

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

Newsletter Number 42

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Commission Members

This year promises to be a productive one for our Commission. **Judit Timar** (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) and **Sorina Voiculescu** (University of West Timisoara, Romania) are busy making final arrangements for a Gender and Geography Commission Meeting in Hungary and Romania, May 22-24, 2009. The theme is "Post-Socialism, Neo-Liberalism: Old and New Gendered Societies and Policies." **Elisabeth Bühler** (University of Zurich, Switzerland) is currently working on a pamphlet that we can use to distribute information about our Commission. Also, we are planning to set up a Student Paper Award, an exciting new initiative that we are looking forward to implementing.

Next year also promises to be productive. Our former Chair, **Tovi Fenster** (Tel Aviv University) and **Orna Blumen** (University of Haifa) are organizing a Gender and Geography Commission Meeting as part of the IGU Regional 2010 Conference "Bridging Diversity in a Globalized World," to be held July 12-16 2010 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that for the last couple of years our Commission has been a member organization of the European Platform of Women Scientists (EPWS - see www.epws.org) which is based in Brussels. Its mission is to represent the concerns, needs, aspirations and interests of women scientists in all stages of their career paths. We joined the EPWS as a way of extending our networks. EPWS informs our Commission of any upcoming events such as conferences and seminars. If anyone would like more information on EPWS please email me.

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NEW AND CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Diane Richardson, Nina Laurie, Meena Poudel, and Janet Townsend (University of Newcastle (UK)) are beginning a two-year project, "Post Trafficking Livelihoods in Nepal: Women, Sexuality and Citizenship." It is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (£289,000) to begin in August 2009. The project comes at a moment of increased awareness and debate over sexual trafficking within governments, international agencies, NGOs and popular culture more generally. The proposed research aims to examine the intersections of sexuality, citizenship and pro-poor policy making for sexually-trafficked women upon their return to Nepal, their country of origin. A key aspect of this research is to gain knowledge that is grounded in the actual experiences of the returnee women. This is important because not only has the issue of returnee women been largely ignored, but their stigmatisation and poverty means they often have little voice in citizenship debates and pro-poor development policy making.

Anindita Datta (Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics) received funding from the University of Delhi for a project entitled "Remapping Leisure: A Gendered Exploration of Thirdplace in Delhi." Currently the project is being considered for the second round of funding.

Nora Lan-Hung Chiang (National Taiwan University) is engaged with a multi-country research project exploring the experiences of Taiwanese migrants overseas and of returning migrants to Taiwan. She has recently conducted interviews in Guam, Canada, and New Zealand as well as in Taiwan. The work in Canada involves comparison of earlier and more recent migrants. Nora recently hosted **Linda Peake** (York University, Canada) who is pursuing possible research collaborations with Taiwanese scholars, and **Janice Monk** (University of Arizona) who gave presentations at three universities and assisted with editing a forthcoming gender-focused issue of *Journal of Geographical Science*.

The Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand) is leading a three-year study which began in 2007 of "Education capital formation, employment, migration, gender, work-life balance and missing men" led by **Paul Callister**. The core research team consists of **Richard Bedford** (University of Waikato), **Robert Didham** (Statistics New Zealand), **Tatu Kukutai** (Tahatu Consulting), **Frances Leather** (Victoria University) and **James Newell** (Mera). The project addresses the nature and implications of the gendered transition in higher and professional education which involves an increasing gap in participation and achievement by women and men, with women outpacing men in gaining credentials, especially in Maori and Pacific populations. It addresses implications for labor market participation, gendered migration (including the New Zealand diaspora), family and living arrangements, fertility, work life balance, and social engagement. It pays attention to geographic variations in patterns. While focusing on New Zealand, the project's research notes that this gendered educational transition is also widespread in OECD countries within Europe, North America and Australia. Publications, presentations, and further details of the research can be obtained at

<http://ips.ac.nz/events/completed-activities/Missing%20men/Missing%20men.html>

Eriko Ikeya Kochi National College of Technology (Japan) has received a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from Japan Society for the Promotion of Science from 2009 to 2011. The theme of the research is “A Study of Facts and Background of Support System for Child Rearing Compared with the United Kingdom.”

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOGRAPHIES OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

The Geography and Gender Research Group, Department of Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, will host this conference July 16-18, 2009. It is co-sponsored by with the Working Group “Geographies of Children, Youth and Families of the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers and *Children’s Geographies*, a Taylor and Francis journal. The theme for papers is “Diverse childhoods in international contexts: gender and other social and cultural differences.” Further information can be obtained from Maria Prats Ferret (Maria.Prats@uab.cat)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Gisella Cortesi (University of Pisa) reports important new work from the Italian Study Group on Gender and Geography. It has been very active since 2005, having organized three annual meetings and two national seminars. She notes “the Group works hard, the participants are numerous, young, and very active.” Its work is the theme of a special issue of the journal *Geotema* (edited by Gisella) on place and gender identities (*Luoghi e identità di genere*), including 15 articles. The articles are listed in the bibliography section of this newsletter.

Sarah Radcliffe (Cambridge) is currently doing research on indigenous women in Ecuador, as principal Investigator on the project 'Indigenous women, political rights and development decision-making: Spaces of engagement for gendered and ethnic citizens', funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council (Oct 2008-Sept 2011). She would be interested to hear from other researchers examining the position of ethnic minority women in development. (sarah.radcliffe@geog.cam.ac.uk)

Anindita Datta (Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics) reports that she now has two gender courses, “Critical Geographies of Gender, Space and Society” offered for Ph.D scholars and “Gender and space with special reference to India” offered for MA fourth semester students.

Congratulations to University of Waikato Geography PhD student **Carey-Ann Morrison** who was awarded first place in the Sexuality & Space Student Paper Competition at the Association of American Geographers 2009 Annual Meeting. She presented a paper based on her research in which she argues that practices of heterosexuality are an important constituent of home-making. Morrison was also a recipient of the New Zealand

Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarship, the Claude McCarthy Fellowship by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee, and the Evelyn Stokes Memorial Doctoral Scholarship.

Susana Veleza da Silva (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Brasil) and the Latin American member of the Commission's committee, has prepared a report on the representation of gender research at the **12th Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina** (EGAL) held in Montevideo, Uruguay, April 3-7, 2009. Though accounting for only one percent of the more than 2,000 presentations, posters, and round tables, the advances over the 1997 EGAL in Buenos Aires were notable. At that meeting, a small group held one session with a few presentations and informal conversations. In this year's meeting, a sub-theme on "Diversity and Gender" was proposed by the conference organizers; 19 studies on feminist geography, women, and or gender were published in the EGAL annals, ten of which were presented orally. Fifteen of the contributions were by geographers from Brazil, two from Argentina, one from Chile, and one from Mexico. Topically, issues related to work predominated including paid and domestic work, agricultural work, and urban sex workers. Several scholars took up methodological themes, or addressed the theme of violence against women. Others examined masculinity and adolescence. An electronic connection for gender researchers in Latin America has been established <http://www/reggal.uepg> coordinated by **Diana Lan** (Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Pcia, Buenos Aires) and **Joseli Maria Silva** (Universidade Estadual de Ponta Grossa, Paraná, Brasil). Susana concludes that the field shows slow but irreversible advances.

Congratulations to **Clara Greed** (University of West England) who was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) honor in the British New Year's Honours list. Professor Greed is internationally known for her work on equitable provision of public toilet facilities.

The Gender and Geography Group at the Autonomous University of Barcelona held a meeting March 13 to share research and discuss work in progress by **Herminia Pujol**, **Anna Ortiz**, and **Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon** on the "Presence, scientific production, and status of women in the academy: the case of Catalan-speaking public universities." The group is also preparing for the upcoming conference on "Diverse Childhoods in international contexts: gender and other social and cultural differences" (see above for details)

Feministischen Geo-Rundmail No. 40 raises the question about the apparent current lack of interest or research in German-language geography in the topic of gender and development and asks whether few people are now working on this topic. To stimulate interest, the issue offers a compilation and summary of relevant research going back to the pioneering work by Ester Boserup. It outlines what kinds of questions might be asked to stimulate research. Among recent items identified is an MA thesis at the University of Bern on gender-specific impacts of changes in water-management in Mali.

gender debate and change the debate on development.

The Annual Meeting of the **Association of American Geographers** held in Las Vegas, March, 2009 included an extensive array of research on gender and sexuality. The program index identified 36 sessions under the heading “women.” Ten sessions were sponsored by the Sexuality and Space Specialty Group and 22 by the Geographic Perspectives on Women Speciality Group (some of which were co-sponsored with other groups such as the Developing Areas Specialty Group). Additionally, numerous papers on gender were integrated into other sessions. Given the size of the program, it is not possible to detail all the themes covered, though they included economic, cultural, environmental, and identity issues among others. Papers were offered by geographers from the US and beyond. The program can be accessed at <http://communicate.aag.org/eseries/aag-org/programindex.cfm?mtgID=54>. The Geographic Perspectives on Women Group also hosted a book reception honoring 13 new books. The *Gender Place and Culture Jan Monk Distinguished Lecture* was given by **Susan Hanson** on “Gendered Mobility.” It will be published in the first number of the journal in 2010.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (Australian National University) was the main trainer for the program “Regional Training of Trainers” on gender mainstreaming in water management held in Kolkata, India, in November, 2008. The program was funded by the Gender and Water Alliance and held with Bengali-speaking participants from both India and Bangladesh. Kuntala also organized an international workshop on “Mining, Gender, and Sustainable Livelihoods” at Australian National University in November, 2008. **Janet Momsen** was keynote speaker. A report on the workshop and power points are available at www.empoweringcommunities.anu.edu.au

Women’s Studies International Forum 32(1) 2009 is a special theme issue “Circling the Globe: International Feminism Reconsidered, 1910-1975.”

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE FROM COMMISSION CONFERENCE ON URBAN PUBLIC SPACES AND SOCIAL DIVERSITY

A small selection of papers from the June 2007 Gender Commission Symposium held in Zurich are being released this spring in *Geographica Helvetica/Swiss Journal of Geography* 64(1) 2009. All articles are written in English with German and French abstracts. The editorial is in all three languages. For details on the contents see entries in the Book Chapters and Articles section of this newsletter by Vaiou and Kalanides; Kaspar and Buehler; Osterman and Timpf; Droogleever Fortuijn; and Knigge. We appreciate the work of **Elisabeth Bühler** and colleagues in bringing these selections to press.

NEW BOOKS and DVD

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- Briones, Leah. *Empowering Migrant Women: Women's Agency and Rights are Not Enough*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
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