

# **INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY**

**NEWSLETTER NUMBER 24**

**MAY, 2000**

## **COMMISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS**

In her recent report to the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union, Chair Ruth Fincher highlighted activities of the last four years and proposed a plan for continuation. Among the activities reported were conferences, workshops, and meeting sessions in which over 400 people have participated and which the Commission either organized or co-sponsored. They include the following:

\*Women in the Asia-Pacific Region: Persons, Powers, and Politics, Singapore, 1997

\*Gender, Tourism, Fun?, Davis, USA, 1997

\*Workshop on Gender and Geography, Lujan, Argentina, 1997

\*Sessions on Gender and Human Rights and on Contemporary Agriculture and Rural Land Use, Association of American Geographers Conference, Boston, USA, 1998

\*Gender, Migration and Human Rights, IGU Regional Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 1998

\*Gendered Sites/Human Rights: Gendered Sights/Human Rites, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1998

\*Gendered Mobilities in Asia, Hong Kong, 1999

\*Women and Space in Latin America, Lomas de Zamora, Argentina, 1999

And the upcoming:

\*Beyond Tolerance: Social and Spatial Co-Existence: Lessons of Gendered Exclusions, Tel Aviv, Israel, May-June, 2000

\* Gender and the Geographies of Diversity, Seoul, Korea, August, 2000. The Commission newsletter, issued twice yearly, reaches close to 500 people directly and others via listservs in several countries.

These activities mark the Commission on Gender as one of the most active within the International Geographical Union, and also as one which routinely engages in collaborative programming with other groups within and beyond geography. To extend the Commission's work, Dr. Fincher has submitted a proposal for the period 2000-2004 for approval at the Seoul International Geographical Congress. Delegates from countries that hold membership in the IGU vote on these proposals. Proposed theme for the Gender Commission for 2000-2004 is "Gendered Spaces of Inclusion and Exclusion" which will offer opportunities to pursue work on the ways in which physical space is organized to produce gendered inequalities and also to attend to social scientific debates about identity and difference, asking questions about how gender combines with factors such as age and ethnicity to produce particular life experiences of inclusion and exclusion.

To register for the pre-Congress meeting of the IGU Commission on Gender and geography to be held in Seoul, Korea, August 12-13, 2000, send a bank cheque for \$US100 made out to Hae Un Rii , Local Organizer, at Dept of Geography, Dongguk

University, Seoul 100-715 Korea, by July 15, 2000. More information on this informal program, which includes discussions and local field trips, can be obtained from Hae Un Rii at [hurii@mail.dgu.ac.kr](mailto:hurii@mail.dgu.ac.kr) or FAX 82-2-516-5112.

## **RECENT MEETINGS**

The 22nd women's student meeting of German-speaking geographers was held in Zurich, March 31-April 2, 2000 on the theme, "Urban Spaces: Conceived, Planned, Lived, Created." It addressed feminist perspectives on ways in which motivations and power become concrete and (in)visible in space. For more information see [www.unizh.ch/fvgeogr/](http://www.unizh.ch/fvgeogr/)

At the Annual Geographentag convention in Hamburg, October, 1999, participants in gender workshops heard reports on diverse activities of the last year ranging from Doreen Massey's presentation earlier in the year in Hamburg on "Identity and Space" to the first graduate colloquium taking place in Bern, and a new workshop, AKSpunk, devoted to poststructuralist approaches in geography.

A workshop/conference was organized by the Women and Geography Study Group of the RGS/IBG in London, March 4, 2000 on the theme "Negotiating Careers for Women in Geography." Topics included working within academia and in other settings; combining personal and professional life; discrimination and harassment, and national agendas affecting women in academia.

A program on career issues for women in geography was held at the University of Zurich, March 1, 2000, organized by Elisabeth Buehler, Katja Brundiens, and Marina Richter.

At the 2000 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, more than 30 sessions were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group, with additional sessions organized by the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography, and numerous other papers on gender themes included in other sessions. Topics ranged from women and entrepreneurship to ecotourism, history of women in the discipline, and women's health. Especially well attended were sessions highlighting methodological issues: on "GIS: Gendered Science? Feminist Method?" and a series on qualitative methods.

Among sessions focused on gender at the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference in Brighton, January, 2000 was a day-long set of papers on geographic research on women in contemporary Europe. Presentations were given by an unusually diverse group of geographers from several eastern and western European countries, as well as US-based geographers. Topics included work in the service sector, immigration and identity, and aspects of the immigration experiences of women in the nursing profession.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

"The Nature of Gender/The Gender of Nature," the 5th interdisciplinary and international symposium in gender studies will be held November 10-12, 2000 at Christian-Albrechts University, Kiel, Germany. Possible topics include sex and gender: between nature and culture; natural science and technology as a male project; gender typical use of resources; gender-unbiased technologies. Contact: Susanne Oelkers, email: oelkers@zif.uni-kiel.de

"International Migration: New Patterns, New Theories" will be held September 11-13 at Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham UK. Thematic options include: migrant categories and experiences (refugees, enforced migration, and exile; careers and skilled migration; student migration; family reunification and marriage migration; undocumented migration); theorising migration (migration and socio-cultural theorisation; beyond the ethnic minority and race relations; migration and security; migration, exclusion, participation and citizenship; gender and international migration; comparative research). For information contact Dr. Caroline Nagel, Geography Division, Nottingham Trent University (Caroline.Nagel@ntu.ac.uk) or the website <http://human.ntu.ac.uk/im>

"Global Conference for Economic Geography" will be held in Singapore, December 6-8, 2000. The conference aims to provide a forum for cross-regional dialogue; to strengthen connections among geographers and other related scholars and between the Asian region and other parts of the world; and for geographers from all regions to experience the economic transformations within Singapore and southeast Asia. Suggested themes, including "engendering economic geography" are identified on the conference website, together with further details regarding registration at <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/geog/news2.htm>.

The Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting will be held May 31-June 2 at Brock University. At least two sessions on feminist geography are planned, together with two sessions on women and health co-sponsored with the Geography of Health and Health Care Study Group. In addition, a workshop on the "Status of Women in Canadian Geography" is scheduled.

Abstracts are sought for a half-day session on the theme "Geographies of Gender: Explorations into Current Postgraduate Research" for presentation at the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Annual Conference to be held in Plymouth, January, 2001. Abstracts (200 words) should be sent to Kath Brown (kbrowne@chelt.ac.uk) or Kathryn Morris-Roberts (K.Morris-Roberts@sheffield.ac.uk) by May 31, 2000.

Suggested themes include: gender and interlocking systems of difference; identity, space and place; interpretations, uses, and appropriations of feminisms; and methodology and ethics.

## **WEB SITES**

Georundbrief, the newsletter for German-speaking feminist geographers, will no longer be issued in paper form, but will be available on "Feministische Geographie" at

<http://www.giub.unibe.ch/femgeo>

Check <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw> for updates from the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Issues that NGOs have highlighted with the Commission include the negative consequences of globalization on women; the devastating consequences of armed conflict and internal displacement for women and girls; the urgent need for increased support for women peace activists in countries experiencing civil unrest; increased resources for protecting the human rights of women and girls, especially protection from gender violence; and greater attention to issues of the girl child and adolescent women, including their sexual and reproductive rights. For statistics on health, education, demography, labor force, by country and gender, see

<http://www.worldbank.org/gender/beijing5/>

Gender and Nation/Nationalism listserv: [fng-l@zrz.tu-berlin.de](mailto:fng-l@zrz.tu-berlin.de)

The Women of Color Website located at the address

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/grhf/WoC> explores the intersections of gender and "race" on topics such as feminism, sexuality, reproductive health and rights. The site emphasizes US material.

## **NEW JOURNALS**

Two new journals of interest to feminist geographers are Progress in Development Studies which will be launched in 2001 by Edward Arnold (contact Timothy\_Forsyth/FS/KSG@KSG.HARVARD/EDU for information on submission of papers and book reviews); and Social and Cultural Geography to be published by Routledge beginning September, 2000. The latter aims to include abstracts (150 words) of recently completed Ph.D research. Send information to Rob Kitchin, Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland ([rob.kitchin@may.ie](mailto:rob.kitchin@may.ie)).

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

Congratulations to Susan Hanson (USA) on her election to two highly prestigious bodies. She is the 11th geographer ever to have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and is the 12th geographer elected to the National Academy of Sciences. The elections recognize her outstanding work in urban geography and transportation geography. In both of these fields, her introduction of considerations of gender has been central to the research.

Graduate students at several US universities have formed "Support Women in Geography" groups (SWIG). To learn about activities or starting a group, see <http://www.unc.edu/depts/geog/swig/index.html>. Among recent SWIG activities are a session at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting on the climate for women graduate students, and a panel of well-known women geographers hosted at the

University of Texas, Austin by SWIG chapters from that University and Southwest Texas State University.

Janice Monk (USA) received Lifetime Achievement Honors from the Association of American Geographers at the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA in April, 2000.

Elisabeth Buehler (Zurich, Switzerland) is seeking information related to publications, research projects, or other literature on women/girls and sports. She can be contacted at [buehler@geo.unizh.ch](mailto:buehler@geo.unizh.ch)

Judit Timar (Hungary) has received a Fulbright award to pursue her collaborative research on rural women and entrepreneurship with Janet Momsen at the University of California-Davis, USA.

Best wishes to Gudrun Olafsdottir on her retirement from the University of Iceland which was celebrated with a day-long symposium. The program included an invited lecture by Janet Momsen (USA).

Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon (Spain) was awarded a visiting fellowship to carry out portion of her sabbatical study at the Durham University (UK). She will also be visiting at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Gender, Place and Culture. 6 (4), 1999, included tributes to Suzanne Mackenzie and a reprint of her article, "Restructuring the relations of work and life: women as environmental actors, feminism as geographical analysis." The first Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture will be given June 2, 2000 at the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting by Jennifer Hyndman.

Feminist geographers in office: Nora Chiang has been elected Secretary of the Geographical Society of China (Taipei). This is the second time she has held this position. Audrey Kobayashi is serving as Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Ruth Fincher is Vice President of the Institute of Australian Geographers, and Janice Monk has been elected Vice-President of the Association of American Geographers.

## **NEW BOOKS**

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Van Hoven-Iganski, Bettina. 2000. *Made in the GDR: The Changing Geographies of Women in the Post-Socialist Rural Society of Mecklenburg-Westpommern*. (KNAG/NGS Series, the Netherlands.) For information contact [cpostma@frw.rug.nl](mailto:cpostma@frw.rug.nl) or [b.van.hoven.iganski@frw.rug.nl](mailto:b.van.hoven.iganski@frw.rug.nl); Faculty der Ruimtelijke Wetenschappen, State University of Groningen, Fax:31-50-363-3901.

## **SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES**

Journal of Geography 98 (6), 1999 is devoted to research and resources for teaching about gender, emphasizing the high school level. The issue also includes a supplement by Rickie Sanders, Julie Tuason and Pamela Wridt, *Building Gender Equity in Geography Classrooms: A Guide to Designing A Professional Development Institute*. The guide presents the model developed as part of the National Council for Geographic Education's project, Finding A Way.

Documents d'Anàlisi Geogràfica 35, 1999 is devoted to papers presented at the 1998 Erasmus course in Barcelona on the theme "Women and environment, a gender perspective: from the global to the local."

Geojournal, 48 (3), 1999 is a special issue on the theme "Actors, activities, and the

geographical scene. Studies on time-geography, mobility, and gender," edited by Kajsa Ellegard and Ben de Pater. The papers were originally presented at the International Geographical Congress in the Netherlands in 1996. Those featuring gender are listed below by author.

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## **HOW THIS BIBLIOGRAPHY IS COMPILED**

The entries in this bibliography include items submitted to the newsletter editor, information from other newsletters and listservs, the table of contents available from the CARL Uncover database, and journal issues in the current periodicals section of the

University of Arizona library. The database is the main source and it emphasizes English-language journals. A number of geography journals are not included in any of these sources. It would be appreciated if you would send references, especially for books, book chapters, and articles in languages other than English to the newsletter editor, Janice Monk, [jmonk@u.arizona.edu](mailto:jmonk@u.arizona.edu); SIROW, Box 210025, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721 USA.