This symposium brings together some of the most innovative scholars at Rutgers and elsewhere working on gender justice in Africa to consider and compare alternative approaches to framing and seeking justice by, for and on behalf of women and men. Africa is an especially compelling site for such an analysis, given the rich scholarship on historical and contemporary gender justice regimes and the long term prevalence of alternative legal and extralegal processes and procedures. The format of the symposium is interactive – participants have submitted draft papers from which they will only speak briefly, maximizing time for discussion and debate. Everyone is invited to attend, but please rsvp to Renee Delancey at rdelance@rci.rutgers.edu by February 10th to receive access to the precirculated papers and for lunch (which is provided).

Friday, February 24th, 2012 9am-5pm
Rutgers University
Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building, 1st Floor Conference Room
162 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ

Panel I
Colonial Contestations
Andrea Cornwall (Sussex), "Women’s Empowerment: Tales from 19th Century Southwestern Nigeria"

Dorothy Hodgson (Rutgers), "Colonial Legal Regimes, Customary Law and Gender Justice among Maasai Pastoralists in Tanganyika, 1916-1961"

Emily Burrill (UNC), "Rule by Decrees: The Mandel and Jacquinot Decrees and Questions of Marital Rights in French Soudan (Mali), 1939-1951"

Panel II
Beyond Legal Pluralism?
Jessica Johnson (Cambridge), "Gender Justice? Marital Dispute Resolution in Rural Malawi"

Ousseina Alidou (Rutgers), "Muslim Women Reshaping the Law: The Constitution and the Khadi’s Court in Kenya"

Barbara M. Cooper (Rutgers), "Reflections at the Intersection of Law and Medicine: Debating the Rights of Babies and Mothers (Real and Potential) in the Sahel"

Panel III
States of Struggle
Abena Busia (Rutgers), "Gender Justice in Africa: Quotidian Lessons from Women Writing Africa"

Zakia Salime (Rutgers), "Where Did all the Women Come From? Before the Arab Spring"

Pamela Scully (Emory), "National Action Plans, Gender Justice, and the Drive to Count"

Chiseche Salome Mibenge (Lehman/CUNY), "The Scholar-Consultant and the GBV Field Mission in Conflict Africa"

Final Discussion: Perspectives on Gender Justice
Rapporteur: Susan Hirsch (George Mason)