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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Professor Rothchild awarded Institute for Advanced Studies Fellowship

Summary: The honor will allow Rothchild to engage with fellow scholars and draft her next book.

(December 12, 2011)-Jennifer Rothchild, associate professor of sociology and gender, women, and sexuality studies, received a fellowship with the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) for the spring semester of 2012. IAS is housed at the Twin Cities campus and is charged with bringing together scholars from many disciplines to work on collaborative and interdisciplinary projects. Any faculty member within the University of Minnesota system can apply for this fellowship, though only a maximum of 20 are awarded per year.

Rothchild welcomes the challenge of working among other scholars as they bring fresh viewpoints to her work. “If you just spend all your time with people who are like you, you’re not going to ever think differently you’re not going to be challenged,” she said.

Rothchild’s goal for spring semester is to draft her book, *Boys in the Kitchen and Girls in the Yard: Social Constructions of Gender and Family in Nepali Orphanages*. Her research brought her to four Nepali orphanages and focuses on how gender is defined at the orphanages in contrast to traditional Nepali homes. She will take her data from the orphanages and explore how gender is defined in global communities.

Another advantage to the IAS fellowship is the additional resources available to participating scholars. As she writes her book, Rothchild can easily discuss her work with colleagues within the Institute for Global Studies, the Center for the Study of Global Change, and the Office of International Programs.

Rothchild is enthusiastic about working with others and gaining new perspectives about her research. “So much of our work is done in isolation, and writing is an exciting thing to do but it’s also a very lonely thing to do. It’s just you and your work, you and your data. I’m excited to have people listen to my ideas and hear about their work.”

Rothchild earned a doctorate in sociology from American University, a master of science in sociology from Georgia State University, and bachelor of arts in zoology from Miami University of Ohio. She has authored *Gender Trouble Makers: Education and Empowerment in Nepal* and several chapters in the *Handbook on Service Learning in Women's Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Disciplines*.

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