gender Equity*, co-edited with Imraan Valodia (Routledge 2010), *The Feminist Economics of Trade*, co-edited with Irene Van Staveren, Diane Elson, and Nilufer Cagatay (Routledge 2007), and *Trading Women's Health and Rights: the Role of Trade Liberalization and Development*, co-edited with Elissa Braunstein and Anju Malhotra (Zed Books 2006). Her articles have appeared in *World Development*, *Journal of International Development*, *Feminist Economics*, *Health Policy and Planning*, and *The Lancet*. Dr. Grown is an Associate Editor of *Feminist Economics*, a member of the External Gender Forum of the Asian Development Bank, and a founding member of the International Working Group on Gender and Macroeconomics (GEM-IWG), based at the University of Utah. From 2001-2004, she served as Senior Associate of Task Force

3 of the UN Millennium Project, an advisory group to UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan, on gender equality and women's empowerment. She holds a PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research and a BA in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

### **JODY SARICH, Free the Slaves**

Jody Sarich is a Policy and Research Associate with Free the Slaves, a nonprofit organization in Washington, DC. that frees slaves, helps former slaves stay free, is an advocate to governments and corporations for policy change, and carries out research. She has twelve years of experience in research and advocacy on the issue of historical and contemporary slavery, as an academic, an educator, a researcher and a legal advocate. A native of Indian, she earned her BA from Indiana University in 1997. Focusing on slavery and servitude in sub-Saharan Africa in her graduate studies, she received her MA in African History in 1999 from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London. She then taught at Valparaiso University from 2003 to 2007. Most recently, she received her JD, with a concentration in International and Comparative Law, from the DePaul University School of Law in 2010. She has represented women seeking asylum in the United States and legal status under the Convention Against Torture and has served as an expert witness for women seeking asylum in the US after having fled forced marriages in their home countries. She has presented at a variety of international conferences and workshops on the subject of slavery and trafficking, most recently in Bellagio, Italy. At present, Sarich is completing her PhD thesis, also at SOAS, on historical slavery in Africa and writing a book, with Kevin Bales, exploring forced marriage worldwide.

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## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

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### **CATHY O'DELL, West Virginia University**

Cathy O'Dell, responsible for the course in Introduction to Theater and Acting at WVU, has also taught fundamental voice technique for the theater BFA program and acting/movement for opera/voice students. A graduate of Fairmont State with an MFA from WVU, she earned a certificate in the Michael Chekhov acting technique in 2009, and has acted professionally at the American Contemporary Theater Festival. Her regional and local experience includes acting and directing at the M.T. Pockets Theater in Morgantown and at Fairmont State University. She has, moreover, appeared in national commercials as well as doing voice-overs for training films, industrials, and web sites. O'Dell was also a featured actor in The Learning Channel's production of *The Night Visitors*, has acted in PBS-produced films and has had leading roles in such productions as WVU's 2007 *Blood Relations*, the story of the Lizzie Borden murders. O'Dell just finished filming *The Baggage Claim*, directed by Golden Globe recipient Irene Miracle and played opposite Tom Savini.