

DECEMBER, 1984

This is the first of two Newsletters that will be produced in Montréal during 1984-85, edited by Audrey Kobayashi and Damaris Rose. The Newsletter is intended to serve the needs and interests of your specialty group, 'Canadian Women and Geography'. It provides a forum for exchange of information and opinions concerning the status of women in the discipline, as well as research by and about women in Canada.

The group was established at an open meeting held in June 1982 at the annual meeting of the CAG in Ottawa. At that time it was decided that the group would be administered by a volunteer coordinating committee, whose base of operations would rotate among different parts of the country. This format seems to be working so far, but several issues came up at the latest meeting in Nanaimo to indicate that there is a need for greater dialogue among members of the specialty group.

The first issue is that of topical representation. Feeling was expressed at the Nanaimo meeting that there is a fundamental split between those geographers who have research interests in women's issues, and those geographers who just happen to be women. We see no reason for this split to cause a division within the specialty group, but the issue will not be resolved until interest is generated beyond the exchanges that occur at the Annual Meeting. We need participation and representation from all women within the discipline, as well as from men who share interests in this specialty group. Please write to us and express your views so that we may present those views in the next Newsletter. This will establish a basis for discussion at the next Annual Meeting in Trois Rivières.

The issue of regional representation is one that continues to present problems for the group as a whole, and for the Newsletter in particular. We badly need representation on the committee from people outside Ontario and Québec. Much as would like to provide news of national interest, it is impossible to do so if that news is not received. If you are willing to act as a "Regional Rep" please contact the editors. If you have any information that may be of interest, please send it as soon as possible, and it will be included in the next Newsletter.

Finally, the financial issue. The specialty group is supported by the \$3.00 fee paid by all CAG members who check off the "Women and Geography" specialty group affiliation on their annual membership renewal forms. You will be receiving these forms early in 1985. The Newsletter is also sent to non-members of the specialty group, at a cost of \$3.00 per year. In an effort to recruit subscribers, this Newsletter is being sent to all those on the 1983-84 list, whether or not the fees for the 1984-85 issues have been paid. If you find yourself in the latter category, please send the \$3.00 fee in order to remain on the list for the next issue.

All correspondence and fees should be sent to:
Canadian Women and Geography
c/o The Canadian Association of Geographers
McGill University, Burnside Hall
805 Sherbrooke Street West
Montréal, P.Q., Canada H3A 2K6

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

SUZANNE MACKENZIE has been awarded an SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, to be held at Queen's University, to do research on problems in childcare provision in Kingston, Ontario and Trail, British Columbia. The study specifically addresses the role of women's social networks in dealing with this problem.

FRAN KLODAWSKY has received a postdoctoral fellowship at Carleton University. She is working on a volume entitled Feminist Community Activists: A View from Ottawa, to be completed in August, 1985. The book combines a theoretical examination of what constitutes "feminist" community activism and an edited collection of analyses by community activists in Ottawa-Carleton.

ARON SPECTOR and FRAN KLODAWSKY anticipate the publication in January, 1985 of a book entitled Canadian Housing Programs and the Housing Needs of Single Parent Families. The book extends previous research based on 1971 to 1978 census and survey material and an extensive literature review to evaluate recent (1978 to 1983) demographic and housing statistical data in terms of a selection of Canadian housing programs.

FIONA THOMPSON, a Ph.D. student at the University of Ottawa, is currently in Kenya to conduct fieldwork for a dissertation entitled "Gender-Environment Relations in the Context of Kenyan Agriculture".

LOURDES MEANA is currently working on her MA thesis, "Spatial-Temporal Patterns of Fertility in Newfoundland, 1970-1980." Previous work has indicated that Newfoundlanders had a substantially younger age pattern of child-bearing than their Maritime equivalents; however, prior to 1981 Newfoundland did not include age and residence of the mother in the register of vital statistics for the newborn. Age-specific fertility rates, when needed, have been substituted from the Maritimes. Data recently collected from the Hospital Morbidity files are enabling Lourdes to determine ASFR's and their regional variations. Anyone interested in this research or with relevant information should contact: Lourdes Meana, Department of Geography, Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland A1B 3X9.

GERDA WEKERLE (Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Downsview, Ont. M3J 2R2) and JOAN SIMON (University of Guelph) have received a CMHC grant for a study of non-profit housing for single parents, which involves case studies of housing in ten non-profit cooperatives in Canada.

CELINE LEBOURDAIS and DAMARIS ROSE (INRS-Urbanisation, Université du Québec, 3465 Durocher, Montréal H2X 2C6) have received a grant from Fonds FCAC (Gouvernement du Québec) for a project entitled 'Les Familles monoparentales dans la Région Métropolitaine de Montréal'. Cette étude devrait permettre d'obtenir une estimation plus juste des besoins spécifiques des familles monoparentales en termes de types et localisation de services et d'équipements collectifs.

PAUL VILLENEUVE (Département de géographie, Université Laval, Ste.-Foy, Qué. G1K 7P4) and DAMARIS ROSE (see above for address) have received a grant from SSHRCC for a project entitled 'Redéploiement de l'emploi et de la famille à Montréal et à Québec'. Nous mettons en rapport les changements dans la composition de la force de travail, les déplacements résidence-travail et les mutations récentes dans la sphère domestique, dans les deux régions métropolitaines.

JOURNALS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

Top of our list of journals likely to be of continuing interest to readers of this newsletter is Women and Environments (to which we are indebted for a number of the references in this issue of CWAG Newsletter). In existence for several years under the editorship of Gerda Wekerle, with a shoestring budget, W. and E. is now funded jointly by York University, the Centre for Urban and Community Studies (University of Toronto) and UNESCO. JUDITH KJELLBERG of CUCS is the new editor and would greatly appreciate feedback as well as news of events, research and suggestions for articles. For those of you unfamiliar with the journal, the Fall 1984 issue contains two articles on some of the barriers to women caused by difficulty of access to daycare; a piece about a successful women's centre in Montréal; a critical reflection on the theoretical situation of feminist research in the environmental disciplines; a discussion of the advancement prospects for women planners in the Ontario government... and much more. Subscriptions: \$9 for one year (3 issues) for individuals; \$15 for institutions, from Women and Environments, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, Room 426, 455 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2G8.

Environment and Planning D: Society and Space is only in its second year of existence but seems to have established a good track record in publishing explicitly feminist articles by geographers (at least 4 articles in 7 issues), plus a number of other papers with feminist underpinnings. The journal seeks to encourage critical theoretical and methodological debates on key themes in human geography and related disciplines, as well as publishing empirical papers on research results. If your library hasn't subscribed yet (it isn't cheap!), try some persuasion.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The Women and Geography Study Group of the Institute of British Geographers has published a collection of papers, Gender and Geography. We haven't seen this yet but understand that it is very good, especially for teaching purposes. Publisher: Hutchinson (whose North American outlet is located in Dover, NH).

The Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG sponsored a conference on Women's Role in Changing the Face of the Developed World, January 6, 1984, in Durham, England. Discussion copies of the papers are available from: The Administrative Assistant, Dept. of Geography, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, U.K. DH1 3LE. Also available from the same address: Janet Townsend, Ruth Barrachough and Janet Henshall Momen. Women in Developing Areas: A Preliminary Bibliography for Geographers of Material in English. A Women and Geography Study Group Publication, Institute of British Geographers, 1984.

Three more items for use in teaching: McDowell, Linda and Sophie Bowly (1983), "Teaching feminist geography", Journal of Geography in Higher Education, vol. 7, no. 2 - discusses changes in course content and organisation resulting from adopting a feminist perspective on geography; Monk, Janice (1983), "Integrating women into the geography curriculum", Journal of Geography, Nov.-Dec. - discusses different methods through which material on women may be integrated into the teaching of basic geography; Lee, David and Mary Ellen Mazey (1983), Her Space, Her Place. Resource Papers in Geography. Washington D.C.: Association of American Geographers - a very inexpensive little book which presents, in summary form, some of the main themes of research within the 'paradigm' of the 'geography of women' (not, however, including more recent developments in feminist perspectives on geography).

Sophie Bowlby has published "Planning for women to shop in postwar Britain", *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 2, 2 (1984), 179-199; she examines the relationships between changes in women's paid and domestic work, changing ideologies of women's domestic roles and the history of retail planning in Britain. This interesting paper is certainly of wider relevance for its methodology and its discussion of what a feminist approach to retail planning and research into retailing could entail.

In vol. 2, no 1. of the same journal, Damaris Rose's paper, "Rethinking gentrification: beyond the uneven development of marxist urban theory", explores the links between employment restructuring, women's dual roles, women who are 'gentrifiers' and those who are displaced by this process.

Janet McClain and Cassie Doyle's CMHC study, *Women and Housing: Changing Needs and the Failure of Policy*, has now been published in the Canadian Council on Social Development series. Toronto: James Lorimer. They argue that women must be considered as primary housing consumers in their own right, that women and men may have different housing needs which should be taken account of in analysis and policy, and that research on women's housing status should receive higher priority. An inexpensive and interesting paperback, which raises some controversial questions and provides a very useful assemblage of statistical material.

The British journal *Built Environment*, vol. 10, no. 1 (1984), is a special issue on Women and the Environment, with articles by Alison Ravetz, Briavel Holcomb, Jos Boys, Philip Wagner, Jane Lewis and Jo Foord, and Laurie Pickup. The collection is diverse, up-to-date and accessible to non-specialists. Available for £6 from Alexandrine Press, P.O. Box 15, 51 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, England, OX1 3EB.

Women and Official Statistics... several items of interest here...

In the special issue of *Built Environment* just mentioned, Kath Price writes about "Women's employment and unemployment in the current recession: facts or Ms information?", arguing that unemployment statistics may misleadingly suggest that women have 'chosen' to go back into the home.

Pat and Hugh Armstrong have written an important and provocative article, "Beyond numbers: problems with quantitative data", which appears in *Alternate Routes*, vol. 6 (1983): 1-40; journal available from Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ont. K1S 5B6. The authors use examples from the practices of Statistics Canada to demonstrate the need for data collection to be gender-conscious. They argue that the theoretical assumptions behind the numbers and the categories used to produce them should be examined from the perspectives of women's experience; and go on to discuss the value of qualitative techniques (such as intensive interviews) in order to check, complement and provide a richer historical perspective than census materials generally permit.

Exemplarising current work to 'feminise' official statistics is a 200-page volume by Suzanne Messier of Le Conseil du statut de la femme (Québec), entitled *Les femmes: ça compte* (1984, updated edition of *Chiffres en Main*), available from Ministère des Communications, Diffusion des publications, C.P. 1005, Québec, P.Q. G1K 7B5 (\$9.95). Messier has not only assembled published data on Québec women's situation in a whole range of 'spheres'; she also presents the results of special tabulations designed to detail and critically assess women's 'progress' in the labour market (for instance, looking at the nature of women's occupations within the service sector in which most of the gains in women's employment have been made, and in which most of the supposedly 'managerial' women's jobs exist). In the appendix is to be found an interesting attempt to rearrange the Standard Industrial Classification of Statistics Canada in order to investigate women's economic situation more

realistically. This volume is highly recommended, for its methodology, to anyone trying to use census material for research on women.

Research Index: Women's Issues... The Women's Research and Resource Centre (London, U.K.) has developed a Research Index which is published in its quarterly newsletter. For inclusion, contact WRRRC, Hungerford House, Victoria Embankment, London WC2, England.

Antipode special issue on Women and Environments should be out by the time you get this newsletter. Available from Dick Peet at Clark University if you or your library don't already subscribe.

New publication from Québec City: *Marie-Géographie*... Although this socialist-feminist magazine is not strictly speaking devoted to environmental concerns, we found its title intriguing... The editors explain: "Marie-Géographie pour la saveur d'une chanson d'Anne Sylvestre: 'Moi, je dis que tu es belle, Marie Marie-Géographie, Belle comme un pays Comme un pays meurtri...'

Marie-Géographie parce que nous allons tenter de réfléter le pluriel mais aussi le singulier de la condition des femmes. Marie-Géographie... comme un territoire pour nos errances et nos conquêtes."

The first issue includes interviews with women on changes in the family during the economic crisis, and articles about women in Chile and El Salvador. Available from Marie-Géographie, C.P. 3095, Succ. St. Roch, Qué. G1K 6X9 (\$2.50 for one issue, \$6.00 for 3-issue subscription, \$12.00 for a sustaining subscription).

Women and deindustrialisation... In 1937 George Orwell published an account of a journey through Britain's industrial heartland during the Great Depression, entitled *The Road to Wigan Pier*. In 1983 Beatrix Campbell made a similar journey through England's deindustrialised zones; but unlike Orwell her account of working-class experience in different parts of Thatcher's Britain comes from a feminist perspective and focuses on women. *Wigan Pier Revisited: Poverty and Politics in the 80s*, London: Virago Press (1984), begins in a shelter for battered women, takes us through the process of being laid off in the auto industry and on to a marathon unemployment march in which women with young children naturally could not participate. This book's portrayal of these experiences is compelling, and while specific to Britain, raises thought-provoking questions for the Canadian context... quite apart from being a superb piece of feminist cultural geography.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WINNIPEG, August 14-17, 1985: Canadian Urban Studies Conference.

There will be 3 sessions on Women and the Canadian Urban Experience, organised by Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore-Milroy (Political Science, Carleton University). Provisional programme: *Session 1: Women and the urban environment - theoretical perspectives*. Beth Moore-Milroy, Introduction; Suzanne Mackenzie, "Women and the Canadian urban environments: gender-sensitive theory"; commentator, Fran Klodawsky. *Session 2: A. Urban Structure and Women*. Damaris Rose, "The spatial restructuring of the female labour force and its implications for urban housing: the case of Montréal, 1971-1981"; William Michelson, paper on Women and transportation (to be confirmed); B. *Women as Urban Activists: Role and Impact*. Jeanne Wolfe, "Julia Drummond and the Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Movement"; Gerda Wekerle and Joan Simon, "Role of women in non-profit housing: case studies". *Session 3: Roundtable discussion*, to be chaired by Beth Moore-Milroy, "Future research directions - women and the city". For more details, contact Caroline Andrew.

TROIS RIVIERES, May 27-30, 1985: Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting.

To our knowledge, no one has yet begun to organise a session related to women or to feminist questions for the CAG. If you wish to organise a session, or if you are planning to present a paper on a theme likely to be of particular interest to readers of this Newsletter, please contact the editors as soon as possible so that we can print details in the next newsletter. (**Geographical note: Trois Rivières may be part of the economic hinterland but it's only an hour and a half from Montréal!**)

DETROIT, April 24-27, 1985: Association of American Geographers Annual Conference.

Urban Geography Speciality Group and Committee on the Status of Women in Geography: Special Session, Women in the City. Organiser: Briavel Holcomb, Urban Studies, Rutgers University. Session I: The Struggle for Space. Myrna Breitbart, "Terrains of protest: Women in urban struggle"; Vicky Muniz, "Sense of place and defense of the barrio: Puerto Rican women in New York City"; Jacqueline Beyer, "Geography of women's spaces"; Rebecca Smith, "Residential patterns of female-headed households in U.S. metropolitan areas". Discussant: Briavel Holcomb. Session II: Women and Work. Damaris Rose and Paul Villeneuve, "Women and the changing spatial division of labour in Montréal and Québec City"; Suzanne Mackenzie, "Redesignating the home as workplace: the case of informal child care networks"; Kristin Nelson, "Labor Demand and Supply in six corporate back offices". Discussant: Hazel Morrow Jones.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

GPW Newsletter... Susan Brooker-Gross, 1984-5 editor of the AAG Geographic Perspectives on Women Newsletter, would like to include one paragraph summaries of ongoing or completed research on women and geography in the Newsletter. Please write to Susan at: Department of Geography, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg VA 24061, USA.

Public Archives of Canada... The Machine Readable Archives of the Federal Government has developed an automated inventory system of information. The Archives would appreciate receiving information on any data files that individuals might have concerning the role of women in Canada. Please contact: Documentation and Public Service Section, Machine Readable Archives, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N3.

Women's work in the communications industry... Does anyone know of ongoing research on restructuring and relocation in communications equipment production or telecommunications services in Canada? Please contact Damaris Rose at the address given in the Research in Progress section.

GERALDINE SWEET is conducting a survey of the professional status and research interests of women in Canadian geography. She has recently sent a questionnaire to all heads of departments requesting information. It would be appreciated if all those reading this newsletter would write to Gerri to provide names, positions and research interests of all female faculty members, and names, degrees sought and thesis topics of all female graduate students. Write to: Geraldine Sweet, Department of Geography, The University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9.

OF NOTE

RUTH FINCHER, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, McMaster University, was elected this year to the position of Councillor of the CAG. She joins Joyce Macpherson-Brown as one of two women on the CAG executive. Congratulations, Ruth!

McGILL UNIVERSITY, founded in 1821, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the admission of the first female student in 1884. A number of events planned over the course of the year include talks, workshops, seminars, presentations by female artists, and the publication of a book entitled A Fair Shake. This is a very enjoyable account of the personal stories of women who have been involved in academic life at McGill over the years.

FUTURE ISSUES

We are working on a profile of the status of women in the Canadian Association of Geographers. Look for publication of the results in the next Newsletter of CAG.

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* IF YOU HAVE NEWS, INFORMATION, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS *
* THAT YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER *
* PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITORS. *
* DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS *
* MARCH 1, 1985. *
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