

*First Thursday State College and the  
AAUW State College Branch present*

## **“Feminization of Poverty in *Half the Sky*”**

**Thursday, March 4, 7:00-8:00pm  
Schlow Centre Region Library**

Inspired by the book *Half the Sky*, a talk with Dr. Lindah Mhando, Penn State Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies

We celebrate International Women’s Day in March, and through this program, we will be standing with AAUW branches across the country, in support of women and girls across the world, many who are struggling under dire circumstances. We are very excited to be partnering with First Thursday State College (<http://www.firstthursdaystatecollege.org/>), made possible by the Friends of Schlow Centre Region Library.

The book *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn details the barriers that women face all around the globe and provides information on what an individual person can do to work for women’s rights and equality. Visit <http://www.halftheskymovement.org/> and [CARE](#), AAUW partner in the Half the Sky movement, for additional information. We hope you’ll be able to read this powerful book in advance of our March program.

Women account for half of the world’s population. Fewer than one third of all women are literate, and in many African and Asian countries, only one in ten females even enter school. “Feminization of poverty” is a structural reality of the world political economy. Inspired by the book *Half the Sky*, this talk explores the myths about the invisibility and

supposed insignificance of women's contributions to the world economy. The stories collected in this book reveal the resultant changes that can affect everything from population to the economy, which, along with other factors such as industrialization and shifting cultural norms and values, are agents of social change. The book is a powerful medium that narrates boundaries of exclusion, and imagined and racialized womanhood.

*Lindah Mhando's research interests include immigration, culture and collective action/social movements, feminism, stratification (inequalities and subordination). She has also worked on historical-comparative analysis of the divergent trajectory of U.S. and Sudanese Sharia Law.*

