

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER 39

NOVEMBER, 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear All,

Since this is the last newsletter for 2007 let me look back and forth on the Commission's activities this year. It was a very productive year for our Commission with two excellent meetings in two distinct parts of the world; In Zurich and In Taipei. In each of the meetings we not only discussed the direct themes of the meetings (Sustainable Public Spaces in Zurich and Transnational Lives in Taipei) but also managed to learn a lot about women's activities in these cities and regions and altogether they added a lot to our understanding of the extent to which gendered geographies develop, work and change in different cultural, political and social setups. I am happy to inform you that several publications will come out of these meetings so that a wider academic audience can benefit from the knowledge presented there. It's a good opportunity to thank again **Elisabeth Bühler** and **Nora Chiang** for their excellent work in organizing the meetings in Zurich and Taipei.

Looking forward to the year 2008, we focus our efforts on the main IGU conference in Tunis on 12-15, August, 2008. This will most probably be the only meeting of the Commission next year. The conference website has already been setup (www.igc-tunis2008.com). The major issue concerning this conference is the very high registration fees (650 Euro for early bird) that doesn't allow many people to take part. This issue is now being discussed by the IGU President and Vice Presidents and the Tunisian local organizers and we are waiting to hear the results of their talks. As we decided in Brisbane 2006 and again in Taipei 2007, the Commission will not have a pre-meeting but will have its sessions in the main conference. Those of you who do submit abstracts to the Commission's sessions must select in the 'abstract submission form' the category 'Commissions' and then select our Commission and please send a copy of the abstract to me as well so that we can do a follow up (tobiws@post.tau.ac.il).

I'd like to inform you that **Ruth Fincher** has agreed to submit her candidacy for the elections of the IGU Vice Presidents that will take part at the Tunis conference. There are 7 vacancies and we hope that Ruth will be one of those elected.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank **Jan Monk** for taking the initiation and scanning all the Commission's newsletters. It is possible to find them in the Commission's website. This

is a good opportunity to thank **Joos Droogleever Fortuijn** our past Chair for her great job in keeping our website up to date.

I wish to send you seasonal greetings and a Happy New Year,

Tovi Fenster – Chair.

SUCCESSFUL COMMISSION SYMPOSIUM ON “SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PLACES,” UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Between May 31- June 3 a highly successful symposium, organized for the Commission by **Elisabeth Bühler** addressed “Sustainable Public Places: Feminist Perspectives in Appropriation, Representations, and Planning of Public Spaces.” Over 50 participants, together with visiting students participated in paper sessions, a walking tour of Zurich, and a day-long field trip to examine historical gender relations in the Gotthard region of the Alps. Organized into eight sessions, speakers addressed diverse locations, especially in western Europe but also in eastern Europe, South Africa and Kenya, Argentina, the Caribbean, Indonesia and the US. In addition to the presentation of research findings on specific places, presentations took up methodological and theoretical concerns, emphasized challenging and resisting divisions between the “public” and “private” in space, and considered the gender effects of and implications for planning of public spaces.

The Alps field trip, led by geographer **Verena Meier-Kruker** and historian, **Elisabeth Joris**, offered not only spectacular scenes (and beautiful sunshine) in the Gotthard Region of the Alps, but opportunities to learn from local history displays of gender roles and relations in the region, particularly in the building of the Gotthard Tunnel, where work by women (including immigrant women) in providing local services such as boarding houses, laundries, and bakeries , was an important and overlooked part of the history of the this major engineering work.

A detailed SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) of the symposium is available on the Commission’s web site (<http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/igu/gender>). It highlights the value of such a well-organized, cohesive, and international event, the high quality of the papers, the variety of junior and senior participation, and the friendly, relaxed and cooperative atmosphere. Suggestions for improvements, (insofar as these are feasible) include more time for discussion in a packed program, efforts to secure more funding, especially for junior participants and those from low-income countries (always a challenge), and the dilemma of choosing between designing a conference that has all plenary sessions or organizing parallel sessions.

A selection of the papers is forthcoming in *Geographica Helvetica* (1, 2009), the Swiss journal of geography, in a special issue devoted to “Public spaces in pluralistic societies.” (no 1, 2009), one a “state of the art” paper and four empirical studies selected by the conference organizer and journal editors. Discussions are underway to develop a book-length publication including other contributions.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE ON “TRANSNATIONAL LIVES: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON CITIZENSHIP, HOME, AND BELONGING

Under the leadership of **Nora (Lan Hung) Chiang**, the Commission is holding a symposium in Taipei, November 23-26. The more than 20 presentations will emphasize the Asia-Pacific region, but also include presentations on and by scholars from other parts of the world. Local field trips include meetings with women's organizations and a day-long scenic tour. A full report on the symposium will be included in the Spring, 2008 newsletter.

“FEMINIST GEOGRAPHIES AROUND THE WORLD”

A special issue of *Belgeo* (2007/3) features papers that address the varying ways in which feminist geography has developed in an array of countries reflecting the contextualization of knowledge. Guest edited by **Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon** and **Janice Monk**, the papers were originally given at the symposium organized at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in February, 2006 which had as its goal an examination of and challenge to Anglo-American hegemony in the discipline. In addition to the editors' introduction, which also draws on comments by multi-national round table panel at the symposium, papers included in the special issue address developments in feminist/gender studies in geography in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa (**Mariama Awumbila**), Argentina/Brazil (**Diana Lan** and **Susana Veleza da Silva**), France (**Dominique Creton**), the German-language geographies of Austria, Germany and Switzerland (**Elisabeth Bühler** and **Karen Baechli**), Hungary (**Judit Timar**), Singapore (**Shirlena Huang** and **Brenda Yeoh**), Spain (**Fabia Diaz**, **Maria Dolors Garcia-Ramon** and **Anna Ortiz Guitart**) the UK (**Jo Little**) and US (**Altha Cravey**). Full details on how to purchase copies of the journal will be sent in a separate email message.

COMMISSION'S NEWSLETTERS NOW ON WEB SITE

All issues of the IGU Gender Commission's newsletters, beginning with No. 1, November 1988, are now available on the Commission's web site, <http://ww2.fmg.uva.nl/igu/gender> (click on newsletters). Future newsletters will continue to be posted. Thanks to **Susan Kaleita**, graduate student in the Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Arizona, who made pdf copies of all 38 back newsletters, and **Joos Droogleever Fortuijn**, University of Amsterdam, who had them uploaded. In addition to reporting on Commission events and news of feminist geographers' activities, the newsletters include an extensive bibliography of publications on gender in geography over the last 20 years.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Elisabeth Bühler gave an invited presentation “Gender in Geography: An Essential Basis of Analysis” at the 60th Anniversary of the Geographical Institute *Jovan Cvijic* of the Serbian Academy of Sciences in Belgrade, September 24-25. She introduced important concepts in the field and illustrated them with results of her recent research in Switzerland on *home, labour market, and welfare state*. Elisabeth was invited by the Institute’s President, **Marina Todovoric** who had been able to attend the Commission’s Symposium in Zurich in June as a result of funding Elisabeth secured to support participation by three eastern European geographers. The Zurich meeting was Marina’s first opportunity to participate in an international feminist geography meeting. In addition to Elisabeth’s paper in Belgrade, two of the remaining 80 presentations dealt with gender themes: **Mirjana Racevic** on “Serbia: Transition from Abortion to Contraception or Not?” and by **Ankica Kuborovic** on “Socio-demographic characteristics of female and male population of central Serbia: Beginning of the first decade of 21st century.” The gender component in the event in Belgrade represented an innovation in Serbian geography

Congratulations to **Janet Momsen** on receiving the 2007 Edward Heath Award from the Royal Geographical Society for research on gender and the developing world. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in London, June 4, 2007. It recognizes her pioneering and sustained contributions. Janet was the founding chair of the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography (and the preceding Study Group) and also organized its first major conference in 1988 which resulted in her co-edited book *Different Places, Different Voices: Gender and Development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America*. Janet retired from the University of California, Davis in November, having attained promotion to the highest level ever awarded to a woman geographer in the University of California system. She will be living in England and has been elected as a member of the International Gender Studies Group at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford.

Amriah Buang has been commissioned by the Malaysia-based NAM (Non Alligned Movement Institute for the Empowerment of Women (NIEW) to conduct a study leading to the construction of data base on women’s empowerment in all the 118 NAM member countries, starting from 1st October 2007 through to the end of 2008.

Elisabetta Donini reports that the memory of the late Italian geographer, **Anna Segre** (Università de Torino) was honored at a conference dedicated to her in June, 2005 and publication of the book, *Geografia, Società, Politica* (Egidio Dansero *et al.*, eds). (see below). Through her research and her sociopolitical engagement, Anna deeply contributed to the development in Italy of a gender sensitive approach in environmental and geographical studies; she was also very interested in keeping in touch with the "gender and geography" international network. The third part of the book (p. 159-233) is focused on a gendered discussion of issues related to development, environment, space perception and cartography.

A very successful symposium on “Gender, Science and Technology: Vision for the 21st Century” was held at the **21st Pacific Science Congress**, June 12-18 in Okinawa, Japan. The Congress was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Science Council of Asia where there was also a session on women, science, and family life. The next Pacific Science Congress will be in Tahiti, French Polynesia, in March 2009. Congratulations to **Nancy Lewis**, geographer and Director of Studies, East-West Center, Hawaii, on her election as **Vice-President** of the Pacific Science Association for a four-year term.

At the October meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (US), the Program Committee organized a special plenary session to celebrate and reflect on the 25th anniversary of the paper “On Not Excluding Half of the Human in Human Geography,” (*The Professional Geographer*, 32, 1982, 11-32) by **Janice Monk** and **Susan Hanson**. Panelists addressed the writing, reception, and impact of the article.

Congratulations to **Tovi Fenster** (Commission Chair) who has been named Head of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel. She took up this position (concurrent with her appointment in Geography) in August, 2007.

At the April 2007 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, 45 sessions were sponsored or co-sponsored by the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group. Sessions ranged over a wide range of themes, for example, the politics of activist research, gendered post-socialism, perspectives on gender-water geographies, quantitative geographies: beyond the critical/analytical binarism, ethics and practice in feminist research, and states and subjectivities: interrogating social organization of economic practice. Additionally, panel discussions addressed aspects of the experiences of women geographers by focusing on topics including the women of color and early career women in physical geography. Several “author meets critics” sessions highlighted recent feminist books as did an exceptionally well attended wine and cheese reception at a local bookstore which featured books published in feminist geography over the last year.

Cindi Katz, who with co-editor, Nancy K. Miller has been awarded the Council of Editors of Learned Journals Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement for their co-editorship of *Women's Studies Quarterly*. Congratulations.

Information on current research by **Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** (Australian National University) on gender and sustainable livelihoods in a coal-mining community in Indonesia can now be accessed online <http://empoweringcommunities.anu.edu.au>). The project is supported by the Australian Research Council.

Congratulations to **Tracey Skelton** who was promoted to a personal chair of Professor of Critical Geographies at Loughborough University (UK) in May 2007. Since July she has been on leave from Loughborough and is working in the Department of Geography at the National University of Singapore.

Congratulations to **Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon** (Autonomous University of Barcelona) who has been elected to membership in the prestigious interdisciplinary Institut d'Estudis Catalans, an honor reserved for scholars of distinction. For the lecture on May 21 to celebrate her induction to membership she presented some of her feminist, postcolonial research on women travelers: “ Exploració, Geografia I Estudis Postcolonials. Una Mirada de Gènere sobre les Narratives de Viatges (Gertrude Bell, 1868-1926). She thinks this presentation was the first on gender given in this context before the Institut.

From October 9-11, the IGU Commission on the Cultural Approach in Geography held a conference at the University of Buenos Aires on “Cultural Aspects in Economic, Social and Political Geographies.” Two sessions on gender were included: “Sexualidades, Género y Construcción Cultural del Espacio” (Sexualities, Gender and the Cultural Constuction of Space and “Género, Trabajo y Subjectividades” (Gender, Work and Subjectivities).

NEW BOOKS

Aitchison, Cara, Peter Hopkins, and Mei-Po Kwan (eds). 2007. *Geographies of Muslim Identities: Diaspora, Gender and Belonging*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Arunachahm, Jaya and U. Kalpagam (eds). 2007. *Rural Women in South Asia*. Japiur: Akhil Books.

Brooks, Ann. 2006. *Gendered Work in Asian Cities: The New Economy and Changing Labor Markets*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate.

Chant, Sylvia. 2007. *Gender, Generation, and Poverty; Exploring the 'Feminisation of Poverty' in Africa, Asia and Latin America*. Cheltenham, UK/Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

Cowley, Jillian P. 2006 *The Mesa and the Moon: O'Keeffe, Landscape, and Gender"* Doctoral Dissertation - University of New Mexico, American Studies.

Dansero, Egidio, Giovanna Di Meglio, Elisabetta Donini, Francesca Governa (eds). 2007. *Geografia, Società, Politica: La ricerca in geografia come impegno sociale*. Milano: Franco Angeli.

Desai, Madhavi. 2007. *Gender and the Built Environment in India*. Jaipur: Akhil Books.

dell'Agnese, Elena and Elisabetta Ruspini, eds, 2007. *Mascolinità all'italiana. Costruzioni, narrazioni, mutamenti*. Torino: Utet/ .

Fechter, Anne-Meike and Anne Coles (eds). 2007. *Gender and Family among Transnational Professionals* . London and New York: Routledge. (International Studies of Women and Place Series).

Halford, S. and L. Leonard. 2006. *Negotiating Gendered Identities at Work: Place, Space and Time*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Herzig, Pascale. 2006. *South Asians in Kenya: Gender, Generation and Changing Identities in Diaspora*. Münster LIT Verlag.

Kindon, S, R. Pain, and M. Kesby (eds). 2007. *Participatory Action Research: Approaches and Methods: Connecting People, Participation and Place*. London: Routledge.

Ko, Dorothy and Wang Zheng. 2007. *Translating Feminisms in China*. Malden MA: Blackwell.

Longhurst, Robyn. 2007. *Maternities: Gender, Bodies, Space*. London and New York: Routledge. (International Studies of Women and Place Series)

Molina, Irene. 2006. *Rompiendo Barreras: Género y Espacio en El Campo y La Ciudad*. Santiago de Chile: El Tercer Actor. (note: the book may be purchased from Librería Antártica (ISBN 1235074)
(http://www.antarctica.cl/antarctica/Servlet/LibroServ?action=fichaLibro&id_libro=61978)

Monterescu. Daniel and Myenmar Tachilek (eds). 2007. *Mixed towns, Trapped Communities: Historical Narratives, Spatial Dynamics, Gender Relations and Cultural Encounters in Palestinian-Israeli Towns*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Moss, Pamela and Karen Falconer Al-Hindi eds. 2007. *Feminisms in Geography: Rethinking Space, Place, and Knowledges*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield.

Piper, Nicola (ed). 2007. *New Perspectives on Gender and Migration: Livelihood, Rights, and Entitlements*. London and New York: Routledge.

Samarasinghe, Vidyamali. 2007. *Female Sex Trafficking in Asia*. London and New York: Routledge (International Studies of Women and Place Series)

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES

Wirtschaftsgeographie und Raumplanung 33 (2004) is a theme issues edited by Elisabeth Bühler and Verena Meier Kruker on *Geschlechterforschung: Neue Impulse für die Geographie*. Published at the University of Zürich-Irchel it includes an editorial introduction and four articles addressing the significance of gender for various areas of geography (political, work, migration and perspectives on dealing with difference.

Journal of Developing Societies 23 (1-2) is a special double issue on women and globalization.

A special issue of *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 9(4) 2007 is devoted to the theme “Women and the Politics of Water: A Confluence of Women’s Voices.”

Social Science Quarterly 88 (5) December, 2007 focuses on gender and political issues. Articles span geographical scales and contexts, ranging from papers on the international (e.g., gender and sexual assault decisions at the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia), to the women’s movement in Korea, gendering of municipal government, and political and civic participation among disadvantaged urban mothers.

Belgeo 2007 (3), guest-edited by Maria Dolors Garcia-Ramon and Janice Monk (see story above) includes papers and discussions from the seminar held at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in February, 2006. Full publication details will be included in the next newsletter.

RECENT ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Alexander, C., N. Beale, M. Kesby, S. Kindon, J. McMillan, R. Pain and F. Ziegler. 2007. Participatory Diagramming: A Critical View from North East England. In Kindon, S. R. Pain and M. Kesby (eds) *Participatory Action Research: Connecting People, Participation and Place*. London: Routledge.

Bailey, Keiron. 2007. “Akogare, ideology, and ‘Charisma Man’ mythology: Reflections on ethnographic research in English language schools in Japan.” *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(5): 585-608.

Bain, Alison. 2007. “Claiming and controlling space: Combining heterosexual fatherhood with artistic practice.” *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(3): 249-65.

Balsamo, Franca. 2007. “Il territorio dell’altra.” In Dansero, Egidio, Giovanna Di Meglio, Elisabetta Donini, Francesca Governa (eds). 2007. *Geografia, Società, Politica: La ricerca in geografia come impegno sociale*. Milano: Franco Angeli..

Beard, Victoria & Randi S. Cartmill 2007. “Gender, collective action and participatory development in Indonesia.” *International Development Planning Review*, 29 (2): 185-214.

Blumen, Orna. 2007. “The performative landscape of going-to-work: on the edge of an Jewish ultr-orthodox neighbourhood.” *Environment and Planning D/Society and Space* 25(5): 803-31.

Blunt, Alison. 2007. “Cultural geographies of migration: Mobility, transnationality and diaspora.” *Progress in Human Geography* 31(5): 684-94.

Bosco, Fernando J. 2007. "Emotions that build networks: Geographies of human rights movements in Argentina and beyond." *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* 98(5): 545-63.

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Boswell-Penc, Maia and Kate Boyer. 2007. "Expressing anxiety? Breast pump usage in American wage workplaces." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(5): 551-567.

Browne, Kath. 2007. "(Re) making the other: heterosexualizing everyday space." *Environment and Planning A* 39(4): 996-1014.

Cahill, Caitlin. 2007. "The personal is political: Developing new subjectivities through participatory action research." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(3): 267-92.

Calvo, Angela e Giovanna Di Meglio. 2007. "L'uso delle carte tematiche per una critica di genere al concetto di sviluppo. In Dansero, Egidio, Giovanna Di Meglio, Elisabetta Donini, Francesca Governa (eds). 2007. *Geografia, Società, Politica: La ricerca in geografia come impegno sociale*. Milano: Franco Angeli. .

Carl, D., S. Kindon and K. Smith. 2007. "Tourists' Experiences of the Landscapes in the *Lord of the Rings*, *Tourism Geographies*, 9(1), 49-63.

Chatterjee, Ipsita. 2007. "Packaging of identity and identifiable packages: A study of women-commodity negotiation through product packaging." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(3): 293-316.

Caudwell, Jane. 2002. "Queering the field: The complexities of sexuality within a lesbian-identified football team in England." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(2):183-196.

Cooke, Thomas J. and Melanie Rapino. 2007 "The migration of partnered gays and lesbians between 1995 and 2000." *The Professional Geographer* 59(3): 285-97.

Cortesi, Gisella. 2007. "Ripensare lo sviluppo in un 'ottica di genere.'" In Dansero, Egidio, Giovanna Di Meglio, Elisabetta Donini, Francesca Governa (eds). 2007. *Geografia, Società, Politica: La ricerca in geografia come impegno sociale*. Milano: Franco Angeli, pp. 169-82.

Cucurella A, M.D. Garcia- Ramon, and M. Baylina. 2006. "Gender, age and design in a new public space in a Mediterranean town: the Parc dels Colors in Mollet del Valles." *European Spatial Research Policy*, 13(2):181-94

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- Davidson, Julie and Elaine Stratford. 2007. 'En(gender)ing the debate about water's management and care - views from the Antipodes', *Geoforum*, 38 (5) 815-827.
- De Leeuw, Sarah. 2007. "Intimate colonialism: The material and experiential places of British Columbia’s residential schools." *The Canadian Geographer* 51(3) 339-59.
- De Meester, Edith, Clara H. Mulder and Joos Droogleever Fortuijn. 2007. "Time spent in paid work by women and men in urban and less urban contexts in the Netherlands." *Tijdschrift en Sociale en Economische Geografie* 98(5): 585-602.
- De Silva, Mary J, and Trudy Harpham. 2007. "Maternal social capital and childhood nutritional status in four developing countries." *Health and Place* 13(2): 341-55.
- Desbiens, Caroline. 2007. "Speaking the land: Exploring women’s historical geographies in northern Québec." *The Canadian Geographer* 51(3): 360-72.
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- Dua, Enakshi. 2007. "Exclusion through inclusion: Female Asian migration in the making of Canada as a white settler nation." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(4): 445- 66.
- Ellis, Mark, Richard Wright, and Virginia Park. 2007. "Geography and the Immigrant Division of Labor." *Economic Geography* 83(3) 255-82.
- Fagnani, J. and A. Math. 2007. "Les récentes réformes de la politique familiale en Allemagne: de nouveaux horizons pour les femmes?" *Droit social* No.5: 630-636.
- Fernández, Gastón. 2007. "Race, gender and class in the persistence of the Mariel stigma twenty years after the exodus from Cuba." *International Migration Review*, 41(2): 602-622.
- Fulu, Emma. 2007. "Gender, vulnerability and the experts: Responding to the Maldives tsunami." *Development and Change* 38(5): 843-64.
- García- Ramon, Maria Dolores. 2006. "Geografía del Género." In D. Hiernaux and A.Lindon (eds) *Tratado de Geografía Humana*. 337-55. Barcelona/México: Anthropos Universidad Autónoma de México.

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Giesecking, Jen. 2007. (Re)constructing women-scaled portrayals of privilege and gender norms on campus. *Area* 39(3): 278-86.

Gilbert, Anne-Françoise. 2004. "Erfahrung und Diskurs – Plädoyer für einen doppelten Blick auf qualitative daten in der Geschlechterforschung." *Wirtschaftsgeographie und Raumplanung* 33: 5-20.

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Herzig, Pascale und Marina Richter. 2004. "Von den 'Achsen der Differenz' zu den 'differenzräumen; Ein Beitrag zur theoretischen Diskussion in der geografischen Geschlechterforschung." *Wirtschaftsgeographie und Raumplanung* 33: 43-64.

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Jackson, Peter, Nicola Thomas, and Claire Dwyer. 2007. "Consuming transnational fashion in London and Mumbai." *Geoforum* 38(5): 908-24.

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