**Transnational Gender Justice in the Trump Era: Central America and the U.S.**

This roundtable explores the implications that cutting U.S. aid to the UN and to Central America will have for specialized courts to confront gender violence and feminicide. At the same time, new executive orders calling for wall construction, adding up to 15,000 U.S. border patrol and ICE agents to beef up “interior enforcement” and the turning away of asylum seekers at U.S. borders suggests little or no access to asylum processes in U.S. immigration courts. This “walling off” of gender and asylum justice transnationally has major implications for thousands of Central American refugees and immigrants inside and outside of the U.S and for those who work with them and defend them. Six experts who have worked in Central America on issues of gender justice and on processes of asylum in the U.S. will consider the political moment and lead a strategic discussion on what the most important steps are to continue to fight for gender justice in the U.S. and Central America. We envision this as a roundtable with brief presentations of 5-7 minutes by each panelist and then an open discussion. The session would ideally be 2 hours in length.

**Proposed Panelists**

Caitlin O'Quinn: MA student in International Studies at the U of O. A member of The EveryWoman EveryWhere Coalition, an international advocacy group of survivors and practitioners focusing on violence against women, and previously the regional coordinator of the Initiative on Violence against Women at the Carr Center for Human Rights at the Harvard Kennedy School. Most recently, Caitlin has conducted preliminary research with women's cooperatives in Costa Rica regarding the impact of violence against women legislation and women's quotidian experiences of violence.

Erin Beck: Assistant Professor of Political Science at the U of O. She has been conducting research on gender politics and development in Guatemala for over a decade. Her current research focuses on a comparison of indigenous women's access to specialized justice systems focusing on victims of violence in Guatemala and the United States.

Shannon Drysdale Walsh: McKnight Land Grant Professor and Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Her research focuses on the conditions under which states in Central America have enacted legislation and reforms to address violence against women. Her forthcoming book, *Engendering State Institutions: State Response to Violence Against Women in Latin America,* among other findings, highlights the critical role of transnational advocacy networks in pushing forward specialized systems of security and justice aimed at increasing women's access to safety and justice.

Sandra Herrera: Member of the research arm of the University of San Carlos, Guatemala (Dirección General de Investigación, DIGI). Previously has conducted research on Central American women's reasons for migration and experiences of violence on the Guatemala/Mexico border.

Lynn Stephen: Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, University of Oregon. Her recent research focuses on access to gender justice in specialized gender violence courts in Guatemala and through U.S. immigration courts in cases of gendered asylum and political asylum. She has served as an expert witness on more than 50 cases and has work with lawyers in Oregon, Washington, California, and New York. She has conducted research on gender, political asylum, interlegalities, and social movements in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Chile, and Brazil over the past 30 years.