

This newsletter comes to you from Ottawa. Collecting material for it has been both exhilarating and frustrating. It has been exhilarating because there is so much going on among women and men concerned with gender-environmental issues in geography and related disciplines. Significantly, many of the meetings and publications reported here are international and multi-disciplinary. We still have a long way to go, but in the six years since our 'founding' we have made a significant contribution within geography and we are increasingly speaking to and with people who have a range of academic and professional concerns.

But preparing this Newsletter has also been frustrating, largely because I know there is so much more going on that is not reported here. There is relatively little news from the West and the Atlantic regions, and few reports of activities by women geographers whose research is not concerned with gender related issues or those who are working outside the academy.

This is an invitation to contribute. Perhaps in the next year, all readers could think of the Newsletter as a forum to share their activities, their ideas, their concerns. The direction that the specialty group and the Newsletter takes is up to you.

Suzanne Mackenzie

#### PAST CONFERENCES

**Institute of British Geographers, January 5-8, 1988, Loughborough, England.**

The Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG organised a special session which, in addition to a preponderance of Susans, made clear the strong international links in the work of feminist geographers. Papers were given by:

Suzanne Mackenzie (Carleton University, Ottawa), The politics of restructuring: gender and environment in deindustrialised areas.

Susan Christopherson (Cornell University, Ithaca), Labour flexibility and new forms of labour segmentation.

Susan Smith, & M. Munro (Centre for Housing Research, Glasgow), Gender and Housing: broadening the debate.

Susan Halford (Urban and Regional Research Programme, Sussex), Women's initiatives and the local state: tokenism or power?

May, 1988

**International Symposium on Women Work & Place.** February 12 and 13, 1988, Montreal, Co-organized by John Bradbury and Audrey Kobayashi, Department of Geography, McGill University.

Despite one of the season's more spectacular snowstorms (produced in part by the organizers to impress our English visitors). This symposium was well attended, stimulating and extremely satisfying. Presentations included.

Susan Christopherson (Department of Planning, Cornell University), Women's Employment in Changing Non-Metropolitan Economies in the United States.

Elizabeth Bondi (Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh), Gender and Urban Renewal in Scotland.

Linda Peake (Department of Geography, Kingston Polytechnic, UK), City, Society and Work: A Feminist Reformulation.

Mary Brinton (Department of Sociology, University of Chicago), Women's Place in the Japanese Labour Market.

Sylvia Gold (President, Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women), Women and Work in Canada in the 1980.

Audrey Kobayashi with Yuko Shibata (Department of Geography, McGill University), Learning Their Place: The Work Experiences of Japanese Immigrant Women in British Columbia.

Joy Parr (Department of History, Queen's University), Womanly Militance, Neighbourly Wrath: New Scripts for old roles in a small town textile strike.

Damaris Rose (INRS-Urbanisation Montréal) and Paul Villeneuve, (Department of Geography, Université Laval), Women, Work and Occupational Polarization in Montréal.

This was followed by a half day open session and workshop led off by Dr. Hal Benenson; (Department of Sociology, McGill University).

The presentations and Dr. Benenson's comments are currently being revised for publication in a collection to be edited by Audrey Kobayashi and John Bradbury.

**Canadian Urban and Housing Studies Conference, February 18-20, 1988.** Institute of Urban Studies, The University of Winnipeg.

As part of this multi-disciplinary meeting of academics, practicing planners and community workers, Caroline Andrew (Women's Studies, University of Ottawa) and Beth Moore-Milroy (School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo) co-ordinated and chaired an extremely lively three part session on 'Women's experience of community.' Presentations included:

Susan Wismer (School of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Waterloo), Creating Sustainable Communities in Canada: The Role and Importance of Women's Movement.

Suzanne Mackenzie (Department of Geography, Carleton University) and Heather Menzies, (Writer and Adjunct Professor, Women's Studies, Carleton University). Transforming Communities, Transforming Economy: Issues and Strategies in the Politics of Restructuring.

Gerda Wekerle (Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University) and Sylvia Novac (Department of Sociology, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) Creating Women's Communities.

Linda Reith (Consultant, Integrated Agro-Systems, Guelph), Women Making Decisions Together.

Jeanne Wolfe (School of Urban Planning, McGill University), Women and Low Cost Housing.

Damaris Rose, (INRS-Urbanisation, Montréal) Francine Dansereau, (INRS-Urbanisation, Montréal) and Annick Germain (Institut d'urbanisme, Université de Montréal), Family, Work, Community Services and Neighbourhood Change.

Evelyn Peters (Department of Geography, Queen's University), Women and Aid Networks in the Urban Native Community.

Janet McClain (Department of Human Service Studies, Cornell University), Translating the Role of the Canadian Social Security Programme to the Community Level: The Impact on Seniors.

Geraldine Pratts (Department of Geography, University of British Columbia) and Susan Hanson (Department of Geography, Clark University), Community and Social Reproduction: The Implications of a Focus on Gender.

Discussant, Michele Pujol, Department of Economics, University of Manitoba.

Papers from these sessions are being revised for publication in a collection to be edited by Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore Milroy. A similar collection containing papers from the 1985 Urban Studies Conference will shortly be published by UBC Press. See publications forthcoming.

**The 1988 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Phoenix**

There were several special sessions organized by the Perspectives on Women Group.

In a session titled "Who will mind the Baby? Spatial Implications of Child Care," presenters included:

Enid Wray (Ohio State) Child-Care: The Spatial Context.

Damaris Rose (Québec) and Nathalie Chicoine (Montreal), The Daycare Centre - A Neighbourhood Resource for Whom? The case of Montreal's Old and New Inner City.

A session on feminist perspectives on conventional and nuclear war featured papers by:

Donna Senese (Waterloo), The Frontline of the Female Gender: The Roles and Status of Women During the Allied Air Assault on WW II Germany.

Tamara Crockett, Kimberly Bernashi and Elizabeth Hoching (Wisconsin-Green Bay), Gender and Conflict: Attitudes on Nuclear War.

Three different views on teaching gender issues in geography were presented by:

Elaine Bosowski (Villanova), Getting at Gender Issues through Simulation; Joni Seager (MIT), Are there any Women in the World?

Susan Brooher-Gross and David Eborall (Virginia PI and SU), A Fully Human Urban Social Geography: Combining Fact and Fiction.

There were 2 sessions on the topic "Women and Work." The papers included:

Susan Hanson (Clark) and Geraldine Pratt (UBC), Job Search Behaviour and the Occupational Segregation of Women.

Jenny Zorn (Ohio State), Spatial and Temporal Variations in the Relations between Gender Wage Gaps and Educational Attainment.

John Paell Jones (Kentucky) and Janet Kodras (Florida State), Female Poverty in Urban, Suburban and Rural Contexts.

Linda McDowell (Open University) and Sophie Bowlby (Reading), Privatization in the Health Service: Restructuring Women's Employment in Britain.

Kjm England (Ohio State), Pink Collar Ghettos in Suburban Columbus.

Saraswati Raju (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), Female Literacy in INDIA: The Urban Dimension.

Other papers were presented by Canadian geographers:

Audrey Kobayashi (McGill), Language, Ideology and Place in the Personal Accounts of Japanese Emigrants to Canada During the Taisho Period.

Alison Gill (Simon Fraser), Context-Specific Problems in the Implementation of Environmental Design Concepts.

Caroline Mills (UBC), Interpreting Centrifugation in Post-Modern Culture.

Vera Chouinard (McMaster), State Formation and the Politics of Place: The Case of Community Legal Aid Clinics.

Susan Elliott, Robin Kearns and Martin Taylor (McMaster), Housing the Mentally Disabled: An Analysis of Experience and Need.

Virginia MacLaren (Toronto), An Input-Output Model of the Energy, Environmental and Economic Impacts of Recycling.

Lucia Lo (York), Spatial Structure and the Gravity Parameter: A Simulation Approach.

Beth Szplett (Ryerson), The Changing Role of Naturopaths in Ontario, 1962-1987.

Diane Martz and Keith Semple (Saskatchewan), Spatial Distribution of Decision Making in Divisionalized Companies.

#### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Women and Development, November 11-13, 1988. Quebec City.

The meeting will bring together women from all over the world to discuss issues of women and development. The event is organized by the Groupe de recherche Multi-disciplinaire féministe of Laval University. Anyone interested in attending should contact the GREMF, Division de l'information, Service des Relations Publiques, Pavillon Felex-Centoire-Savard, Bureau 214, Université Laval, Québec City, Québec, G1K 7P4.

#### RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

##### Land Tenure Systems Gender and Research in Africa

At the centre of the current debate in research on land tenure systems in Africa, whether these systems are located where some form of individualized tenure has been institutionalized or not, is the problem of conceptualizing and defining the significance of "customary" relations to land. For example, at a recent symposium on Land in African Agrarian Systems (April 1988) held at the University of Illinois, a sharp divide emerged between those participants who conceived of customary relations to land as autonomous and ahistorical and those who viewing the construction of customary law vis à vis the land as interacting with, and integrally related to, changes in productive mode, perceiving "custom" as a domain of discourse.

From this latter perspective, 'customary' rights to land, malleable and manipulable by individuals or groups, and thus subject to continual construction and reconstruction in the resolution of conflict, become part of the process of legitimation of individual, gender differentiated, material interest and social differentiation. Two papers presented by geographers at the symposium explored rights to land in this context:

Michael Watts (Berkeley) 'Idioms of Land and Labor: Producing Politics and Rice in Senegambia'.

Fiona Mackenzie (Carleton), 'Perspectives on Land Tenure: Social Relations and the Definition of Territory in a Smallholding District, Kenya.'

Fiona Mackenzie  
Carleton University

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Novac, S. and Wekerle, G. (1988), Building Women's Communities, in K. Franck and S. Ahrentzen (eds.) Alternatives to the Single Family House, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold (reports on empirical research on two women's housing co-ops for a book directed at architects).

Simon, Joan and Wekerle, Gerda (1987) "Responses to austerity: the miniaturization of the urban neighbourhood" in Willem Van Vliet et. al.(eds.) Housing and Neighbourhoods: Theoretical and Empirical Contributions from North America and Europe, Greenwood Press.

#### Reports

Wekerle, Gerda (1988) Women's Housing Projects in Eight Canadian Cities, Ottawa: CMHC.

Rutherford, Brent and Wekerle, Gerda (1987) Equity Issues in Accessibility to Employment: Transportation; Location and Policy. Toronto: Institute of Women and Work, City of Toronto, Equal Opportunity Division.

#### PUBLICATIONS FORTHCOMING

Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment  
Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore Milroy (eds), University of British Columbia Press.

"...the papers in this collection focus on women and their experiences in Canadian urban settings and illustrate the importance of gender in the development of urban areas." This volume contains revised papers from the 1985 Canadian Urban Studies Conference. In addition to the editor's introduction to the field and an extensive annotated bibliography, the book contains papers by several Specialty Group members.

The Desert is no Lady: Southwestern Landscapes in Women's Writing and Art. Vera Norwood and Janice Monk (eds.)

In this multi-disciplinary collection, contributors "examine how women of varying generations, ethnic backgrounds, and classes have responded to the (American) Southwest," asking how women's "connection to such places has shaped their artistic voices and our images of the Southwest."

Women in Cities: Gender and the Urban Environment. Jo Little, Linda Peake and Pat Richardson (eds.): MacMillans.

This collection, edited and written primarily by members of the British Women and Geography Study Group, includes both theoretical overviews and empirical discussions of major issues in the field.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### RECHERCHES FEMINISTES

RECHERCHES FEMINISTES est une revue scientifique à visée interdisciplinaire. Son objectif fondamental est de contribuer à l'avancement de la recherche féministe par la diffusion d'articles faisant état de résultats inédits de recherche, de textes de critique fondamentale, de réflexion théorique, méthodologique ou épistémologique, de notes de recherche concernant les projets en cours, de comptes rendus de livres ou de pratiques féministes novatrices.

#### APPEL D'ARTICLES

pour un numéro spécial sur

L'environnement au féminin

Hiver 1989, vol. 2 no 1

L'environnement au féminin s'intéressera à tous les dimensions du rapport entre femmes et environnement. Quelle est leur expérience de l'environnement? Comment façonnent-elles leur milieu de vie? Quelle est la place des femmes dans le débat écologique, dans la planification des villes et des régions, et dans les luttes urbaines? L'architecture et le design peuvent-ils être conçus au féminin?

Vous êtes priée de soumettre votre manuscrit avant le 1er septembre 1988 à la direction de la revue Recherches féministes, GREMF, Faculté des sciences sociales, bureau 2463, Pavillon Charles-De Koninck, Université Laval, Québec, G1K 7P4.

Pour toute demande d'information, écrivez à Denise Piché à la même adresse.

#### OTHER NEWS

The Directory of Women Geographers and those concerned about the status of women geographers in Canada is being constantly updated. If you wish to be listed or to revise your entry, write to:

Beth Szplett  
Department of Geography  
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute  
350 Victoria Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5B 2K3

Ali Grant, Department of Geography, University of Toronto is writing her dissertation on women and urban public space. She would like to hear from anyone with interests in this area.

The ongoing survey of the member and status of women faculty and graduate students in Canadian Geography departments will be updated in the academic year 1988-89. Questionnaires will be sent to all department heads in September 1988.

Suzanne Mackenzie has been elected to CAG Council.

Thanks to Marie Raymond who spent endless hours assisting in putting this newsletter together.

CANADIAN WOMEN AND GEOGRAPHY SPECIALTY GROUP

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Year ending			
	May 31, 1985	May 31, 1986	May 31, 1987	May 31, 1988
<u>Income</u>				
Dues	194.00	102.00	132.00	171.00
Subscriptions	--	--	57.00	--
Interest	--	.89	5.81	9.98
	<u>194.00</u>	<u>102.89</u>	<u>194.81</u>	<u>180.98</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Newsletterq	31.14	56.03	--	198.05
Bank charges	--	.30	--	8.00
	<u>31.14</u>	<u>56.33</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>206.05</u>
Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>162.86</u>	<u>46.56</u>	<u>194.81</u>	<u>(25.07)</u>
<u>Assets</u>				
Cash in bank				<u>379.16</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Surplus of assets over liabilities				<u>379.16</u>

As the Editor of the next Newsletter will not be confirmed until the specialty group business meeting in Halifax, please send any contributors (news, publications, research grant awards, research in progress, jobs and appointments, comments, concerns, conferences etc) for the next Newsletter to me:

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