



IGU

International Geographical Union

STUDY GROUP ON GENDER

No. 8

May 1992

27TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS OFFERS A STRONG GENDER PROGRAM

Feminist geographers will have significant opportunities to present and hear the latest research on gender and geography at both the Main Congress in Washington DC August 9-14, 1992 and the Pre-Congress Symposium organized by the Study Group at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, August 2-7.

In Washington the Gender Study Group is sponsoring sessions on "Agriculture and Gender in Western Europe," "Changing Production and Labor Practices and their Consequences for Women," and "Gender and the Social Relations of Caring." Another organized session will address "Women and Discovery: Geographers, Travellers, and Explorers." An array of submitted papers have been grouped into sessions on "Gender and Survival," "Women's Work: Cross-Cultural Comparisons," "Gender and Power," "Regional Restructuring and the Gender Division of Labor," and "Economic Development and Female Labor in 'Developing' Countries." Two sessions will be offered on "The Geography of Gay and Lesbian Communities." In addition, gender papers will be incorporated into other topical and special sessions. Pre-registrations for the Congress may be made with the 27th IGC, P.O. Box 727, Tulsa OK 74101 USA FAX 918-584-2274 until July 1, 1991. On site registrations (at a higher fee) can be made at the Congress.

The week-long program at Rutgers promises both opportunities for small group discussions, plenary sessions, social exchanges, and a visit to New York to look at women's issues in the city. Plenary sessions

will focus on the relations between feminist scholarship and geography, women and environment, and women and political action.

The short papers submitted for presentation at Rutgers will be printed for distribution to participants at the start of the meeting. They will be grouped into two concurrent sets for presentation and discussion. Theme I, "Women's Work: The Diversity of Experiences" includes five sub-themes: "Home-based Work and Factory Work: Gains and Losses;" "Occupational Trends: Can Women Escape Segregation?" "Transition from Unpaid to Paid Work: The Case of Rural Women Workers;" "Rural and Urban Women Transforming the Impossible: Strategies and Agenda for Change;" and "Societal Values and the Interpretation of Women's Economic Activities." Theme II, "Why Don't Women Count?" also includes five sub-themes: "Education as a Barrier or an Opportunity?" "Marital Status of Women as a Source of Discrimination;" "Class, Race, and Space;" "Political Transformation;" and "Feminist Interpretation of Economic/Industrial Concepts." Speakers will represent Spain, the Netherlands, Australia, South Africa, China, Taiwan, India, the UK, Japan, Poland, Hungary, India, Germany, Sri Lanka, Western Samoa, and the USA.

Study Group Chair Janet Momsen will also convene a business meeting to report on the Group's progress and to discuss plans for work as a proposed IGU Commission in the 1992-1996 period.

The goals of the symposium are to foster connections and discussion among feminist geographers as well as to present research. Time for socializing and residence together at Rutgers will enhance the formal sessions.

Registration for the Symposium may be made until July 1, 1992, either through the 27th IGC in Tulsa (see above) for those wishing to attend both Washington and Rutgers, or directly with the symposium organizer, Dr. Joanna Regulska. Registration of \$US380 includes costs of lodging and meals, the New York trip, and transportation from Rutgers to Washington. Payments sent to Dr. Regulska should be made out to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Papers of 1500 words will be accepted for the symposium until June 10, 1992. Contact Joanna Regulska, Department of Geography, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 FAX 908-932-1144.

Those who have registered already will shortly receive detailed travel and other information.

FEMINIST GEOGRAPHIC JOURNAL TO BEGIN PUBLICATION

Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography will begin publication in January, 1994. Two issues per year will be published by the Carfax Publishing Company. The journal will be international in scope and contain full-length articles, shorter reports, observations, commentaries and viewpoints as well as book reviews. The journal will aim to break down rigid distinctions between theory and practice. Further information is available from the co-editors, Liz Bondi, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH8 9XP Scotland and Mona Domosh, College of Liberal Arts, Florida Atlantic University, 2912 College Ave, Davie, FL 33314 USA.

PUBLICATIONS

Sy Adler and Johanna Brenner "Gender and Space: Lesbians and Gay Men in the City," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 16 (1) 1992 24-34.

Maruja Milagros B. Asis "To the United States and Into the Labor Force: Occupational Expectations of Filipino and Korean Immigrant Women," Paper No. 118, East-West Center, University of Hawaii, 1991.

David J. Bell "Insignificant Others: Lesbian and Gay Geographers," Area 23 (4) 1991 323-29.

Liz Bondi "Gender and Dichotomy," Progress in Human Geography, 16 (1) 1992 98-104.

Liz Bondi and Mona Domosh "Other Figures in Other Places: On Feminism, Post-Moderism and Geography," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 1992 (in press).

Jacques Brun et Jeanne Fagnani "Paris ou La Banlieue, Le Choix d'un Mode de Vie?" Les Annales de la Recherche Urbaine, No. 50, 1991, 92-99.

Mayra Buvinic, "The Fortunes of Adolescent Mothers and Their Children: A Case Study on the Transmission of Poverty in Santiago, Chile," International Center for Research on Women, Washington, DC, 1992.

Mayra Buvinic "The Vulnerability of Women-Headed Households: Policy Questions and Options for Latin America and the Caribbean," International Center for Research on Women, Washington, DC, 1991.

Caisse Nationale Des Allocations Familiales Deux ou Trois Enfants? Pratiques des Classes Moyennes en Ile-de-France, Espaces et Familles No. 18, 1991 (short monograph based on research by Christine Castelain-Meunier and Jeanne Fagnani). Published by Caisse Nationale des Allocations Familiales, 23, rue Daviel, 75634 Paris.

Sylvia Chant (ed.) Gender and Migration in Developing Countries London: Belhaven (forthcoming) 1992. Note: Includes contributions on Peru, the Caribbean, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Ghana, and Kenya.

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

Simon Duncan "The Geography of Gender and Divisions of Labour in Britain," Transactions of the IBG 16 (4) 1991 42-39.

G. Kelkar and Dev Nathan Gender and Tribe: Women, Land, and Forests in Jharkland, Kali for Women, New Delhi, 1991.

Linda McDowell "Life Without Father and Ford: The New Gender Order of Post-Fordism," Transactions of the IBG, 16 (4) 1991 400-19.

Rehka Mehra et al "Engendering Development in Asia and the Near East: A Sourcebook," International Center for Research on Women, Washington, DC. 1992.

Roger Miller "Selling Mrs Consumer: Advertising and the Creation of Suburban Socio-Spatial Relations, 1910-1930," Antipode 23 (3) 1991 263-306.

Rachel Pain "Space, Sexual Violence and Social Control: Integrating Geographical and Feminist Analyses of Women's Fear of Crime," Progress in Human Geography, 15 (4) 1991 415-33.

Ingrid Palmer Gender and Population in the Adjustment of African Economies: Planning for Change. International Labor Office, Women, Work and Development Series Publication, No. 19, 1991.

Saraswati Raju "Gender and Deprivation: A Theme Revisited with a Geographical Perspective," Economic and Political Weekly, December 7, 1991, 2827-2839.

Alice T.M. Rechlin "Women's Places in the Profession of Geography," Progress and Perspectives: Affirmative Action in Surveying and Mapping, May-June, 1992, 1-2 (Two-part article; Part 2 to be published in next issue).

David R. Stoddart "Do We Need an Feminist Historiography of Geography--And If We Do, What Should It Be?" Transactions of the IBG, 16 (4) 1991 484-87.

Gill Valentine "Images of Danger: Women's Sources of Information about the Spatial Distribution of Male Violence," Area 24 (1) 1992 22-29.

CONGRATULATIONS

Susan Hanson delivered her Presidential Address at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in April on the topic "Feminism and Geography: Worlds In Collision?" She outlined ways in which interdisciplinary feminist scholarship has concerns that are comparable to those of the discipline of geography: a focus on everyday life; attention to the significance of context; and a priority for understanding the construction and meanings of difference. To illustrate her arguments she reviewed her research (with Geraldine Pratt) on occupational segregation and gender in Worcester, Massachusetts, studying her presentation with an array of cartoons and historical photographs. She concluded that geography and feminist scholarship have much to gain from each other. The formal paper will be published in a forthcoming Annals of the Association of American Geographers.

Recently completing their doctorates at CSRD, Jawarhalal Nehru University, New Delhi: D.K. Nayak "Female Participation in Economic Activity in Selected Rural Areas in India: A Geographical Analysis," and Satish Kumar on "The Urban Labor Market in India and the Female Workforce in the Tertiary Sector. Dr. Kumar is also recipient of a Ford Foundation grant for an advanced course at the Institute for Development Studies, Sussex and his M. PHil. thesis, "Women Workers in the Service Sector," has been accepted for publication by Criterion Publishers of New Delhi.

Kathy Gibson has been appointed as Senior Lecturer in Geography and Women's Studies at Monash University, Clayton, VIC, Australia.

The Commonwealth Geographic Bureau Newsletter No. 17, 1991, praises the efforts of Victoria Mwaka as Chair of the Department of Geography at Makerere University during difficult times in the 1970s and for re-building the department with its focus on applied geography and meeting the needs of Uganda while maintaining strong undergraduate programs. Dr. Mwaka's recent work has addressed women and development issues.

Cherub Antwi-Nsiah of Ghana completed her Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Illinois in 1991 on gender, class, and regional inequalities in Ghana. She is currently working on a study which brings a structurationist perspective to gender inequality in property relations. During Spring, 1992, she is an African Fellow at the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, DC, where she will further explore the policy implications of her dissertation research.

NEW COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY FORMED IN INDIA

A newly organized Commission on Gender and Geography held its first meeting at the National Association of Geographers of India conference in Bodhgaya, Bihar, December, 1991. Theoretical papers were presented by **Saraswati Raju** and **Satish Kumar**; **Anindita Datta** and **Mary Jose** each reported on their empirical research on crimes against Indian women; and **Camellia Majumdar** presented a comparative analysis of women's labor force participation in two regions of India. The group is working to frame feminist geographic theory appropriate to the Indian context. It has also initiated a newsletter which profiles gender research and researchers in geography in India, reports on publications and meetings, and, in the first issue, describes the gender course being taught in geography at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Further information is available from newsletter editors **Saraswati Raju** and **Satish Kumar**, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067 India; FAX 91-11-686-5886.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Gudrun Olafsdottir, Iceland, recently presented a lecture on "Women in Time and Space" to the Women's Studies Centre at the University of Iceland. She reports that the Nordic Women's Studies Group is planning a journal in English, **Nora**, and is also organizing a seven-day course for researchers on the theme of the consolidation of women's identity in different national and historical contexts.

Janice Monk spent the month of March as Visiting Professor in the Geography Department at the Autonomous University of Barcelona under a program that supports visiting faculty for post-graduate teaching. The visit was arranged by **Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon**. It included participation in the symposium "New Trends in Feminist Geography," in the graduate course on gender, and meetings with individual geographers at the Universities of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and the University of Girona. She also attended an informal meeting of Catalanian feminist geographers and demographers.

Isamu Ota reports that a discussion of the terminology of "women's view" appeared in a commercial monthly geographical magazine in Tokyo. Though the discussion did not advance new academic ideas in gender studies, it did attract readers' attention to the issues.

Mechthild Rossler (Hamburg) is now in the Division of Ecological Sciences, at UNESCO in Paris. Her new address is UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris; FAX 33-1-40.64.98.97.

Janet Momsen, Study Group Chair, was in Yunnan, China, October 1-18, supported by the Ford Foundation as part of a team investigating rural development and the situation of minority group people in the region. Her team focused on gender issues and learned a great deal about women's perceptions of maternal and child health problems related to the difficulties of travelling to distant clinics and the value men put on large families. They also studied women's agricultural and craft work, documenting its importance, though noting the lack of consultation of women in development planning and the barriers to girls' education. The objective of the visit was to initiate potential collaborative research.

Nora Chiang, National University of Taiwan, is teaching gender and geography to a class of 150 students. She also recently attended the April meetings of the Association of American Geographers and then visited **Janet Momsen** at the University of California, Davis where she gave a presentation.

Feminist geography is expanding in Canadian universities. **Margaret Johnson** has been approved to teach a joint course with Women's Studies at Lakehead University; a graduate course on "Gender and the City" is offered at York University; **Kim England** teaches Women and the City (undergraduate) and a graduate seminar "Gender, Class, Race, and Ethnicity" in her seminar on Social Geography and Planning and **Sue Ruddick's** seminar on Social Policy and Planning also focuses on gender, age, race, and class. An array of graduate students are also pursuing dissertations on gender themes at McMaster. At Ryerson Polytechnic, **Marie Truelove** has received funding for research on the location decisions of non-profit, commercial, and government supported day care centres in Toronto.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

"Women, Land, Design," The Radcliffe Seminars Graduate Program in Landscape Design has issued a call for papers for a conference scheduled for April, 1993 at Radcliffe College, Cambridge, MA USA. It aims to deal with both historical and contemporary themes related to women and environment and landscape design. Abstracts should be submitted by June 1, 1992 to "Women, Land Design". Cronkhite Graduate Center, 6 Ash St, Cambridge, MA USA 02138. FAX 617-495-8422.

The Women's Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology is holding a conference May 20-22, 1992 on "En/gendering Environmental Thinking: A Symposium of Scientists, Scholars, Strategists, and Community Activists." For more information write to Women's Studies, MIT, 14E-316, MIT, Cambridge MA USA 02139. Geographers who will be giving presentations include **Dianne Rocheleau** and **Joni Seager**.

"Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Bridges Across Activism and the Academy" will be held in Nigeria July 12-22, 1992. For further information contact Professor **Obioma Nnaemeka**, Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, University of Minnesota, MN 55455 USA FAX 612-626-1697.

A special session on "Feminism and Historical Geography: The Imagined Geographies of Women" will be held at the International Conference of Historical Geographers, August 16-23 at the University

of British Columbia. Information is available from **Alison Blount**, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 217-1984 West Mall, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2.

RECENT CONFERENCES

The Department of Earth Sciences, University of the Balearic Islands sponsored a two-day conference "Women, Territory, and Society, November 27-28 in Palma (Majorca) under the coordination of **Joana Segui** and **Climent Picornell** and with support from the Instituto de la Mujer. Themes included an overview of the field literacy; women's work in rural and urban environments; the spatial distribution of women immigrants, and differential use of public and private space.

The Institute of British Geographers meeting in Swansea, January 7-10, 1992 emphasized research related to rural women in Europe and teaching feminist geography. The sessions "Gender Issues in Rural Society" included four papers by **Jo Little**, **Stephen Syrett**, **Suzanne Syrett** and **Christopher Short**, and **Sarah Harper** on women's productive and reproductive work in non-agricultural work (e.g. as caretakers) and on their connections to social institutions. The sessions on "Gender and European Agriculture" brought together an international group of speakers: **Gemma Canoves** (Spain), **Marit Haugen** (Norway); **Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon** (Spain), **Nathalie Wuiame** (European Community) and **Janet Momsen** (USA). The session was co-convened by **Sarah Whatmore** and **Janet Momsen**.

The Women and Geography Study Group, with support from the IBG Council, also offered an afternoon workshop organized by **Linda McDowell** on "Teaching Feminist Geography to Undergraduates." The workshop dealt with both content issues and pedagogical issues, with much of the discussion addressing student-teacher relations.

The Working Group on Geography and Gender, Autonomous University of Barcelona organized a well-attended seminar series, March 23-25, 1992 on "New Trends in Geography and Gender." The three themes for the seminar were "Environment;" "Life Course;" and "Interdisciplinarity." Each day's seminar began with a presentation by **Janice Monk**, University

of Arizona, USA which were followed by a panel of other speakers and round table discussions. These included Anna Cabre, Director of the Center for Demographic Studies, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Isabel Margarida Andre, Geography, University of Lisbon, Portugal; Josepa Bru, Geography, General Studies, Lleida; David Sauri, Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona; Mary Nash, History, University of Barcelona; Teresa Torns, Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona; and Antoni Tulla, Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona. The organizing committee for the series included Maria Dolors Garcia Ramon, Gemma Canoves, and Montserrat Solsona of the Geography Department at the Autonomous University.

What may have been the first conference to celebrate and assess the work and career of a woman geographer was held at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA, April 2-4, 1992 to commemorate the centennial of the master's graduation from Vassar of Ellen Churchill Semple. The symposium was organized by Harvey Flad and included two and a half days of presentations which examined Semple's career, set it in the context of work by other women in geography and geographical organizations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and reassessed the value of Semple's contributions to the discipline, considering her theoretical and regional studies. The conference also looked at the place of geography in undergraduate liberal education, reviewing the history of the department at Vassar, particularly during its years as a women's college, and assessing the contemporary place of geography in liberal education. A field trip following the symposium visited historical sites in the Hudson Valley, emphasizing women's experiences in these places. Publication of the meeting papers in book form is being explored.

The British-German Conference, Women in Cities, was held in Hamburg 9-12 April, 1992, co-organized by Mechthild Rossler, Eleonore Kofman, and Jo Little in cooperation with the Feminist Planners Organization of Hamburg. Topics range from a review of the status of research on gender and the city to women's coping with fears of male violence in the city, childcare concerns, lesbian and minority women, women's space in the city, social movements, employment and planning concerns, including the activities of such groups as WEED (Toronto) and Healthy Cities (Hamburg).

Ten sessions and a variety of other papers on women and gender kept feminist geographers busy at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in San Diego, April 19-22, 1992. Several features marked the meeting: the continuing growth of interest in cultural representations of gender, race and class represented by such papers as Caroline Mills's on the cultural construction of femininity and rurality in rural England and Deborah Leslie's on femininity, advertising, and place; and Susan Mains's paper on gender roles and modern urban housing design. Patricia Chalita also drew attention to the ways in which scholars feminist from other disciplines, especially literary and cultural studies are using geographic metaphors in their work.

Presentations on women and work dealt with new modes of work, for example, Ann Oberhauser's review of homeworking as an income-generating strategy and Jill Seskin's analysis gender construction and resistance among workers in a discount department store; a regional session on Latin America also addressed women's work in historical and contemporary contexts, with the presenters emphasizing women's agency.

Two panels on restructuring labor were co-sponsored with the Socialist Geographers Specialty Group, bringing together issues of gender class, and ethnicity. These were organized by Jane Pollard and Doreen Mattingly. Additionally, two panels organized by Lawrence Knopp dealt with gay and lesbian issues, one reporting research on spatial patterns and activism, the other a round-table on the experience of gay and lesbian geographers in the profession. Political themes were addressed in the session on women and nationalism organized by Tamar Mayer. Finally, Eve Gruntfest, on behalf of the Committee on the Status of Women in Geography organized a panel on women's professional experiences entitled "Alternative Paths Through the Maze: Surviving With Your Dignity Intact."

Highlight of the meeting was the Presidential Address by past-president Susan Hanson on the relationships between feminist scholarship and the discipline of geography (see above "Congratulations"). Janice Monk was one of the recipients of AAG Honors for her contributions to studies of women and place and Jeanne Kay received the Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group Award for her work in feminist historical geography, for her

receptivity to feminist work as an editor of The Professional Geographer, and as a mentor to women graduate students.

Thirty women from six universities took part in feminist geography sessions at the Geographinnen-Treffen in Trier in January, 1992. The program included a presentation by Dr. Roloff of Dortmund on women's studies in general and women in the academy, and was followed by three workshops: on a theoretical critique of geographic research, particularly raising issues of subjectivity and the need to see research in relation to social change; on progress in geographic research on women, which stressed the need to pay attention to methodological questions and to develop research on new topics such as recreational behavior, social activities, and rural women; and on ecofeminism, looking at the mutual dependency of humans and nature and the connections between the oppression of women and the oppression of nature. Further details and a report are available (for DM 6) from Fachschaft Geo, AK Geographinnen, Raum DM 50, Universitat Trier 5500 Trier, Germany. The next meeting will be held in Frankfurt in June, 1992 on the themes of overpopulation and ecocollapse.

"Comparative Perspectives on Women, the State, and Industrial Restructuring in East Asia" is the focus of a workshop to be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, June 22-26, 1992. It is funded by a Pacific Rim grant from the University of California System. Among the presenters are Diane Wolf, Cynthia Truelove, Tai-Lok Lui, Aihwa Ong, Nora Chiang, Lucie Cheng, Ping Chung Hsiung, Oakla Cho, and Uhn Cho.

PLANS FOR IGU GENDER COMMISSION, 1992-1996

The Executive Committee of the IGU has approved establishment of the Commission and will make its recommendation to the General Assembly at the Washington Congress. The approval reflects a review of work of the Study Group and proposals for continuing activities over the next four years. Further details will be reported in the next newsletter.

WORKING PAPER SERIES

The full set of working papers is listed in Newsletter No. 7. The most recent releases are listed below:

#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