



IGU

International Geographical Union



STUDY GROUP ON GENDER

No. 7

November 1991

Study Group Co-sponsors Programs at Two Conferences

The IGU Gender Study group co-sponsored paper sessions at the Pacific Science Congress in Hawaii, May-June, 1991 and at a conference organized by the IGU Commission on Third World Development in Sao Paulo, Brazil in July, 1991.

At the PSA the Group organized a one day program on Women and World Development, chaired by Janet Momsen (for the Study Group) and Ludmilla Kwitko (Women's Studies, University of Hawaii). The first session included a comparative paper by T. Ingram of the Cook Islands on the status of women in the South Pacific Islands, two papers on India--one by Saraswati Raju (J. Nehru University, New Delhi) about caste, class and gender as dimensions of women's work participation which contrasted northern and southern India, the other by Parvati Raghuram (University of Newcastle upon Tyne) who presented a progress report from her doctoral dissertation on inter-household support networks among migrant domestic workers in New Delhi.

In the second session, R. Dawson, (University of Hawaii) discussed attitudes towards Pacific Island women revealed in the historical journals of James Cook with Christine White, (University of Hawaii) serving as discussant. Rohana Ulliwishewa (University of Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka) presented a poster on his research on self-employed women.

The afternoon program addressed African women's experiences. Research by Bose Iyun (University of Ibadan) on external assistance programs and women's participation in development in southwestern Nigeria was presented for her by Nancy Lewis. In two papers devoted to East Africa R. Kivikkokangas-Sandgren (University of Helsinki) talked about the rural informal sector in Kenya, and H.T. Noponen (University of North Carolina) provided a longitudinal study of gender and the use of credit in the household economy of the working poor.

The day ended with an open forum chaired by Nancy Davis Lewis (University of Hawaii and Congress General Secretary) and Irene Tinker (University of California, Berkeley). In addition to the special sessions, numerous other papers on gender issues were incorporated throughout the Congress. The tone of the program and the PSA resolution on women's participation in science (see below) reflect particular commitment by General Secretary Lewis who is to be congratulated for her work.

The Brazilian meeting was arranged for the Study Group by Rosa Ester Rossini of the Department of Geography, University of Sao Paulo, who is also co-director of the university's Center for the Study of Women and Gender Relations (NEMGE). She worked with Helena Kohn Cordeiro, Department of

Cartography and GIS to organize the larger conference on "The Regional Question and Social Movements in the Third World." The day-long session program on gender focused on women and work.

Over 70 people attended the conference, all but four from Latin America, though others had submitted papers in the hopes that they would be able to find travel support to come. The emphasis on Latin American participation, however, was important in that it enabled the Gender Group to stimulate interest among scholars not previously engaged in gender research. The final program consisted of seven papers by Brazilians, one from Argentina, and two from England.

The morning sessions focused on women in the rural economy, beginning with a paper by **Monica Colombara** "Geography and Woman: Some Theoretical Considerations," which reviewed the approach to the subject in Argentina and revealed the importance of work being done in Spain and of the Spanish language literature to the development of gender studies in geography in Hispanic Latin America. The three Brazilian papers by **Rosa Ester Rossini** and two rural sociologists from UNESP at Araraquara, **Maria Aparecida de Moraes Silva** and **Vera Lucia Botta Ferrante** examined the position of rural women in the sugar cane workforce as migrant laborers and in the struggle for land. **Jane Benton** then provided an outline of her on-going work on the role of women's groups in facilitating socio-economic change in Bolivia.

The afternoon session included a paper by **Eva A Blay**, a sociologist and substitute Federal Senator, on "Women, Work, and Power" which addressed women's growing political role in Brazil. It was followed by two presentations on women's urban movements in Sao Paulo by **Sonia Alves Calio** and **Inez Geraiges de Lemos**, both of USP. They demonstrated women's increasing activism in the city over the last decade. The meeting concluded with a paper by **Janet Momsen** which examined the influence of the life course on women's working lives at continental, national, and regional scales in relation to levels of development, emphasizing the Brazilian case. Overall, the papers showed the importance of Latin American women acting together to change their life situation in the face of the economic crisis of the last decade.

Following the conference, Study Group Chair **Janet Momsen** met with geographers and members of the Nucleus for Study and Research about women (NEPEM) at the University of Brasilia and gave a talk there. She also presented at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro and met with geographers and people in government interested in gender issues. Her impression is that, although gender studies are relatively new in Brazilian geography, other social scientists are active in the field and interest is growing, particularly in the light of the UN environmental conference to be held in Brazil next year.

UPDATE: IGC 1992

The 1992 Congress in Washington DC, August 9-14 will feature a strong program on gender. Three sessions have been organized by Study Group members **Ruth Fincher**, **Kathy Gibson**, and **Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon** on topics related to women and productive work and women's caretaking responsibilities. A variety of individual papers have been submitted on similar topics, and another session organized by **Mechthild Rossler** will deal with historical perspectives on women as geographers.

The date for submission of abstracts has been extended to **January 1, 1992**. If you need additional information on submission, please contact 27th IGC, P.O. Box 727, Tulsa OK, 74101.

Plans for the pre-Congress symposium at Rutgers University are developing as reported in Newsletter no. 6. Abstracts are due **November 30, 1991**. For information contact **Joanna Regulska**, Department of Geography, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 08903 USA. Phone 908-932-4018; 908-932-4013; Fax 908-932-2175.



PUBLICATIONS

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics is an important compilation of data resulting from the collaboration of five United Nations agencies together with other organizations such as FAO and WHO. It includes chapters on women, families and households; public life and leadership; education and training; health and childbearing; housing human settlements, and environment; women's work and the economy; and annexes such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It may be ordered from Department 404, Sales Section, Room DC2-853, United Nations, New York 10017 (for North American, Latin American, Asian and Pacific orders) and from Sales Office and Bookshop, United Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland (for orders from Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.) \$US 19. 95. Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish language editions will be available late in 1991.

The Division for the Advancement of Women, Vienna International Centre, P.O. Box 500, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, an office of the United Nations, publishes a short newsletter, Women News and Women 2000, a series of pamphlets on specific themes (e.g., disabled women, women and decision making) as part of an effort to implement the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

The Examination of Equal Opportunities Through Secondary Level Geography Education by Claire Lane and Richard Moles, a set of teaching materials for use in schools, is available from Richard Moles, Department of Geography, University of Limerick, Plassey, Limerick, Ireland.

Women and Geography, 1991: A Bibliography by David Lee is available from the author who has moved to Department of Geography, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ USA 86011. This is the annual update of Women and Geography: A Comprehensive Bibliography. The full bibliography is

available for \$US6, the annual update for \$US1. Please send entries to the author.

BOOKS

Sarah Whatmore Farming Women: Gender, Work, and Family Enterprise, London, Macmillan.

SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUE

Geoforum 22(2), 1991 includes eight articles on the theme "Changing Gender Relations in Urban Space," together with an editor's introduction by J. Regulska. The articles include two theoretical discussions (by L. McDowell and K. England); two on women's paid work (by G. Pratt and S. Hanson and by A. Herod); one on the feminization of poverty (by J.E. Kodras and J.P. Jones III); one on day care services (by D. Rose and N. Chicoine); and two on women and politics (by J. Regulska, S. Fried and J. Tiefenbacher and by S. Marston and M. Saint-Germain).

Women's Studies International Forum 14(4), 1991, guest edited by Janice Monk, Anne Betteridge, and Amy Newhall is entitled "Reaching For Global Feminism: Approaches to Curriculum Change in the Southwestern United States." It includes articles by university women's studies faculty who have revised or created courses to incorporate international perspectives on women, discussing both content and pedagogical challenges in widening their frame of reference.

ARTICLES

Hazel Barrett and Angela Browne "Environmental and Economic Sustainability: Women's Horticultural Production in the Gambia," Geography, 76 pt.3 (332) 1991, 241-248.

Liz Bondi "Gender Divisions and Gentrification: A Critique," Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 16(2) 95-104.

Judith Carney and Michael Watts "Disciplining Women: Rice, Mechanization, and the Evolution of Mandinka Gender Relations in Senegambia," Signs 16(4) 1991, 651-681.

R. Deutsche "Boys' Town," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 9(1) 1991, 5-30.

Mona Domosh "Towards a Feminist Historiography of Geography," Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, 16(1) 1991, 95-104.

Ruth Fincher "Caring for Workers' Dependents: Gender, Class, and Local State Practice," Political Geography Quarterly 10(4), 1991, 356-381.

Patricia Gilmartin, "Mary Jobe Akeley's Explorations in the Canadian Rockies," The Geographical Journal, 156 (3), 1990, 297-303.

Susan Hanson and Geraldine Pratt "Job Search and the Occupational Segregation of Women," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 81(2), 1991, 229-253.

Peter Jackson "The Cultural Politics of Masculinity: Towards a Social Geography," Transactions of the Institute of British Geography, 16 (2) 1991, 199-213.

Cindi Katz "Sow What You Know: The Struggle for Social Reproduction in Rural Sudan," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 81 (3) 1991, 488-514.

Doreen Massey "Flexible Sexism," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 9(1), 1991, 31-57.

Lisa Drewes Nielsen "Flexibility, Gender, and Local Labour Markets: Some Examples from Denmark," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 15(1) 1991 42-54.

Geraldine Pratt and Susan Hanson "Job Search and the Occupational Segregation of Women," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 81 (2) 1991, 229-253

Vidyamali Samarasinghe "Women and Geographic Space: A Regional Analysis of Women's Well-being and Productive Work in Sri Lanka," in The Hidden Face of Development: Women, Work and Equality in Sri Lanka, Centre for Women's Research, Sri Lanka, 1989.

A. Warde "Gentrification as Consumption: Issues of Class and Gender," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, 9(2) 1991, 241-246.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The National Council for Geographic Education in the United States has set up a Task Force to address gender and ethnic issues within secondary geography. Chaired by Susan Hardwick, California State University, Chico, CA, the Task Force met in Washington DC in October to plan grant proposals to develop materials and provide in-service training for secondary geography teachers.

The Feminist Geography Study Group and the Industrial Change Study Group of the Institute of Australian Geographers held a joint seminar at the University of Melbourne in July, 1991. The main theme of the discussion was the theme of integrating gender, class, and ethnicity in theory and research. For further information contact Louise Johnson, Australian Studies, Deakin University, Geelong, VIC, 3217, Australia. At the Deakin Women's Studies Summer Institute, to be held in February, 1992, Louise will teach a course on women and environments.



The European Committee for Equality Between Women and Men held a seminar in Athens in October, 1990 on the participation by women in decisions concerning regional and environmental planning. The conclusions of the seminar are available in a report which may be obtained from the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France.

At the Pacific Science Congress held in Hawaii in May-June, 1991, a resolution was passed to recognize the importance of women and young people in developing science and technology and to take steps within the Pacific Science Association to foster their inclusion. The Executive Committee of the PSA has appointed an ad hoc group to address the issue and appointed geographer, Nancy Davis Lewis to head the effort. She also served as General Secretary for the 1991 Congress. She notes that almost one-third of participants at the meeting were women and that they organized 18 symposia.

The Centre for Gender Studies East-West was established in Prague in 1991 with the goals of initiating, supporting, and coordinating gender based research in eastern European and the USSR, establishing exchanges with research centres elsewhere, offering courses on gender issues, and publishing a newsletter and a series of working papers (in English). The Head of the Research Program is Olga Kucerova-Podkolodnaya who participated in discussions with members of the IGU Gender Study Group at the IGU Regional Congress in Beijing in 1990. Address for the Centre is P.O. Box 188, 111 21 Prague 1, Czechoslovakia.

Yoga Rasanayagam, University of Columbo, is Visiting Associate Professor at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI during 1991-1992. She will teach a seminar on women and development.

Geraldine Pratt received a fellowship to pursue her research and writing at the Center for Research on Women, University of British Columbia.

Study Group Chair Janet Momsen has been appointed Professor of Geography at the University of California, Davis, CA. She recently spent three weeks in China on a Ford Foundation project to examine issues related to rural women in the Tibetan border region.

Ruth Fincher has been awarded tenure at the University of Melbourne.

Cathy Nesmith has been appointed Assistant Professor of Geography and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University, Joni Seager will take up a similar position at the University of Vermont in January, 1992, and a search is being conducted for a Senior Lectureship jointly in Geography and Women's Studies at Monash University in Australia.

Janice Monk, University of Arizona, has been awarded grants from the Arizona Humanities Council and the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities for script development for a documentary film based on her co-edited book, The Desert Is No Lady: Southwestern Landscapes in Women's Writing and Art. The film will be produced in conjunction with award winning filmmakers Shelley Williams of Koninck (London) and Susan Morris (Koninck USA).

Geographers in Basel are preparing a research project on women in the cut-flower industry internationally (for example, in the Netherlands, Colombia, Spain, and Italy). They are seeking assistance with identifying research literature. Please send any references to Vreni Meier, Geographisches Institut de Universitat Basel, Klingelbergstrasse 16, 4056 Basel, Switzerland.

Sabine Silberberg Widumstr. 14, D4630 Bochum, Germany is seeking literature on women's communities (frauen wohnen gemeinsam), either historically or in the present.

RECENT CONFERENCES

At the Canadian Association of Geographers meeting in Kingston, June, 1991, Linda Peake and Audrey Kobayashi addressed issues related to the status of academic women, with presentations on the campus scale and federal policy respectively. Susan Hanson showed the film produced by Wes Dow and Mildred Berman in which women geographers in the United States discuss their careers and some of the obstacles they have encountered. A second panel, including Kim England, Valerie Preston, and Suzanne Mackenzie dealt with gender and labor markets, while gender issues were taken up by Geraldine Pratt in a session on segmented labor markets. In another session, Robyn Dowling presented her research on the construction of femininity in department stores.

Several sessions at the October, 1991 National Council for Geographic Education conference in Minneapolis (USA) focused on women and gender. Sarah Bednarz and Susan Hardwick organized a session on women as mentors in geography, Sari Bennett and Peggy Althoff presented on "The Landscape of the West: What It Meant to Women, Children and Minorities," and Jenny Zorn gave a paper on gender wage gaps in metropolitan areas. The Committee on Women in Geographic Education also sponsored a lunch.

Two recent meetings of German-speaking geographers have included sessions on women and gender. At the Bundesweites Geographinnentreffen in Freiburg, Germany in June the focus was on women in urban geography and women in developing countries. At the Deutscher Geographinnetag in September in Basel, Switzerland the orientation was towards ecological concerns and feminism with papers by Uta Bauer (Berlin) and Dagmar Reichert ((Zurich). Eva Buff Keller (Zurich) lead a workshop on forms of communication and work.

United Nations University and the World Institute for Development Economics Research held a conference in Helsinki in September, 1991 on the

theme "Gender and Restructuring: Perestroika, the 1989 Revolutions, and Women." Further information is available from Valentine Moghadam, UNU/WIDER, Annankatu 42C 00100 Helsinki, Finland. Papers from the conference will be published.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Institute of British Geographers, Swansea, January 7-10. Sessions on "Integrating Gender Issues into the Curriculum," "Gender Issues in European Agriculture," and "Gender and Rural Society."

"Women in Cities" will be the theme of a British-German Conference to be held in Hamburg, 9-12 April, 1992. For information contact Eleonore Kofman, Department of Geography, Middlesex Polytechnic Queensway, Enfield, EN3 4SF England.

A variety of sessions on gender will be held at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in San Diego, USA, April 19-22, 1992. They include "Social Movements," "Women and Environmental Activism," "Women and Work in the Mexican-American Context," "Landscape Symbolism/Representation of the Body Politics/Sexuality," "A Woman's Place: Theorizing Space and Gender," "Hispanic Women Working in the Americas," "Nationalism and Gender," and "Women and Human Rights and/or Nationalism and Resistance Struggles."

Working Paper Series

- #1 "Development and Factory Women: Negative Perceptions from a Malaysian Source Area." Amriah Buang
- #2 "Household Energy Supply and Rural Women's Work in Ghana." Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf
- #3 "Access of Female Plantation Workers In Sri Lanka to Basic Needs Provisions." L.K. Vidyamali Samarasinge

- #4 "The Impact of Labour-Saving Devices on the Lives of Rural African Women: Grain Mills in The Gambia" Hazel Barrett and Angela Browne**
- #5 "Women and Agriculture: A Case Study from the South Pacific, Western Samoa." Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop**
- #6 "Divisions of Labour in Rural India." Parvati Raghuram and Elizabeth Oughton**
- #7 "Housewifization and Colonization in the Colombian Rain Forest." Janet Townsend**
- #8 "Viewing Rural Development Programmes in India from a Gender Perspective." Rameswari Varma**
- #9 "Deconstructing the Household: Women's Roles Under Commodity Relations in Highland Bolivia." Colin Sage**
- #10 "The Intersection Between Class and Gender Relations: Theory, Method and a Case Study from Papua New Guinea." Stephanie Fahey**
- #11 "Regional Variations in Gender Roles and Relations in Farm Households in Spain." M. Dolores Garcia-Ramon, Josephina Cruz Isabel Salamana, Nuria Valdovinos and Montserrat Vilarino**
- #12 "The Relationship Between Community Size, Female Employment Rates and the Educational Level of the Female Labour Force." Peter Meusbürger and Jürgen Schmude**
- #13 "Child Care as a Space-Time Constraint in the Daily Life of the Economically Active Mother in Greater Pretoria." Joan Fairhurst**
- #14 "Un Plan Directeur du Point de Vue des Femmes." Sonia Alves Calio**
- #15 "The Impact of the Debt Crisis on Nigerian Women." Marie Pauline Eboh**
- #16 "Women's Work and the Urban Household Economy in Developing Countries." Briavel Holcomb and Tamar Rothenburg**
- #17 "Women in the Italian Workplace: Evolution of a Role." Giselle Cortesi and Marina Marengo**
- #18 "Women's Work in Family-Operated Commercial Flower Growing Units, Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area." Nidea Tadeo**
- #19 "Gender, Class and Racial Inequalities in Home Ownership Assistance in South Africa." Susan Parnell**
- #20 "A Comparative Study of Teacher's and Rural Women's Survival Strategies Under the structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in Nigeria." Julie Okpala**
- #21 "Coping with Structural Adjustment in Nigeria: Professional Women and Contingent Work in Port Harcourt." Opuenebo B. Owei and Margaret O. Jev**
- #22 "Working Women and Urban Space: Experiences in the Southeast of Bogota." Maria Cristina Franco A.**
- #23 "Displaced Sudanese Women and Restructuring of the Family Economy." Samira Amin Ahmed**
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