

IGU COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 22

MAY, 1999

INNOVATIVE CONFERENCE LINKS RESEARCHERS, ACTIVISTS, AND PERFORMERS

The Southern Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union Commission on Gender was held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, Aotearoa/New Zealand, 8 -11 February 1999. The conference brought together over 50 feminist geographers, sociologists, historians and others from around the Asia-Pacific region to address the theme of "Gendered Sites, Human Rights; Gendered Sights, Human Rites."

The panel and paper sessions attested to the breadth of research topics and approaches that characterize contemporary feminisms. Presenters examined issues of human rights and practices of human rites in gendered sites that ranged from rural villages of Sri Lanka and India, to the classrooms of Aotearoa/New Zealand, to places of paid work in North America. From different gendered sights (or feminist perspectives) participants explored feminist research practices, and representations and theorisations of space and place, community and economy.

Many of the issues of feminist scholarship and practice touched on in paper and panel sessions were followed up in discussions in the three workshops held during the conference. The first, run by Robin Peace (University of Waikato) and Ruth Liepins (University of Otago), focused on Gill Valentine's recent paper on sexual harassment within the academy, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones' (*Antipode*, 30(4), 1998, pp. 305-32). Sara Kindon's (Victoria University) and Geoffrey Hume-Cook's (Encantado Communications Ltd) workshop focused on the use video in human geography research. The forms of geographic knowledges (re)produced through fieldtrips and strategies for destabilising 'the researcher/the researched' dichotomy were explored in Karen Nairn's (University of Waikato) workshop.

Through the inclusion of an "Academic, Activist and Community Night" participants were able to reflect on the wider context for the conference theme. Activists involved in different feminist and community-based initiatives, including interest-free loans for women on low-incomes, women's refuges, breast cancer education and a Trade Aid business, spoke of their work and politics. A young woman from a Maori women's refuge presented a moving waiata (Maori word for song). At times feminists worry that the connections between academia and activism have loosened to the extent that feminism seems to be practiced in two mutually exclusive

spheres. The inclusion of this special night in an academic conference programme was a small but significant step towards (re)establishing and (re)affirming connections and conversations between activist and academic feminists.

The grand finale of the conference was a performance by Josephine Burden (Griffith University), 'Journeys', that incorporated drama, poetry and song drawn from her work with women's community groups. Activism and academia were brought together in exciting new ways as Josephine performed the diverse rites of one woman's life connected by the recurring motif of a male doctor's "advice" to his patient. The performance element of conference-going took on new meanings through song, dance and acting. Josephine's performance elicited emotions seldom encountered at academic conferences, and the audience response of tears, laughter, spontaneous applause and a standing-ovation suggested an uncharacteristic embodied engagement.

The rites of academic conferencing were reworked in innovative ways at this conference. Our thanks go to the organizers, in particular Ruth Liepins and Robin Law, from the Geography Department, University of Otago, for such a rewarding conference

-- Jenny Cameron and Karen Nairn

Commission Plans Two Conferences

The Commission on Gender and Geography plans two conferences over the next year. "Gendered Mobilities in Asia" will be held in at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, November 25-26 with an optional 1 1/2 day field trip to follow. Themes include the following:

- *economic, social and political mobility focusing on women and men in Asia
- *impact of social conflicts on women and men in Asia
- *the relationship of place, space, and gendered mobility
- *links between gender and opportunities for, barriers to, and outcomes of mobilities
- *links between individual agency and social institutions and processes in a comparative perspective
- *social justice and gendered mobilities.

Some funding is available to support participation by Asian scholars. Deadline to apply for these awards is August 31, 1999. Applications should be sent to Professor Ruth Fincher, Faculty of Architecture, Building, and Planning, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Australia 3052. (FAX 61-3-9344-5499; email <r.fischer@architecture.unimelb.edu.au>). Abstracts (300 words) of presentations should be sent to Dr. Catherine Tang, Gender Research Programme, Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, NT, Hong Kong by

June 30, 1999, FAX 852-26035215; email <grp@cuhk.edu.hk>..

A Workshop is being planned by the Commission on Gender and Geography for Tel Aviv, Israel in May, 2000 provisionally titled: "Beyond Tolerance: Social and Spatial Cohesion/Coexistence: Lessons of Gendered Exclusions." The aim of the work shop is to bring together researchers, planners, policy makers, and activists, to address such issues as "Gendered Dimensions of Social and Spatial Exclusions: Theories, Concepts, Case Studies;" "Policy and Planning as Mechanisms for Inclusion or Exclusion;" and "Strategies for Action." Possible topics of interest range from issues of displacement and resettlement to gender, culture, and boundaries of the "public" and "private" in the creation of exclusionary processes. The Workshop is being hosted for the Commission by Tovi Fenster, Department of Geography, University of Tel Aviv. Further information may be obtained from her at tobiws@post.tau.ac.il or FAX

Gender and GIS

A recent survey from the Gender in Development Programme (UNDP) is exploring the utility of GIS as a means of organizing and visualizing gender related data, especially in relation to development issues. For information, contact Paula Beltgens <pbeltgen@mars.ark.com> or Rosemary Kalapurakal at UNDP (USA 212-906-5169). They are interested in learning what kinds of data would be most useful, what kinds of visual displays, how items would be used, and what kinds of support would be needed to make an electronic atlas useful.

NEW BOOKS

Breton, Mary Joy, Women Pioneers for the Environment, Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1998.

Buehler, Elisabeth, Elisabeth Maurer, and Silvia Wyler (eds.):
Deregulierung und Chancengleichheit - Neue Herausforderung an Staat und Gesellschaft. Zuercher Hochschulforum Band 27, vdf Verlag. (Deregulation and Equal Opportunities - a new challenge for the state and society. Most of the contributions are in German, but two of them are in English geographers.

Diane Perrons, London School of Economics "Britain: Deregulation, Flexible Work and Equal Opportunities" and Lena Gonaes, University of Uppsala and Research Center on Labour in Stockholm "A Welfare State in Transition - Swedish Experiences".

Chant, Sylvia and Cathy McElwaine (comp.). Three Generations, Two Genders, One World: Women and Men in a Changing Century, London & New

York: Zed Books/Commonwealth Secretariat, 1998.

Garcia-Gorena, Velma. *Mothers and the Mexican Anti-Nuclear Power Movement*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1999.

Hahner, June E. (ed) *Women Through Women's Eyes: Latin American Women in Nineteenth Century Travel Accounts*, Wilmington DE: Scholarly Resources, 1998.

Hirsch, Kathleen, *A Home in the Heart of a City: A Woman's Search for Community*, New York: North Point Press, 1998.

McDowell, Linda. *Gender, Identity and Place: Understanding Feminist Geographies*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press/Polity Press.

McDowell, Linda and Joanne P. Sharp. (Eds) *A Feminist Glossary of Human Geography*. London: Edward Arnold/New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Agyei-Mensah, S. and A. Aase. "Patterns of Fertility Change in Ghana: A Time-Space Perspective," *Geografiska Annaler Series B: Human Geography*, 80 (4), 1998, 203-14.

Anderson, Kay. "Making a Difference: A Geographer's View from the Top: An Interview with Fay Gale," *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, 22 (3), 1998, 363-74.

Bondi, Liz. "Stages on Journeys: Some Remarks about Human Geography and Psychotherapeutic Practice," *Professional Geographer*, 51 (1), 1999, 11-24.

Chant, Sylvia. "Households, Gender, and Rural-Urban Migration: Reflections on Linkages and Considerations for Policy." *Environment and Urbanization*, 10 (1), 1998, 5-22.

Chiang, Lan Hung Nora. "Women and Development in Taiwan," *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 4 (4) 1998, 95--109.

Cribb, Jo and Ross Barnett. "Being Bashed: Western Samoan Women's Responses to Domestic Violence in Western Samoa and New Zealand," *Gender, Place and Culture*, 6 (1) 1999, 49-66.

Davis, Malia "Philosophy Meets Practice: A Critique of Ecofeminism through the Voices of Three Chicana Activists," in Devon Pena (ed.)

Chicano Culture, Ecology, Politics: Subversive Kin, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1999.

Dumayne-Peaty, Lisa and Jane Williams. "Gender and Physical Geography in the UK," *Area*, 30 (3), 1998, 97-206.

Dwyer, Claire. "Veiled Meanings: Young British Muslim Women and the Negotiation of Differences,": *Gender, Place and Culture*, 6 (1), 1999, 5-26.

Elmhirst, Rebecca. "Reconciling Feminist Theory and Gendered Resource Management in Indonesia," *Area*, 30 (3), 1998, 225 -.

Fagnani, Jeanne. "Helping mothers to combine paid and unpaid work--or fighting unemployment? The ambiguities of French family policy." *Community, Work, Family*, 1 (3) 1998, 297-312.

Garcia-Ramon, Maria Dolors, "Genero y ruralidad: Las mujeres ante el reto de la desagrarrizacion," (review of book by Rosario Sampedro-Gallego), *Agricultura y Sociedad*, 84, 1998, 374-77.

Garcia-Ramon, Maria Dolors and Alba Caballe, " Els estudis de genere en geografia. Un balanc bibliographic internacional," in Professor Joan Vila Valenti: *Els Seu Mestratge en la Geografia Universitaria*, Barcelona: University of Barcelona, 1999 pp. 333-45.

Gilbert, Melissa R. "'Race,' Space and Power: The Survival Strategies of Working Poor Women," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 88 (4), 1998, 595-621.

Ginsburg, Rebecca. "Serving Apartheid? Domestic Workers and the Radical Geographies of White Suburban Households, Johannesburg, South Africa, 1960s-1970s," *Historical Geography* (forthcoming, Spring, 1999).

Hardill, Irene. "Gender Perspectives on British Expatriate Work," *Geoforum* 29 (3) 1998 257-68.

Hardill, Irene and Sandra MacDonald. "Choosing to Relocate: An Examination of the Impact of Expatriate Work on Dual-Career Households," *Women's Studies International Forum*, 21 (1) 1998, 21-29.

Hardill, Irene and Parvati Raghuram, "Diasporic Connections: Case Studies of Asian Women in Business," *Area* 30 (3), 1998, 255-62.

Holloway, S.L. "She Lets Me Go Out Once a Week: Mothers' Strategies for Obtaining 'Personal' Time and Space," *Area*, 30 (4) 1998, 321- .

Johnson, James H. Jr., Elisa Jayne Bienenstock, and Walter Farrell Jr. "Bridging Social Networks and Female Labor Force Participation in a Multi-ethnic Metropolis." *Urban Geography*, 20 (1) 1999, 3-30.

Jones, Andrew. "(Re)producing Gender Cultures: Theorizing Gender in Investment Banking Recruitment," *Geoforum*, 29 (4), 451- .

Kirk, Gwyn, "Ecofeminism and Chicano Environmental Struggles: Bridges Across Gender and Race," in Devon Pena (ed.) *Chicano Culture, Ecology, Politics: Subversive Kin*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1999.

Law, Robin and Brendan Gleeson. "Another Landscape of Despair: Charting the 'Service Dependent Ghetto' in Dunedin," *New Zealand Geographer*, 54 (1), 1998, 27-36.

Liepins, Ruth. "Women in Agriculture: Action for More Democratic Australian Farm Politics" in J.M. Bystydzienski and J. Sekhon (eds), *Democratization and Women's Grassroots Movements*, Indiana University Press: Bloomington and Indianapolis, 1999. pp. 352-374.

Kesby, Mike, "Locating and Dislocating Gender in Rural Zimbabwe: The Making of Space and the Texturing of Bodies," *Gender, Place and Culture*, 6 (1) 1999, 27-48.

Kitchen, Rob. "Creating an Awareness of Others: Highlighting the Role of Space and Place," *Geography*, 84, No. 362, 45-54.

Koczberski, Gina, "Women in Development: A Critical Analysis," *Third World Quarterly*, 19 (3), 1998, 395-409.

Maguire, Sarah, "Gender Differences in Attitudes to Undergraduate Fieldwork," *Area*, 30 (3), 1998, 207-14.

Mattingly, Doreen J. "Job Search, Social Networks, and Local Labor Market Dynamics: The Case of Paid Household Work in San Diego, California," *Urban Geography*, 20 (1) 1999, 46-74.

McCall, Leslie, "Spatial Routes to Gender Wage (In)equality: Regional Restructuring and Wage Differentials by Gender and Education," *Economic Geography*, 74 (4), 1998, 379-404.

McEwan, Cheryl, "Gender, Science, and Physical Geography in Nineteenth Century Britain," *Area*, 30 (3), 1998 215-24.

Menta, Anna and Liz Bondi. "Embodied Discourse: On Gender and Fear of

Violence," *Gender, Place and Culture* 6 (1) 1999, 67- 84.

Monk, Janice. "Janice Monk" (Biographical series) *Geography Bulletin: Journal of the Geography Teachers Association of New South Wales*, 30 (3), 1998, 92.

Morin, Karen M. "Peak Practices: Englishwomen's 'Heroic' Adventures in the 19th century American West," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, forthcoming (September 1999).

----. "Surveying Britain's Informal Empire: Rose Kingsley's 1872 Reconnaissance for the Mexican National Railway," *Historical Geography*, (forthcoming, Spring 1999).

---- "British Women Travellers and Constructions of Racial Difference across the Nineteenth-century American West," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 23, 1998, 311-330.

----. "Trains Through the Plains: The Great Plains Landscape of Victorian Women Travelers," *Great Plains Quarterly*, 18 (Summer), 1998, 235-56.

----. "Political Culture and Suffrage in an Anglo-American Women's West," *Women's Rights Law Reporter*, 19 (1), 1997, 17-32.

---- and Lawrence D. Berg. "Emplacing Current Trends in Feminist Historical Geography," *Gender, Place, and Culture* (forthcoming).

----and Jeanne Kay Guelke. "Strategies of Representation, Relationship, and Resistance: British Women Travelers and Mormon Plural Wives, ca. 1870-1890." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 88 (3), 1998, 437-63.

Mutersbaugh, Tad. "Women's Work, Men's Work" *Gender, Labor Organization, and Technology Acquisition in a Oaxacan Village*," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 16 (4), 1998, 439-58.

---- "Bread or Chainsaws? Paths to Mobilizing Household Labor for Cooperative Rural Development in a Oaxacan Village (Mexico)," *Economic Geography*, 75 (1), 1999, 43-58.

Peters, Evelyn J. "Subversive Spaces: First Nations Women and the City." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 16 (6) 1998, 665-86.

Pickles, Katie. "Forgotten Colonizers: The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) and the Canadian North," *The Canadian Geographer*, 42 (2), 1998, 193- .

Preston, Valerie and Wenona Giles "Ethnicity, Gender and Labour Markets in Canada: A Case Study of Immigrant Women in Canada", *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 6. 1997, 135-59.

Robbins, Paul. "Population and Pedagogy: The Geography Classroom After Malthus," *Journal of Geography* 97 (6), 1998, 241-252.

Robinson, J. "Octavia Hill Women Housing Managers in South Africa: Femininity and Urban Government." *Journal of Historical Geography* 24 (4), 1998 459-.

Yeboah, Ian E.A. "Geography of Gender Economical Status in Urban Sub-Saharan Africa: Ghana 1960-1984," *The Canadian Geographer*, 42 (2), 1998, 159-173.

OTHER RESOURCES

International Women's Tribune Center, New York has issued *Rights of Women: A Guide to the Most Important United Nations Treaties on Women's Human Rights* (1998).

German-speaking feminist geographers have established a listserv "Femigeo." Subscribers may join by sending a message to Majordomo@lists.uni-marburg.de entering <subscribe femigeo> in the text space.

The US Agency for International Development's "Gender Matters Quarterly" for Feb. 1999 focuses on the theme of international trafficking in women. Items include a list of the (modest) funding they have allocated to this issue as well as web and email addresses for organizations involved in anti-trafficking projects; a world map of trafficking patterns, and other items. The publication is available from USAID Office of Women in Development GenderReach Project, 1250 I St NW, Suite 1115 Washington DC 20005 Phone (USA) 202-408-0123; fax 202-371-0676; email: GenderReach@dai.com

The library at the University of Minnesota has a project to digitize primary sources and is beginning with a focus on "Women's Travel Writing, 1830-1930." Information on the project can be located at www.lib.umn.edu/etrc/womtrav.htm

RECENT CONFERENCES

Among papers at the February, 1999 meetings of the Cultural Geography Study Group of the Institute of Australian Geographers were "Homecooking: Filipina Diasporic Women and Sensuous Geographies of Hong Kong" by Lisa Laws (ANU) and "Myths, Masculinity, Identity: Reflections on Motor Cycling," by Matthew Rofe (U of Newcastle).

Clara Greed, (Faculty of the Built Environment, University of Western England) reports that Women and Environment Network meeting in Frankfurt am Main in December, 1998 brought together a small group of "experts" from eastern and western Europe to discuss implementation of Local Agenda 21 initiatives, Chapter K of the Beijing Women's Conference, and Habitat initiatives in different nation states. Particular attention was paid to the implications of the organization of responsibilities across government departments, the focus on "big" issues such as global warming rather than issues of daily life such as public transport and local land use patterns in the "city of everyday life," many of which are of special concern to women.

The annual meeting of German-speaking women geographers was held May 6-9 in Bern, Switzerland. Details can be found on the homepage of Feministische Geographie of the Geog. Institute Bern: <http://www.giub.unibe.ch/femgeo/aktuell.html>. The group also met in June, 1998 in Innsbruck, Austria, the first such meeting in Austria. A workshop focused on post-structuralism and deconstruction. Usage and human interest in special spaces of the physical environment were examined to explore how power relations are involved in human relations with nature (especially as mediated by economic forces). Multi-sensual recording of responses the environment was the focus of a field trip to a close-by lake. The group also reflected on the current position of women in academic geography in their institutions -- in Germany, for example, women account for 50% of the geography students but only 5% of the faculty.

The First Graduate Colloquium in Gender and Geography took place at the University of Bern, Switzerland, October 19-21, 1998. Sixteen women from Germany, Switzerland, and Austria presented their work, discussed ideas, content, and methodologies.

The Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Honolulu in March, 1999 included over twenty sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group. Feminist presentations were also incorporated into other sessions, such as those on the multi-national metropolis project which included presentations on immigrant women. Several issues dealt with children's lives; a number with issues of diversity, difference, marginality, and inclusion; regionally oriented sessions addressed gendered geographies of Caribbean development, women in Asia and the Pacific, changing political economies in Latin

America; others took up thematic foci such as feminism and "imperial" discourse, and big city welfare reform. Sessions oriented to practice discussed teaching feminist geography and publishing your first book. The location of the meeting in the Mid-Pacific saw a substantial contingent of Australian and New Zealand feminist geographers participating, as well as Norah Chiang from Taiwan and Yukiko Bedford from Japan. The fund commemorating Glenda Laws awarded eight grants of \$200 each to support graduate student travel to the meeting.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Lynda Johnston (Waikato, New Zealand) has taken up a ten-month position in the Department of Geography at the University of Edinburgh. She continues to work on issues of gendered/sexed bodies and sexualized bodies and tourism.

Congratulations to Cindy Pope, graduate student in the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the University of Arizona has been awarded two grants, from the National Security Education Program and the Cuba Exchange Program, totally \$24,000 to undertake field research for her doctoral dissertation provisionally titled " A Global Epidemic and Local Response in Cuba: Women and HIV Prevention in Havana."

About 30 Korean women geographers held a meeting May 1, 1999. Hae Un Rii has been appointed general secretary of the Korean National Committee of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) from April, 1999 and a member (representative from Korea) in Steering Committee of PNC(Pacific Neighborhood Consortium) from January, 1999. Eun Sook Lee(Sangmyung University) was elected as a vice president of Korean Geographical Society in November, 1998.

Irene Hardill (Nottingham Trent University, UK) has been spending her sabbatical at University of British Columbia, Canada and University of California, Davis, University of Arizona, and Rutgers University (US), working on a book project about migration and dual career couples.

Proposals for papers are invited for a day long session at the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers 2000 Conference at the University of Sussex, UK (January 4-7 2000) on the theme "Europe: Gendered Boundaries, Gendered Spaces." The session is sponsored and organized by the Women and Geography Study Group. It aims to bring together work from a range of perspectives on the diverse linkages between gender and geography and to include work on eastern and western Europe and at all geographic scales. For further details contact Irene Hardill, Department of International Studies, The Nottingham Trent University,

Clifton Lane, Nottingham NG11 8NS, UK Fax: +44 (0)115 9486385; E-mail: Irene.Hardill@ntu.ac.uk or Fiona M. Smith, Department of Geography, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN, UK, Fax: +44 (0)1382 344434; E-mail: f.m.smith@dundee.ac.uk

Shahnaz Huq Hussain, University of Dhaka, Pakistan, has been promoted to full professor. She has developed a course on Gender, Development, and Environment at the M.Sc. level and has also been consulting for the World Bank and the UN.

During the 9th Festival of Geography 1-4 October, 1998, in St. Dié des Vosges (France), a debate was organized on "Où sont-elles? Les femmes et la géographie? Antoine Spire, journalist of France Culture lead the discussion in which many scholar took part including Stéphanie Condon (INED), Gisella Cortesi (University of Pisa), Zila Mesquita (University of Rio Grande), Doreen Massey (Open University), Jean-Bernard Racine (University of Lausanne). It provided an excellent opportunity to disseminate issues relating to gender. During the Festival, Doreen Massey received the International Prize of Geography Vautrin Lud.

Congratulations to Karen Nairn who has been awarded the Ph.D at the University of Waikato for her dissertation *Disciplining Identities: Gender, Geography and the Culture of Field Trips*.

A two-year grant from the Department for International Development (UK) has been awarded to Sara Gibbs (INTRAC, Oxford, UK), Emma Mawdsley, Gina Porter and Janet Townsend (University of Durham, UK) for the project "Whose ideas? Development charities talking, from the grassroots to the Internet." This will include work with local NGOs in Ghana, India and Mexico, and their contacts in Europe. Janet also supplied a list of questions from the listserv development-gender@mailbase.ac.uk. who would like to hear from "virtual speakers" to provoke discussion on themes related to the funding, operations, and power of "southern" NGOs -- everything from a women's group in a village to Oxfam International.

A section of the next Italian Geographical Congress (Rome, 18-22 June, 2000) will be dedicated to "Women in the City and the Spaces of Culture, Work, and Leisure." Gisella Cortesi and her colleagues are working hard in preparation.

In December, 1998-January, 1999, Janice Monk held a Nehru Chair in the Women's Research and Resource Center at M.S. Baroda University, India and also presented and met with colleagues and students in the Department of Geography there and with Saraswati Raju and colleagues in the Center for Regional Development Studies at Jawarharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Saraswati currently holds a second position at the Population Council in

New Delhi where she has been working on a project on men's roles in supporting women's reproductive health.