



Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

The Robert A. Catlin Memorial Lecture

Race Relations, Gender, and Violence in the Congo

presented by Meredith Turshen

Wednesday, April 3, 2013; 5:00 p.m.

Special Events Forum, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

A peace treaty was signed in 2003, but fighting continues in the eastern provinces of the Congo where Rwandan-backed troops are marauding to gain control of resource-rich territory around Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province. Violent race and gender relations, beginning with the slave trade and continuing through European exploitation of the land for rubber, ivory, gold, diamonds, copper and palm oil, have destroyed Congolese lives and livelihoods over the past century and a half. Six million deaths have occurred since 1998 and nearly 1,100 rapes are recorded daily. Conquest and colonialism are the historic center of the processes shaping contemporary patterns of violence in the Congo. The violence of Belgian rule, with the complicity of European and North American governments and corporations, form the backdrop to current events. Tracing race and gender relations through decades of colonial and corporate misrule, Meredith Turshen will recount the deterioration of women's status, women's health and women's work in eastern Congo.

In addition to research interests of women's health and armed conflict, Professor Turshen specializes in international public health policy. She has written four books, *The Political Ecology of Disease in Tanzania* (1984), *The Politics of Public Health* (1989), and *Privatizing Health Services in Africa* (1999), all published by Rutgers University Press, and *Women's Health Movements: A Global Force for Change* (2007) published by Palgrave Macmillan. She has edited six other books, *Women and Health in Africa* (Africa World Press, 1991), *Women's Lives and Public Policy: The International Experience* (with Briavel Holcomb, Greenwood, 1993), *What Women Do in Wartime: Gender and Conflict in Africa* (with Clotilde Twagiramariya, Zed Books, 1998), which was translated into French (L'Harmattan, 2001), *African Women's Health* (Africa World Press, 2000), *The Aftermath: Women in Postconflict Transformation* (Zed Books, 2002), and *African Women: A Political Economy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). She received the University's Leadership in Diversity Award in 2007 and the Jerome Rose Teaching Award in 2009. She is currently working on a new book about the persistence of violence in the Congo.

The Robert A. Catlin Memorial Lecture

The **Robert A. Catlin Memorial Lecture** honors the legacy of Robert A. Catlin, Bloustein School professor, who died in July 2004. Catlin began his career as a staff planner for governmental agencies and community organizations in several cities, including Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York. He also served as dean of the College of Social Science at Florida Atlantic University, dean of the Camden College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers, and provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Bakersfield. At the Bloustein School, he specialized in urban revitalization and the impact of race in public policy decision-making.

The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University has established national and international reputations for excellence in educational and research programs in the areas of urban planning, urban studies, public health, and public policy.

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