

OCTOBER, 1983

This is the second newsletter of the C.A.G. Specialty Group "Canadian Woman and Geography". This official group now has a membership of 35 paid members (\$3.00 per year in addition to CAG dues) and the Newsletter already has a circulation of over 100.

This group originated in June 1982 at the CAG Ottawa Conference. The group has three general concerns:

- 1) to monitor the status of women in the discipline;
- 2) to encourage research on women from a geographic perspective; and
- 3) to establish a research, discussion, and communication network for those in Canadian geography concerned with women's issues.

The structure of the group is that of a voluntary co-ordinating committee. Two newsletters are to be produced in the 1983 - 84 year. Marie Truelove, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, edits this newsletter. The second will be edited and produced by members at Queen's and will be out before the 1984 CAG at Nanaimo.

There is a great need for representation on our committee from the Prairies, British Columbia, and the Maritimes. Would anyone willing to act as a "Regional Rep" please contact Suzanne Mackenzie, Geography Department, Queen's University. Notices of publications, conferences, etc. will add to the usefulness of our newsletter. Of course, anyone with material for the newsletter is encouraged to send it in. We especially need items of interest to geographers not working in an academic setting.

For the 1984 CAG in Nanaimo, our group plans another special session, a business meeting and one or two informal lunches.

A discussion on the name of the group "Women in Geography", took place at the Winnipeg business meeting. No one is happy with this name, yet no better one has been suggested. We ask that you consider any alternative names and send suggestions to Suzanne Mackenzie, Queen's.

The specialty group decided in Winnipeg to state our commitment to encourage voting and membership in the CAG. We would like to have someone elected as a CAG Councillor, to represent our interests. This past year, Ruth Fincher, McMaster, ran, but was not elected.

Please circulate this newsletter as widely as possible. Write to the next Newsletter editor (Suzanne Mackenzie, Queen's) if you wish to be added to the mailing list. We hope that you will sign up for specialty group membership when you next pay your C.A.G. dues, and that you will become a reader of, and contributor to, this newsletter.

Women and Environments Session at the 1983 CAG

This year's "Women and Environments" session at the CAG was the first of what we hope will be a continuing series. Catrina Hendrickx, Marie Truelove, and Suzanne Mackenzie gave papers, with Evelyn Peters as discussant. The session was well attended and the time allotted was too short for the questions listeners wanted to raise.

Marie Truelove examined the choice of day-care type and location for low-income parents receiving a day-care subsidy in Metro Toronto. She argued that the decision to use a particular day-care facility should be placed in the context of the limited time available to parents, particularly as a large proportion were single parents, and that a shortage of subsidized spaces and particular administrative policies also affected the choice of day-care used.

The focus of Catrina's paper was the Ontario governments' policy of integrating Family Benefits and General Welfare Assistance, and of placing responsibility for sole-support mothers at the municipal level of government. She used theoretical work on the position of women and the role of the state in advanced capitalist societies to explore the assumptions of this policy and to present its implications for women who are single parents.

Suzanne Mackenzie discussed how inter-related changes in demography, domestic-community and wage work patterns have contributed to the current 'woman question', and outlined the implications for urban theory. She went on to discuss some of the issues of theory and method raised by feminist research.

Several of these papers as well as the discussant's comments are available for the cost of xeroxing and mailing. If you would like copies, please contact Evelyn Peters, Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, K7L 3N6.

We intend next year to schedule a longer session to allow more extended discussion of the issues presented in the papers. If you would like to give a paper for the 1984 session, please contact Evelyn Peters (address above).

The 1984 CAG conference is in May at Malaspina College, Nanaimo, B.C.

Regional Meetings, CAG

We have not received information about any regional meetings except the Ontario one, October 29th, at McMaster University.

Several papers of interest: -

S. Mackenzie, Queen's "Socialist feminist research in geography - this is not the geography of women"

B. Ross, Queen's "The geography of leisure - an investigation into the spatial and social activity patterns of women at home, at work, and in the community".

J. Haddad, C. Hendrickx and S. Williams, Queen's, "Single parents on fixed incomes - environmental barriers to labour-force participation".

S. Williams, Queen's "The demand for day care - some geographical implications".

Registration is \$5.00. Further information is available from Dept. of Geography, McMaster University.

SSFC Task Force on Elimination of Sexist Bias in the Social Sciences

Introduction

The Science Policy Committee of the Social Science Federation of Canada (SSFC) has established a Task Force on the Elimination of Sexist Bias in the Social Sciences. Sexist bias within disciplines has been identified as a problem by some researchers and some professional associations in Canada. In fact, many researchers have pointed to the way in which sexist biases are embedded in social science language, theory and research. As the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) points out, "the persistence of sex bias in psychological research is largely unintentional sexism"; "research so influenced is "bad" research, i.e., it is unscientific." Eliminating sexist research will not only be beneficial to women but will improve the knowledge base of the social sciences. It will eliminate the practice of producing findings which discriminate against women on the basis of false assumptions, and it will undermine the "accepted" patterns within the disciplines which discriminate against women researchers and other minority groups.

Mandate of Task Force

The Task Force has as its objective the development of a strategy to eliminate sexist biases within the social sciences, biases which are detrimental to all scholars and especially harmful to the interests of women. More specifically, the Task Force will:

- survey the extent to which sexist bias has been identified as a problem within social sciences in Canada;
- survey the extent to which research infrastructure (e.g., granting agencies and publication outlets) have policies which promote or inhibit non-sexist research.
- develop strategies, policies and procedures which will promote non-sexist research and eliminate sexist biases in research;
- discuss potential policies and procedures with relevant agencies and with the social science community;
- develop a strategy document and appropriate materials to be used by SSFC in helping to eliminate sexism within social sciences.

Composition of Task Force

The Task Force consists of two members of the Science Policy Committee: Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, a sociologist at Saint Mary's University in Halifax who chairs the Task Force; Alleyne Murphy, a home economist at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, and one member at large: Connie Stark-Adamec, a psychologist who chairs the CPA Committee on the Status of Women and who works at the Scott Laboratory, Wellesley Hospital in Toronto. To capitalize on available resources and knowledge, the task force also has adjunct members - a representative group of social scientists and policy analysts who have been identified as knowledgeable and interested. Adjunct members will include a representative from each SSFC member association: the C.A.G.'s adjunct member is Ruth Fincher, of McMaster University.

Work of Task Force

The goals of the Task Force will be achieved with the cooperation of a network of adjunct members and through mailed questionnaires. A symposium is planned for early 1984. The draft document will be presented in Spring, 1984. Input from all interested social scientists is most welcome.

CAN YOU HELP THE C.A.G. CONTRIBUTION TO THIS TASK FORCE?

- Do you know of any written discussions of sexist bias in research in geography?
(e.g. articles, papers, books)
- What are the major problems of sexist bias in research which you perceive to exist in geography?

Please send your thoughts and information to:

Ruth Fincher,
Department of Geography,
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario,
L8S 4K1.

AAG

The 1984 AAG Conference is in Washington, April 23 - 26th. One session that is planned is a panel discussion on feminist perspectives in geography. The committee on the Status of Women in Geography (SCWG) and the Specialty Group: Geographic Perspectives on Women are sure to have several sessions at the conference. The CSWG Newsletter, Women in Geography is now available from Dept. of Geography, 220 Davenport Hall, 607 S Mathews, Urbana, IL, 61801. The Newsletter of the Specialty Group on Geographic Perspectives on Women is available from Dept. of Geography, Florida Atlantic Univeristy, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

A paper called "On the Status of Women in Geography" by Golledge and Halperin appears in the May 1983 issue of Professional Geographer. Two comments on this paper, including a Canadian comment by Ruth Fincher, McMaster, are in the latest issue (vol. 5, no. 1, Summer/Fall 1983) of Women in Geography, the newsletter of the CSWG of the AAG.

Women and Planning

Published in May 1983, are the proceedings of a Conference, May 1, 1982 from the Women in Land Planning group. This is a very well edited collection, that includes 2 major sections. One, Planning issues for women include "Planning for Women's Needs in the '80's", "Women's Needs in Urban Form and Function", "Women's Needs, Planning and Market Realities", and "Limitations of Planning Legislation for Implementing Change". The second section is on Issues for Women as Planners: "Planning and Values", "Raising our Future, our Children", "Job Search", and "Career Arrangements".



This report sells for \$4.00. To obtain it, or to join the Women in/ and Planning group, \$12.00 per year contact:

Denise Graham Junction Site Office 1 St. John's Road Toronto, Ontario.

This is a Toronto-based group whose members are drawn from planning, architecture, and related professions and academic disciplines.

Women in other regions may wish to consider forming their own group!

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Women as Housing Consumers (by Janet McClain with Cassie Doyle, Canadian Council on Social Development) available from C.M.H.C., Ottawa, February, 1983.

A report that constructs a statistical profile of Canadian women and analyses their consumer needs. The authors assert that the current position of women as consumers and their specific housing needs were not clearly acknowledged or identified in research, planning and program development that preceeded housing policy changes over the 1970's.

William Michelson The Logistics of Maternal Employment: Implications for Women and Their Families. A Child in the City Report, available later this month, \$10.00, from:

Centre for Urban and Community Studies
University of Toronto 455 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2G8

Wellesley College, Centre for Research on Women, Wellesley, MA 02181.

You may wish to place your name on their mailing list. Their recent titles include:

Fields, Jacqueline P. and Sumru Erkut "Relocation as Nemesis: A Study of Black and White Dual Career Couples". Working paper No. 100, 9 p.p., 1983 (\$2.50)

Kahne, Hilda "Economic Security of Older Women: Too Little for Later in Life" working Paper No. 102, 59 pp., 1981. (\$4.50)

This center has also started a monthly publication called Women's Review of Books.

- Resource Papers available in the "Guide for Women Geographers" Series include:
- "Sexual Harassment on Campus: The Problem and How to Deal with It", prepared by Ann Bachman, Petroleum Training Service, University of Southwest Louisiana.
 - "Vitae, Resumes, and Letters of Recommendation," prepared by Janice Monk, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona.
 - "Selected, Annotated Sources for Women," prepared by Jacquelyn L. Beyer, Department of Geography, University of Colorado.
 - "Mentors and Role Models," prepared by Marie Truelove, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto

These papers are available from Janice Monk, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 85721.

Stimpson, C. R., E. Dixler, M. J. Nelson, and K.B. Yatrakis (eds.) have included in their recent book, Women and the American City (University of Chicago Press, 1981), two articles that discuss the roles and history of women in two professions with ties to geography: Jacqueline Leavitt's "The History, Status, and Concerns of Women Planners" (pp. 223-227) and Ruth Ann Burns' paper, "Breaking Down the Barriers: Women in Urban Management" (pp. 228-234).

Lorna R. Marsden and Lorne J. Tepperman "The Migrant Wife: The Worst of all Worlds" 1983. This short working paper is available from the Structural Analysis Programme, Sociology Dept., University of Toronto, for \$2.00. It uses 11,000 responses from Alberta (a supplement to the December 1980 Labour Force Survey) to examine how migration affects the labour force status of wives.

Arlene C. Rengert and Janice J. Monk (eds.) Women and Spatial Change: Learning Resources for Social Science Courses, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque, Iowa, 1982. (prepared by Association of American Geographers)

This booklet is composed of 6 short "modules" on: Women and agricultural landscapes; Landscapes of the home; Geographic perspectives on social change; the example of women in crime; Locational decision-making; the case of the day care center; Village to Barriada: Contemporary female migration to Cities in Latin America; and Farm to Factory: Female industrial migration in early 19th century New England. The modules are suitable for use in a wide range of social science courses.

The Housing Needs of Single Parent Families in Canada, by Fran Klodawsky, Aron N. Spector and Catrina Hendrickx, 1983 (Request from CMHC; limited copies available). It includes a literature review, analysis of 1971 and 1976 census data, for all of Canada and by regions, of demographic characteristics of single parent families and of actual housing characteristics. The implications of demographic characteristics for housing are emphasized. An annotated bibliography of literature on single parents and housing is also included.

Resources for Feminist Research 4 issues per year for \$15.00 Available from:
Dept. of Sociology OISE
252 Bloor St. West Toronto, Ontario M5S 1V6

November 1983, special issue (\$5.00) is titled "Women and Education", it includes up-to-date listing of women's studies courses and programmes in Canadian high schools, colleges and universities.

Two Bibliographies that may be of interest:

Women and Geography David Lee and Bonnie Loyd, published by the Socially and Ecologically Responsible Geographers (SERGE), Dept. of Geography, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221 (with updates).

Women in Suburbia: A Bibliography by H. Wilson and S. Ridgeway. #88 in the Council of Planning Librarians series. CPL Bibliographies, 1313 East 60th St., Chicago, IL 60637.

Awards

The Canadian Federation of University Women grant several graduate fellowships. Some of the deadlines are December 15th, some are February 1st. For information, write to the Canadian Federation of University Women, Universite de Montreal, C.P. 6128 Succursale 'A', Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3J7.

Conference Note

November 11 - 15. Feminism in Action:
New knowledge, new education, new society
Sponsored by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Vancouver.

Contact:

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