

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear CWAG members,

I hope the sunshine of the summer months is drawing you away from your keyboards, even for a little bit, to stretch your legs and enjoy the fresh air. Time away from the screen is sometimes hard to come by, but for me it is one important part of finding some semblance of balance in a career that can literally take up as much time as one allows. As I get to know other women in Geography, I like to collect their stories of health and wellness: what do you do to take care of yourself? The answers to this question are important, particularly as the topic of mental health in academia is increasingly on peoples' minds.

Teaching this winter semester, I was also struck by the number of students who spoke with me about their own anxiety and stress. Clearly, many of us feel weighed down by the expectations we have of ourselves and the expectations we think others have of us, not to mention the stresses of workload or job insecurity, family and other personal relationships, health complications and so on. For women especially, there are also many 'silent' challenges that can exacerbate a sense of isolation, such biological and situational infertility, menopause, or multi-generational care giving.

Let's make CWAG a meeting-place where women at various points in their personal and professional lives can push back at the silencing of mental health discussions. I hope it can be a place where we can support one another while challenging the dominant narrative of women's mental health as some sort of far-too-personal sphere that must be kept private (lest it make others uncomfortable). We can challenge this in the way we take care of ourselves, the way we relate to our colleagues and peers, and the way we teach and mentor our students.

The CWAG newsletter should serve as a small reminder of the community of Canadian women in Geography that is out there, each of us in our own part of the country, or the world. I am personally inspired every day by the amazing contributions being made by the members of this group. On that note, I would like to thank Ann Marie Murnaghan for her commitment to putting this newsletter together. We received a lot of positive feedback from CWAG members after the last newsletter and I want to acknowledge that it is Ann Marie who is behind this wonderful project to bring us all together throughout the year. Thank you, Ann Marie!

Julia Christensen
julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca



Julia Christensen
CWAG Chair 2012-2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Chair	1
CWAG Study Group Meeting	2
CWAG Sponsored Sessions	2
The Politics of Home	2
Profiles of Geographers at Memorial.....	3
Ranu Basu on Feminist Geography Now	4
Great Lakes Feminist Geography Workshop	4
Update: The Island Detention Project	6
Profile: Tiffany Muller Myrdahl	7
Student Paper Award ...	7
Rethinking Feminist Interventions into the Urban	8
Profile: May Chazan	9
Save the Date: Feminist Geography Conference 10	

CWAG STUDY GROUP MEETING

Tuesday, August 13, 2013, 12-1pm.

Arts and Administration Building 1049, Memorial University

If you cannot attend, but would like to make an announcement, please send to Ann Marie Murnaghan. If you will attend, please RSVP to Ann Marie Murnaghan amf_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca so we can plan for lunch.

CAG 2013 CWAG SPONSORED SESSIONS

1. ***Feminist Approaches to Health and Health Care***, Caitlyn Henry, University of Toronto
2. ***Critical geographies of the Canadian North***, Emilie Cameron, Carleton University, and Julia Christensen, University of British Columbia
3. ***Place, power and politics: Critical historical geographies and the creation of Canada***, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, Dalhousie University, and Heather Castleden, Dalhousie University

The politics of home: Special sessions at CAG

In the summer of 2012, we observed presentations to the Joint Review Panel for the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline across northern British Columbia. A fascinating experience in many ways, watching the hearings also raised some interesting questions about how and why “ordinary people” chose to participate. The manner in which local residents articulated their attachment to the area they called home described a political and cultural engagement rooted in ideas of the ecological, rather than in the social.

As we dug into our own consideration of this, we decided to try to organize a panel on the “politics of home” for the CAG in St. John’s. We sent out a call for papers that would continue to extend the conceptual reach of “home,” indicating we would welcome papers on ideas

and representations of home in any form and at any scale, from the domestic residence to the nation-state, or even explorations of those individuals who claim the entire world as home. In particular, we sought papers that examined how individuals (or institutions) articulate themselves as political actors with a stake in issues related to this place they call “home.”

The response was enthusiastic, and we were able to assemble three sessions with discussants on a broad and

diverse set of topics, fields of study, and geographical locations of the research and the scholar. Four of the twelve presenters are based at institutions in Canada. There are two scholars based in the UK, two in the US, and one each in Hong Kong, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Norway.

The three sessions run consecutively on Monday, August 12th from 9:00am through 2:40pm. We hope you will join us for what promises to be an engaging and

insightful discussion.



Tricia Wood, Department of Geography,
York University,

Julie Young, Centre for Refugee Studies,
York University

PROFILES OF CAG HOST INSTITUTION

Some Geographers at Memorial

Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee

On research: I do research about the world's small-scale fisheries, looking at their contribution to food security, wellbeing and environmental stewardship, as well as what governance system and mechanisms are required to secure



Ratana in Tanzania.

Courtesy of R. Chuenpagdee

sustainable small-scale fisheries. People generally agree that small-scale fisheries are important and that they occupy a large niche in the society, with 90% of the world fishing people involved in this sector, yet they are often marginalized and ignored.

On route to academia: I studied in four countries, Thailand, US, UK, and Canada, covering a range of disciplines from marine science, resource management and economics, fisheries stock assessment, and governance. I developed my own research project since I graduated from the PhD (didn't do a Post-doc) and got into academia shortly after that.

On teaching: I enjoy interacting with students and it is very rewarding when students tell you how much they benefit from it.

Best grad student advice: I had two supervisors. One of them asked me on Day 1 whether I wanted to do a Noble Prize thesis or just a very good thesis. The advice he was giving with the question was that the PhD was just a stepping stone, not an end in itself. The other supervisor's advice was a simple one: publish or perish!

On life: Follow your passion, if you know it. Otherwise, follow your instinct until you find it.

Top tip for fun in St. John's: Go blueberry picking!

Kathy Fitzpatrick

On research: My PhD dissertation compares how different forms of employment-related geographical mobility (E-RGM) (commuting to and from work and mobility within and between workplaces) of Newfoundland home care workers living in St. John's and southwest Newfoundland may impact workers, rural communities and home care agencies. I am organizing a session of E-RGM at the CAG this year: *Workers 'On the Move' in Canada: Employment-Related Geographical Mobility*.

On disciplinary affiliation: I am currently enrolled as a PhD student in Sociology at Memorial (although I still am very much a geographer)!

On route to academia: I completed a BA and a MA in Geography from Simon Fraser University, taught geography in British Columbia at a post-secondary level for over ten years. During that time, I was a member of the BC Geography Articulation Committee (assessment of transfer credits) for 8 years and a co-chair/chair for 2 years. I plan to teach geography at a university or college after completing my PhD.



Courtesy of K. Fitzpatrick

Top tips for fun in St. John's: The St. John's Haunted Hike meets at 9:30pm in front of the Anglican Church on Church Street Sunday - Thursday (\$10). *Quidi Vidi Brewing Company - 35 Barrows Ave. Beer tasting and tours on the hour from 10-4 (\$15). *North Head Trail. This hike is part of the East Coast Trail, and starts in the Battery (a small neighbourhood at the entrance of St. John's Harbour) and continues along the North Head Trail to Cabot Tower on Signal Hill. This short hike offers spectacular views. *St. John's Folk Festival is on August 9, 10, & 11. This year it is being held in Bowering Park, on the west side of St. John's. *Shamrock City on Water Street has night local entertainment. As well, there are numerous pubs on George Street. *The Rooms has an art gallery, museum, archives and a nice cafe with an amazing view of the harbour

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Ranu Basu on Feminist Geography Now

First and foremost I'd like to thank Alison, Alice and Roberta for organizing this amazing event. It is such an honour and privilege to be invited to this event; and in the presence of so many inspiring women. When I received the invitation, I was absolutely delighted and humbled. Whoever I have been in contact with before coming to this event, have all expressed similar sentiments: 'excited', 'thrilled', 'can't wait'.

There was a sort of **impatience** to meet and a deep **desire** to connect and share. Coupled with this **impatience**, is a need to be part of a **larger collective**, meet face to face within a **circle of support** to **share** our experiences as academics, feminist geographers, with varying backgrounds, at various stages of our lives, and with varying life experiences.

To share, where we have been, where we are now, our challenges, our victories and defeats (or lessons learned!) as researchers, in the classrooms, in our homes and communities.

In the classroom: joys and challenges of teaching; pedagogical lessons, barriers we face—many invisible, subtle barriers – have not gone away, but take on different forms. How have we coped? Where did we lose hope? Where did we find strength?

As administrators: in an increasingly neoliberal corporate university with more and more cutbacks and higher expectations, using the language of efficiency and progress, how has the burden shifted? Who takes it on? What is the COST, and who bears this cost?

As women and our role as caregivers: children, elderly parents, disabled siblings or partners, community – how can we strive for a **BALANCED** life and maintain our mental health and well-being? Demands and stress coming from everywhere – I think this has been and will always be a constant battle to come to terms with; and although we have not been afraid to reflexively and politically challenge these norms – it has not been easy

Academia is all consuming, how do we claim that space and time that considers and respects our multiple roles in life and make us who we want to be?

What kind of message, way of life and 'being' do we want to share with our students and younger generation?

Feminist Geography allows for a **safe space** to discuss **difficult and uncomfortable questions**. This forum provides such a space.

Despite, the latest *Economist* claiming (on the cover page) that race, colour and caste differentials need to be questioned with respect to employment equity and learning opportunities [and that affirmative action should be eliminated], we know that this is completely false and such claims are dangerous and that sexism, classism, racism is historically and geographically contingent taking on different forms in different places.

For example taking most recent events:

Overt violence: Just yesterday, we witnessed the 400 [now over 1100] Bangladeshi women and garment workers who were buried after the collapse of the factory building. Ongoing rape in India, refugee camps around the world – happening everyday; violence on our aboriginal women.

Institutional racism: Targeting our black youth in the school system and by the police.

More subtle forms: Constant undermining, suppression or dismissal of initiatives within our own institutions that further reproduces power relations.

Racism, sexism, classism and other forms of oppression are both overt and subtle and very much here and present today – and feminist geographers have not been afraid to take these head on... experimenting and being open minded and creative in their research and critical methodologies, personal reflexivities, and political will.

Feminist Geographers we hope have never been afraid to ask the difficult questions; never been afraid to question the silences; never hesitated to politically engage and confront these issues. I am really looking forward to our conversations and story-telling, to learn *and unlearn* from each other, to share in a spirit of geographical imaginaries and feminist consciousness.

Taken from Dr. Basu's Introductory Address at the Great Lakes Feminist Geography Workshop, University of Guelph, May 3, 2013.

GREAT LAKES FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Jennifer Hyndman

Radical Geography? Feminist pedagogy? Community engagement and activism? These were just some of the watchwords at the cross-border Great Lakes Feminist Geography Workshop, held in Guelph, Ontario from May 2nd to 4th. With a competitive grant from the Antipode Foundation, entitled “Regional Revolutions: Advancing radical geographical scholarship and practice through feminist geography across the Canada-US borderlands”, more than two dozen feminists in geography from Canadian and US universities in the Great Lakes ‘region’ came together to discuss research, teaching, public engagement and the discipline through various presentations, conversations, and wonderful food.

The workshop was inspired by the three co-organizers: Roberta Hawkins (University of Guelph), Alice Hovorka (University of Guelph), and Alison Mountz (Wilfrid Laurier University/Balsillie School of International Affairs, Waterloo), who collaborated to create a highly original and interactive program. The agenda was ambitious: the workshop provided a safe space to question the silences of the academy and explore the contentious place of feminist geography as a taught subject within the discipline. We talked about the victories and simultaneous silences of feminist politics in geography and of the various

institutional spaces we find ourselves inhabiting, as well as of the neoliberal environments in which most of us work. Discussed more than once were the prices these structures can exact on faculty members, students’, and staff members’ everyday lives. Concerns were also raised over the retrenchment of jobs in geography, the precariousness of much academic employment, and continued exclusions marked by race, class, and gender, in particular. Silences around mental health and physical health were discussed.



*Excellent Mugs!
Courtesy of J. Hyndman*



*Future Feminist Geographer Baby-wear.
Courtesy of J. Hyndman*

From the politics of and disparities in parental leave to the academic practices of citing ‘others’ and questions of representation, so many issues were raised. Our only regret is that there was not enough time to work through each point made in more detail: the conversations could have gone on for weeks. Yet, break out groups met and action plans for the near and far future were laid.

While a feminist nation was not quite finalized in the short time available, extremely good energy and enthusiasm defined the event from its kickoff. One participant shared her riff on why she was at the workshop, and we have her permission to publish this poetic manifesto in part below. Now that the workshop is over, the Great Lakes Feminist Geography Network has been launched and will seek expansion.

UPDATE: The Island Detention Project

Alison Mountz

Research on migration often focuses on how immigrants integrate into new societies or adapt to changes in socioeconomic status and living conditions between countries of origin and destination. In contrast, there has been less consideration of zones of transit and transition between country of origin and final destination; that is, the remote and often tumultuous sites migrants travel to and through on their journeys to new locations.

The Island Detention Project examines these journeys between states. Migrants enter into sites of ambiguous jurisdiction used by smuggling industries to exploit economically impoverished migrants and asylum-seekers. States also operate in remote locales to implement enforcement practices such as interception and detention in their attempts to manage migration offshore. These practices often entail create uses



Australian Immigration Detention Centre at North West Point on Christmas Island Courtesy of A. Mountz

populations are affected by detention on the island.

One key finding is that people are very isolated for extended periods of time in detention on islands. There, the trauma of displacement is often extended through spatial, temporal, and legal limbo. Simultaneously, however, detainees were highly connected to family members, friends, compatriots, and communities back home and in the countries they were transiting and traveling too. Many appealed their cases, joined activists on the outside, and became activists on the inside through protests of all kinds.

Another set of findings involves sovereign power, jurisdiction, and legality. Nation-states intervene in all sorts of ways to attempt to manage these highly dynamic flows. In the process, sovereign power is extended offshore, and the interplay between onshore and offshore detention policies

“The data offer new ways of understanding what happens to international migrants on their journeys between states, including the role of interception at sea, detention on islands, and human rights issues that emerge

of geography to inhibit access to sovereign territory.

The Island Detention Project is funded by a CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation, led by Principal Investigator **Alison Mountz** (Balsillie School, Wilfrid Laurier University). The project emerged out of Mountz’s research on border enforcement, wherein islands came up frequently as important sites where offshore enforcement was intensifying. The research team (based primarily at Syracuse University) includes postdoctoral fellow **Dr. Jenna Loyd** and doctoral students **Kate Codrington**, **Tina Catania**, **Emily Mitchell-Eaton**, and **Rob Fiedler** (York University). Researchers conducted fieldwork in Australia, Indonesia, Italy, and the United States (Guam, Saipan, and mainland) from 2009 to 2012.

Researchers studied sites migrants travel through on global journeys, focusing on islands where struggles over migration and sovereignty transpire and mandates of security and refugee protection intersect. They asked what role islands play, how migrants arrived there, why particular islands become sites of migration management, what legal issues ensue, and how immigration policies and island

and practices proves important. The political status and issues surrounding jurisdiction on the island intersect with legality of individuals for highly complex struggles over legality, entry, and exclusion.

The data offer new ways of understanding what happens to international migrants on their journeys between states, including the role of interception at sea, detention on islands, and human rights issues that emerge along the way.

This summer, data analysis will be completed, and dissemination will continue. The research team presented findings from each region at special sessions of the annual meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers in Waterloo and the Association of American Geographers in Los Angeles.

Several papers from the project are published or forthcoming in *Progress in Human Geography*, *Shima: Journal of Island Cultures*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Political Geography*, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, in addition to chapters in edited collections. A website will be launched this summer at ISLANDDETENTIONPROJECT.ORG, with many maps, findings, timelines, infographics, and images from the islands. Stay tuned!



CWAG STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The deadline for submissions is FRIDAY JULY 12, 2013

The competition is open to any master's or Ph.D. student who is presenting a paper at the 2013 CAG meeting in St John's. The paper must be based on research related to an aspect of feminist geography, broadly defined. Entries should be submitted electronically, in either French or English, and must not exceed 5,000 words, including references and footnotes. Please send papers to the attention of the CWAG Chair at: julia.christensen@geog.ubc.ca

AN ITINERANT ACADEMIC TALKS ABOUT WOMEN TRANSFORMING CITIES *Tiffany Muller Myrdahl*

During the 2012-13 academic year, I have served as the Junior Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair in the Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. To make this move, I took a leave of absence from my position at the University of Lethbridge, where I have been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women & Gender Studies since 2008. And I took a(nother) nearly cross-country drive, as my partner and I had been in Toronto during the spring semester, where I spent a study leave at York University's Centre for Feminist Research. In short, 2012 was something of a whirlwind chapter in "Life as Itinerant Academic", but enabled us to see a good deal of the Canadian landscape along the way!

As the Junior RWW Chair, some of my attention has gone to traditional activities. One priority was teaching: I taught one seminar in gender and urban studies, which has been the thematic focus of this year's Chair, as well as a feminist qualitative methods course with a mixed undergrad/grad student audience. Another priority has been carving out time to work through the empirical data of my first post-doctoral research project, which combines oral history and social geography to analyze urban change in Lethbridge, Alberta. However, because one of the central features of the RWW is community engagement, a sizable portion of my energy was spent organizing, facilitating, participating in, and/or presenting at events that aimed to bridge the interests of multiple communities.

The lion's share of my community engagement efforts has gone toward participating in a recently formed NGO called Women Transforming Cities (WTC), for which I serve as an ex-officio board member. Started by former Vancouver City Councillor Ellen Woodsworth, WTC aims to spark changes in municipal policy to improve the lives of women and girls in all aspects of urban life. The WTC conference highlighted the need for a gender/ equity lens in municipal budget development and policymaking. I will be writing more about the conference and feminist urban futures as a conceptual framework in the days to come, and proceedings from the conference will be available at womentransformingcities.org and on my blog, tmullermyrdahl.org/feminist-urban-futures.

As I reflect on the past year, I am particularly grateful to have had such diverse opportunities both within and beyond the academy. In addition to participating in more traditional post-doc activities like writing and teaching, I have assisted in the development of a new NGO, gained a growing network of colleagues involved in creative urban interventions and civic governance, and pushed against my own boundaries as an academic writer to make feminist geography more accessible to a wider variety of audiences. Occupying the Junior RWW Chair has been a watershed moment for me in anticipated and unexpected ways, and will certainly continue to inform my career trajectory for years to come.

t.mullermyrdahl@gmail.com

CWAG ON FACEBOOK AND GOOGLE GROUPS

For those of you looking for some real time connections with women and feminist geographers in distant locales, you might think of joining the new Facebook Group CWAG—Canadian Women and Geography Study Group

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/430844290279789/>

Also, for more direct forms of communication and collaboration, we have also started a Google Group (Canadian Women and Geography Study Group (CWAG)) where members can post topics, announcements, files for sharing, and other resources.

Please contribute any relevant material!



NEW BOOK

Rethinking feminist interventions into the urban (Routledge, 2013)

In *Rethinking Feminist Interventions into the Urban*, Linda Peake and Martina Rieker embark on an ambitious project to explore the extent to which a feminist re-imagining of the twenty-first-century city can form the core of a new emerging analytic of women and the neoliberal urban.

In a world in which the majority of the population now live in urban centres, they take as their starting point the need to examine the production of knowledge about the city through the problematic divide of the global north and south, asking what might a feminist intervention, a position itself fraught with possibilities and problems, into this dominant geographical imaginary look like.

Providing a meaningful discussion of the ways in which feminism, gender and women have been understood in relation to the city and urban studies, they ask probing and insightful questions that indicate new directions for theory and research, illustrating the necessity of a re-formulation of the north–south divide as a critical and urgent project for feminist urban studies.

Working through platforms as diverse as policy formulations and telling stories, the contributors to the book come from a range of disciplinary backgrounds and geographic locations ranging through the Caribbean, North America, Western Europe, South, East and South East Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. They identify a range of issues (such as care, work, violence, the household, mobility, intimacy and poverty) that they analytically address to make sense of and reanimate resistance to the contemporary urban through articulations of new grammars of gendered geographies of justice.

Contributors include: Beverley Mullings, Leslie Kern, Melissa Wright, Dina Vaiou, Tsung-yi Michelle Huang, Gerry Pratt, Richa Nagar, Sofi Shank, Ann Varley, Gerda Wekerle, Ruth Pearson and Polly Wilding.

Linda Peake is Professor of Urban Studies at York University, Toronto.

Martina Rieker is Director of the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at the American University in Cairo.

A FOCUS ON GRANNY POWER:

EMERGING FEMINIST RESEARCH ON OLDER WOMEN'S ROLES IN MOBILIZING FOR GLOBAL CHANGE

May Chazan

As I write this short piece introducing myself as a (relatively) newly minted geography Ph.D. (graduated in late 2011 from Carleton), I am also in the midst of a move to Peterborough, where I have the tremendous opportunity of taking up a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Gender and Feminist Studies at Trent University this July. I will soon be part of Trent's Department of Gender and Women's Studies. I am also mom to two little girls (ages five and one year respectively), both of whom regularly travel with me on fieldwork, and both of whom have a profound influence on how I see the world (not to mention how I spend my time!). I am grateful for this invitation to share my research, as I am eager to connect increasingly with CWAG over the next few years.

My research is concerned with understanding why and how older women in different contexts are mobilizing around various social justice issues, and how they are working to build transnational networks. Older women's roles in global justice movements have received only limited attention in existing scholarship, yet these efforts provide a critical opening to rethink contemporary understandings of global connection, human agency, and struggles for social change. Over the next 40 years, the global population of people over the age of 60 is expected to triple, so that by 2050, for the first time in history, there will be more people worldwide who are over the age of 60 than who are under the age of 15. Life expectancy is higher for women than it is for men, with populations over 60 estimated to include two to five times as many women as men. While different regions are experiencing this transition along different timelines, the emerging picture is that population aging is unprecedented, pervasive, and feminized. This transition is also converging with growing transnational mobilization around unfair labour practices, the uneven effects of HIV/AIDS, growing social and eco-

nomic disparities, the inequitable impacts of climate change, the denial of indigenous land claims, and systemic violence against women and children. These trends raise important questions about how older women are collectively responding to this century's major social and environmental struggles.

Despite these transformations, much of the existing literature on older women unfoundedly represents them as fragile, dependent, disengaged, and apolitical. Feminist scholars have long elucidated how gender, class, race, sexuality, and geography intersect to condition women's mobilizations; however, old age has not been widely incorporated as a crucial intersecting axis of difference, and thus the dynamics of older women's engagements have yet to receive adequate attention. Much of the existing research on women and aging exposes the numerous challenges faced by older women; it has placed less emphasis on their potential contributions in working for social change. More nuanced investigations are, I believe, much needed.

Building from eight years of research with grandmothers in South Africa

and across North America and from my doctoral dissertation, *Mobilizing Grandmotherhood: Possibilities of Global Connections*, my research asks the following: why and how are older women in different contexts organizing, networking, and asserting themselves? During my recent postdoctoral fellowship (at the University of Toronto), I started generating life histories and geographies with grandmother activists involved in two transnational initiatives: the Grandmothers Advocacy Network (GRAN) and the Raging Grannies. I am also in the process of building relationships with certain Aboriginal grandmother mobilizers, whom I hope to include in this work over the next few years.

Continued on Page 10



May with her research partner, Cwengi Myeni, and daughter, Zoe, during PhD fieldwork in South Africa in 2008. Courtesy of M. Chazan.

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Feminist Geography: Who we are, what we do, why we do it

MAY 15-18, 2014

University of Nebraska at Omaha

In order to create an inclusive and caring atmosphere, we have opted to offer the conference as a child- and nursing-friendly space.

Registration fees – on a sliding scale – will include the opening dinner, breakfasts, snack breaks, and lunches!

A Call for Participation will be circulated in the coming weeks, which will include a variety of participation options. Details with respect to fees and the child-friendly conference policy will follow.

We hope to have a website in operation by the end of the summer that will provide pre-conference networking opportunities for participants and sharing of participation guidelines. We continue to welcome feedback and suggestions for innovative participation formats.

- Research paper presentations that share research ideas through panels and question-and-answer sessions (rather than stand-alone research presentations).
- Café- and Salon-style sessions for exploring themes and topics in-depth across multiple perspectives.
- Professional development workshops addressing writing, teaching, publishing, the job market, work-life balance and more.
- Strategy workshops on surviving the challenges of graduate school and early-career work; addressing mental health issues; surviving as a lone feminist in a geography department; challenges faced by women of colour in geography; and more.
- Multiple opportunities to socialize, relax, and get to know one another during nutrition breaks, meals, and other activities.

Please contact Pamela Moss at pamelam@uvic.ca or Karen Falconer Al-Hindi at kfalconeralhindi@unomaha.edu with questions or suggestions

Continued from page 9

The networks and initiatives with which I am working (and hoping to work) are quite different from one another in their goals, activities, structures, and governance, yet all are comprised predominantly of women over the age of 60 who are drawing on discourses of grandmotherhood to build transnational peace or justice initiatives. All have their bases in North America, but also involve women from Latin America, Asia, Europe, and/or Africa. Collectively, they make visible the diverse ways older women are organizing across distance and difference for global change. My work explores what is motivating the women involved, how they understand their own positions, what they are drawing on (in terms of discourses, resources, and strategies), and what is being produced, challenged, or re-configured through their mobilizations. Some emerging themes include: solidarity and spirituality; borders and feminisms; performances of grandmotherhood; life courses and intergenerational justice; and caring and

confrontation.

I am committed to a critical and reflexive process and to incorporating older women as central producers of knowledge in my work. I value building relationships and working in collaboration with community groups. I look forward to ongoing CWAG insights into some of the methodological, ethical, practical, and emotional issues associated with this kind of scholarship. I am hopeful that my research will begin to redress a significant gap in scholarship on older women's mobilizations. By foregrounding the experiences and perspectives of older women mobilizers, I am also (and ultimately) hopeful that my work will play a role in disrupting certain universalizing assumptions about feminisms, women's mobilizations, old age, and grandmotherhood.

May is a Tier II CRC in Gender and Feminist Studies and Assistant Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, Trent University, mchazan@hotmail.com

Canadian Women & Geography Study Group

This newsletter is published in January and July. Please send all your news, contributions, links, resources, and congratulations to the Communications Coordinator, **Ann Marie Murnaghan**, amf_murnaghan@umanitoba.ca