



IGU

International Geographic Union STUDY GROUP ON GENDER



IGU approves gender and geography study group

At its meeting in Sydney in August the International Geographical Union approved formation of a study group on gender. The group will develop and coordinate research and extend communication about gender research to an international network of geographers. It will also organize meetings and publications (see below).

Formation of the group builds on sessions organized at IGU Congresses in Paris in 1984 and Barcelona in 1986, as well as on programs conducted jointly with the IGU Population and Rural Development Commissions. It reflects the growing world-wide interest in gender issues within the discipline and the support of a rapidly expanding number of geographers from many countries.

The Study Group is chaired by Janet Henshall Momsen. Janice Monk will serve as vice-chair and Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon as secretary. Other full members of the group at present are Nora Huang Chiang, Bose F. Iyun, Saraswati Raju, and Rosa Ester Rossini. A maximum of ten full members is permitted by the IGU. Other scholars may affiliate as corresponding members. IGU Vice President Maria Teresa Gutierrez de MacGregor will serve as liaison between the Study Group and the IGU Executive Committee.

Study group members

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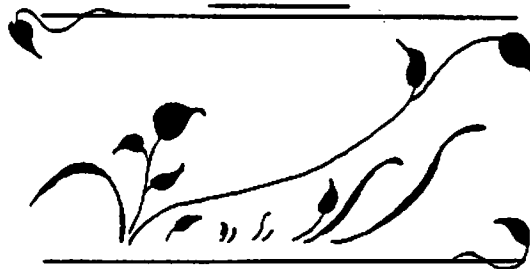
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Study group proposes comparative research

The Study Group proposes to develop a program of research focused on the ways gender is involved in contemporary changes in productive and reproductive work in different geographic areas around the world. This theme recognizes that restructuring of the world economy is associated with rapid increases in female labor force participation and new patterns of work for women and men. These changes include part-time employment, multiple occupations, growth of the informal sector in developed as well as developing countries, and new patterns of combining the domestic work of reproducing the labor force with productive economic work in the public sphere.

The Study Group wants to coordinate research on this broad theme which would be carried out at any one of several scales--urban or local, regional within countries or national/regional within a global context. Our goal is to bring together a set of studies from different parts of the world, so that by comparing our findings on the theme of changing work patterns we gain a better understanding of the geographic significance of gender. The projects could be theoretical or empirical and deal with conceptual or methodological as well as substantive issues.

We would like to hear from scholars who are conducting such research or who are interested in developing projects. We would like to plan a symposium for the 1990 IGU Congress in Beijing where preliminary findings are reported, and to have projects completed by the 1992 meeting in Washington, D.C. Our goal is to publish a book including the studies and to include a comparative overview.

If you are interested in this program, please send a brief (1-2 page) outline of your work or proposed research by November 15, 1988 to Janice Monk. Momsen, Monk, and Garcia-Ramon will review these summaries to identify issues and methodologies of common

concern and to suggest ways research plans might be modified to enhance international comparisons (see page 4). The Study Group is not able to finance research from IGU resources, but will work with you to prepare letters of support to funding agencies.



Australian Congress has active gender program

Several parts of the Australian IGC featured research on gender. The pre-congress symposium on Aboriginal Land Rights and Land Settlement, led by Fay Gale and Elspeth Young (Australia) included material on Aboriginal women's sacred sites and their efforts to have those sites preserved. Two Aboriginal women also led a walk to demonstrate how they used local plants for food and tool-making.

Among papers on gender at pre-Congress symposia were presentations in Auckland by Janet Momsen of her joint work with Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon on "Gender and Agriculture: A Comparative Analysis of Regional Patterns of Female Participation in Agriculture in England and Spain" and in Melbourne by Susan Hanson (USA) of her paper "Reconceptualizing the Links Between Home and Work in Urban Geography: Review, Critique, Agenda" with Geraldine Pratt (Canada).

At the main Congress a session on "Women and the Emerging Division of Labour" included Ruth Fincher (Australia) on "The Influence of the Local Labour Market and the Local State on Class and Gender Relations;" Louise Johnson (New Zealand) on "Weaving New Patriarchal Economies: Restructuring Australia's Textile Industry" which also included comparisons with Hong Kong; and Suzanne Mackenzie (Canada) on "The Politics of Restructuring: Gender and Environment in Deindustrialized Areas of Canada." Other papers on gender included Janet Momsen's "Gender and Labour Displacement in Agriculture in England;" John Paul Jones and Janet Kodras (USA) "Poverty Feminization in U.S. Metropolitan Areas;" K. Salih (Malaysia) "Men and Women at Work Today;" and Glynn Sutcliffe (Australia) "Changing Constructions of Masculinity and Femininity as a Function of the Growth and Assertion of State Power: A Comparative Case Study in the Cultural Geography of Gender in 19th Century Southern Africa."

The Congress also focused on gender research in one of the lunch-hour invited plenary addresses when Janice Monk spoke on "Encompassing Gender: Progress and Challenges in Geographic Research." In addition, a morning session "Agenda For Gender" featured speakers from several countries reporting on how feminist scholars had formed organizations within their own scholarly communities. A report of this session will be announced in a future newsletter.

Special journal issues on gender

Urban Geography, 19 (2) 1988 on gender and the journey to work

Cahiers de Geographie du Quebec, 31 (83) 1987 which features articles and reviews primarily by Canadian and French geographers

Documents D'Analisi Geografica 13, 1988 (forthcoming) which includes papers from the Symposium "Agricultura, Genero, y

Espacio" organized in Barcelona in December 1987 by Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon with support from the Instituto de la Mujer, Ministerio de Cultura (Spain)

Espace, Population et Societe, 1989 (Universite de Lille) has an issue on gender research in preparation under the direction of Jeanne Fagnani (For information contact her at 39, rue d'Estienne d'Orves, 92260 Fontenay-aux-Roses, France.)

Recent books and articles

Caroline Moser and Linda Peake (eds.) Women, Human Settlements, and Housing (London: Tavistock, 1987) features essays on the Third World

Vera Norwood and Janice Monk (eds.) The Desert Is No Lady: Southwestern Landscapes in Women's Writing and Art (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987)

Judith Carney "Struggles over Crop Rights and Labor Within Contract Farming Households," Journal of Peasant Studies 15 (3) in press

Jacqueline Coutras Des Villes Traditionnelles aux Nouvelles Banlieues (Paris: Sedes, 1987)

Drooglever Fortuijn, J. et al "Van hot naar her; het combineren van taken in tijd en ruimte door tweeverdieners, alleenstaandwe ouders en alleewonedden in Haarlem, Enkhuizen en Stude Brouc," PPD studierapport nr. 38, (Haarlem, 1988)

On Not Excluding Half the World - a lecture series by Janice Monk with commentaries by Lia Karsten and Gonnie Hendriks, Instituut voor Sociaal Geografie, University of Amsterdam, 23 Jodenbreestraat, NH 1011 Amsterdam

Janet Henshall Momsen and Janet Townsend Geography of Gender in the Third World (Albany: SUNY and London: Hutchinson, 1987)

A group of German-speaking feminist geographers from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland have organized a study group and published their first newsletter, Geo-Rundbrief. For information contact Elisabeth Roques-Baschlin, Geogr. Institut der Universitat Bern, Hallerstr. 12, Bern, Switzerland.

Ruth Fincher, University of Melbourne (Australia) has been studying the role of gender and class in the provision of services in Australian cities with support from the Australian Research Grants Commission.

Lia Karstens, Social Geography, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), has begun research on "Women and Leisure: Resources, Time, Money, Power, and Environment.

Nancy D. Lewis, University of Hawaii (USA) is Secretary General for the 17th Pacific Science Congress. For information

contact her C/- Department of Geography, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, 96822 USA.

Nora Chiang (Taiwan) organized a summer conference on "Gender and Changing Society" which was attended by about 300 people. The Proceedings will shortly be published. She also attended a women's studies meeting in Japan. Papers from that meeting will be published in English.

Susan Hanson (USA) and Geraldine Pratt (Canada) are conducting research on gender and occupational segregation in Worcester, Massachusetts with a grant from the National Geographic Society.

Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon is spending September, 1988 till February, 1989 on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Arizona, USA to study literature of rural women's work and gender in geographic thought.

Evelyn Stokes, Louise Dooley, Louise Johnson, Jennifer Dixon, and Susan Parsons "Feminist Perspectives in Geography: A Collective Statement," New Zealand Geographer, 43 (3) 1987 139-149.

Saraswati Raju, A Socio-geographic Analysis of Female Participation in Labour Force in India: Madhya Pradesh as an Example," Asian Profile 15 (3) 1987, 247-266.

Workshop on Gender and Development to be held in the U. K.

③ Support has been obtained from the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau for a workshop on gender and development at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England from April 16 -21, 1989 under the leadership of Janet Momsen. About 20 geographers from developing countries will receive support to attend with other self-supporting contributors from Australia, Canada, and the U.K. Non-Commonwealth participants will be welcomed but will need to obtain separate funding.

3 The workshop will include sessions on such topics as production versus reproduction; the informal economy; migration; basic needs provision; food cycle technologies; the household and agriculture; and gender and environment. Emphasis will be on the exchange of views and the generation of conceptual and methodological contributions to the study of gender and development. Further information can be obtained from Janet Momsen.

Research Proposals

Please send a one-two page description of current or proposed research for the IGU Study Group project to Janet Momsen and Janice Monk by November 15, 1988. Include a brief description of the purpose and methods of the research, and note whether you have or anticipate funding.

News from Feminist Geographers

Several papers by feminist geographers were presented in a program at the International Rural Sociological Congress in Bologna, Italy in June, 1988. The program was organized by Martine Berlan and Ruth Gasson. For information contact Berlan at Universite d'Aix Marseille II, C.E.R.S. Chateau la Farge, Route des Milles, 13290 Les Milles, France.

Linda Peake, Kingston Polytechnic (UK) is teaching in 1988-89 in an exchange program at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI 49401 USA. She is currently organizing articles for the Journal of Geography in Higher Education on the teaching of feminist geography internationally.

Geographers from three Spanish universities (Autonoma Barcelona, Sevilla, Santiago) are involved in a three-year project (1988-91) on "Women's Role in Spanish Agriculture: A Gender Geographical Analysis," funded by CICYT (Ministry of Education). The study will have a theoretical and empirical approach and will focus on the family farm. Statistical analysis will be made of all the published and unpublished data gathered by different official censuses at national and regional scales. Three regions will be studied in depth in the field (Andalucia, Catalonia, and Galicia), including questionnaires about the farm and interviews with the women on the farm.