

As promised, more information came across my desk and now comes your way. Thank you Damaris for the contribution.

I hope this reaches all before the CAG. Have a good conference!!

Donna Williams

Interesting publications

Among new publications from the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (151 Slater Street, suite 108, Ottawa ON K1P 5H3. tel. (613) 563-0681; FAX 563-0682) is CRIAW Paper No 25, *Searching for Subjectivity in the World of the Sciences: Feminist Viewpoints*, by Roberta Mura, 1991. \$4 + \$1 post and handling. From CRIAW flyer: "Does it make sense to examine disciplines that do not deal with human beings, such as physics, mathematics, zoology or engineering, from a feminist perspective? This paper presents arguments in the affirmative. Any science, whatever its object, is a product of human endeavour - a product open for examination of the marks that its creators, most often men, may have left upon it".... *A propos of this, what about physical geography ... ???* How about someone reviving the idea--floated at the Edmonton CAG--of a CWAG-sponsored session, with an invited guest (Sandra Harding's name was mentioned) dealing with such questions in relation to physical geography?

-The University and College Affairs Branch, Science Sector, Industry, Science and Technology Canada (235 Queen Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5, tel. (613) 998-0484) put out a (free!) report in March 1991, entitled *Women in Science and Engineering. Vol. 1: Universities*.

Among noteworthy statistics included are degrees awarded by gender and discipline (including geography) for bachelors, masters and doctoral levels for 1975, 1982 and 1989. For example the number of women granted PhDs in geography has increased from 3/39 in 1975 to 13/37 in 1989. This clearly represents progress, but as for the status of women faculty...? ...in social sciences in general (no info. specifically about geography), "the greatest increase was at the lecturer level, where women constituted 44% of the total in 1987-88, up from 23% in 1987" (p. 27).

-In October 1991 the Social Science Federation of Canada (415-151 Slater, Ottawa, K1P 5H3) released a *Report on the Role and Participation of Women in Professional Associations*, by Carmen Lambert assisted by Josée Lavoie (\$2 including postage, and tax exempt!). See report on SSFC Women's Issues Network elsewhere in the present newsletter.

Status of women in universities

-At Université Laval the findings of the first Canadian survey on the differential progress of female and male students enrolled in graduate programs were released in late 1991. Conducted jointly by the graduate students' association and the Status of Women office, the survey was sent to 1728 graduate students, half of whom responded. Among issues raised frequently were lack of daycare spaces, the excessive workload of female students with children, and the prevalence of sexist attitudes on the part of teaching and support staff and male students. Another finding that will not surprise CWAG members: women graduate students have a strong preference for female thesis supervisors...!!! This study is preliminary and will hopefully be followed up by more detailed research. For more information contact the Union des graduées inscrites à l'Université Laval. [Source: *Dossier UGIL*, 7 (1): 11].

-In fact the Québec government is currently undertaking some studies on the situation of women in the province's university system. The first of these deals with the progress of women enrolled in masters and doctoral programs. The second looks at the university as employer and how hiring procedures affect women's chances of getting professorial positions. A third study examines the university as *milieu de vie* in terms of issues such as access to on-site daycare. For further information about these studies contact M. Michel Brunet, président du Comité de concertation du ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science et des universités sur la condition des femmes, tel. (418) 646-4789. [Source: *Fine Pointe* 6 (8), 1991: 6].

Report on activities of the Women's Issues Network of the Social Sciences Federation of Canada

From CWAG-CAG 1991-92 representative, Damaris Rose (who regrets not being able to produce this information for the last newsletter, due to the--at last resolved--Case of the Missing File Folder):

The SSFC Questionnaire on the *Role and Participation of Women in Professional Associations* (see Publications section of the present newsletter) was released and discussed at a meeting of the SSFC Women's Issues Network in October 1991. Some of the findings of this survey, addressed to presidents of all 25 professional associations affiliated to the SSFC, may interest CWAG members. In particular, 7 out of the 19 associations who responded to the survey have some type of women's committee. In four of these cases (Canadian Historical Association, Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association, Canadian Psychological Association and Canadian Communication Association), *the women's committees* (which have either a research orientation or a status of women orientation or (like CWAG) both) *have an official representative on the Executive Committee of the Association*. Should CWAG be aiming for such representation on the CAG Executive in the future? Should we have a discussion about it at the Vancouver business meeting?

The SSFC Women's Issues Network meeting was followed by a symposium entitled "Women, Research and Strategies", attended by about 50 people from all over Canada, plus observers from SSHRCC and various other bodies. Here, we heard about the work done by three feminist researchers mandated by SSHRCC to conduct an assessment of the Strategic Grants theme "Women and Work" and to propose future options for promoting research on women within the strategic grants program. Their final report is being submitted to SSHRCC in April 1992. By means of a questionnaire and various regional focus groups a large and diverse consultation process was achieved. Regional differences were quite interesting. Feminist researchers in Québec and Atlantic Canada were above all concerned with women, poverty and precarious work whereas in BC (where the response rate was unfortunately low) there was a greater preoccupation with issues relating to women and justice, the law and the state. Ontario and Québec responses stressed the need for a broad focus on women and social change. From Atlantic Canada came a call for more research on links between women, culture and economic development, on the question of rural isolation and structural adjustment policies and on policies from women's perspective, "the 52% solution".

The Association reps. were then asked to give their *personal* views on where we thought strategic grant program priorities on women should lie. I made various (and obviously unrepresentative of CWAG) comments trying to show how "geography matters", about the problems we have getting basic statistics e.g. about the changing location of women's jobs, and about the need for research on women and changing patterns of regional economic development.

At the end of the Symposium the following motion was proposed and approved (not without a lot of at times heated debate...):

1. that Women's Studies/Études féministes be recognized as a discipline by SSHRCC and have a place among the discipline committees;
2. that in the Strategic Grants Program a specific theme on women be maintained and defined in order to focus on women's perspectives in the organization and institutionalization of knowledge;
3. that all strategic themes include pertinent reference to women; and
4. that discipline committees recognize and encourage feminist scholarship within the disciplines and that SSHRCC monitor these committees for that recognition and encouragement.

Subsequent to this symposium SSHRCC announced that the "Women and Work" theme would be retained for another year. After that, who knows? As most CWAG members will have heard, the Tories are about to (re)merge SSHRCC with the Canada Council and various Canadian Studies programs. The SSFC and many member associations, including the CAG, are rather concerned about this move and its implications for the research process. Presumably the next SSFC Women's Issues Network meeting will have something to say about this, in which case your representative will keep you informed!

Conference etc. reports

Women, cities and development/Femmes, villes et développement: strategies for research, strategies for action/stratégies de recherche et stratégies d'action
On March 19 and 20, 1992 a symposium on this topic was held in Montréal under the auspices of the Montréal Interuniversity Group, *Urbanization and Development* (this is a CIDA-funded centre of research excellence run jointly by the Institut national de la recherche scientifique-Urbanisation, the Université du Québec à Montréal's Département d'études urbaines et touristiques, the Université de Montréal's Institut d'urbanisme and the McGill University School of Urban Planning). The two-day event (of which Damaris Rose was a co-organizer, together with Bernadette Blanc, Anne Latendresse and Céline Le Bourdais) brought together over forty researchers and activists (from Montréal, Québec, Chicoutimi, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver) involved in women and urban development issues, and four panelists, from Bogota (Colombia), Dakar (Senegal), Toronto and Montréal. It included a closed workshop session in which the speakers gave papers on research and policy issues stemming from their own work, and a round table session open to a wider audience of people in the urbanization and development field. Simultaneous translation (French-English) was provided throughout.

Linda Peake (York U.) presented an overview of her work with Caroline Moser on developing a strategy for research and action using the concepts of practical and strategic gender needs of third world urban women. Among the more important issues raised was that of how, when government organizations and NGOs set up programmes aimed at improving Third World urban women's living situations, one can ensure that access to them is not limited to women who have already had the chance to become literate and learn how to work the system. Chantal Rondeau (UQAM), who talked about her research on women retailers in Bamako (Mali), also raised the issue of socioeconomic differences about women notwithstanding common problems they faced vis-à-vis zoning laws etc. How can "gender planning", the methodology developed by Caroline Moser stemming from her earlier work with Linda Peake, deal with such questions of "difference" in practice? Clara Angel, an architect at Fedevivienda, a network of non-profit housing organizations in Colombia which negotiates with the state for housing improvement programmes but operates autonomously and has a strong grass roots orientation, explained that feminist principles were built into the charter and structure and charter of her organization (see article in special issue of *Environment and Urbanization*, October 1991). Fedevivienda's analyses of the effectiveness of programmes include a consideration

of how they affect resource distribution *within* households and to what extent various forms of "self-help" actually empower women.

Khadidiatou Tall/Thiam, a geographer doing her PhD on the situation of women in an extremely impoverished district of Dakar where a large and growing share of the population are temporary migrants, stressed the seriousness of the environmental problems that impinge on these women's daily activities. In the now rapidly-urbanizing countries of Francophone West Africa there is almost no research on the situation of women in urban areas. There are many neighbourhood women's organizations but these get no external recognition or support, nor are they able to link up with women who are migrant workers. Khadi would very much like to hear from other feminist geographers and become involved in networks of information exchange and discussion. Her address is: Direction de l'Enseignement supérieur, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, B.P. 4025, Dakar, Sénégal. Please write (in English or French)!

We are hoping to publish the proceedings in working paper form in the Montréal Interuniversity Group Urbanization and Development series, later in 1992 (details will be posted in a future newsletter). In the meantime, Anne-Marie Séguin has prepared a bibliography, entitled *Femmes, Villes et Développement*, in the same series. Available free from Villes et développement, 3465 rue Durocher, Montréal QC, H2X 2C6.

Other CWAG business

What's in a name? Potential confusion, when the name is Canadian Women and Geography Study Group and when we need to have a French translation. To date, the group's name has been translated (by ourselves and by the CAG executive) in several different ways which convey different messages. The French language forces on us a precision which can be avoided in the English name. *Once and for all*, can we please decide (at our Vancouver meeting) what is "Canadian" about CWAG? Is it Canadian women, Canadian geography or both? Or are we basically the Women and Geography Study Group of the CAG?