

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER NO. 37

NOVEMBER, 2006

Symposium on Sustainable Public Places: Feminist Perspectives on Appropriation, Representations, and Planning of Public Spaces -- June 1-3, 2007

Under the leadership of **Elisabeth Bühler**, the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography is organizing a symposium at the Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland. The symposium aims to share scientific knowledge on appropriation processes in public spaces from a gender perspective; to discuss critically representations and concepts of public space and social justice in public space; and to evaluate theoretical and practical approaches to planning, design, and regulation of public spaces in different local contexts in western and non-western societies. It is especially concerned with multicultural societies and to evaluate the potentials of local planning and regulation policies to foster sustainable public places.

The provisional program includes an opening informal dinner, Friday, June 1; paper sessions and a downtown field trip guided by the Association of Women City Walks (on historical perspectives on urban planning and women's everyday lives) paper sessions and conference dinner on June 2, and an optional one-day field trip to the Swiss Alps on June 3 that will focus on symbolic and everyday life aspects of Alpine landscapes and public places. Participants may also wish to join a symposium of the IGU Commission on Public Policy to be held in Bern, June 4-6 on the theme of "Local Governance and Citizenship."

Details for the Zurich program will be posted shortly to the IGU Gender Commission and other mailing lists or can be obtained by emailing Dr. Elisabeth Bühler (buehler@geo.unizh.ch).

The Gender Commission's Activities in the IGU Regional Congress in Australia and New Zealand

The Gender Commission held very successful programs at the 2006 Regional Congress, including a pre-Congress symposium at the University of Waikato in New Zealand (June 28-30, 2006) and a half-day field trip, three sessions, and a business meeting at the Congress in Brisbane, July 3-7. We very much appreciate the contributions of **Robyn Longhurst** and colleagues in hosting the symposium (see below) and the organizational

work of **Jenny Cameron** (Griffith University) in developing the exciting field trip and an excellent program in Brisbane.

The Brisbane Sessions

--Tovi Fenster, Chair, Commission on Gender and Geography

Our activities opened with a keynote session titled “Regional Responses to Global Changes: Gendered Views from the Antipodes.” The session was dedicated to **Jan Monk’s** contributions to the field of Gender and Geography upon her retirement from the University of Arizona. **Robyn Longhurst** opened by referring to Jan’s paper, *Place Matters* (1994) and presented an extensive review of the development of feminist geography in New Zealand. **Ruth Fincher** drew on Australian research on spaces of difference from a gendered perspectives, mentioning two of Jan’s contributions to promoting gender and geography: her institutional activities which link different academic activities around the world and her writings that have made visible the histories of women geographers and their contributions. **Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon** focused on Jan’s contribution to the development of Gender and Geography in Spain, emphasizing her collaborative work and the ways in which it enabled the research of feminist geographers around the world to become part of “core” Anglo – American knowledge. The session ended with Jan’s response in which she mentioned her motivations and activities in relation to the production of knowledge across specific places with the intention of building beyond hegemonies. She elaborated on various strategies including co-editing an international book series, teaching, and collaborative work research with the “other.” She concluded her talk by saying that it was always important to her to emphasize that “we do not travel alone.” Jan has used her leadership, networking opportunities and resources to reinforce diversity both inside and outside the Anglo-American world.

The other sessions focused on issues such as “Gendered Construction of ‘Nature,’” and “Crossing Borders: a Gendered Perspective.” The sessions were well attended by students and other scholars and stimulated challenging and provoking discussions.

Field Trip

The half-day field trip, led by **Jenny Cameron**, (Griffith University, Australia) focused on visits to historical and current sites in inner Brisbane that have been important in feminist struggles. Among those included were the Regatta Hotel on the Brisbane River where feminists famously chained themselves to the public bar; a former women's house create as a “safe” space and base for activism, Musgrave Park, a site of Aboriginal significance, and the Brisbane Museum. The group ended with a light dinner in a Middle Eastern restaurant.

Business meeting

Some 15 people participated in the Commission's at which main issues discussed were the Commission's future activities and proposed themes for the years 2008-2012 (the latter was discussed as part of the preparations for the IGU Conference in Tunis in 2008), and the possibilities of translation of the Commission's newsletter into languages other than English.

Future Activities

Elisabeth Bühler introduced her program for the Commission's meeting in Zurich in June 2006 (detailed information about this meeting appears separately). **Nora Chiang** (Taiwan) expressed her interest in organizing a Commission meeting in Taiwan in November, 2007. In addition, I wish to inform you that **Saraswati Raju** expressed interest in organizing a Commission meeting in New Delhi at the beginning of 2008. We all hope that these initiatives will yield meetings in these two places and we look forward to taking part in them.

The Commission's pre-meeting at the IGU in Tunis, 2008

We discussed various suggestions for the location of the pre-meeting such as Paris, Greece, and the south of France. Eventually, it was decided to organize the meeting in Tunis itself despite of the difficulty of identifying a local organizer. I am trying various ways to pinpoint such a person and so far without success. If any of you know Tunisian scholars who can help us organizing our pre-meeting please contact me (tobiws@post.tau.ac.il).

We have decided in the meeting that: '**Gendered Perspectives: Connecting Across Difference**' will be the Commission's theme for 2008-2012

Translation of some parts of the newsletter into languages other than English

In the interests of reaching more members and in recognition of the IGU's bilingual polices (English-French) it has been decided to translate some parts of the newsletter, especially those dealing with future activities. As an initial step, **Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon** has offered to prepare Spanish translation. We greatly appreciate her initiative. It will be mailed in a separate email from the English-language version because of message length.

Shifting Boundaries: Gender, Bodies and Spaces: Gender Commission Symposium

--Robyn Longhurst, Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning, University of Waikato.

Public toilets, breastfeeding, Bedouin women in Israel, women's employment in Guyana, men's houses in Papua New Guinea and weddings were just a few of the topics discussed in Hamilton, New Zealand on June 28-30, 2006 at the Gender Symposium hosted by the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning, University of Waikato. Approximately twenty women and one man, including leading academics and emerging

scholars from Hawaii, Spain, Israel, United Kingdom, United States, the Netherlands, Taiwan and New Zealand reflected on how boundaries, whether psychoanalytic, discursive and/or 'real', are threshold spaces that differentiate one thing from another. Boundaries play an important role in social and spatial ordering. Shifting or crossing boundaries often disrupts the social and spatial order.

The first two days of the Symposium were devoted to paper presentations. On the third day delegates embarked upon a field trip led by Angeline Greensill to Whaingaroa Raglan, a small coastal town on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand, well known for its surfing, music, artisans, cafes, and 'lifestyle.' Delegates heard and saw how Whaingaroa has been, and continues to be, shaped by complex gender, social, cultural, environmental, and Māori politics.

TRAVEL GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS IN FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY

The *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* Annual Award for New and Emerging Scholars

The editorial team at *Gender, Place and Culture* is pleased to introduce an annual award valued at US\$1000 for new and emerging scholars. Priority for this award will be given to current graduate students or faculty members within 3 years of receiving their Ph.D, who work in departments where little or no money is available for conference participation and who have no recourse to grants from funding agencies such as the Economic and Social Research Council and the National Science Foundation or equivalent.

This award is intended to be used for attendance at an international conference of your choice, at which you will present a paper on a topic relating to feminist geography. The successful applicant is expected to use the award within one year of its receipt.

Applicants are asked to submit the following:

- an abstract of the conference paper (250 word max);
- a brief CV;
- a proposed budget (for accommodation, travel, conference fees, per diem, etc);
- conference information including confirmation of acceptance of your paper;
- and a cover letter including your contact details (mailing address, email, and telephone number).

Please send your applications to Linda Peake (lpeake@yorku.ca) by March 1, 2007.

A decision on the award will be made within 4 weeks of this deadline.

Within one month of attending the conference the successful applicant is expected to submit receipts as well as a one page report.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt and **Colin Filer** (Australian National University) have a grant from the Australian Research Council for the project "Creating Empowered

Communities: Gender and Sustainable Livelihoods in a Coal Mining Region in East Kalimantan, Indonesia” for the years 2006-2008. It asks how the empowerment of women within a mine-affected community can contribute to the development of sustainable local livelihoods, and will test the hypothesis that women’s empowerment is the key to wider community empowerment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods in mine-affected communities. The research aims to develop better strategies or models of good practice for the management of ‘community affairs’ by mining companies operating in Indonesia and other developing countries of the Asia Pacific region, to build capacity within the company to move away from the conventional model of ‘managing community affairs’ to build the capacity of local communities to manage their own affairs.

A report on current research on German-language research on migration from gender and queer perspectives is included in *Feministisches Geo-Rundmail* 30, July 2006. Research described includes the dissertation project of **Nadia Baghdadi** (University of Bern) “Integration, gender und Zugehörigkeit: qualifizierte Migrantinnen mit muslimischem Hintergrund in der Schweiz”; **Bettina Büchler** (University of Bern) “Desire:Migration: Real and Imagined Spaces and Places of Queer Migrant Women in Switzerland;” **Marina Richer** (University of Fribourg) “Integration, Identität, Differenz: Der Integrationsprozess aus der Sicht spanischer Migrantinnen und Migranten;” **Pascal Herzig** “Gender and Generation in Diaspora: Changing Identities and Shifting Social Boundaries among South Asians in Kenya (contact: pascale.herzig@freesurf.ch); the publications and habitation research of **Felicitas Hillmann** (University of Bremen) “Migration als Räumliche Definitionsmacht;” and **Yvonne Riaño** (University of Bern) “Social Integration and Exclusion and Exclusion of Immigrant Women in Switzerland”.

Janet Momsen (University of California, Davis) is currently editing a four volume reader for Routledge on Gender and Development with the submission deadline next July. She recently taught a graduate course on Gender and Development at the University of Bern which attracted 25 students from Bern and two other Swiss Universities.

A Summer School “Gendered Globalization: was held at the University of Bern, August 28-September 1, 2006 at the University of Bern. For further information contact www.gendercampus.ch/C12/development

Emma Wainwright, Elodie Marandet and **Fiona Smith** (Brunel University, UK) have been awarded a grant by the Economic and Social Research Council for the research project “The Body-Training Choices, Expectations, and Experiences of Mothers in West London.” This two and half year project explores the implications of current welfare-to-work policies for mothers’ embodied learning.

A series of Indian films, produced as part of the project “A Woman’s Place” offers a resource for feminist geography classes. Included in the series is Q2P, a film by Paromita Vohra, about searching for public toilets in the city of Mumbai (with a detour to Delhi). In the process, the film deals with issues such as how gender is constructed within urban space, the shifting boundaries of public and private, and how silences surrounding

toilets is similar to that surrounding inequality. Information on acquiring the film and the catalogue of films from the project is available from D-404 Trans Apartments, Mahakali Caves Rd., Andheri (E) Mumbai, 4000093, India (parodevi@gmail.com). Thanks to **Reena Patel** for this information.

Congratulations to **Sorina Voiculescu**, University of West Timisoara (Romania) on her promotion to Assistant Professor. She reports that although gender is not an “official” part of the geography curriculum she is able to teach it as an optional course to second year students.

Liz Bondi (University of Edinburgh) recently visited the University of Northern British Columbia where she spoke on “Relationships and counseling in remote Scottish communities” at the Symposium on Caring for the North: Gender, Care and Northern Places.

Gisella Cortesi (University of Pisa, Italy) is serving as the coordinator of a newly established Study Group on Gender and Geography in AGEI (the **Association of Italian Geographers**). The Group held its first meeting in Udine, 25 May, 2006. We wish the group success!

Maureen Hays Mitchell (Colgate University, US) has received an advance contract from Penn State Univ Press for an edited volume titled *Gender and Democratization in Societies at War*. She is collaborating with Jill Irvine, political scientist in Women's and Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma. They held a workshop at Colgate in October, 2006 at Colgate for contributors to the project. Geographers contributing to this interdisciplinary project include **Timi Mayer** (Middlebury College, US), **Jennifer Hyndman** (Simon Fraser University, Canada), and **Liz Oglesby** (University of Arizona, US).

Somayeh Noshad, an MA student in the social and humanities faculty, Tabriz University, Iran is undertaking research on gender and urban spaces under the title of "The Role of Social and Cultural Factors in Women's Use of Urban Spaces." She is focusing on public spaces, especially parks and green spaces. Her main goal is to explore the factors which cause women to feel uncomfortable and even not eager to use these places, even though Islam does not limit women's use of these spaces. She is interested to hear of other related research projects and publications. (Somayeh_Noshad@yahoo.com).

Congratulations to **Geraldine Pratt** (University of British Columbia, Canada) who is the recipient of the 2005 Canadian Association of Geographers Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography. This award, first given in 1972, has not previously been made to a woman geographer. The extended citation (see www.cag-acg.ca) among others Gerry's sustained contributions to theoretical and empirical work in feminist geography, her significant association in collaborative research with the Philippines Women's Centre in Vancouver, her supervision and mentoring of some 75 graduate students, and her editorship since 1995 of *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.

Farhana Sultana (Kings College, University of London) sends information on the Gender and Water Alliance: <http://www.genderandwater.org/> and the Water Forum <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/WATER-FORUM.html>, a discussion group. Other resources for those interested in gender and water issues are linked to her web site: http://www.farhanasultana.com/information_links/information_links.htm

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

A theme set of papers on women and homelessness in Canada is featured in *Gender, Place and Culture* 13(4), 2006, brought together by Fran Klodawsky, is an effort to address an issue neglected in the literature of feminist geography. It aims to “highlight the often hidden and variable nature of gendered homeless” bringing together studies from Ontario, Canada. Individual articles in the set are listed below by author.

ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies has issued two numbers devoted to gender themes. **Kate Boyer** has guest edited 5(1) 2006 on the theme of “Gender, Space, and Technology” and **Kathryn Besio** and **Pamela Moss** have guest edited 5(2) 2006 on “Sexuality and Gender” (see below for individual articles).

International Migration Review 40(1) 2006 is a special issue on gender and migration.

NEW BOOKS

Anderson, Kay. 2006. *Race and the Crisis of Humanism*. London & New York: Routledge.

Blunt, Alison. and Robyn Dowling. 2006. *Home*. London: Routledge.

Buckingham, Susan and Geraldine Lievesley (eds). 2006. *In the Hands of Women: Paradigms of Citizenship*. Manchester, UK. Manchester University Press

Carcangiu Bianca Maria (ed.). 2004. *Donne e potere nel continente africano*. Torino, L'Harmattan Italia, pp. 341.

Cortesi, Gisella, Flavia Cristaldi, and Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (eds): 2006. *La Città delle donne: un approccio de genere al geografia urbana*. Bologna: Patrón Editore. (This is an Italian translation of the volume from the IGU Gender Commission’s Meeting in Rome in 2003.)

Hillmann, Felicitas. 2006. *Migration als räumliche Definitionsmacht*. In the series *Erdkundliches Wissen*, Steiner Verlag (forthcoming at the end of 2006).

Huq-Hussain, Shanaz, Amanat Ullah Khan and Janet Momsen. 2006. *Gender Atlas of Bangladesh*. Geographical Solutions Research Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (<https://ws.dhakauniv.edu>)

Jaquette, Jane and Gail Summerfield (eds). 2006. *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice: Institutions, Resources, and Mobilization*. Chapel Hill: Duke University Press.

Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala. 2006 (ed.) *Fluid Bonds: Views of Gender and Water Contact*. Kokata: Sree Books.

Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala and Martha McIntyre (eds). 2006. *Women Miners in Developing Countries: Pit Women and Others*. Abingdon: Ashgate.

Mattlingly, Doreen J. and Ellen R. Hansen (eds). 2006. *Women and Change at the US-Mexico Border: Mobility, Labor, and Activism*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Oyewumi, E. (ed.) 2005. *African Gender Studies: A Reader*. London: Palgrave.

Premchandler, Smita and Christine Müller (eds). 2006. *Gender and Sustainable Development: Case Studies from NCCR North-South*. Bern: NCCR North-South, Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South.

Radcliffe, Sarah A.(ed.) 2006. *Culture and Development in a Globalising World: Geographies, Actors and Paradigms*. Routledge, London/New York.

Wright, M. 2006. *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism*. London: Routledge.

IGU COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY WORKING PAPER

The Commission has issued a new Working Paper, No. 35, by Sunghee Kim, Sunchon University, South Korea and Janet Henshall Momsen, University of California, Davis, USA, "Globalization and the Gender Gap and Traditional Gender Differences in South Korea.

Copies may be purchased by sending a check \$5 US on a US bank to Janet Momsen, Department of Human and Community Development, University of California, Davis, USA 95616.

RECENT ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Agüera-Cabo, Mercè.2006. "Gender, Values and Power in Local Environmental Conflicts: The Case of Grassroots Organisations in North Catalonia" *Environmental Values*, 15 (4), November.

Aitken, Stuart C. 2006. "Leading men to violence and creating spaces for their emotions." *Gender, Place and Culture* 13(5): 491- 507.

- Baylina-Ferre, Mireia, Anna Ortiz-Guitart and Maria Prats. 2006. "Children's playgrounds in Mediterranean cities: *Children's Geographies* 4(2): 173-83.
- Benson, Koni and Richa Nagar. 2006. "Collaboration as resistance? Reconsidering the processes, products, and possibilities of feminist oral history and ethnography." *Gender, Place and Culture* 13(5): 581-92.
- Besio, Kathryn. 2006. "Chutes and Ladders: Negotiating Gender and Privilege in a Village in Northern Pakistan." *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 5(2):258- 278.
- Besio, Kathryn and Pamela Moss, 2006. "Introduction to ACME Special Issue on Sexuality and Gender: Sexed, Unsexy and Gendered Spaces of Inversions and Reversals *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 5(2) 112-120.
- Bezuidenhout, Andries and Khayat Fahier. 2006. "Maria's burden: contract cleaning and the crisis of social reproduction in post-Apartheid South Africa." *Antipode* 38(3): 462-85.
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- Bonds, Anne. 2006. "Calling on Femininity? Gender, Call Centers, and Restructuring in the Rural American West." *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 5(1): 28-49.
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- Brown, Michael and Larry Knopp. 2006. "Places or polygons? Governmentality, scale, and the census in the *Gay and Lesbian Atlas. Population, Space and Place* 12(4): 223-42.
- Chant, Sylvia. 2006. "Contributions of a Gender Perspective to the Analysis of Poverty." in Jane Jaquette and Gale Summerfield(eds) *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice: Institutions, Resources and Mobilisation* (Duke University Press:Durham, North Carolina), pp.87-106.
- . 2006. "Female Household Headship, Privation and Power: Challenging the 'Feminisation of Poverty' Thesis,". In Patricia Fernández Kelly and Jon Shefner (eds), *Out of the Shadows: Political Action and the Informal Economy in Latin America*, Penn State University Press: Philadelphia, pp.125-63.
- . 2006. Re-thinking the 'Feminisation of Poverty' in Relation to Aggregate Gender Indices, *Journal of Human Development*, 7 (2): 201-20.
- . (forthcoming, 2007) *Gender, Generation and Poverty: Exploring the Feminisation of Poverty' in Africa, Asia and Latin America* (Edward Elgar: Cheltenham). (Will be published in paper and cloth, July/August 2007).
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