

**Center for Research on Women
Focus 2004**

CROW's focus areas may be described both functionally and topically. We conduct and promote engaged scholarship, in particular by more senior faculty, and facilitate sustained cross-disciplinary interaction around topics of common interest, primarily through Research Interest Groups. The substantive focus of these groups varies over time, and is defined by the faculty participants. Currently, CROW emphasizes:

?? *Action-oriented*, community-based research that strengthens our understanding of women's experiences in Memphis and the U.S. South, supports efforts to enhance the quality of women's lives in the region, and contributes to local, regional, and national policy discussion. Current focus areas are:

Economic Self-Sufficiency (encompassing wages, employment, and poverty, particularly in the Memphis area). Primary faculty include Phyllis Betts (SUAPP), David Ciscel (economics), Jane Henrici (anthropology), and Barbara Ellen Smith (sociology). Community partners include the Living Wage Coalition, Memphis Area Women's Council, Mid-South Interfaith Network for Economic Justice, and Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis.

Latino Immigration to the U.S. South (including the impact on local labor markets, neighborhood dynamics, racial/ethnic identities and interactions and local institutions such as health care). Primary faculty are Marcela Mendoza (CROW and anthropology) and Barbara Ellen Smith (sociology). Community partners include the Highlander Research and Education Center, Latino Memphis, Southern Regional Council, and an emerging Latino women's organization.

Women's Health (encompassing violence against women and community-based interventions to promote maternal/child health). Primary faculty include Phyllis Betts (SUAPP), Joy Clay (PADM and SUAPP), Nancy Hardt (UT-Memphis Institute for Women's Health), and Sharon Horne (CEPR). Community partners include the Domestic Violence Council, Early Childhood Collaborative, Memphis Area Women's Council, and Memphis Sexual Assault Resource Center.

?? Historically grounded research that makes visible *global* processes affecting institutions, structures of power, and the persistence of inequalities within the U.S. South, and contributes to a better understanding of the region's *relationship* to the nation and the world. The primary focus area is:

Transnational Linkages along the NAFTA Corridor (including the impacts of NAFTA and the corridor on neighborhoods, jobs, and the environment, as well as prospects for civic participation and social justice). Primary faculty include Melissa Checker (anthropology), Jane Henrici (anthropology), Doug Imig (political science), David Madlock (political science), Cynthia Pelak (sociology), Steve Scanlan (sociology) and Barbara Ellen Smith (sociology).

CROW's larger Research Interest Group on Inequality and Globalization also includes David Appleby (communication), David Ciscel (economics), Allison Graham (WMST and communication), and Wanda Rushing (sociology).

2. Insofar as the university and college both currently emphasize community partnerships and interdisciplinary research, CROW's areas of focus all fit within institutional priorities.