

Research

Current Areas of Research

Analysis of the Annual Ramona Pageant; Women and Gender Issues in Peace and Justice Movements; U.S. Military Violence Against Women; Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Students' Participation in High School Proms; Transformative Feminist Pedagogy; Critical Gender Analysis of Disney Culture

Publications

Books

The Ribbon around the Pentagon: Peace by Piecemakers. 1996. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press. Analysis of the politics of culture in the artistic expression of anti-nuclear activists during the early years of the Reagan Presidency. Adopted by the American Folklore Society as an official publication. Awarded Elli Kögäs-Maranda Prize, American Folklore Society (1997).

Feminist Theory and the Study of Folklore. 1993. Co-editor with Susan Tower Hollis and M. Jane Young. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Anthology of essays analyzing folklore and expressive culture from feminist theoretical perspectives. Awarded Elli Kögäs-Maranda Prize, American Folklore Society (1994).

Sew to Speak: The Fabric Art of Mary Milne. 1995. Folk Art and Artists Series, series ed. Michael Owen Jones. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi. Analysis of the social commentary in the work of a contemporary fabric artist.

Articles, Essays, Websites, Internet Essays, and Photo Journalism

U.S. Military Violence Against Women: <http://www.usmvaw.com>. Comprehensive, informational website launched in August 2009. Pershing is the principal researcher and project director. Developed in collaboration with Colonel Ann Wright (retired) and a team of California State San Marcos student researchers.

“Winter Soldiers Confront the White House: Mass Arrests as They Put Their Bodies on the Line for Peace.” 23 December 2010. Truth Out.org, <http://www.truth-out.org/winter-soldiers-confront-white-house-mass-arrests-they-put-their-bodies-line-peace66222>. Analysis of civil resistance peace action at the White House by veterans and supporters.

“Taking Another Look at Susan Boyle, One Year Later.” 23 June 2010. Truth Out.org, <http://www.truth-out.org/taking-another-look-susan-boyle-one-year-later60643>. Analysis of continuing sexism in media portrayals and public response to vocalist Susan Boyle.

“From Sorrow to Activism: A Father’s Memorial to His Son Alexander Arredondo, Killed in the U.S. Occupation of Iraq,” with Nishelle Y. Bellinger. 2010. *Journal of American Folklore* 123(488): 179-217. Analysis of the ways in which race, gender, class, and national identity shape the public expression and peace activism of a first-generation immigrant father, whose son was killed in the Iraq War.

“Disney’s Enchanted: Patriarchal Backlash and Nostalgia in a Fairy Tale Film,” with Lisa Gablehouse. 2010. In *Fairy Tale Films: Visions of Ambiguity*, eds. Pauline Greenhill and Sidney Eve Matrix, pp. 137-156.

Logan: Utah State University Press. Critical analysis of sexism, racism, heterosexism, and classism in Disney's recent fairy tale film.

"Cindy Sheehan: A Call to Maternal Activism in the Contemporary Peace Movement." 2009. In *Sara Ruddick's Maternal Thinking: Philosophy, Politics, Practice*, ed. Andrea O'Reilly, pp. 144-159. Toronto: Demeter Press. Analysis of Sheehan's activism and correlations to Ruddick's theory of maternal thinking.

"Ramping Up the Call to Action: Mothers Tell Congress to End the War Now." Code Pink Women for Peace.org. 17 May 2007, <http://www.codepinkalert.org/article.php?id=3087>. Report on women's peace march and civil disobedience in Washington, DC.

_____. Reprinted on 19 May 2007. After Downing Street.org, <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/22701>.

_____. Reprinted on 23 May 2007. Indy Bay.org, <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2007/05/23/18420391.php>.

"Mothers Call for Peace in Front of the White House: Police Arrest Them and Refuse Access to the Press." 13 November 2006. After Downing Street.org, <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/15488>. Report on mothers of soldiers (who were deployed to Iraq) leading peace rally at the White House.

"Iran Petitions at White House." 13 November 2006. After Downing Street.org, <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/node/15490>, also 15491, 15492, 15493.

"Report on Camp Casey III: August 14, 2006." After Downing Street.org, <http://www.afterdowningstreet.org/cc3>. Report on Cindy Sheehan's peace encampment in Crawford, TX.

_____. Reprinted on 15 August 2006. Michael Moore.com, <http://www.michaelmoore.com/mustread/index.php?id=707>.

"Negotiating History and Memory: Racial Representation at an Annual New York Celebration." 2003. Reprinted in *Mighty Change, Tall Within: Black Identity In The Hudson Valley*. Ed. Myra Young Armstead, pp. 190-209. Albany: State University of New York Press.

"Investigating the Transnational Dimensions of Class, Race, Gender, and Sexual Identity: Engaging Students in Research." 2002. In *Encompassing Gender: Integrating International Studies and Women's Studies*, eds. Mary M. Lay, Janice Monk, and Deborah Rosenfelt, pp. 396-404. New York: Feminist Press. Discussion of classroom strategies and projects that have been successful in broadening university courses to include global perspectives.

"Negotiating History and Memory: Racial Representation at an Annual New York Celebration." 1998. *New York Folklore* 24(1-4):77-95. Investigation and analysis of racial and gender dynamics at the Pinkster Festival, particularly elements of resistance and historical reinterpretation.

"'His Wife Seized His Prize and Cut It to Size': Folk and Popular Commentary on Lorena Bobbitt." 1996. *NWSA (National Women's Studies Association) Journal* 8(3):1-35. Analysis of how gender norms, as well as anti-Latina bias and classism, were communicated through jokes and stories surrounding the Bobbitt trials.

"The Yellow Ribboning of the USA: Contested Meanings in the Construction of a Political Symbol." Co-author with Margaret Yocom. 1996. *Western Folklore* 55(1):41-85. Exploration of the messages about nationalism, racism, and identity conveyed by yellow ribbon displays during the Gulf War.

“‘You Can't Do That, You're the Wrong Race!’: African American Women Storytellers at a Contemporary Festival.” 1996. *Women and Language* 14(1):57-63. Investigation of the ways in which performers negotiate racial identity at an annual storytelling festival.

“Peace Work out of Piecework: Feminist Needlework Metaphors and the Ribbon around the Pentagon.” In *Feminist Theory and the Study of Folklore*. 1993. Eds. Susan Tower Hollis, Linda Pershing, and M. Jane Young, pp. 327-357. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Exploration of the ways in which project participants used artistic forms conventionally associated with women's culture to express their concerns about the nuclear arms race.

“‘She Really Wanted to be Her Own Woman’: Scandalous Sunbonnet Sue Quilts.” 1993. In *Feminist Messages: Coding in Women's Folk Culture*, ed. Joan N. Radner, pp. 98-125. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Adopted as an official publication of the American Folklore Society. Examination of how a group of quilters embedded social commentary about gender relations in their fabric art.

“‘There's a Joker in the Menstrual Hut’: A Performance Analysis of Comedian Kate Clinton.” 1991. In *Women's Comic Vision(s)*, ed. June Sochen, pp. 193-236. Detroit: Wayne State University Press. Analysis of the performance strategies used by a stand-up comedian to convey her worldview.

_____. Reprinted in *American Women Humorists: Critical Essays*. 1994. Ed. Linda A. Morris, pp. 383-429. Garland Studies in Humor, 4. New York: Garland Publishing.

Book Reviews

Review of Liz Locke, Theresa A. Vaughan, and Pauline Greenhill, eds., *Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife*. In press. *Journal of American Folklore*.

Review of Carol Burke's, *Camp All-American, Hanoi Jane, and the High-And-Tight: Gender, Folklore, and Changing Military Culture*. 2007. *Journal of American Folklore* 120(477):368-369.

Review of Rozsika Parker's, *The Subversive Stitch: Embroidery and the Making of the Feminine and Marjorie Agosín, Scraps of Life: Chilean Arpilleras, Chilean Women and the Pinochet Dictatorship*. 1989. *SIGNS: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 14(2):507-509.