

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter No. 26

May, 2001

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Under the leadership of Agnes Musyoki, Vice-Chair of the Gender Commission, plans are developing for the Commission's participation in the IGU Regional Conference in Durban, August 4-7, 2002. The conference will incorporate gender sessions into the meeting times of the main conference. It is anticipated that there will be four sessions, each of two hours, sponsored by the Commission, with a fifth session co-sponsored with the Commission on Public Administration. The proposed overarching theme is "Access to Resources: Gendered Perspectives on Exclusion and Inclusion in Access to Resources." Sub themes and potential topics include:

- I. Gender in Accessing Land Resources (agricultural lands; urban lands; commercial lands; access to natural resources; land reform projects; inheritance rights; legal frameworks; the role of patriarchy)
- II. Gender Stratification in Business and Other Economic Activities (formal and informal sectors; gender and economic reforms; skills training; role of technology; transportation sector; housing; domestic income)
- III. Access to Resources During Periods of War and Conflict and Due to Natural Hazards (plight of women and children in conflict periods; access to medical care; food and shelter; impact of relocation)
- IV. Identities of Femininities: Women's Identities and Experiences of Inclusion and Exclusion (perspectives from different national, religious, and cultural contexts); theoretical perspectives.
- V. Gender and Public Policy Implementation (impact of gender equality frameworks; national gender equity practices; women in public office; corruption and accountability in public office; women and law; gender and public project management.

To access information about the Regional Conference including registration costs and dates, accommodation, field trips, paper submission etc., consult the web site <http://www.rhodes.ac.za/departments/geography/html/igu2001r> Early registration deadline is June 30, 2001 (\$US250); prior registration December 1, \$US275; regular registration February 15, 2002 \$US300; late registration (on site) \$US 350. Abstracts are due January 31, 2002.

If you are planning to attend, you may also wish to explore the possibility of participating in Women's Worlds 2002 that will be held at Makerere University, Uganda, July 21-26, 2002. These interdisciplinary conference, held every three years, have an outstanding reputation. Most recently held

in Norway, Australia, and Costa Rica, they address broad ranging themes and include plenaries with major scholars and public figures, paper and poster sessions, and cultural events. Wide ranging topics are proposed including gender and education; health; water, sanitation and housing; globalization; the economy and the workplace; gendered identities; gendering agriculture and the environment and others. For information, see the web site <http://www.makerere.ac.ug/womenstudies/congress2/index.htm> Note that this site lists a registration date of March, 2002, but requests abstracts by December 30, 2000. It would be worthwhile checking if the abstract deadline was firm.

The IGU Gender Commission is also exploring several other possible meetings over the next two years, including programs in North America and Europe. Information will be sent out via email and in the newsletter as it becomes available. For information on a proposed meeting in Toronto on the theme "Placing Gender/Making Policy" led by Fran Klodawsky and Valerie Preston, contact Fran.Klodawsky@pigeon.carleton.ca

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Elisabeth Bühler's (Switzerland) new atlas, Frauen- und Gleichstellungsatlas Schweiz (see New Books) is receiving considerable public attention in Switzerland. The atlas shows commonalities and differences in the situations of women and men at varying spatial scales in Switzerland. Among topics addressed in 40 maps, tables, other graphics and text are family status, labor market participation, education, politics, and work-family relation. Elisabeth has been approached about a possible French-language edition. She is also teaching a seminar on women and inequality in economic and social geography at the University of Zürich that is enrolling geographers and other social scientists.

ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies

(<http://www.acme-journal.org>) is inviting manuscripts in English, French and German and other languages will be considered after consultation with the editors. The journal aims to provide a forum for critical and radical work about space in the social sciences, including anarchist, anti-racist, environmentalist, feminist, marxist, postcolonial, post-structuralist, queer, situationist, and socialist perspectives. Editors are Lawrence Berg, Pamela Moss, and Caroline Desbiens.

Julie Graham (USA) has been spending a sabbatical at Australian National University. Her recent co-edited book (see J.K. Gibson Graham et al, in "New Books") addresses class through a feminist focus on such topics as sex work, the experiences of African American women as domestic laborers, and household and sexual politics.

Jan Monk (USA) visited European colleagues during her recent sabbatical,

giving presentations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Geography Institutes of the Universities of Bern and Zürich, and for the Catalan Geographical Society. She also had the chance to visit briefly with Gisella Cortesi at the University of Pisa.

Taking up new positions are Jacque Chase at California State University, Chico and Cindy Pope at Central Connecticut University (USA).

Geography and Gender: An Introduction to Feminist Geography published by the Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG in 1984 has been recognized as a "classic in human geography" by Progress in Human Geography. Commentaries on the text by Robyn Longhurst and Susan Smith with a collective response by the authors appear in Progress in Human Geography 25(2), 2001, 253-60.

An active group of feminist geography students is working in the Geography Institute at the University of Bern (Switzerland) under the leadership of Doris Wastl-Walter and Elisabeth Baeschlin. Their research interests span political, economic and cultural themes, among them women in peace movements, gender issues in non-governmental organizations, labor markets, technology issues, and spatial manifestations of desire in films.

Janet Momsen (USA) organized a highly successful year-long seminar program at the University of California, Davis on Geography and Environment. Feminist geographers who gave presentations as part of the series included Mariama Awumbila (University of Ghana, currently visiting at Harvard University), Judy Carney (University of California, Los Angeles), Barbara Fredrich (San Diego State University), Jan Monk (University of Arizona), Susan Place (California State University, Chico), and Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern.

Feminist geographers were saddened to learn of the death in September, 2000 of pioneering scholar Mildred Berman. Millie published some of the earliest work in the USA in feminist geography, including work on inequities in the profession and on geographer turned literary scholar, Millicent Todd Bingham. Millie was awarded Distinguished Service Honors posthumously by the Association of American Geographers at its 2001 meeting.

A team of geographers at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, coordinated by Maria Dolors García Ramon is collaborating with a team at the University of Hanover Institute of Architecture and Planning Theory, coordinated by Ursula Paravicini, and at CNRS Paris, coordinated by Jacqueline Coutras on a research project, "Gender-specific evaluation and comparison of three urban developments in a European context (Barcelona, Hanover, and Paris). The project is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. They are examining the impacts of rehabilitation projects that have been

designed to reduce marginalization and socio-spatial exclusion, considering public spaces, public transportation, housing and social and functional complexity. The research is primarily qualitative and involves interviews with planners and architects, diverse groups of male and female residents, and participant observation in the spaces being studied.

Congratulations to Richa Nagar (USA) who has been awarded a McKnight Land Grant Professorship for 2000-2002 at the University of Minnesota. The award provides funds and leave that will enable her to spend the academic year 2001-2002 studying spatial strategies adopted by rural women activists in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Mahadya Pradesh and Maharashtra, India.

WE (Women and Environments) International Magazine is preparing an issue 25 Years Later: Are Communities Better for Women. Papers will address issues such as housing, services, sustainability, community planning, and transportation. For information contact WE International Magazine IWSGS, New College, University of Toronto, 40 Willcocks St Toronto, ONT Canada M5S 1C6. <http://www.utoronto.ca/iwsgs/we.mag>

RECENT CONFERENCES

Migration and the "Asian Family" in a Globalising World WAS organized by Asian Metacentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, Family Studies Research Programme, National University of Singapore, and Commission on Gender and Geography, IGU. 16-18 April, 2001. It focused on mutually constitutive effects of "migration" and "family" in the Asian context, arguing on the one hand that migration as a life-changing decision and process is deeply embedded and must be understood in the context of family norms, relations and politics; and on the other that migratory moves often reconstitute the "Asian family" in ways which are sometimes destabilizing, sometimes affirming. Themes included: family and household strategies in migration; reunification or marriage and migration; migration and gender relations/politics within the family/household; effects of migration on sending and receiving countries; accompanying and 'left behind' spouses; migratory families in transnational spaces. The conference was followed by a training workshop on "Migration and Families: Different Approaches and Methods of Analysis, "19-26 April.

A meeting of geographers interested in gender was organized at the 8th Encuentro de Geografos de America Latina in Santiago, Chile, March 4-10, 2001. Participating were geographers from Argentina and Mexico. Plans were formulated to explore the writing of a geography of gender in South America (contact Monica Colombara, mlc@conae.gov.ar), develop a documentation center (contact Leticia Garcia leticia@cpenet.com.ar) and create an electronic listserv to disseminate information (contact Diana Lan,

dlan@fch.unicen.edu.ar). The group also began discussions for a possible II Jornada Latinoamericana de Geografía y género in 2003. Diana Lan is actively disseminating information on interdisciplinary meetings and projects of interest to feminist geographers. Among the forthcoming events is a major international, interdisciplinary program, *Mujer y desarrollo: construyendo el derecho a la igualdad* to be held at Universidad Austral de Chile, December 4-8, 2001. Abstracts are due July 30, 2001. Contact Diana Lan for the complete announcement.

Feminist geography was represented in many sessions at the February meetings of the Association of American Geographers in New York, with sessions sponsored by the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group, co-sponsored with other groups, and independently submitted papers and sessions. Series of sessions addressed Gendered Livelihoods (4 sessions); Fleshing out 'the Body' (2 sessions); Gender, Place, and Life Transitions (2 sessions); Gendering the State (2 sessions); Geographies of Marginalization (2 sessions); Household Structure, Spatial Mobility and Urban Growth (3 sessions); Information Technologies and Society (2 sessions); Political Activism in Geography (4 sessions); and Society Women (2 sessions). Notable was the presence of many feminist geographers from outside the US.

At the 28th Italian Geography Congress in Rome in 2000, Maria Luisa Gentileschi coordinated a session "Per una prospettiva storico-geografica di genere: le donne nella città e gli spazi della cultura del lavoro e del tempo libero." Gisella Cortesi presented her recent work analyzing the evolution of the male and female labor force in Italy from the 1970s-1990s, highlighting the increasing representation of women in the labor market and especially in tertiary activities, and their faster rate of improvement of educational qualifications than men's. Future research will focus on some innovative sectors and management, considering regional as well as gender differences.

At the spring, 2001 national meeting of Swedish geographers, scholars interested in gender agreed to strengthen their connections to the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography. Plans include preparation of a home page. Ann-Cathrine Åquist is currently serving as newsletter correspondent (Ann-Cathrine.Aquist@sam.oru.se)

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

The theme of the 2001 workshop organized by German-speaking women students of geography will be Women and Travel. It will address historical and contemporary aspects of travel and tourism including their patterns of travel and motivations. The group will meet in Berlin July 6-8. Contact Geografinnentreffen2001@yahoo.de for further information before June 18,

2001. This meeting is one of a series of Geografinntreffen first organized in 1989.

Regional Development and Gendered Labour Markets will be the theme of the First Munich International Geography Lecture to be held from July 2-6, 2001 at the Geography Institute of the Technical University of Munich, Germany. Speakers from England, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Austria, the US, and Germany will participate. Discussions will be in English. Organizers are Verena Meier, Michaela Schier, Sabine Malecek, and Anne von Streit. For further information, contact michaela.schier@ws.tum.de

Calls for papers have been issued for the 2002 Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Conference to be held in Belfast, Ireland, January 2-6. Sessions are planned on Feminist Methodologies (organized by Sarah Jenkins, Verity Jones, and Deborah Dixon (contact Verity Jones) and "Complex Households/Chaotic Families (contact Nicola Ansell (nicola.ansell@brunel.ac.uk) or Sarah Maguire (cs.maguire@ulst.ac.uk)).

NEW BOOKS

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SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

María José González, Teresa Jurardo, and Manuela Naldini have edited a special issue of *Southern European Politics and Society*, Volume 4, no. 2 on the theme "Gender Inequalities in Southern Europe." The issue contains ten articles on patterns of change and continuity in the labor market, the family, the welfare state, and political participation. The authors reject foreign models of gender equality to examine southern European patterns through the lens of the Universal Caregiver Model.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

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