

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 50

MAY, 2013

Message from the Chair

I am very pleased to share that our Commission will, as usual, take an active part in the upcoming IGU conference in August 2013. Our sessions planned for the IGU Kyoto Regional Conference received more abstracts than we could accommodate! Taking into account the two sessions we are co-organising with the History Commission, we will have a total of 10 sessions and 1 panel discussion. While the deadline for submitting abstracts for Kyoto is over, the good news is that the deadline for submission of abstracts for the IGU Gender Commission's Pre-conference in Nara has been extended to 24th May 2013. Details have been posted on the Commission's listserv. I hope to meet some of you in Kyoto and/or Nara."

Shirlena Huang

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International Conference in Grenoble

Under the leadership of **Sophie Louargant** and colleagues the interdisciplinary and bilingual "Colloque International Masculins/Féminins: Dialogues Géographiques et au-delà" was held at the University of Grenoble, December 10-12, under the auspices of UMR PACTE and CNRS. It attracted presenters from more than 15 countries in western Europe, north and central Africa, the US, and Canada. Organizing themes included "Genre, mouvement, circulations;" "Genre, corps, altérité;" "Genre, fragilité, ressources; "Ce que la géographie fait aux femmes, ce que les femmes fait à la géographie;" "Genre, territoire, gouvernance: Les territoires ont la parole; le genre en actes;" and "Genre, citoyenneté, catégorisation." Plenary and working sessions were complemented by engagement with public agencies and with the arts. Details of the program are available at <http://biennale-genre.sciencesconf.org/> Programs are planned for Angers in 2014 and Poitiers in 2016.

Honoring Elisabeth Bühler

On March 26, colleagues at the University of Zürich honored **Elisabeth Bühler** on her retirement after 35 years in the Geography Institute. They noted her critical and thoughtful contributions in teaching and research, pioneering work in laying the foundations for gender studies. Among Elisabeth's many projects are those that reach beyond the academy, notably the atlases of women and equality in Switzerland, first published in German (*Frauen-und Gleichstellungatlas Schweiz*, Seismo, Zurich, 2001), subsequently in French, and issued in an updated online edition (2005) by the Swiss Federal Office of Statistics. An interview with Elisabeth by Pascal Goeke titled "Dissidente Partizipation: Elisabeth Bühler und die Geschlechterforschung in der Schweiz" will be published in the next issue of *Geographica Helvetica*. Elisabeth continues to serve as a valued member of the steering committee of the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography.

She is remembered especially for the conference she hosted for the Commission in Zurich in 2007 and the subsequent issue of *Geographica Helvetica* on "Public Spaces and Social Diversity." Colleagues from many countries sent cards honoring Elisabeth that were displayed at the reception celebrating her career. Elisabeth will continue her support for the Commission during her participation in the Congress in Japan, 2013.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Department of Science and Technology (India) is sponsoring the web-based production of "Gender Atlas" which will be a 7-volume thematically based production on India. This is one of its kind project in social sciences which has been funded by the organisation. The scholars involved are **Saraswati Raju, Sucharita Sen** and **Bashwati Das**, Jawarhalal Nehru University.

A group of U.S. and Canadian geographers. are organizing a conference "Feminist Geography 2014.: Who we are, what we do, and why we do it" in May, 2014, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. They would like to hear from others interested in hearing from others who would like to join us on the organizing committee and volunteering to assist in organization. Please contact **Karen Falconer Al-Hindi** (kfalconeralhindi@unomaha.edu) or **Pamela Moss** (pamelam@uvic.ca) In order to plan the conference, they would like to have expressions of ideas in responses to a survey accessible on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8CRTYK8>

Anindita Datta (Delhi University) and **Helle Rydstrom** (Gender Studies, Lund University Sweden) have been awarded a grant under the Linneaus Palme programme to build upon and develop our academic collaboration. They co teach gender courses at each other 's departments and at a later stage exchange Masters students. Anindita and **Ajay Bailey** (Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen) are co-hosting a session "The Hometown in the Everyday: Geographies of Nostalgia among Diasporic Populations" at the 4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Emotional Geographies at the University of Groningen, 1-3 July 2013. She also reports that a new optional course on the Geography of Gender has been initiated by colleagues at the Kurukshetra University at the Masters level. This represents the spread of Gendered courses to non metro locations in India and is a welcome initiative.

Congratulations to **Lia Karstens** (University of Amsterdam) who has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala for her "excellent contributions" to the fields of children and family studies. She is currently a visiting professor at the City University of Hong Kong.

Doris Wastl-Walter (Professor of Geography and Vice rector for Quality Management, University of Bern) is serving as President of the four-year funded Federal Program on Equal Opportunities and Gender Studies at Swiss Universities. As President of this Federal program she is very excited by the large initiative and hoping to make significant institutional changes. Her opening presentation for the Program was given in mid-April.

The University of Zurich has conferred an honorary doctorate on **Doreen Massey**, Professor Emerita, Open University (UK) in recognition of her influential work within social science and wider conceptual, philosophical and political debates around questions of space and time. Her link to geography and the faculty of science in Zurich dates back to her role as a key contributor to a lecture series about the role of women in the discipline of geography in 1993. Connections to

feminist geography and gender studies have subsequently been strengthened, not least through her participation in a number of widely acknowledged research seminars with young feminist scholars from German language geography.

Geographer **Damaris Rose** (INRS, Montreal) and demographic historian **Lisa Dillon** (Université de Montréal) have been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities research Council of Canada for the project “Home beyond the nuclear family in Canadian Cities 1921-1951: Gender and the changing living arrangements of the non-married.” In a mixed-methods approach they will explore such themes as leaving the parental home, the decisions of midlife single women and men, and the growth of young single employed women in the burgeoning apartment developments as cultural patterns, residential decisions, and options were interwoven with the urban fabric .

Congratulations of **Sallie Marston** (University of Arizona) who has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Honors from the Association of American Geographers in recognition of her scholarship in political and social geography, including issues of scale and on gender and social reproduction, her numerous contributions of service to the discipline, and as a mentor to many students,

Carolyn Schurr (U of Bern) **Heidi Kaspar**, (University of Zurich) and **Sybille Baudriel** (University of Kassel) as chairs of the German-speaking Gender Speciality group have started an initiative about gender equality in German-speaking geography with the aim of promoting the initiation of gender policies within the Verband der Geographen Deutschen Hochschulen ((national group of university geographers) and the conduct a qualitative and quantitative study in the gendered situation of doctoral students, postdoctoral students and professorships in Germany. They are interested to hear the experience of specialty groups in other countries. Contact Carolyn Schurr at schurr@giub.unibe.ch Their initiatives and related documentation are reported in detail in *FeministischesGe0-Rundmail* Nr. 55, April, 2013

Diane Richardson, Nina Laurie, Meena Poudel and Janet Townsend (UK) have conducted a project (1st November 2009 to 30th April 2012-11-23) on “Post Trafficking Livelihoods in Nepal: Women, Sexuality and Citizenship.” Details are available at www.posttraffickingnepal.co.uk/

The research examines livelihood opportunities of sexually trafficked women on return to their home country, Nepal, a topic that has received little study nor how the issues intersect with development agendas. Drawing on knowledge grounded in experiences of returnee trafficked women, they have explored the intersections of sexuality, gender and citizenship in returnee women’s livelihood strategies as new democratic processes, supported by national and transnational communities, unfold. The project included 46 interviews with returnee trafficked women in Kathmandu and provincial/rural sites identified by government for high occurrences of trafficking. Professionalisation proved an important issue for anti-trafficking groups, so a sub set of these interviews (9) were with returnee trafficked women involved as activists in anti-trafficking. A further 15 stakeholder interviews with activists, key personnel in NGOs and government were performed. They have analysed discourses and emerging policies on trafficking and citizenship in Nepal, and tracked the evolution of debates in the Constituent Assembly, convened in 2008 to draft a new constitution.

Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt (Australian National University) has had a busy and successful year. She has been awarded an Australian Research Council 'Discovery Project' grant of AU\$ 295,193 for the research project: 'Beyond the Resource Curse: Charting A Path to Sustainable Livelihoods for Mineral-Dependent Communities'. She has also held consultancies for the World Bank and Mineral Resource Authority of Papua New Guinea on a review of their 'Women in Mining Action Plan'(2013) and for Australian Council of International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) on 'Women Headed Households in Agriculture' in Eastern Gangetic Plains (Northern states of eastern India and Lower Nepal).and was awarded a Senior Visiting Fellowship in the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore (both 2012)..and was invited to deliver a Special Lecture at the Institute of Indian Geographers' conference in Trivandrum, India.

Sylvia Chant (London School of Economics has been appointed Adlerbertska Guest Professor of Sustainable Development at the School of Sustainable Development at the School of Business, Economics and Law, Gothenburg University, Sweden (2013-2015). She will be making yearly visits to Gothenburg as from this May to engage in presentations and research exchange, primarily with the institution's development geographers. She was also featured as one of 22 'global thinkers' in the 3rd edition of *Global Sociology* (Robin Cohen and Paul Kennedy (eds), Palgrave MacMillan. Houndsmills, Basingstoke). Sylvia also served as expert witness in a British court case in which judges ruled that the risk of FGM in The Gambia was sufficient to resist deportation from the UK by parents with daughters facing such a threat (which normally occurs at any point from infancy through to young adulthood). She and **Cathy McIlwaine** (Queen Mary University, London, were also principal consultants for UN-Habitat first *State of Women in Cities* report, due out shortly (see www.unhabitat.org).

Susana Maria Veleza da Silva (Federal University of Rio Grande Brazil) has been awarded a grant by the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico Brazil for research on: "Female work in the Southern Agglomeration (AUSUC): Diagnosis and proposals for affirmative actions in the context of an emerging job market." She is looking at issues for women, and especially women of color, in the context of new employment in construction and metallurgy associated with the expanding presence of the Brazilian navy in the region.

Updated Addresses

The Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group within the Association of American Geographers has a new website site. <http://www.gpow.org>

LES Online, the digital journal published in Portugal, with the weblink <http://www.lespt.org/lesonline/>. The ISSN is 1647-3868.

WEBSITE OF INTEREST

Geographers interested in aspects of environmental and other disasters will find information and contacts of interest through the Gender and Disaster Network – <http://www.gdnonline.org>

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

The Geography Teacher, a journal of the US-based National Council for Geographic Education, is planning the first issue of 2014 to be a theme issue on gender, race, and diversity. The journal provides a forum for educators and scholars to present teaching strategies and essential content for school-level geography, (US) Advanced Placement Human Geography, introductory university level geography, and courses for preservice teachers. It is also a forum for discussion of state, national, and international trends in geography education. Starting in 2014, the journal is expanding to four issues per year.

The journal is peer-reviewed.. Articles and lesson plans are welcome. Submissions of manuscripts may be made via ScholarOne at the website of *The Geography Teacher*, <https://mail.catnet.arizona.edu/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx> (<http://tandf.co.uk/journals/rget>). Those with questions may contact the editor, Jody Smothers-Marcello, at smothers-marcelloj@sitkaschools.org. <https://mail.catnet.arizona.edu/owa/UrlBlockedError.aspx> The deadline for submissions for this issue is September 1, 2013.

Sylvia Chant (London School of Economics) has been commissioned to edit a four volume *Routledge Major Works on Gender, Poverty and Development*, under the auspices of Routledge's series Major Themes in Health and Welfare. She is also Series Editor of Elgar Handbooks on Gender. The first in the series is *The International Handbook on Gender, Migration and Transnationalism: Global and Development Perspectives*, edited by Laura Oso-Casas and Natalia Ribas-Mateos, from the Universidade da Coruña, Spain, due out later this year. Other volumes in the pipeline are on gender and environmental change, and on gender and social policy. If anyone has an idea for an International Handbook on Gender, then please write to Sylvia at sylviachant2003@yahoo.co.uk

The recent issue of *Area* 45(1) 2013 has a theme section devoted to the theme of whether to change the name of the British Women and Geography Study Group to one that would reflect "gender, a topic that has been " Individual articles listed below in the section "Articles and Book Chapters "explore the various perspectives and implications..

NEW BOOKS

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Goeman, Mishuana. 2013. *Mark My Words: Native Women Mapping Our Nationa*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

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Grünenfelder, Julia.2012: *Gender, work and development: working environments of Pakistani female development practitioners*. PhD thesis. University of Zurich.

Kilkey, Majella, Diane Perrons, and Ania Plomien, with Hernan Ramirez and Pirette Hondagneu-Sotelo. 2013. *Gender, migration and domestic work: masculinities, male labour and fathering in the UK and USA* London: Palgrave Macmillan Publishers, London, UK. ISBN 9780230297203

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Musyoki, Agnes and M. Khayesi. 2012. *Environment and Development: Selected themes from eastern and southern Africa*. This book is written in honour of distinguished geographer Prof M B K Darkoh. Most of the contributions are by Prof. Darkoh's former Geography and Environmental studies students, current and former colleagues, who are now established scholars in Africa and abroad.

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Vaiou, Dina and Costis Hadjimichalis 2012. *Space in Radical Thinking*. Nicolas Poulantzas Institute. Nissos Pak/Athens.

Wehner, Carolyn, Crytsal Legacy, Caroline Andrew, Fran Klodawsky, Margaret Shaw and Kalpana Viswaneth (eds) 2012. *Building Inclusive Cities: women's Safety and the Right to the City*. New York: Routledge.

Articles and Book Chapters

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Exurbia: Politicizing an Ethics of Care from the Household to the Region.” *Frontiers: A Women’s Studies Journal* 32 (2): 186-231

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