

# and Geography

## Canadian Women



NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN AND GEOGRAPHY STUDY GROUP

OF THE

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

FALL 1992

### MINUTES

**Canadian Women and Geography Study Group Business Meeting, May 20, 1992, Vancouver.** (Thanks to Robyn Dowling for taking the minutes).

Meeting opened 12 noon.

Minutes of the 1991 Annual Meeting were passed.

#### Treasurer's Report

Audrey Kobayashi reported that the current balance was \$720 and that no money had been spent the previous year.

#### Elections

The following were elected:

Chair: Isabel Dyck, School of

Rehabilitation Medicine, University of British Columbia, 2211 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 2B5, (604) 822-7403; FAX: (604) 822-7624

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Audrey Kobayashi, Department of Geography, McGill University, 805 Sherbrooke St. West, Montréal, QC, H3A 2K6; Fax: (514) 398-7437

Newsletter Editor: Pamela Moss, Department of Geography, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3050, Victoria, BC V8W 3P5, (604) 721-7334; Fax: (604) 721-8653, MOSS@UVVM.UVIC.CA

### EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first newsletter from UVic Geography.

Without Kelly Ness' help, I would not have had the time to put it all together. She certainly knows what she is doing.

Thanks to Ole Heggen for assistance with the logo and with PageMaker. Thanks to everyone who sent information for the newsletter. Thanks to the Department for covering the duplicating and mailing costs.

... Pamela Moss

SSFC Representative: Damaris Rose, INRS Bitnet: ROSE@INRS-URB.UQUEBEC. CA.

Student Rep: Allison Williams, York University, 4 Chiswick St., Toronto, Ontario M6M 4T6, (416) 244-1558.

Regional Reps: Ontario - Kim England and Linda Hershkovitz, U. of Toronto, Fax: (416) 978-6729; Val Preston, York University, Fax: (416) 736-5735

Quebec - Ann-Marie Seguin, Office: (514) 499-4047 INRS Bitnet: SEGUIN@INRS-URB.UQUEBEC. CA Fax: (514) 499-4065

Prairies - Geraldine Sweet, U. of Winnipeg, Fax: (204) 786-1824

B.C. and Alberta - Robyn Dowling, U.B.C., Fax: (604) 822-6150

### New Business

Social Science Federation of Canada  
Damaris Rose reported that four out of the nineteen disciplines of the SSFC had a special position on their executives dealing with the status of women. Audrey Kobayashi suggested that the study group encourage the CAG to have a position on its executive responsible for equity issues. The following motion was drafted to be presented to the Executive Council of the Canadian Association of Geographers on May 22 by Iain Wallace:

Be it resolved --

That a member of the Executive be

appointed to address issues of equity in the discipline of Geography, in relation to persons with disabilities, aboriginal peoples and members of visible minority groups, and with respect to gender and sexuality, and to provide a liaison with those study groups that address these issues (further info on p. 7).

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*"... a new journal  
of feminist  
geography entitled  
Gender, Place and  
Culture will begin  
publication January  
1994"*

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### Study Group Name

Damaris Rose reported that problems with translating the name of the study group into french have arisen. For purposes of clarification, it was confirmed that the group is the Women and Geography Study Group of the Canadian Association of Geographers.

### CAG Representatives

1) Damaris Rose has been elected as a Councillor on the CAG.

2) Damaris Rose reported that the Canadian representative to the IGU is to be an elected position and encouraged members to make nominations for this position.

### Grievance

It was agreed that a letter of solidarity be sent to Christine Trembley with

respect to a grievance process concerning her appointment at the Universite de Moncton.

### Mechanisms

Isabel Dyck noted that the ambit of her role as chair is not clear. It was agreed that:

- 1) The Chair is authorized to spend up to \$200 without permission of the executive (with the exception of the Treasurer).
- 2) E-mail or Fax be used to discuss other matters (see addresses if officers above).
- 3) A membership list is to be circulated to all group members to facilitate communication.

### CWAG as a Resource Network

It was agreed that Allison Williams of York University should compile a list of courses taught by CWAG members and make it available to all members (More info on p. 3).

### New Journal

Linda Peake noted that a new journal of feminist geography entitled *Gender, Place and Culture* and edited by Liz Bondi and Mona Domosh, will begin publication January 1994 and encouraged CWAG members to contribute.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at Carleton University in 1993. It was agreed that a new time for the business meeting in the evening be considered.

The meeting closed at 1:30 pm.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS CWAG AS A RESOURCE NETWORK

CWAG is putting together a collection of course outlines from courses taught across North America and would appreciate submissions to expand the collection to encompass as many courses as possible. The courses should focus on women's issues in geography or planning topics from a feminist perspective. In order to facilitate publication, submissions should be sent on a 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" IBM readable diskette and must be in either WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, ASCII or DOS format. Please label the diskette with first and last names and the address of the contributor and enclose in a hard envelope to protect the diskette during mailing. The diskettes will be returned on request. Once prepared the collection will be made available at a low cost. Costs of publication will be subsidized by the Geography Department at UVic. Contact Allison Williams, Bev Pitman or Pamela Moss for more details.

These minutes will be up for approval at the next business meeting.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Most of the news is from the West. In the spring, more news from the

rest of Canada is expected.

### Who's New?

Margaret Schmidt (Ph.D. UBC) and Beverly Pitman (ABD, UCLA) have joined the geography faculty at Simon Fraser University. Margaret is a soil scientist with interests in forestry, soil fertility, and GIS. Beverly is a cultural/social geographer whose research interests include the fashion industry, critical theory and planning.

The University of Alberta has welcomed Shelagh Squire (Ph.D. University College, London) into the geography department to augment the department's interests in social geography, tourism and the cultural landscape.

Susan Elliot (Ph.D., McMaster) and Pamela Moss (ABD, McMaster) have joined the faculty at the University of Victoria. Susan researches mainly in the field of urban environmental health and she will contribute to teaching urban, social and medical geography. Pamela's interests are feminist and marxist methodologies and theories in the context of women's labour. Yanni Xiao, a Ph. D. Candidate in the Department of Geography at UBC has joined the department in Lethbridge in a tenure stream position beginning this past summer. Yanni a GIS specialist.

### Who's Got Tenure?

Linda Peake received tenure at York University in July 1992. Congratulations!

### Research Grants

Alison Gill (SFU) and Maureen

Reed (UBC) are recipients of a three year \$56,000 SSHRC grant to investigate the structure, organization and dynamics of the local resort system.

Linda Peake at York University has also received a three year \$102,800 SSHRC grant for a project entitled "An investigation of household livelihood strategies of Guyanese women in low-income households, with emphasis on migration to Toronto".

### In Defence...

Susan Elliott successfully defended her dissertation in September.

Heather Farrow and Barb Shaw defended their MA theses in Geography at Carleton University. Both were feminist research projects.

### IN PRINT...

A guide to Feminist Studies in the European Community has recently been published, providing information about 700 centres of feminist studies and research including about 100 which offer courses of one kind and another. For more information, write to: Eva Eberhardt, Unité pour l'Egalité des Chances---CEE, 200 rue de la Loi B-1049 Brussels.

A guide to Women's Studies in Europe is available through Bundesministerium für Wissenschaft und Forschung, 1010 Wien, Austria. The book includes descriptions of women's studies programmes and contact addresses.

Reference: Baldauf, Anette and Andrea Griesebner. 1992. *Entwicklung und Institutionalisierung von Women's Studies im Europäischen Vergleich.*

It is Volume 1 of a series of resources for women in science.

More material has just been published (in the form of an 8-page supplement to the Graduate Students' newsletter) from the Université Laval study on the situation of female and male graduate students, mentioned in the last CWAG Newsletter. We will prepare an English summary for the next newsletter but if you would like information in the meantime, write to: Madame Marie-Andrée Doran, Adjointe au Vice-Recteur aux ressources humaines et Déléguée à la condition féminine, Maison Marie-Sirois, 2e étage, Université Laval, Ste-Foy, QC G1K 7P4.

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

International Geographic Congress, Washington D.C., USA, August 9th - 14th, 1992 and Pre-Congress meeting of the International Geographic Union Study Group on Gender and Geography, Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA, August 2nd - 7th, 1992

For those of us who attended both of these meetings, twelve days was probably too long a period to be exposed to so many geographers and it was all too easy towards the end to succumb to 'conferenceitis' ie. attending fewer and fewer sessions. As wonderful as it is to meet old colleagues and new ones and to eat meal after meal with crowds of jolly folk, one can after a while detect diminishing returns setting in. There was, however, a marvellous catalyst acting to prevent weariness which manifested itself in the person of Jan Monk, the woman who has probably done more than any other to put feminist geography fairly and squarely on

the agenda of the IGU conferences and pre-conference meetings. Thanks to her efforts feminist sessions were well in evidence at the Washington meeting.

Jan also hosted a party for feminist geographers and 'fellow travellers' which was well attended, attracting over sixty people. A major toast was to mark the occasion of the Study Group upgrading its status to an IGU Commission, and to announce that the first three books in the series published by Routledge, *International Studies of Women and Place* (edited by Jan Monk and Janet Momsen) are now in press. I should also

## JOB AND POSITIONS

**Brock University.** The Department of geography invites applications for one or possibly two tenure track faculty positions, subject to final budgetary approval, commencing July 1, 1993. Each appointment will be at the rank of assistant professor and requires a completed Ph.D. degree. One appointment will be in **Physical Geography** with a specialization in Soils and an interest and expertise in environmental applications. The ability to contribute to a course in GIS or Remote Sensing would be an asset. The second appointment will be in **Economic Geography**

with an emphasis on government policies as they affect patterns of economic activity. Successful candidates will have had successful undergraduate teaching experience and will have demonstrated potential for developing a sustained program of independent research and scholarly activity. Applicants would submit by January 31, 1993, a **curriculum vitae**, the names and addresses of **three referees**, and selected reprints or preprints of publications to: Dr. John McNeil, Chair, Department of Geography, Brock University, St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada, L2S 3A1.

In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed first to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Brock University is committed to a positive action policy aimed at reducing gender imbalance among its faculty; qualified women candidates are especially encouraged to apply. Smoking at Brock University is strictly controlled.

mention that the excellent newsletter, produced for the group by Jan Monk, is running into financial difficulties. The group has been such a success that we now have over 350 members and the mailing costs are using up all the group's funds. There is no charge made for the newsletter, but those who receive it may wish to make a voluntary donation to the group.

The Rutgers meeting, organised (beyond the bounds of duty) by Joanna Regulska, had approximately forty participants from countries including the USA, Canada, Britain, Australia, Columbia, Spain, Germany, Austria, Finland, Western Samoa, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, South Africa, India, the Netherlands, and Hungary. Its theme was that of women's paid and unpaid work in a changing global economy.

The beauty of this meeting, and although I can only speak for myself, I believe it was true for others, was that in spending six days in each other's company, and with only two papers a session there was a real opportunity to get to know people and their work beyond the superficial level that most conferences provide. This was truly rewarding, but more than this was that for the first time (for me) there was the opportunity to hear what people from the so-called "margins", the so-called "other, others" had to say about Anglo-American Geography -- about our concern with theory that had little meaning

in their lives, about our lack of knowledge about what went on in their parts of the world, about our lack of consideration of how difficult it was for some of them to talk in and listen to, a language that was not their own (and in many cases their third or fourth language).

I look back on this week and it is not so much the individual papers that I remember but rather what I think of as this experience of post-modernism - in - practice, and I am truly glad that I attended this meeting for the insights that it has given me into my own academic (political) practices, particularly in relation to breaking down the hegemony of certain feminist geographic discourses.

In addition to the academic papers by the conference participants there was an extremely entertaining keynote address by Catherine Stimpson as well as a thought provoking plenary session by Charlotte Bunch, both of Rutgers University. The final plenary was given by Eva Siekierska, from Canada, who is the Chair of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) Commission on Gender and Cartography. Eva reported on the survey of ICA members that was conducted in 1991 to investigate barriers to women's participation in the profession. The data base is to be made available to people who would like to explore this topic and Eva is keen for such people to contact her.

All in all, those two meetings were

invigorating, most enjoyable affairs and I look forward to the Prague meetings in 1994. And if you want to know more about them, look for information in the next IGU Gender and Geography newsletter or contact Eleonore Kofman or Ruth Fincher.

... Linda Peake

Linda is Associate Professor in the Division of Social Science and Graduate Programme in Geography at York University, Toronto

#### Contact Addresses

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University of Melbourne  
Parkville  
Victoria 3052 Australia  
Fax (03) 344-4972

## Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, May 1992

Long-term readers of *The Operational Geographer* will not be surprised to learn that the proportion of females presenting papers at the 1992 Annual Meeting of the CAG in Vancouver decreased both in relation to the total CAG membership and as a percentage of presenters at the 1991 Annual Meeting. It is not that there are fewer female geographers in relation to past membership figures. This level of representation is more likely a function of the fact that when the distribution of all CAG members is accounted for, we find that more than 50% of the membership share is located in central Canada. It could be that funding constraints inhibited female members from travelling to Vancouver this past year.

On the other hand, the scope of

papers presented reflects the ongoing interest of female geographers in humanistic and theoretical approaches to geographical interpretation (Table 1). Female participants at the 1992 Annual Meeting presented papers which were overwhelmingly centered in what has come to be called the 'softer' sciences (human geography) rather than those of the traditional 'harder' sciences (physical geography). 'Softer' and 'harder': a new female-male lexicon?

Only 7% of all papers presented under the general headings of climatology, geomorphology, and biogeography were presented by females. Approximately 65% of female participants in Vancouver presented a paper on theoretical/methodological issues in geography, development, gender, the environment, or urban related issues. Topical papers on landscape interpretation, the politics of research, power structures and relations in third-world countries

such as Guyana and issues focusing on the environment occupy a space in the collective consciousness of female geographers. It appears that within the discipline of geography, females are still conditioned to remain in the 'softer' social scientific realm rather than pursue areas of traditional 'hard' science. The old stereotype, it seems, still has some life left in it: men do science and math; women don't.

... Deborah Carter Park

Deborah is a Ph. D. candidate in Geography at York University.

## Report of the International Conference of Historical Geographers, Vancouver, August 16-22, 1992.

The eighth annual historical geography conference was held at UBC this August and drew approximately two hundred participants. The conference was mixed as far as gender was concerned. On the one hand, only a handful of the participants were women; on the other hand, there were a number of well-attended papers devoted to the issue of gender. Foremost among these was a special session on gender and historical geography organized by Alison Blunt (UBC) and Gillian Rose (Queen Mary and Westfield College, London). In this session, Jeanne Kay (Nebraska) gave a paper on different feminine archetypes in nineteenth century America. She was followed by David Smith (U. of Maine) and Judy Barrett-Litoff

Table 1

	Total	Female	Percent
Theoretical/Methodological	38	12	32%
Geography and Development	36	11	31%
Gender and Geography	11	7	64%
Geography and the Environment	42	6	14%
Urban Geography	36	6	17%
Geography and Public Issues	33	4	12%
Resources	7	4	57%
Economic Geography	12	3	25%
Medical Geography	14	3	21%
Historical Geography	8	2	25%
Political Geography	8	1	13%
Gerontology	4	1	25%
Physical Geography	68	5	7%
Total	317	65	---

Note: the topology of papers presented does not account for plenary sessions and other special sessions which were composed of panel discussions.

(Bryant College) who spoke of their work with letters written by American women in the second world war. Using a fascinating archival collection, they gave diverse illustrations of how women's perceptions of space were dramatically changed by the economic and social restructuring of war. The second half of the session consisted of two papers on women travel writers in the nineteenth century. Both focused on the theoretical issues of gender, class, race and space. Alison Blunt considered the ways that gendered subjectivity varied over space and time, illustrating her argument with the writing of Mary Kingsley. Cheryl Mc Ewan (Loughborough University) addressed the issue of how nineteenth century writers (e.g. Mary Kingsley, Elizabeth Melville and Mary Slessor) represented violence differently from male explorers. Papers outside this session were also of interest to feminist geographers. Jenny Robertson (University of Natal, Sth. Africa) spoke of the problems posed for feminist research by postcolonial criticism. Iain Robertson (Cheltenham and Gloucester College) described women's roles in rural social protest in the nineteenth century Scotland. The special session and other papers provoked interesting discussion, and more are hoped to be organized for the next conference in Perth, Australia, 1994.

... Robyn Dowling

Robyn is a Ph. D. candidate at the University of British Columbia.

### Social Science Federation of Canada: Women's Issues Network

The September 1992 meeting of the Network included a discussion with representatives of the SSHRCC about the new strategic research grant theme "Women and Change". This theme replaces "Women and Work". Strategic grants are awarded to teams of researchers covering more than one discipline (e.g. a geographer and a political scientist). As reported in last May's CWAG Newsletter, it is largely due to the efforts of the Network that the SSHRCC retained a theme about women in its strategic research priorities! The new theme offers diverse research possibilities for humanities as well as social science oriented researchers, but it is apparently very important that research proposals be "policy oriented" in the conventional sense of the term. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal should first read the thematic description very carefully. The deadline this year is Dec. 15; next year it will revert to Oct. 15.

Also at the Network meeting there was a presentation by Margaret North about the new University of Northern British Columbia in Prince George. Many of you will have seen their ads calling for applications for dozens of faculty positions including environmental studies and women's studies. The university is apparently trying to hire a lot of women and some efforts are being made to "feminize" the

administration as well. Also attempts are being made to help partners of people hired there find employment.

... Damaris Rose

Damaris is a member of INRS - Urbanisation, Université Québec.

### NEW CAG STANDING COMMITTEE ON EQUITY ISSUES

At this last meeting, held in Vancouver on May 23, 1992, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Association of Geographers passed a motion calling for the establishment of a Standing Committee of the CAG to monitor equity issues within the discipline (in relation to people with disabilities, aboriginal peoples and members of visible minority groups, and in relation to gender and sexual orientation). Those of you who attended the CWAG meeting in Vancouver will know that the impetus for such a move came from the Canadian Women and Geography Study Group, although the working of the motion approved by the CAG Executive was weaker than what CWAG had proposed.

Specifically, a designated member of the Executive is to chair this new committee, and in the first instance is charge with recruiting a few new people to serve as members. The committee is to establish precise terms of reference, which are to be presented to the CAG Executive

for discussion and approval at its meeting on January 30-31, 1993.

As you may know, Damaris Rose was elected to the CAG Executive last May, and as you may have guessed, she was asked to chair this committee. She is in the process of contacting people who might like to serve on it. So far, Alison Gill (SFU) has agreed to participate. We feel it is important to have on this committee at least one person who is a member of a visible minority group and to include a PhD student.

If you are interested in participating or if you have any suggestions concerning terms of reference for the committee please contact Damaris Rose as soon as possible at the following address:

INRS-Urbanisation, 3465  
Durocher, Montréal, QC H2X 2C6,  
or phone (514) 499-4065. E-  
m a i l : R O S E @ I N R S -  
URB.UQUEBEC.CA

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### Other CWAG Business

After further discussion from the business meeting in May, we thought that maybe a telephone tree would be useful in getting input from CWAG members for decisions.

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### SPRING NEWS

#### DEADLINE

The deadline for information for inclusion in the spring newsletter is April 15. Please send information on:

- women in geography;
- women geographers;
- geography of women;
- feminist studies.

Also send references to publications in these fields. Pre- conference info will be available in the Spring issue.



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