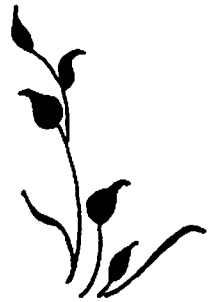




IGU

International Geographic Union

STUDY GROUP ON GENDER



No. 3

November 1989

Study Group Will Meet in Beijing in 1990

The Study Group on Gender and Geography will organize a meeting as part of the IGU Regional Conference on Asian Pacific Countries in Beijing, August 13 - 20, 1990. Though concerns were expressed about meeting in China following recent political events there, the Executive Committee of the IGU carefully reviewed the situation with Chinese organizers and decided to support the meeting in the interests of international geographical cooperation. The intention is to promote opportunities for Chinese geographers to meet with overseas colleagues.

Rather than plan a separate pre-Congress symposium, the Study Group on Gender will arrange a half-day session during the Beijing Conference. It will address the effects of global economic restructuring on women's paid and unpaid work. If you wish to make a presentation please send an abstract of no more than 400 words to the Chair, Janet Momsen, Department of Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU England, with a copy to the Vice Chair, Janice Monk, SIROW, 102 Douglass, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 by December 20, 1989. They will organize the Group's session and will notify you in ample time to register for the Congress if your paper can be included in the Group's session. Abstracts should be in English or French and include the title, author's name, institution, and country. Margins of 30mm should be provided at the top and 25mm on both sides and at the bottom of the abstract.

Registration for the Congress, accommodation, and field excursions will be the responsibility of each presenter and will not be coordinated by the Study Group. Registration should be completed before May 10, 1990 and the fee is U.S.\$250 per delegate or U.S. \$150 for students and U.S. \$100 for accompanying persons. After May 10 registration fees increase. Hotel rates range from a low of U.S.\$15 per day for single rooms (\$20 double) in a student residence hall to a high of U.S.\$80 single (\$90 double) in the Yan Shan Hotel. Several options are available between these prices.

If you wish to present a paper in one of the general Congress sessions, you will be required to submit an abstract to the Chinese organizers before April 30, 1990. Abstracts should follow the form described above. Full information on the program is available from Prof. Zhang Peiyuan, Secretary General, 1990 Regional Conference, Institute of Geography, P.O. Box 771, Beijing 100012, China. Information on registration, hotels, post-Congress tours, payments, and visas is available from Mr. Zhang Zhonglian, Secretariat of the 1990 IGU Regional Congress CICCST/CAST, P.O. Box 300, Beijing, 100086, China. Janet Momsen and Janice Monk have a copy of the second circular which includes registration forms and other details. They are willing to duplicate these for you if necessary.

Congratulations

Several Australian feminist geographers have new positions. Fay Gale has been named Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, the second woman in Australia to hold such a post. Study Group Committee member, Ruth Fincher, has been promoted to Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne. Stephanie Fahey has been appointed as Principal Lecturer in Asian Studies at Footscray Institute of Technology.



Ana Sabate, University Complutense of Madrid, has received support from the Instituto de la Mujer for research on the relations between women's employment, homework, and rural industrialization.

Saraswati Raju (India) and Deipica Bagchi (USA) have signed a contract with Routledge for a book, Women and Work in South Asia.

Gunnel Forsberg, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University, Sweden, has completed her doctoral dissertation on "Industrial Change and Gender Structure: Case Studies on Four Local Labor Markets." An English language summary is available. The thesis examines the effects of closings and major cut-backs in food processing plants on the dismissal and later employment of women and men, showing that gender is a major factor, independent of age and qualifications.

Bose Iyun, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, has accepted an invitation speak on "The Interrelations of International Migration and the Status of Migrant Women in Sub-Saharan Africa" to the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants being organized by the Population Division of the UNPF. The meeting will be held in Italy in March, 1990.

Sarah Whatmore has been appointed as Lecturer in Geography at the University of Bristol.

Traveling Scholars

Several corresponding members of the Study Group have visited the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, University of Arizona (USA) recently including Linda Peake, Kingston Polytechnic, UK, Gudrun Olafsdottir (University of Iceland), and Fay Gale, University of Adelaide, Australia. Linda went on to Jamaica to conduct research with Ruth Pearson on women's clerical work. This year she will hold a visiting appointment at York University in Toronto.

Elsbeth Young, Australian Defence Force Academy, is spending a study leave in Canada, extending her research on indigenous peoples.

Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf, University of Ghana, Legon, and Ruvimba Chimedza, University of Zimbabwe, Harare participated in a meeting of WEDNET, the Women, Environment, and Development Network in Nairobi in June, 1989. Apologies to Elizabeth for omitting her name from the list of the IGU Gender Study Group members who are working to develop research on women and water resources in Africa.

Pam Thomas is on leave from the National Centre for Development Studies, Australian National University and is working with UNESCO in Bangkok.

Vidyamali Samarasinghe, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka is visiting professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 19081 during 1989-90.

Special Issues of Journals

Contemporary Issues in Geography and Education, Vol. 3, No. 1 is devoted to gender and geography. It includes an editorial (Sophie Bowlby, Jo Foord, Jo Little, and Sarah Whatmore) and seven articles on topics including medical geography, transportation, urban politics, new technology and clerical employment, leisure, retail geography, gender bias in examinations, and the need for anti-sexist teaching resources. Subscriptions (a three issue volume) are available (10 UK, 12 overseas) from the Association for Curriculum Development, P.O. Box 563, London, N16 8XD England.

Joanna Regulska has edited a forthcoming issue of Geoforum that will deal with "Changing Gender Relations in Urban Space." It includes her introduction and eight articles by author's from England, Canada, and the United States. Several papers address theoretical issues--Linda McDowell writes on diversity, deconstruction, and feminist theory, Kim England on gender relations and the spatial structure of the city, and Geraldine Pratt and Susan Hanson critique human capital theory in their study of time, space, and occupational segregation of women. Others take up topics such as access to school daycare in Montreal (Damaris Rose and Nathalie Chicoine), the feminization of poverty (Janet Kodras and John Paul Jones III), homework (Andrew Herod), and women and politics in Tucson, Arizona (Sallie Marston and Michelle Saint-Germain) and in New Jersey (Joanna Regulska, Susana Fried, and John Tiefenbacher). Single issues of Geoforum are available from Pergamon Press, Journals Division, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, NY 10523, USA.

Documents D'Analisi Geografica, No. 14, 1989, edited by M. Dolores Garcia Ramon is now available from the Department of Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bellaterra, Barcelona 08193, Spain. This issue

contains 10 articles, three of them (by the editor, Sophie Bowlby, and Janice Monk and Susan Hanson) review the development and current state of feminist geography. Papers by Martine Berlan and Janet Henshall Momsen deal with women's agricultural work in France and England respectively. Several Spanish authors deal with rural women there, including methodological papers on analytical approaches (Ana Sabate), problems of measuring women's work (Montserrat Solsona) and an overview of women's agricultural work as presented in the 1982 census (Dolores Garcia Ramon) and case studies of specific regions (Gemma Canoves and Antoni Tulla). The journal also includes short reports and notes.

"Sex and Space," is the theme of Espace, Populations, Societes, 1989/1 edited by Jacqueline Coutras and Jeanne Fagnani, published at the University of Sciences et Techniques of Lille, Flandres, Artois, UFR de Geographie, 59655 Villeneuve d'Asoq Cedex, France. Several authors consider the implications of spatial patterns of women's employment in cities. Geraldine Pratt and Susan Hanson look at the implications of occupational segregation for the reproduction of class in urban neighborhoods and Peter Congdon also uses small scale areas to examine the relations between gender segmentation and other dimensions of social structure and change. Angeles Diaz Munoz and Juana Rodriguez Moya examine spatial variations in male and female labor force participation in Madrid as the city undergoes economic restructuring; Nathalie Chicoine and Damaris Rose address a similar question in Montreal. Odile Andan and Charles Rauz examine how characteristics of households and individual's roles mediate gender distinctions in space use, drawing on French urban data, while Sandra Rosenbloom compares the home-to-work travel patterns of parents in two Texas cities. Dolores Garcia Ramon examines conceptual problems of reporting women's work on family farms in Spain and its treatment in the Spanish Agrarian Census of 1982. Yolande Cohen reports on the territorial expansion of the cercles de fermieres in Quebec in the first half of the twentieth century. The journal also contains three research notes.



Other Publications

Please send information on your publications and/or reprints to Janice Monk for inclusion in this newsletter.

Linda Peake, "Women's Work: Incorporating Gender into Theories of Urban Social Change," Women and Environments, 11 (3/4), 1989.

Judith Plant (ed.), Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism, Santa Cruz, CA: New Society Publishers. An anthology on ecofeminism, ecofeminist politics, spirituality, and community.

Suzanne Mackenzie, "Restructuring the Relations of Work and Life: Women as Environmental Actors, Feminism as Geographical Analysis," in Remaking Human Geography, Audrey Kobayaski and Suzanne Mackenzie (eds.), Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989.

Isabel Dyke, "Integrating Home and Wage Workplace: Women's Daily Lives in a Canadian Suburb," The Canadian Geographer (forthcoming).

William van Vliet (ed.), Women, Housing, and Community, Vermont: Gower Publishing Company. 19 essays on the ways that the organization of space and the built environment reinforces the subordinate role of women; includes recommendations to make environments more accountable to women's needs.

Suzanne Mackenzie, The Status of Women in Canadian Geography," The Operational Geographer, 7 (3) 1989.

Ritva Kivikkokangas-Sandgren is author of First Women Geographers in Finland, 1890 -1930: A Development Perspective. The monograph is a 1989 publication of the Institute of Geography, University of Helsinki.

The Journal of Women and Gender Studies, Volume 1, 1989, edited by Nora Chiang (Women Research Program, National Taiwan University) includes "Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in Nineteenth Century Canadian Mining Towns," by Janet Henshall Momsen and "The Changing Role of Women in Spanish Agriculture: Analysis from the Agricultural Censuses, 1962 - 1982," by M. Dolores Garcia Ramon, Monserrat Solsona, and Nuria Valdovinos.

A review of Margrit Eichler's Non-Sexist Research Methods by Janice Monk in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers 79 (3) 1989 prompted Jeanne Kay to write a critique of sexist biases in historical geographic research, drawing examples from an article that appeared in the same issue of the journal. Her commentary will be published in a forthcoming Annals.

Lynne Brydon and Sylvia Chant, Women in the Third World: Gender Issues in Rural and Urban Areas, Aldershot: Edward Elgar/Gower and New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Combines anthropological and geographical perspectives in an analysis of women's roles and statuses in all major regions of the world, focusing on the household, production, reproduction, and policy. Broad coverage and a 600 item bibliography make this a useful resource.

Rosa Ester Rossini has completed work on an Atlas of Population of the State of Sao Paulo which includes a significant number of maps dealing with women.

Spinsters Abroad: Victorian Women Explorers by Dea Birkett (Oxford: Blackwell, 1989) analyzes the ways that late 19th and early 20th century women dealt with gender, race, and political attitudes in exploring foreign lands and their own psyches.

M. Dolores Garcia Ramon has written a lengthy review article "Para No Excluir del Estudio a la Mitad del Genero Humano: Un Desafio Pendiente en Geografia Humana," which will appear in Boletin de la Asociacion de Geografos Espanoles, No. 9, 1989. Her review of Women in Cities: Gender and the Urban Environment (edited by Jo Little, Linda Peake, and Pat Richardson) will appear in Political Geography Quarterly, Vol. 9, 1990.

Connie Well has edited an interdisciplinary collection Lucha: The Struggles of Latin American Women, Minneapolis, Prisma Institute. It includes review papers and three case studies, for example on Guatemala migration in international perspective, on recent changes in the autonomy of factory women in La Paz, and on a young woman's suicide in a Peruvian town, a paper that relates personal decisions to structural and cultural conditions.

Jeanne Fagnani's and Christine Catelain-Meunier's article "Avoir Deux ou Trois Enfants: Constraintes, Arbitrages et Compromis, (Le cas des nouvelles couches moyennes)" appeared in Medicine et L'Homme, No. 181, Mai-Juin, 1989. Their paper "Deux ou Trois Enfants: Les Nouveaux Arbitrages des Femmes," was published in Revue Francaise des Affaires Sociales, No. 1, 1988. They compare the values and choices of educated middle-class women in Paris and Lille with respect to child-bearing in the context of declining birth rates in France.

Vidyamali Samarasinghe has completed a report for the International Center for Research on Women, Washington, DC on Indian Tamil women workers on plantations in Sri Lanka. The report will be used as background for a conference on "Maternal Nutrition and Health Status," to be held in February, 1990.

"Asi es una mujer del pueblo: low income women's organizations under Apra, 1985 -1987," by Sarah Radcliffe is Working Paper No. 43, Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge. It is available from the Centre, History Faculty Building, West Rd., Cambridge, CB3 9EF England.

Six Japanese geographers have applied to the Ministry of Education for funds to develop a Women's Atlas of Japan. Information on the project is available from Isamu Ota, Toyo University, 28-20 5 Chome, Hakusan, Bunkyo-Ku, Tokyo 112.

Book Series Planned

Janet Momsen and Janice Monk will edit a series of books for Routledge on women and development and gender issues in international perspective or focusing on particular regions. They welcome proposals for monographs or texts, preferably for books that would have wide interest and be published as paperbacks. If you have a book in mind, please send a prospectus (approximately 3 pages) that describes your topic, approach, and intended audience. If possible include a potential table of contents.

New Research Proposals Submitted to Study Group

Since the last newsletter, a number of geographers have submitted proposals for research within the Study Group. Several projects deal with the work of rural women. Rohana Ulluwishewa, University of Jayawardeneapura, Sri Lanka, is beginning work on a study supported by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Helsinki on the adverse impact of agricultural modernization on rural women in Sri Lanka. It will examine changes in women's work burden, their access to income generating opportunities and production resources, their control over the returns from family labor, and the extent to which these changes affect farm production, welfare, and the quality of family life. Dr. Ulluwishewa is also conducting research on development planning and gender inequality in a case study of the Mahaweli Development Project with support from the Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka and NORAD.

In India, two projects are underway at the Centre for Regional Development Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. A. Ahmad is working on rural women's economic activity in northwest India, examining how ecologic, economic, and social factors shape variations in regional patterns in women's work and the gender division

of labor. The study, supported by the University Grants Committee of the Government of India, is being carried out with secondary data at the district level and field data at the household level. Saraswati Raju and Ramesh Sharma are studying the relationships between women's work and agricultural productivity at the district level, comparing changes over the 1961 - 1981 period in about 450 districts.

Theoretical and methodological questions will be the main focus of a study by Halldis Valestrand, University of Tromso, Norway. She will review European and North American literature to explore the ways that women and gender are dealt with in regional, district, and "locality" studies; her goal is to clarify concepts and approaches, for example, lifestyles, way of life, and everyday life. Another broad scale study is that by Janet Kodras, Florida State University, John Paul Jones III, and John Bowen, University of Kentucky, USA. They are examining state variations in the United States in family formation, economic restructuring, and the gender division of labor with a view to understanding the growing proportion that women make up of the poor.

Jane Benton, Hatfield Polytechnic, England, will compare the effects of recent economic difficulties on rural and urban women's work and well-being in Bolivia. She anticipates undertaking a broad scale review, following up on her earlier work in the region. Also working in Latin America is Nidia Silvia Tadeo (La Plata, Argentina) who is studying women's work in the cut-flower industry in peri-urban regions of Buenos Aires. She will look at changes in the international demand for flowers on the one hand and changing patterns of production of family labor on the other. Another study of women in urban employment is being undertaken by Nora Chiang, National Taiwan University, who is looking at the quality of life of women factory workers in north, central, and south Taiwan. Her research, which is being supported by the Labor Bureau of the Executive Yuan, will include a large number of interviews from factories of different types as well as participant observation in dormitories. Her intention is to involve workers in the research process, not just as objects of study. Carole Rakodi, University of Wales, will also focus on urban women, conducting comparative research in Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. She will address both the strategies that individual households are using to cope with changing economic conditions and the extent to which urban management and land and housing markets hinder or facilitate these strategies. Her work will involve collaboration with local colleagues.

The Study Group is still interested in receiving proposals. These should be of approximately two pages in length and include descriptions of the research and methodology. Copies should be sent to the Chair, Janet Momsen,

Department of Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, England, Vice Chair, Janice Monk, SIROW, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA, and the Secretary, M. Dolores Garcia Ramon, Department of Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bellaterra, Barcelona, 08193, Spain. They will review proposals and suggest how research might be modified to make the completed work more internationally comparative. The goal is to present final work at the 1992 IGU Study Group meeting and to prepare related publications. The Study Group does not have funds for research, but hopes that our reviews will assist you to strengthen proposals for submission to other agencies. We are also prepared to write letters of support indicating that projects are part of a larger international effort.

Reports of Study Group Activities

A description of the Geography and Gender Study Group's work and the Newcastle workshop was included in Women and Environments 11 (3/4), Summer, 1989. The Operational Geographer, 7 (3), 1989, and is forthcoming in Documents D'Analisi Geografia, No. 15, 1989.



Teaching About Gender

Among current or forthcoming geography courses on gender are an undergraduate course on women and development being taught by Janet Momsen at Newcastle upon Tyne, a full graduate course at the Autonomous University of Barcelona by M. Dolores Garcia Ramon, and an intensive course under the European Erasmus program in Amsterdam. More details on the Erasmus program will be provided in the next newsletter.

The Centre for Development Studies, University College of Swansea, will offer a ten-week course on "Rural Environment and Family Health" open to men and women from any country in April, 1990. The course is designed for those involved in planning and implementing programs related to rural environments, village development, family health, women's role in rural development, and women's role in health care. The course fee will be 2850 and living expenses are estimated at an additional 1500. Further information is available from Dr. C.J. Barrow, Centre for Development Studies, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, Wales.



Themes of the Women and Geography Study Group's sessions at the Institute of British Geographers meeting in January, 1989 were "Gender Perspectives on Recreation and Leisure," and "Patriarchy, Racism, and Nationalism." The session on the first of these was designed to encourage the application of feminist perspectives in "mainline" geography. Jacqui Burgess and Carolyn Harrison reported on "Gender Differences in the Evaluation and Uses of Public Open Space;" Miriam Bernard focused on the leisure activities of young women; Rachael Dixey looked at bingo, an important leisure activity for older, working class women.

The second theme was treated by Tracey Skelton on the reproduction on patriarchy in Montserrat, Sarah Radcliffe, who discussed the transformation of ethnic identity among migrant domestic servants in Peru, linking this to ideas of nationhood and their patriarchal articulation in domestic settings, and Audrey Kobayashi examined the multiple oppressions of Japanese picture brides in early twentieth century Canada. The remaining papers, by Peter Jones and Jan Penrose dealt with racism and nationalism.

The themes for the Women and Geography Study Group's sessions at the next IBG, to be held January 3-6, 1990 in Glasgow, will be "Women and Social Polarisation: Extent and Implications" organized by Nicky Gregson, CURDS, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and "The Cultural Construction of Gender and Race," organized by Eleonore Koffman, Middlesex Polytechnic. The Medical Geography Study Group will focus on the health of women and children.

Conferences

The Women's Group of the Lega per L'Ambiente, one of Italy's important environmental groups, is planning a conference to bring together ecological issues and feminist critiques of society, especially looking at urban life. Information on their activities can be obtained from Donata Bianchi, Via Cavalcanti 22, 50133 Florence, Italy.

A conference on Feminism and Historical Geography is planned for November 11, 1989 at University College, London. Six presentations are scheduled. Three focus on nineteenth century Britain--Miles Ogburn speaking on prostitution and the state, Sue Ford on gender, space, and the idea of the suburb, and Zena Forster on women and landscape in Millais's "Rescue." Mike Savage will address male patriarchal practices in local contexts, Alison Kaye ethnicity, gender, and skill in the London clothing trades, and Sally Alexander women's work in London between the wars. Further information is available from Gillian Rose, Geography, Queen Mary College, Mile End Rd. London E1 4NS.

Feminist geographers from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Switzerland met in London with British colleagues in June, 1989. Sixteen papers were presented on themes including the relationship between gender and the nature-culture dichotomy, the geography of women's fear, the importance of the local environment in shaping women's identity, changing patterns of work in the household and beyond, and political initiatives around women's issues. Considerable discussion was devoted to methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks, with a recurrent focus from the German-speaking group on women's everyday worlds.

A Round Table on Gender and Geography was held in Madrid, September 25, 1989 at the Association of Spanish Geographers meeting. Sociologist Angeles Duran introduced an interdisciplinary perspective in her presentation on gender and the uses of space in the city. Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon spoke on the development of gender studies in geography internationally, and Ana Sabate reviewed gender research being undertaken in geography in Madrid. The panel presentations were followed by lively discussion at this session which attracted about 80 people.

How Are Women Represented Among Professional Geographers?

Because most of the research and teaching on women and gender is currently conducted by women geographers, the progress of the field is dependent on increasing the representation of women in the discipline. Several recent articles on the changing status of women in geography help us to make some assessment of the situation. In a study of Spanish academic geography published in The Professional Geographer (40 (3), 1988), Dolores Garcia Ramon, Margarida Castaner, and Nuria Centelles revealed that about one-third of all faculty members were female in 1984, but they were concentrated in junior ranks and their presence varied widely among departments, with those in the largest cities generally having the best representation and some departments still lacking any women faculty. Women were clustered at the lowest ranks, however, and only about half as many women as men are tenured. The authors raise doubts about their likelihood of advancement.

Suzanne Mackenzie has reviewed the current status of women geographers in Canada, showing gains over the last decade. Her findings are reported in The Operational Geographer (7 (3) 1989). Women comprised 9.2% of university geography faculty in 1988/89 compared with 6.2% in 1978/79, an increase in absolute numbers from 37 to 56. These women are also clustered at lower ranks,

though now more likely to be assistant professors than in the past when they were overwhelmingly in the lower status positions of lecturer or instructor. The number of women full professors has actually declined, however.

In a paper presented by Alice Rechlin at the Association or American Geographers' meeting in 1989, comparative data from 1967 and 1988 show a substantial gain in the percentage of women members of the organization (from 13% to 23%). In the earlier years among student members, men outnumbered women by 7:1, but by 1988 this ratio had dropped to 1.7:1. Among those employed in higher education the ratios changed from 11.6:1 to 6.1:1, in government from 7.9:1 to 3.8:1 and in private industry from 5.8:1 to 2.6:1. Thus women members have made the greatest gains outside the arena of university employment, even though improvements have occurred in that area.

Linda McDowell and Linda Peake will shortly publish an update on the status of women geographers in Britain, and scattered data from an array of countries included in the collection of papers edited by Linda Peake in Journal of Geography, 13 (1) 1989.