



## JOAN GOLDSTEIN ON THE POLITICS OF OFFSHORE OIL

Reported by Linda Arntzenius, PRF Newsletter Editor

In the wake of last year's BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Rush Holt was among those who urged Joan Goldstein to think about a re-issue of her book, *The Politics of Offshore Oil*. First published by Praeger, New York, in 1982, Joan finds the book as relevant today as it was then. In reviewing the book's contents, Joan was prompted to look back over her years working on the topic and at the social and political setting that brought it into being at a time of change for women. She talked about the genesis and content of her book as well as the trajectory of her career at a Work-in-Progress for PRF on Tuesday, January 18, titled "The Politics of Offshore Oil: A Sociologist's Odyssey from 1980 to 2011."

The book, for which (then) Senator Bill Bradley contributed the foreword, presents multiple viewpoints on the offshore oil issue with chapters contributed by authors from the coastal states of Alaska, Maine, Virginia and California. Sections are devoted to representing the perspectives of environmentalists, the Federal and State governments, and of the oil industry. Part of Joan's concluding chapter and analysis, "Landlords of the Sea," later appeared in her New York Times Op Ed article, "Who Is the Sea Floor's Landlord?" on Sunday, February 20, 1983.

Putting *The Politics of Offshore Oil* together was an adventure, she recalled. From her New York schooldays through service on numerous state and federal committees, much of her career has related to issues of the environment and social justice. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, women had access to fields and, in Joan's case, to government committees, where they had not previously been represented. Tapped by the Jimmy Carter administration to serve on the Intergovernmental Planning Technical Working Committee on Offshore Oil leasing, Outer Continental Shelf, Mid-Atlantic Region, a year after

Joan had taken her place there, Carter had failed to be re-elected. President Ronald Reagan arrived and, as Joan recalled, everything changed: "James Watt, whose job it was to "streamline environmental regulations," effectively pulled the teeth out of those regulations under Reagan." President Carter had wanted to involve more women in government and Joan recalled the moment when she received the phone call from the White House (no email in those days) requesting her to serve on the committee of which, as it turned out, she was the lone female member: "It was an odd grouping of environmentally oriented scientists and representatives from the Bureau of Land Management and I began to realize that the real issue wasn't oil, it was money, power and turf!"

Fighting over rights to drill for oil in the undersea shelf led to Joan's six and a half minute interview, long by today's standards, with Bryant Gumbel on NBC's *The Today Show*. The complicated issue was not solely about the environment as Joan made clear in her immediate handling of Gumbel's opening question, which she rephrased to show the underlying dispute between State and Federal governments vying to be landlords of the sea. The Federal government, which leases the undersea offshore land to the oil companies, had benefited by some \$6.5 billion, of which the states had receiving nothing. Joan pointed out that conflict would continue as long as the States received no benefit. She called for a National Energy Policy. Instead of oil being traded as a commodity, oil, she argued should be regarded as a national resource.

Issues of oil and the environment resurfaced with the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska and more recently in 2004 when the single bottom hull of a 750 foot long oil tanker was breached and 300,000 gallons of crude oil washed into the Delaware River, a major assault on the local environment and its wildlife.

For TV12's coverage of the oil spill on this second most trafficked river in the nation, Joan was again

interviewed, this time outdoors along the canal. “The insatiable demand for oil is a national issue and spills are a symptom of our lifestyle,” said Joan, adding that she has watched the problem grow over the years. “Difficult and painful lessons have been there for the learning but people have yet to make the connection that clean up costs them. We are still thinking of oil as a commodity rather than as a subject in need of government oversight.”

While the publisher would like to have *The Politics of Offshore Oil* reissued with new content, Joan feels that such a wholesale rewrite is unnecessary and would prefer to update the book with a new introduction. Her books include *Environmental Decision Making in Rural Locales: The Pine Barrens* [Praeger, New York, 1981], *Demanding Clean Food and Water: The Fight for a Basic Human Right*, [Plenum Publishers, New York, 1990] and she is currently working on a new book about the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

As fascinating as the issues, were Joan’s asides, through which she shared the “backstory” of how her interview with Gumbel had been set up in a time when there was no email and everything was done by telephone or by regular postal service. She described how she was being lobbied from all sides, particularly by the oil companies. While she had received questions in advance from Gumbel, she had also been warned by members of his staff that he had a habit of switching questions around and might try to throw her off balance. Well-prepared for this contingency, Joan immediately took control of the interview.



Joan Goldstein

Joan’s ease in front of the camera resulted in an offer of an NBC News job after the show. She has always been comfortable in front of the camera since she took part in the New York Times News Forum as a young teen (something she had in common with the

late Suzanne Keller she remembered). She was on a radio show first speaking about the socialist and frequent candidate for the U.S. presidency, Norman Thomas, and then on early television as a college student. Seeing how beleaguered the NBC writers were, Joan declined the offer.

Today, Joan has her own community television show for which she picks the topic and the guests. In addition to teaching as an adjunct professor of sociology at Mercer County Community College, Joan is the host and producer of “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” on Public Access TV 30, Princeton. To view the show, visit:

<http://vimeo.com/channels/backstory>.

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## GLORIA ERLICH ON INDEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Interview by Linda Arntzenius, PRF Newsletter  
Editor*

In November, 2010, shortly before her departure for California, Gloria Erlich sat down with Linda Arntzenius to talk about her years with the Princeton Research Forum - finding her place as an independent scholar and speculating on the future. In preparing for her move, Gloria had been going through her papers and making self-discoveries along the way. One item, notes for a talk she had presented at a conference on women in the professions some years ago, brought to mind that period of her life when she was defining herself as an independent scholar. Although she now disowns the apparent sexism in the talk, she finds some of her observations about independent scholars still valid.

Gloria’s talk, “Independent Women Scholars: Amateurs or Professionals?,” came about as the result of her experience of a automobile accident a week before she was to begin what she considered her first “real” academic job - as an assistant professor at Dickinson College. “I was in a headlong collision with a gravel truck and broke the windshield with my head,” she recalled. “As the ambulance carried me off to the hospital all I could think of was my job, my work, my career! I wasn’t thinking of my husband or of my children.” Mentioning her experience to other women scholars, Gloria gathered the anecdotal basis for her talk, which draws upon the experiences of three independent women scholars in critical situations. Those anecdotal revelations spoke to the seriousness with which each woman regarded her

professional commitments. Their stories supported her conclusion that independent scholars are professional in a special dedicated sense.

Gloria's handwritten notes, scribbled on the back of a typescript of her work on Nathaniel Hawthorne, demonstrate her thoughts on a perennial problem - a conflict between the female timetable and the normal career timetable. The question of import was: "Is there a way for the female timetable to function in a positive way for work?" Gloria's reading of essays by other women, notably Sara Ruddick and Pamela Daniels suggested an answer: Evade "Careerism" and delve into the self to find authentic, self-generated work. Both Ruddick and Daniels had conflicting expectations. Each had suffered a crisis, a breaking down of the academic pattern, and a new synthesis emerging from the self. Both found satisfaction in work based on life histories or biography. In their 1977 book, *Working it Out*, Daniels writes: "Doing what you love' means knowing yourself well enough to be able to answer the question, 'What would you love to do?' and loving yourself enough to ask it." Here is an abbreviated version of Gloria's talk:

### **Independent Women Scholars: Amateurs or Professionals?**

*by Gloria Erlich*

My topic is the professional identity of unaffiliated women scholars who, refusing alternative occupations, persist in remaining productive without the customary professional compensations. We are, then, professional in our commitment and standards, but amateurs in the etymological sense that we work for the love of the work itself. The traditional relationship of money to work has led to the notion that it is compensation that distinguishes the professional from the amateur. A painter or writer knows that she has achieved professional status when someone buys her paintings or her poems. The transfer of money for work is both income and validation, recognition from the outside that one's work has value to others. But bad paintings and bad writing often earn even more money than good ones - Emily Dickenson, for example, rarely saw her own poems in print and never earned anything from them. I am not about to make a virtue of the absence of earnings, I like money as much as anyone else, and would like to earn some if I could do so by meaningful work, but the shape my life has taken makes this unlikely.

I believe there are lessons to be learned from the shape and timing of lives like mine and the informal investigation I discuss here emanates from personal

experience. I went to college and graduate school at the usual ages, but walked out on an excellent graduate program and a choice fellowship largely because I had not been brought up to take myself seriously. Unfortunately, I seemed afraid to have a Ph.D. at a time when opportunities for educated women were much more open than they are now. So instead of pursuing a doctorate, I worked as an editor and taught at a number of colleges in adjunct roles. Not until my youngest child was in first grade and I had taught at Douglass College for several years, did I decide to return for the qualifying degree, which I finally received in 1977. By this time I was in my fifties and the only professional job available was a one year position at Dickinson College, 170 miles from home. I was so eager to teach that I arranged to commute. Then came the accident.

When I told this experience to a young friend of mine, Fannie Peczenik, a woman scholar in her thirties [Editor's Note: and a current member of the Princeton Research Forum], she shared her own account as a Milton scholar who had followed her partner to Tennessee with the intention of working on her dissertation there. She found herself struggling to work effectively in an environment she found dingy and provincial. One cold February day as they were driving a narrow winding road a patch of ice sent their car skidding over an embankment. For some moments the car was airborne and Fannie described what she thought were her last moments of life. Instead of screaming, she folded her hands primly in her lap like a well-bred schoolgirl and thought, "I can't die now. I haven't finished my dissertation." She forgot about herself. She forgot about her elderly father who would be devastated by her death. She thought only of the pity that her scholarly work would never be completed. As a result of the accident, Fannie married her partner and began immediately to finish her dissertation.

A third narrative from Larissa Onyshkevych, a scholar then in her forties [Editor's Note: and a current member and past President of the Princeton Research Forum], is typical of deflected careers. Although her interests were in music, literature, linguistics and chemistry, as an immigrant to Canada, she picked the most practical field for her undergraduate major in the 1950s. She worked in medical research for several years, married, and had three children. While her children were growing up, she worked on a Ph.D. in linguistics and literature, attaining the degree at the age of 38. Since then she has done college teaching without getting onto the tenure track and freelance editing and research for well-known male writers. In this career of service to

her family (husband, children, an aging mother who lived with her), ancillary teaching and research are two fields that she considers her own: literary articles, books, including several anthologies of dramas, that she has edited, furnished with explanatory material (and translated some plays). As with Gloria and Fannie, an accident in the 1980s brought home to Larissa, the hierarchy she perceived among these endeavors. She fell from a ladder while pruning climbing roses and landed on the very part of her spine that had recently been fused in surgery. While immobilized in the ambulance, not knowing what the outcome of her fall might be, her first thoughts were not for her children or her aged mother or her husband, or even for her own health, but of what would become of her first unfinished anthology. She grieved for the book, which might never be published.

Stories such as these seldom fail to elicit comparable ones, not only from independent scholars but also from those who had very satisfying careers, stories indicating that their manuscripts were as precious to them as babies are to their mothers, an analogy often made by male as well as female authors. One famous biographer told me that she never left the manuscript of her first book behind when she left the house, preferring to put it in the trunk of her car lest the house burn down.

While maternal solicitude for one's first book is not the monopoly of women writers or of unaffiliated women writers, I suspect that women have an extra capacity for work that is its own reward, work of intrinsic value, whether or not one is paid for it. Work that is its own justification whether done with career rewards or without them is, of course, the essence of professionalism and it is in this small area that the amateur and the professional meet.

### Looking Forward

Gloria's interest in biography led to life course studies and to the concept of career evolution. Her interviews of other women scholars after her auto accident revealed her own ultimate values: "I find the study of life histories, the shape and driving forces, is an intellectual study that gathers together aspects of the self and gives them a role in the work that I do."

With the support of occasional grants, fellowships from Yale and from the American Council of Learned Societies, Gloria has contributed to the study of American literary figures with her books: *The Sexual Education of Edith Wharton* and *Family Themes and Hawthorne's Fiction*, which won the House of Seven Gables Hawthorne Award as well as

the Modern Language Association Prize for Independent Scholars.



Gloria Erlich

At the start of a new phase of life, Gloria is reminded of a quote from Margaret Meade: "There is no force on earth like a postmenopausal woman with vitality." According to Gloria, "The female timetable allows energy and creativity at a stage when men are phasing out; let young women planning their lives understand this."

*In June 2006, Gloria was the subject of a profile by Linda Arntzenius that ran in Princeton's local community newspaper, Town Topics. To view the article, visit:*

<http://www.towntopics.com/jun0706/other5.html>

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### UPCOMING WORK IN PROGRESS

Work in Progress sessions offer PRF members an opportunity to hear about the work of their colleagues in a congenial setting that welcomes prospective members, spouses/partners, and interested friends.

On Thursday, March 3, at 4 p.m., Winifred Hughes will present "How to Write a Sensation Novel in 2011," a preview of her presentation for a panel on the sensation novel at the upcoming Northeast Modern Language Association conference at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Winnie has been asked to talk on the relationship between her scholarly research - including her seminal book on the genre, *The Maniac in the Cellar: Sensation Novels of the 1860s* - and her current fictional work-in-progress on Wilkie Collins, which in part parodies the conventions of the sensation novel, a particular brand of Victorian thriller originating in the 1860s and usually set in ordinary, often domestic, surroundings. Sensation novel such as *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, *Lady Audley's Secret* by M. E. Braddon and *East Lynne* by

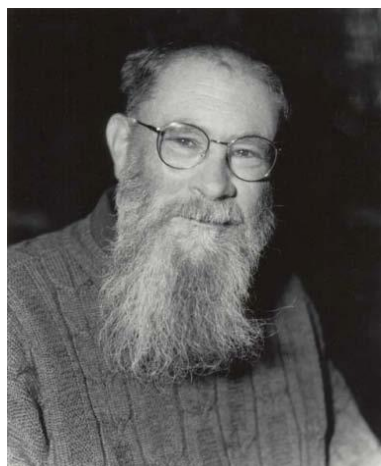
Mrs. Henry Wood offered respectable Victorians a glimpse into worlds of crime and illicit sex. The event will take place at Winnie's home in Princeton. Please RSVP to Ann Lee Morgan, PRF Work in Progress Chair.

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## MEMBER NEWS

**Joan Goldstein's** recent TV30 "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" has a round-table with Dorothy Mullen and colleagues from her grass roots movement for healthy cooking and eating towards actively increasing health and wellness, which Dorothy calls, "Suppers." The link is: <http://vimeo.com/19952425> Joan's latest show, (link not yet available) is an in-depth interview with Jim Firestone, the co-leader of the citizens movement for fair tax assessment in Princeton and beyond. All of Joan's shows can be viewed on Princeton TV30 weekly on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.; Sundays at 5:30 p.m., and Mondays at 7:00 a.m. "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" is also featured on MCTV 25/26 and normally coupled with showings of "Democracy Now."

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David Lewis

**Stephanie Lewis** presented a Lunch Time Lecture titled: "David Lewis: Teachers and Students," at the Princeton University Philosophy Department on Friday, February 25, 2011, in 201 Marx Hall. David Lewis (pictured above) was a leading philosopher of his generation, and a member of the Princeton philosophy department for thirty years. Every two years the department invites a philosopher of Lewis' stamp to deliver the David Lewis Lecture. As a part of the occasion, founding PRF member Stephanie Lewis gives a lunchtime talk, drawn from her

husband's correspondence. Stephanie describes the talks as "not cutting-edge philosophy, but neither are they just lunchtime entertainments." This year, Stephanie drew from Lewis' correspondence to illustrate the difference between the teacher/student relationship in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when David was a student, and the last years of the 20th century. David's student days were the waning days of the *Doctorvater*, the professor who guided, and sometimes tyrannized, his students. The talk included five slides of what your *Doctorvater* was supposed to look like. The first three were photos of really "scary" Europeans: Richard Wagner; the great 20th century Danish symphonist Vagn Holmboe; and serving as a *Doctormutter*, Emma Goldman. There was also a photo of David's thesis advisor W. V. Quine, wearing a laurel wreath, and, last, the Lewis Lecturer, a man of the present day, Ned Hall. The talk also featured many letters written by David and his correspondents, illustrating the collegial nature of David Lewis.

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**Terri McNichol** will present her paper, "Reimagining Seeing," at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington (March 30 - April 2, 2011). The session title is Museum Engagement and Applied Anthropology. Terri's chapter, "The Art Museum as Laboratory for Re-Imagining a Sustainable Future" is included in the newly published Part III: Appreciative Intelligence Perspectives. *Advances in Appreciative Inquiry- Positive Design and Appreciative Construction: From Sustainable Development to Sustainable Value v.3.* Thatchenkery, T., Cooperrider, D. & Avital, M. (Volume Eds). Emerald Group Publishing Ltd. <http://bit.ly/buuVXP>

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**Donn Mitchell** has contributed a chapter to *A Promise to All Generations*, a series of essays on Social Security to be published by the Frances Perkins Center, Newcastle, Maine. Donn's chapter is based on materials he presented at a PRF Work-in-Progress in the spring of 2009. On February 13 and 27, Donn presented a two-part series, "What's grace got to do with it? The Episcopal Tradition of Public Service," at the Church of the Holy Apostles in New York. The sessions included readings from his spiritual profiles of Eleanor Roosevelt and Junior League founder Mary Harriman Rumsey. Donn is Editor & Publisher of *The Anglican Examiner*, which can be viewed at [www.AnglicanExaminer.com](http://www.AnglicanExaminer.com)

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**Maureen E. Mulvihill's** recent essay on Virginia Woolf was mentioned in the *Today In Literature* Web site of the writer Steve King of St John's Newfoundland. Maureen's essay is included as a labeled, freestanding exhibit in the Carl Kohler Literary Portraits show which will be on display in Sweden; Cork, Ireland; Vancouver, Toronto; Brooklyn, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., among other places. Commissioned by the literary magazine, *Rapportage*, published by Elizabeth F. Hurley in Lancaster, Pa., the essay focuses on Woolf's famous suicide. It brings to light many, previously under-emphasized, circumstances in Woolf's life during its closing weeks. Based on responses Maureen has received from Woolf scholars, such as Karen Kukil, Special Collections curator of Smith College, the essay succeeds by offering readers "a larger logic" to Woolf's sad and tragic decision in March, 1941. According to Maureen, "This was a thrilling project, and I received extraordinary support from photographers, curators, and Woolf specialists (the Grolier Club played a special role)." The essay includes more than 30 endnotes, many discursive, as well as several images of Woolf, including the Kohler sketch, a Gisele Freund photographic portrait, and the famous suicide note to Leonard Woolf from the British Library. It can be viewed at:

[http://www.finebooksmagazine.com/fine\\_books\\_blog/2011/01/virginias-last-days.phtml](http://www.finebooksmagazine.com/fine_books_blog/2011/01/virginias-last-days.phtml)

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**Karen Reeds** was awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship by the University of Oklahoma Library to study Renaissance herbals in a rich collection of rare books in the history of science made possible through the generosity and intellectual curiosity of an Oklahoma oilman, Everette Lee Degolyer. Karen spent most of her week visiting the library in January looking closely at just one volume: Otto Brunfels's herbal, "Living Images of Plants (1530)." The book is famous for splendid illustrations and as the first herbal to use fully naturalistic woodcuts of plants. In the copy available to her in the University of Oklahoma Library, Karen found that an early 16th century reader had scribbled comments about those pictures. The manuscript annotations in German and Latin had gone unnoticed until now because they were mostly written along the very edges of the pages and trimmed by the book-binder. The markings are very difficult to decipher, but they seem to comment on the accuracy of the illustrations, perhaps with an eye to issuing a new edition. Karen plans to the library again this spring to continue her research and give a talk about it. She urges PRF members to apply for similar short-term

fellowships available from many libraries and archives. Sample images, such as the one included here, from Brunfels's herbal can be viewed at: <http://129.15.14.63/galleries/16thCentury/Brunfels/1530/>.



Karen is guest curator for the medical history exhibit, "Call the Doctor! Call the Nurse! History of Medicine in New Jersey, 1775-1975," on view in The Cornelius Low House, the Middlesex County Museum, Piscataway until June 2011: Tues-Fri, Sun, 1-4 p.m. Admission is free and groups are welcome. For more information, call 732-745-4177, or visit: <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/culturalheritage/museum.asp>. In addition, a History of Medicine Lecture Series continues on April 13 and May 11, 2011. For more information, email Karen, or visit: <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/culturalheritage/whatsnew.asp>.

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### (SOME) FREE ACCESS TO PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Princeton Public Library (PPL) patrons will soon be able to visit Firestone and other University libraries once a month. The Firestone Library Cards program will let Princeton Public Library members reserve passes for Firestone and other University libraries for a 24-hour period, and up to four will be available on any given day. Although PPL members will not be able to check out books or use other services, they will be able to study in library spaces, use licensed electronic resources and copy, scan and print library materials. The passes are available to PPL ticket holders through its Museum Pass Program, which includes free access to such museums as the

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Frick Collection, Garden State Discovery Museum, Guggenheim Museum, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and others. One museum pass can be reserved per day per card and up to five museum passes can be reserved in a calendar month. Passes must be picked up at and returned to the Library's Welcome Desk. They may be reserved online or by calling the Reference Desk at 609.924.9529 x220. For more information about the Museum Pass Program, call 609.924.9529 x254.

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### **ARTICLE BY INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR & URBAN HISTORIAN**

Elizabeth Ettinghausen has suggested the following article by Katherine Wentworth Rinne as being of interest to PRF members: "Independent Scholars: A Nomadic Lot," New York Times, Saturday, February 19: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/20/jobs/20pre.html?\\_r=1&ref=jobs](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/20/jobs/20pre.html?_r=1&ref=jobs)

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### **PRF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

In February, by way of an electronic board meeting, the PRF Board approved the 2011 Nominating Committee: Chair: Ashwini Mokashi, Members: Patricia Hyatt, Joan Goldstein, Mary Beth Lewis, and Linda Holt.

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### **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES**

Although PRF is an affiliate of NCIS, PRF members who wish to apply for grants from NCIS must sign up as members of that organization. NCIS offers its members "bare bones" Web sites.

**PRF Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grants** are available for traveling to a conference to give a talk. The grants pay for such items as registration, travel, and accommodation. In 2010, four presentation grants were approved for subjects ranging from Chinese art and music, Thoreau, early American roads, and African American women chemists, to Terri McNichol (April 2010), Linda Holt (September 2010), Bob Craig (November 2011) and Jeannette Brown (December 2010).

### **The C.V. Starr Center Fellowships at Washington College**

PRF Grants Committee Chair Karen Reeds suggests the following as of interest to PRF members: The C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience invites applications for the Hodson Trust - John Carter Brown Fellowship, which supports academics, independent scholars, writers, filmmakers, novelists and artists working on significant projects relating to the literature, history, culture, or art of the Americas before 1830. The award comprises \$20,000 plus housing and university privileges for two months of research in Providence, RI (September-May) and two months of writing in Chestertown, Md. (June - August). The deadline for 2011-2012 is March 15, 2011. For further information and criteria visit: <http://hodsonbrown.washcoll.edu>.

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### **NEW FEATURES FOR JSTOR**

Since the beginning of this year, JSTOR is providing access to current issues of 174 journals (including more than 20 journals in history) from 19 different publishers. This content is available to individuals and institutions holding a current subscription. A complete list of JSTOR journals is available at: <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/libraries/current-scholarship-program/2011-title-list>. Highlights of the new JSTOR features are available at: <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/libraries/csp-transition/features>.

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### **REMINDERS**

PRF members are encouraged visit the **PRF Web site** [www.princetonresearchforum.org](http://www.princetonresearchforum.org), for continuing updates and are reminded to make mention of PRF whenever they give a talk or are otherwise in the public eye. Stephanie Lewis reminds Members that the PRF **slide projector** is available not only for PRF Works-In-Progress but also for other presentations. Pick up can be arranged by contacting Stephanie.

PRF Treasurer Stephanie Lewis reminds members to consider the **Life Membership option** when they next pay their annual dues.

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