

This is the second Newsletter to be produced in Montreal by Audrey Kobayashi and Damaris Rose, who extend best wishes for a successful beginning of the new academic year, and apologies that the publication was held up over the summer. We expect to be back on schedule by the end of 1985, and are pleased to announce that the next issue will be edited by the Collectif de lecture sur l'espace et les femmes, at Université Laval. If you have news, comments, suggestions, short book reviews, please send them as soon as possible to:

La CLEF
Collectif de lecture sur l'espace et les femmes
Département de Géographie
Pavillon de Koninch
5ième étage
Cité Universitaire
Ste-Foy, Québec GLK 7P4

The last meeting of the Canadian Women and Geography Specialty Group was held as an open meeting, and a round table discussion of issues of concern about women in Canadian Geography. About 20 people attended, men and women representing students, academics and civil servants. We are now preparing the agenda for the Calgary meeting next year, and invite suggestions for sessions, as well as issues that might be included in the meeting agenda. Correspondence should be sent to one of the committee members:

Audrey Kobayashi
Dept. of Geography
McGill University
805 Sherbrooke St. W.
Montreal, P.Q. H3A 2K6

Suzanne Mackenzie
Dept. of Geography
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

Damaris Rose
INRS Urbanisation
Université du Québec
3465 Durocher
Montréal, P.Q. H2X 2C6

30 people joined the Specialty Group when renewing their CAG memberships for 1985. An additional 10 have purchased subscriptions for \$3.00. If you did not tick off the Canadian Women and Geography specialty Group with your last renewal and would like to do so, please send \$3.00 c/o A. Kobayashi at the above address.

Another issue of the Newsletter is scheduled to be published in the spring of 1986, and we have as yet had no volunteers to take on the editing job. We would especially like to see a Western issue, so if there is a willing soul in one of the Prairie or British Columbia departments, we would appreciate a note as soon as possible.

Beginning with the current issue, we plan to publish short research articles on topics of concern to Canadian Women and Geography. Submissions should be typed and camera-ready, a maximum of three pages, with a line length of 80 spaces at 12 spaces to the inch. Articles will be printed, space allowing, if they deal with the themes of women in Canadian geography, or geography and gender.

The Canadian Women and Geography Specialty Group is currently running a small financial surplus, which will be outlined in a full financial statement to be published in the Spring, 1986 issue of the Newsletter. To date, our only expenses have been in the production and printing of the Newsletter, but we would appreciate suggestions as to other worthwhile ways of using the available funds.

NEWS

One of the highlights of this year's Annual Meeting in Trois Rivières was a luncheon given in honour of Helen Rowland, who has been the Executive Secretary of the CAG for twenty years. Canadian Women and Geography takes this opportunity to add our thanks to those of all the other members of the CAG.

Elaine Wheaton (Saskatchewan Research Council) has been involved in an International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) and United Nations Environment Programme Project (UNEP) to study the impacts of climatic change on agriculture. This project is headed by Dr. M.L. Parry, University of Birmingham. The high latitudes part of the project has a case study in Saskatchewan and others in Iceland, Finland and the USSR. Canadian participants have met with their counterparts from those countries in Austria to coordinate preparation of a report to be entitled Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture, Vol. I, High Latitude Regions.

Sylvia Waterer writes from the University of Saskatchewan that she is developing a methodology that could be used to estimate the demand for recreational open space within and adjacent to an urban centre.

Kathy Stevenson, University of Saskatchewan, is working on a Master's Thesis entitled "A Stochastic Analysis of Precipitation in Southern Saskatchewan, examining historical precipitation data, to permit modelling of the temporal aspects of all precipitation events at selected meteorological stations in southern Saskatchewan.

Mireya Folch, McGill University, has just returned from a nine-week field research project in a rural Mexican village, where she has been studying "Cultural Influences on Food Systems: The Impact of Multinational Corporations in Rural Mexico's Consumer Patterns." Mireya's work was funded by a grant from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.

Two research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada have been awarded to women faculty members in the Geography Department at McGill University. Sherry Olson's project is entitled "Social Space in Montreal in the 19th Century." Audrey Kobayashi is conducting a study entitled "Regional Backgrounds and Settlement Patterns of Japanese Immigrants to Canada."

PROGRESS ON THE JOB FRONT

A number of women geographers in Canada have obtained tenure-track positions this year. The ones we know about are: Suzanne Mackenzie, Dept. of Geography, Carleton University; Alison Gill, Dept. of Geography, Simon Fraser University; Cheryl Pearce, Dept. of Geography, University of Western Ontario; Damaris Rose, INRS-Urbanisation, Université du Québec; Beth Szplett, Dept. of Geography, York University.

At the same time, Ruth Fincher is leaving MacMaster University to take up a position at the University of Melbourne. Canada's loss is Australia's gain! We wish Ruth and her family all our very best.

IN MEMORIA

Rachel Castonguay, a member of the Canadian Women and Geography Specialty Group, was killed aboard Air India Flight 182, June 23, 1983. Rachelle completed an M.A. in Geography at the University of Ottawa, and was employed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. She is warmly remembered and deeply missed by her many personal friends and professional associates.

CONFERENCES

Association québécoise de géographes, Annual Meeting at Chicoutimi, May 1985

A collective of doctoral students from the Département de géographie, Université Laval (Lyse Pelletier, Andrée Heroux, Christine Risi and Edith Mukakayumba) presented papers in a special session entitled "Une géographie au féminin: est-ce possible?" The session was chaired by Deirdre Meintel (Université de Montréal); Damaris Rose (INRS-Urbanisation) was discussant. The session was well attended and generated spirited debate.

The 1985 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Detroit

The theme of women's attempts to control their environments in times of economic and social restructuring dominated discussions in the feminist sessions of the 1985

Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, a theme which was echoed in the stark contrast between the concrete towers of the Detroit Renaissance Center in which the conference was held and its barren surroundings.

A double session organized by Briavel Holcomb (Rutgers) for the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography and the Urban Geography Specialty Group focused on "Women in the city: the struggle for urban space, and Women and work".

Myrna Breitbart (Hampshire College) talked about "Terrains of protest: women in urban struggle", using the example of women in the Spanish anarchist movements to discuss how women's involvement in urban social struggles affected their political consciousness and understanding of power relations, and the role of the urban built environment in counter-hegemonic struggles.

Vicky Muniz (Syracuse Univ.) talked about "Sense of place and the defense of the barrio", discussing how Puerto Rican women in New York City protected their communities in the wake of gentrification. She emphasized the importance of these women's neighbourhoods in enabling them to juggle the demands of family life in a supportive cultural environment.

Jacqueline Beyer (Univ. of Colorado at Boulder) in "Geography of women's spaces" discussed her research on how the variety of spaces where women live and work separately from men originated and were sustained. Using examples of women's spaces across the United States and Canada, she argued that these took the forms both of distinct areas and of linkages across space.

In a discussion of "Residential patterns of female headed households in U.S. metropolitan areas", Rebecca Smith (Univ. of Massachusetts) examined the concentration of such households in central cities, a concentration explained by race and household income. She argued for more flexible and sensitive models of the social geography of cities.

Three papers concentrated on women's involvement in and response to the restructuring of the wage labour force. Suzanne Mackenzie (Carleton Univ.) discussed 'housewife-entrepreneurs' in British Columbia and Eastern Ontario as urban activists who are responding to decreasing employment opportunities and declining social services through redesignating their homes and communities as workplaces.

Kristin Nelson's (Univ. of California at Berkeley) paper on "Labor demand and supply in back offices" (read by Briavel Holcomb in Kristin's absence) documented that the electronic mechanization of clerical work, which produces an increased demand for educated and docile clerical workers, was increasing the locational attractiveness of suburban areas for corporate back offices.

Damaris Rose (Institut national de la recherche scientifique-Urbanisation, Univ. du Québec) and Paul Villeneuve (Univ. Laval) discussed "Women and the changing spatial division of labour in Montréal", focusing on how restructuring has affected women's employment, and the theoretical and empirical links between this and changes in the spatial patterning of household structure and housing needs.

Partly in response to this set of papers and the subsequent discussion, Myrna Breitbart and Suzanne Mackenzie are proposing to edit a collection of papers on women's environmental responses to economic and social restructuring. Anyone interested in more information may contact Myrna at the Department of Social Sciences, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01001 or Suzanne at the Department of Geography, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B6.

In a session of "Women's changing role in society", John Everitt (Brandon) examined behaviour patterns of husbands and wives in Southwest Manitoba communities, finding significant differences between the two groups, reflected in different 'knowledge spaces'.

At the annual meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography, Janice Monk (Univ. of Arizona) reported on a wage equalization programme at Arizona which had the effect of raising the salaries of many women faculty. The results of a survey of non-academic women in geography were presented and plans were made to organise some sessions on women and applied geography for next year's AAG meetings. For further information, contact Eve Gruntfest, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Box 7150, Colorado Springs, CO 80933.

Audrey Kobayashi
McGill University

The Canadian Urban Studies Conference (Winnipeg, Aug. 14-17)

This conference included a triple session on women and the city (see last issue of CWAG for list of participants and papers). Both the paper sessions were well-attended and the round-table session held in the afternoon generated discussion between academics and those in policy fields and community organisations on issues such as suitable methods for feminist research and the difficulties of using census data for research on women. (There are plans for a group to lobby Stats Can to improve the Census in this respect: if interested, please contact Beth Moore-Milroy, Urban Planning, University of Waterloo.) The session was taped to aid plans for a book based on the themes presented in the sessions. The organisers of the session, Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore-Milroy, were especially commended by conference organiser and director of the Urban Studies Centre, Alan Artibise, in his closing plenary address. John Sewell also wrote about the session in his daily column in the Globe and Mail!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Here are a few of several recent books on women and development:

SUE E. CHARLTON and RACHEL TAGG (1984), Women in Third World Development. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 242pp. US\$12.95 (pbk.);
K.S. MARCH (1985), Women's Informal Associations in Developing Countries. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 117pp. US\$15 (pbk.);
M. WAWES, S. HUFFMAN, D. CEBULA and R. OSBORN (eds.) (1985), Health and Family Planning in Community-based Delivery Programs. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 400pp. US\$35 (pbk.).

Participation by women as farmers, farm labourers and subsistence producers, and the relationship of their working conditions to the persistence of domestic ideology and the changing structure of agriculture form the subject of CAROLYN E. SACHS (1984), The Invisible Farmers: Women in Agricultural Production. Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Allanheld, 153pp, US\$29.95.

Women and housing...

EUGENIE LADNER BIRCH (ed.) (1985), The Unsheltered Woman: Women and Housing in the 80s. Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research. 346pp. US\$14.95. A collection of articles on gender-related housing needs and strategies for implementing some appropriate options in the American context;
FRAN KLODAWSKY, ARON SPECTOR and DAMARIS ROSE (1985), Single Parents and Canadian Housing Policies: How Mothers Lose. Ottawa: CMHC. 350pp. FREE. This is a report of research carried out under a Pt. V. External Grant evaluating current policies in terms of their suitability for the particular needs of single parents, with international comparisons.

Women, work and daily life...

WILLIAM MICHELSON (1985), From Sun to Sun: Daily Obligations and Community Structure in the Lives of Employed Women and their Families. Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Allanheld. 180pp. US\$28.95. Explores the interrelationships of employment, domestic responsibilities and community structure through interviews with 500 families in metro Toronto.

Women in architecture and urban planning in Canada...

FRAN KLODAWSKY with Damaris Rose (1985), Employment Opportunities for Women in Architecture and Urban Planning: Problems and Prospects. Ottawa: Labour Canada Women's Bureau. Bilingual. FREE. Discusses women's participation in these professions and issues of special concern. Based on about 50 interviews across Canada, and published and unpublished statistics.

At the recent Annual Meeting in Trois Rivieres, a round table discussion on the status of women in Canadian geography was held. The discussion was attended by more than twenty participants, male and female, among them students, academics and civil servants. The general consensus of the group was that those women who hold professional positions as geographers do not have "problems," in that they are not discriminated against in terms of hiring, salary or advancement opportunities, and most feel that they work in environments where the gender gap is not a significant issue. The major problem seems to be not how the position of women within geography might be improved, but how the number of women in geography might be increased.

An analysis of the membership data of the CAG was undertaken to discover how well, or poorly, women are represented in Canadian geography. The study is based only on data collected by the CAG, and therefore does not include geographers who are not CAG members, but it is nonetheless felt to be representative of women in geography.

The total number of women has increased since 1978 when Janet Momsen undertook a similar study, and that the number of women is increasing more rapidly than is the number of men, however, there are still only a few areas in which women are well represented, and a number of areas where there are very few women. Table I shows a breakdown of the CAG membership categories for 1978 and 1975. As of March, 1985, there were 339 female members of the CAG, making up 23 per cent of the total membership of 1447. This is an increase of 144 women, or 74 per cent over the 1978 female membership of 195. Over the same seven-year period, overall membership has increased by only 174 members, or 14 per cent, so the proportionately larger increase in female membership can be seen as quite significant.(1)

The membership figures suggest some possible trends. The number of family members has increased substantially, perhaps indicating a larger number of two-geographer households. Although student membership as a whole has decreased in proportion to total membership, female student membership has increased from one in five in 1978 to one in three in 1985. The next few years could see an important shift in the overall balance as these students become professionals. In the "complimentary" category (made up of graduating students who receive the CAG medal and a complimentary three-year subscription to The Canadian Geographer), the number of female recipients is nearly as high as that of male recipients, indicating that there is a large group of talented undergraduate women.

That these women have not been going on to become professional members of the CAG is evident from the lower proportion of women who hold regular CAG membership. In 1978, women made up 15 per cent of the membership, but only 12 per cent of regular members, that is, members who would be considered professional geographers. In 1985, when the percentage of women has increased to 23 per cent, those who are regular members are still only 15 per cent. It is difficult to assess whether this is a lag effect, and the swelling ranks of women in the student and complimentary categories will go on to become regular members of the association, and therefore full fledged professional geographers, or whether the numbers indicate only an increase in the turnover of female students, whose memberships will lapse along with their complimentary or student status. This is one of the most serious issues confronting the geographical profession at the present time.

Table II provides a breakdown of occupational categories by gender for 1985. In relation to their total proportion within the CAG, women are overrepresented in teaching administration, government, business and industry, as well as in the student category. The "teaching administration" category includes librarians, whose membership in the CAG is entirely female. Women also outnumber men in the "no data" category, which includes complimentary members (who do not fill out an application form and therefore do not provide occupation data), unemployed, and spouses whose occupations are not specified.(2)

Although university teaching accounts for the largest group of women within the CAG, it is also the area where women are most underrepresented. They make up only 8 per cent of the total of 538 university teachers who form the backbone of the CAG.

The implications of this fact are many, but I shall emphasise two here. First, the female constituency within the association is very different from the male constituency, which is overwhelmingly dominated by those in university teaching. This does not necessarily mean that the interests of female members of the organization are not being served, but it does indicate a possibility that women may feel that this is the case and so be discouraged from fully participating in CAG activities. There is also a possibility, which cannot of course be assessed on the basis of the data available here, that there are professional women geographers who do not choose to join the CAG because it is seen as a largely male organization.

Second, the scarcity of women in university teaching positions means that women are not able to act as mentors for those female students who may seek to become professional geographers. The significance of gender in teaching roles remains a controversial issue, and I would not wish to claim here that the role of mentor is one that is limited to students of the same gender, for that would be to undo much that has been done to free our university departments of gender stereotyping. Nonetheless as long as university departments remain predominantly male the image of the male professor is one that will continue to provide a norm for students.

An encouraging sign that this situation is changing is the fact that whereas Momsen's study showed that in 1978, 21 or 17.8 per cent of the 118 women who were full or family members of the CAG held doctorates, the figure in 1985 (as far as can be determined from CAG records) is 46 or 39 per cent. A breakdown of female doctorate holders is provided in Table III. Whereas the number of tenured university professors remains small at 14, this is four more than the 10 reported in Momsen's study. At the time of the current study, the number of tenure-track assistant professors had increased only by one, from 6 to 7, however, as reported elsewhere in this Newsletter, five women have been appointed to tenure-track positions since March, 1985 and that figure now stands at 12.

Although female representation within the CAG, and by extension among professional geographers, remains weak, it is possible to conclude that substantial gains have been made over the past seven years. Despite the recent difficulty of obtaining employment, women are being hired in major geography departments across the country, and are moving into the teaching and other professional roles that were once almost exclusively the domain of men. While this situation does not provide an excuse for complacency about the role of women in the profession, nor is it intended to gloss over the very real problems that women continue to face, we may take hope in the fact that real progress is being made.

Type of Membership	TOTAL				MALE				FEMALE			
	1978	% ^a	1985	% ^a	1978	% ^b	1985	% ^b	1978	% ^b	1985	% ^b
Life	7	.5	5	.3	7	100.0	5	100.0	0	0	0	0
Family	44	3.5	66	4.6	23	52.5	33	50.0	21	47.7	33	50.0
Regular	842	66.0	949	65.6	745	88.5	799	84.2	97	11.5	150	15.4
Student	380	30.0	330	22.8	303	79.7	220	66.6	77	20.3	110	33.3
Complimentary	n/a		97	6.7	n/a		51	52.6	n/a		46	47.4
TOTAL	1273	100	1447	100	1078	84.7 ^a	1108	76.6 ^a	195	15.3 ^a	339	23.4 ^a

TABLE II *
OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES, CAG MEMBERSHIP, 1985

Occupation	No. of Males		No. of Females		Total	% ^a
		% ^b		% ^b		
Teaching: University	493	91.6	45	8.4	538	37.2
College	24	80.0	6	20.0	30	2.1
Secondary	41	78.8	11	21.2	52	3.6
Elementary	2	100.0	0	0	2	0.1
Administration	4	33.3	8	66.6	12	0.8
Government	141	75.0	47	25.0	188	13.0
Business/Industry	72	75.8	23	24.2	95	6.6
Student	221	66.6	112	33.3	333	23.0
Other	12	100.0	0	0	12	0.8
Retired	15	100.0	0	0	15	1.0
No data	83	48.8	87	51.2	170	11.7
TOTAL	1108		339		1447	

TABLE III *
OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES, FEMALE CAG MEMBERSHIP WITH PH.D. DEGREES, 1985

Occupation	Number
Teaching: Universities outside Canada	9
Canadian Universities, tenured	14
Canadian Universities, tenure track	7
Canadian Universities, limited contract	3
Canadian Universities, part-time	2
Post-doctoral research	2
Canadian Universities, tenure tract, non-Geography	2
Government	3
Business	1
No data	3
TOTAL	46

(a) percentage of total membership

(b) percentage of membership/occupational category

*Sources: CAG Membership List, March, 1985; Janet H. Momsen, 1980, "Women in Canadian Geography," *The Canadian Geographer* XXIV, 2, 177-182; Janet H. Momsen, 1980, "Women in Canadian Geography," *The Professional Geographer* 32, 3, 365-369; W. Barr (ed), 1984, *CAG Directory*, Montreal.

(1) Comparative figures for 1978 are drawn from Momsen's two 1980 articles.

(2) In the case of family memberships, a small number provides data for the wife rather than the husband. Where the spouse is a member of the faculty of a university geography department, it is possible to supplement the occupational information using Barr (1984) thus reducing the number in the "no data" column.

CANADIAN WOMEN AND GEOGRAPHY
c/o Canadian Association of Geographers
McGill University, Burnside Hall
805 Sherbrooke St. West
Montreal, P.O., Canada H3A 2K6