



# IGU

International Geographical Union

## COMMISSION ON GENDER

No. 9

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### Study Group Awarded Commission Status

At the August, 1992 IGU meeting, the Study Group on Gender and Geography was approved as a Commission for 1992-1996. The Commission's work will address the intersection of gender and political and environmental change, emphasizing research on 1) relationships between gender and the state at local and national scales and 2) women and environmental management, especially in the developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. In pursuing this program, we hope to stimulate studies that deal with the diversity of women's experiences and to focus on the significance of geographic context in shaping those experiences.

Projects on these themes have potential for making important contributions at the next two IGU meetings in Prague, 1994 and Amsterdam, 1996. Both Congresses will pay special attention to environmental topics. The Prague meeting also provides an ideal site to deal with issues of political change and women, especially around questions of citizen rights, state provision of services, and population issues. We are eager to hear from scholars who wish to contribute to the Commission's agenda. Please contact the Chair, Janet Momsen or one of the Commission's full members (see below).

Please note, that although the political and environmental themes are listed separately, we are also interested in research on the triple intersection of gender/environment/and women's political activity.

Commission members for 1992-1996 are:

Janet Momsen, Chair  
Department of Geography  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616  
USA

Janice Monk, Newsletter Editor  
Southwest Institute for Research on Women  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
USA

Nora Chiang  
Department of Geography  
National Taiwan University  
Roosevelt Road  
Section 4, No 1  
Taipei, Taiwan  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Ruth Fincher  
Department of Geography  
University of Melbourne  
Parkville  
VIC 3052  
AUSTRALIA

Joos Droogleever Fortuijn  
Department of Human Geography  
Faculty of Environmental Sciences  
University of Amsterdam  
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130  
1018 VZ Amsterdam  
THE NETHERLANDS

Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon  
Department of Geography  
Autonomous University of Barcelona  
Bellaterra  
Barcelona, 08193  
SPAIN

Isamu Ota  
Department of Liberal Arts  
Toyo University  
5-28-20 Hakusan  
Bunkyo-Yu, Tokyo 112  
JAPAN

Olga Kucerova Podkolodnaya  
East-West Gender Studies  
P.O. Box 188  
111 21 Prague  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Saraswati Raju  
Centre for the Study of Regional Development  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi, 110067  
INDIA

Yoga Rasanayagam  
University of Colombo  
10 B Summit Flats  
Colombo 5  
SRI LANKA

Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf  
Department of Geography and Resource  
Development  
University of Ghana  
P.O. Box 59  
Legon, Accra  
GHANA

## COMMISSION WILL CO-SPONSOR ERASMUS INSTITUTE IN SPAIN

The IGU Commission on Gender and Geography will co-sponsor a 10 day institute, June 18-28, 1992 on "Women's Work, Women's Employment, and Daily Life: A Focus on Southern Europe" at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Funded by the Erasmus Program, the institute will bring together geographers from the Universities of Durham and Sheffield (UK), Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Roskilde (Denmark), Athens (Greece), and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Scholars from other universities, especially from southern Europe, are also welcome. A registration fee of \$60, payable by February 19, will be charged for participants from non-Erasmus universities. The registration includes all materials and field trips to Girona and Barcelona. For further information, contact Prof. Maria Dolores Garcia-Ramon, Department of Geography, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Bellaterra, Barcelona 08193, Spain. FAX 34-3-581-2001.

## SYMPOSIUM BUILDS CONNECTIONS, STIMULATES REFLECTION, AND SUGGESTS NEW DIRECTIONS

Over 40 feminist geographers spent the week of August 2-7, 1992 at Rutgers University for the symposium "Women's Paid and Unpaid Work in a Changing Global Economy." Representation was gratifyingly diverse: participants came from countries as far apart as Finland and Western Samoa and all continents were included, though participants were disappointed that only one Latin American and no Black African or Middle Eastern scholars were able to be present.

It was a full program: more than 20 papers, four plenary talks, several small group review discussions, a day in New York which included a visit to the Cornell University Labor Relations program, meetings with representatives of the impressively diverse women's studies and research programs at Rutgers, and intensive informal conversations. Two

general themes provided the organizing framework "Women's Work: Diversity of Experiences" and "Why Don't Women Count?". Participants for the most part attended sessions of either one of these two groups to provide continuity in discussions. All papers were available in printed form, so that speakers were able to give brief synopses of their main points and devote time to intensive discussions. The dedication, skill, and patience of Joanna Regulska, local organizer, and her assistant, Tamar Rothenberg, were vital in managing such a successful program. The Study Group warmly appreciated their work.

Given the level of activity, it is not possible to give a comprehensive summary of the symposium, but several impressions recur, highlighting how international meetings challenge assumptions in ways that does not happen when contacts are more culturally restricted. Distinctions between "productive" and "reproductive" work, for example, what constitutes "homeworking", or ideas about household organization and its implications for women's work, become less clear, and the need for more complex concepts becomes apparent. The utility of theory, the relationships between researcher and researched, the setting of agendas, all are seen in a new light. So too, are we reminded of the significance of place, and what geography as a discipline has to offer feminist scholarship.

The value of these meetings and their meanings to different participants are suggested by the following comments provided by some of those present.

Highly valued was the informal, supportive atmosphere and the chance to meet other feminist geographers: "It was the most scholarly and comfortable seminar-type session in my past experience of international conferences," writes Isamu Ota (Japan), though he reminds native speakers of English that people who speak minority tongues would appreciate more efforts to accommodate them. "I liked the informal, friendly atmosphere, and the quality of the organization.... The meeting was an exciting experience. I hope to meet the same people and many others in the

Netherlands in 1996" notes Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (The Netherlands). Janet Townsend (UK) described the symposium as "a very warm, friendly occasion which created a safe space for open, non-exclusionary discussion."

The meeting stimulated a number of Anglophone (UK, US, Canadian, and Australian) geographers to reflect on and question the primacy of theoretical debates in feminist geography that take place in their own milieus: Linda Peake (Canada) comments: "looking back, the realization of the symposium's importance to my personal and academic politics becomes stronger and stronger. Meeting new colleagues from all parts of the world made me all too acutely aware of the stereotypical ways in which I was still thinking. It also allowed me the opportunity to listen, first hand, to what non-Western geographers thought of North American and Anglo-European geography; that it was preoccupied with theory, but more importantly, theory built upon concepts that often had little applicability to their everyday lives....For me, Rutgers offered the chance to participate in postmodernism in practice, and chances like that don't come along every day."

Similarly, Ruth Fincher (Australia) noted that "the diversity of participants highlighted the diversity of approaches and specific concerns that are associated with particular places and academic cultures." It reminded her that "some of the theoretical nitpicking that goes on in our university settings...is, in the broader scheme of things, rather insignificant."

Their recognition was reinforced by Hungarian geographer Judit Timar who commented that the "discussions, which showed us that some ideas worked out in advanced capitalist countries cannot be applied in other regions, spurred us to rethink some terms and concepts (production-reproduction; masculine city-feminine suburb etc.)"

Asian and Pacific Island geographers focused especially on developing concepts that are useful in the context of their own cultures, for example, in Western Samoa (Peggy Fairbairn Dunlop) where extended families and community values must be

taken into account in assigning value to women's work, or in India (**Saraswati Raju**) where caste much be considered as a significant cause of difference among women. **Judit Timar**, summing up her impressions of the empirical work commented "how many aspects of gender relations we must examine in order to understand woman's role in social and spatial processes: wife-husband, daughter-father, sister-brother in different classes, races, cultures etc.

The awareness of the importance of context to scholarship stimulated by the meetings will be addressed by an international panel which the Commission will co-sponsor at the 1993 meetings of the Association of American Geographers on the theme: "Place Matters: Comparative Perspectives in Feminist Geography." Such understanding is important to advance scholarship, but as **Catherine Stimpson**, symposium keynote speaker recognized, we have to work with these understandings to "reconstruct our unities and our common narratives."

The symposium also generated interest in paying further attention to women's political status, citizenship rights, immigrant rights, gender justice, and other social policy issues. Invited plenary speaker, **Charlotte Bunch**, Director for the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, highlighted these in her presentation around the theme of women's rights as human rights, and in her attention to concerns of violence against women, a topic which **Janet Townsend** recognized as an important one recurring throughout discussions. For **Judit Timar**, **Bunch's** presentation linked the struggle for democracy in the public sphere and the family with the need for scholars, especially in Eastern Europe, to participate actively in politics.

**Ruth Fincher** drew similar conclusions, finding that these discussions affirmed for her "the importance of social scientific research and advocacy on gender justice issues....The substantial focus on how gender relations and justice are affected as the world changes politically (as currently in Eastern Europe) was of great interest." She looks forward to

the opportunity the 1994 meeting in Prague will provide to pursue these discussions on the ground.

## GENDER WAS ON THE MAP AT THE IGC IN WASHINGTON

To a degree not previously recorded, discussions about gender permeated the Main Congress of the IGC in Washington, August 9-14. A number of speakers at plenary sessions, among them **Joanna Regulska** (on current problems in eastern Europe), **Nancy Lewis** (on health), **Peggy Antrobus** and **Thomas Merrick** (on the quality of life and environment in the 21st century), highlighted the importance of paying attention to women's experiences and hearing women's voices. Several speakers at the invited symposia on "The Changing Americas" did likewise, including **Jeanne Kay**, **Gerda Wekerle**, **Laura Pulido**, and **Holly Youngbear Tibbetts**, the latter two representing the voices of minority Hispanic and indigenous peoples.

Organized sessions and volunteered papers featured at least 40 presentations on gender and women's lives, ranging from the history of women as geographers, to women's contemporary work in rural and urban settings across the globe, to feminist interpretations of global geopolitics, and conceptual and methodological discussions of ways to rethink "economic" geography as the world economy changes, not least as these changes involve women's work.

At the delegate assembly, Nigerian woman geographer, **Bose Iyun**, who specializes in women's health issues, was elected as an IGU Vice President; the candidacy of Brazilian geographer, **Bertha Becker**, also received considerable support, suggesting that she might be a future office holder.

As Scientific Program Chair, **Janice Monk**, took advantage of having a spacious hotel suite at her disposal to host a reception for about 60 feminist geographers and "fellow travellers" from around the world. Four women geographers (from Nigeria, Kenya, Poland, and Croatia) also received special

travel awards from the Society of Woman Geographers and were hosted at a lunch by Society members.

The challenge is to sustain this level of activity at the 1994 and 1996 meetings in Prague and Amsterdam. With the Study Group approved for Commission status, and members of the Commission working in both sites, we are hopeful that the next four years will build productively on the 1992 accomplishments (see cover story).

## **ROUTLEDGE LAUNCHES BOOK SERIES IN ASSOCIATION WITH COMMISSION**

The British publisher Routledge will shortly issue the first three volumes in the series "International Studies of Women and Place" which is being sponsored by the Commission and co-edited for Routledge by **Janet Momsen** and **Janice Monk**. Due at the beginning of 1993 are Different Places, Different Voices: Gender and Development in Africa, Asia and Latin America, edited by **Janet Momsen** and **Vivian Kinnaird**, which includes a selection of the papers first presented at the Study Group's Women and Development Workshop in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1989; Full Circles: Geographies of Women over the Life Course, edited by **Cindi Katz** and **Janice Monk**, and Viva: Women and Popular Protest in Latin America edited by **Sarah Radcliffe** and **Sallie Westwood**. Further information on the series can be obtained from the co-editors or from **Tristan Palmer**, Editor, Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4P 4EE ENGLAND.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Action Agenda 21 of the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet is available from the Women's Foreign Policy Council, 845 Third Ave., 15th Floor, New York NY 10022, USA.

**Floya Anthias** and **Nira Yuval Davis** Racialized Boundaries: Race, Nation, Gender, Colour and Class and the Anti-Racist Struggle Routledge, London, 1992.

**Liz Bondi** and **Mona Domosh** "Other figures in other places: on feminism, postmodernism and geography," Environment and Planning D: Society and Space 10, 2, 1992, 119-240.

**Sylvia Chant** "Gender, Migration and Urban Development in Costa Rica: the Case of Guanacaste" Geoforum, 22, 1991, 237-253.

Environment and Urbanization Volume No. 2, 1991 is a special issue on "Women in Environment and Urbanization: Strategies for Action and the Potential for Change." The journal is available from the editors, IIED, 3 Endsleigh St London WC1H 0DD, England.

**Jeanne Fagnani** "Travail et fecondite en France et en Allemagne de l'Ouest," Revue Francaise des Affaires Sociales, 2, 1992, 129-47.

**Jeanne Fagnani** "Vers un Retour des Femmes au Foyer?" Le Groupe Familial No. 135, 4/92.

**Jeanne Fagnani** and **Christine Meunier** "Modeles Culturels, Interactions Conjugales et Fecondite" Recherches Sociologiques 23,1, 1992, 123-140.

**Katherine Gibson** "Hewers of Cake and Drawers of Tea: Women, Industrial Restructuring and Class Processes on the Coalfields in Central Queensland," Rethinking Marxism (forthcoming).

**Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo** "The Influence of Household Type on Gender Differences in Work Trip Distance" The Professional Geographer, 44,2, 1992, 161-69.

**E. Nick Larson**, "The Politics of Prostitution Control: Interest Group Politics in Four Canadian Cities," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 16,2, 1992, 169-189.

Janice Monk "Gender in the Landscape: Expressions of Power and Meaning," in Inventing Places: Studies in Cultural Geography, Kay Anderson and Fay Gale (eds), Longman Cheshire, Melbourne/Wiley Halsted Press, New York, 1992.

Jan Penrose, Liz Bondi, Linda McDowell, Eleonore Kofman, Gillian Rose and Sarah Whatmore "Feminists and Feminism in the Academy--Women and Geography Study Group Meeting," Antipode, 24, 3, 1992, 218-237.

Steven Pinch and Angele Storey, "Flexibility, gender and part-time work: evidence from a survey of the economically active" in Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, New Series, Volume 17, 2, 1992, 198-214.

Steven Pinch and Angele Storey, "Who does what, where? A household survey of the division of domestic labour in Southampton" in Area, 24, 1, March 1992, 5-12.

Geraldine Pratt "Feminist Geography" (Progress report), Urban Geography, 13, 4, 1992, 385-391.

Vandana Shiva, Ecology and the Politics of Survival: Conflicts over Natural Resources in India Sage Publications, 1991.

Caroline Self, Sucharita Gopal, Reginald Golledge, and Sarah Fenstermaker "Gender-related Differences in Spatial Abilities," Progress in Human Geography, 16,3, 1992, 315-42.

Daphne Spain Gendered Spaces, University of North Carolina Press, 1992.

Gill Valentine, "Images of danger: women's sources of information about the spatial distribution of male violence" in Area, 24, 1, 1992, 22-29.

Anoja Wickramasinghe, Gender Issues in Forest and Tree Use Practices in South East Asia, Bangkok: Forestry Fuelwood Research Project.

Elizabeth Wilson The Sphinx in the City: Urban

Life, the Control of Disorder and Women, University of California Press, 1992.

Hilary Winchester "The Construction and Deconstruction of Women's Roles in the Urban Landscape" in Inventing Places: Studies in Cultural Geography, Kay Anderson and Fay Gale (eds), Longman Cheshire, Melbourne/Wiley Halsted Press, New York, 1992.

Women's Research Program Research on Women in Taiwan (an annotated bibliography, in English, of 350 works) Population Studies Center, National Taiwan University, 1992.

From the International Center for Research on Women: Nancy Folbre Women on Their Own: Global Patterns of Female Headship and Michael Paolisso and Sally Yudelman Women, Poverty and the Environment in Latin America International Center for Research on Women, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. Washington DC 20036, USA.

From the Asian Women Workers' Center: Michiko Hiroki, In the Shadows of Affluence: Stories of Japanese Women Workers; Miyoko Shiozawa and Michiko Hiroki Discrimination Against Women Workers in Japan; Survey on Living Conditions of Women Workers in Six Asian Countries--Wages, Living Costs and Time Use. Asian Women Workers' Center, 2-3-18-34 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169 Japan.

From the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation: Dorien Brunt Mastering the Struggle: Gender, Actors and Agrarian Change in a Mexican Ejido and Ineke van Halsema Housewives in the Field: Power, Culture and Gender in a South Brazilian Village, CEDLA, Keizersgracht 395-397, 1016 EK Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

From Institut für Interdisziplinäre Forschung und Praxis, Julius Tandler Platz 5/24, A-1090, Vienna, Austria: a 5 volume international bibliography in women's studies.

## FOCUS ON EASTERN EUROPE

In recognition that the 1994 IGU meeting will be held in Prague, we are including the following items on feminist scholarship and researchers in eastern Europe.

World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) Privatization and Democratization in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union: The Gender Dimension. Available from WIDER, Annankatu 42C, 00100 Helsinki, Finland.

Estonian feminists are interested in receiving information, books and articles on women's studies organizations, courses, and activities. Please send to **Anu Laas**, Family Laboratory, Tartu University, Luvi, 202400, Tartu, Estonia.

Eastern European Women's Studies seek books, course syllabi, bibliographies etc. and news of international student and exchange opportunities. Contact **Ralitsaa Mularska**, President of Baun, Sofia University, St. Kliment of Ochrida, Department of Slavic Studies, 15 Ruski Blvd. 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria and/or **Dr. Aurelija Usoniene**, Department of English, Vilnius University, P.O.Box 2561 Vilnius, Lithuania.

## FORTHCOMING AND RECENT CONFERENCES

International Conference on Women and the Environment, Alexandria, Egypt, December 1-2, 1992. Contact **Dr. Samia Saad**, High Institute of Public Health, 1652 El-Horriya Ave., Alexandria, Egypt. (FAX 002-02-422-8379.)

A conference on Asian Urbanization is being planned at National Taiwan University. It is hoped to thread gender papers throughout the conference. For information, contact **Dr. Nora Chiang**, Chair, Department of Geography, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Postmodern Urban Spaces: Cities of Fragmentation, Segregation, Surveillance, and Simulation. April 14-16, 1993, University of Sydney. Papers on gender welcome. Send offers of papers to **Prof. Sophie Watson**, Dept. of Urban Planning, University of Sydney, Sydney 2006, Australia (FAX 61 2 692 4518) or **Dr. Kathie Gibson**, Dept. of Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University, Clayton, VIC Australia 3168 (FAX 61 3 565 2948).

The Women and Geography Study Group of the Institute for British Geographers held a meeting on September 10, 1992 on "Rethinking Teaching Strategies" as a follow-up to their program at the January, 1992 IBG Conference. The September meeting, organized by **Avril Mander** (Oxford University) was co-sponsored by the Higher Education Study Group and the Postgraduate Forum.

A one-day conference in feminist geography was organized by **Kathie Gibson** at Monash University, in Melbourne, Australia, July 3, 1992. The meeting provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of current and recent graduate student research and for some ex-patriate Australian feminist geographers now living in Canada and the US to catch up with developments "at home."

At the 5th Austrian Conference for Regional Science and Geography in Zwettl, November, 1991 **Eva Kail** gave a paper on traffic policy and the everyday life of women in the city and **Jutta Kleedorfer** presented on women and regional planning. Both are with the Regional Planning Office of the city of Vienna.

Feminist geographers made the news at the January 1992 joint conference of the New Zealand Geographical Society and the Institute of Australian Geographers when their work was reported in a lengthy article "Gender and Geography" in the New Zealand Herald. Nine papers dealt with women and gender themes ranging from studies of homeworking in New Zealand (by **P. Foggo**, Waikato) to women's fear of public spaces (**M. Permezel**, Melbourne), to class and gender issues in 19th century charity distribution (**B. Gleeson**, Melbourne).

## ON THE MOVE

Gillian Cook has been appointed lecturer at La Sainte Union College of Higher Education, Southampton, UK.

Ruth Fincher (Australia) will present an invited paper in November to a program on "Women: Restructuring Work and Welfare in Australia" organized by the Australian Academy of Social Science. She is the only geographer invited. Ruth has recently returned to the Department of Geography, University of Melbourne after a two-year leave in the Bureau of Immigration Research.

Maria Dolores Garcia Ramon (Spain) lectured in the West European Studies program at Cornell University, USA during September.

Georundbrief (July, 1992) reports that Anne-Francois Gilbert (Zurich) gave lectures in feminist geography in Tübingen, Germany and Elisabeth Baschlin Roques (Bern) in Klagenfurt, Austria.

Eleonore Kofman has been appointed Professor in International Studies at the Nottingham-Trent University, England.

Linda McDowell has accepted an appointment in the Department of Geography, Cambridge University, England.

Saraswati Raju, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, held a visiting fellowship at Durham University, UK, during the Easter Term, 1992.

Hae Un Rii (Korea), is spending the 1992-1993 academic year in the Asian Studies Program at Michigan State University.

Rosa Ester Rossini, Professor of Geography, has been appointed Acting Coordinator of the Nucleo de Estudos da Mulher e Relacoes Sociais de Genero, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Elizabeth Teather, Department of Geography, University of New England, Australia presented a paper on the Country Women's Association of Australia at the World Congress of Rural Sociology in Pennsylvania in August, 1992 and then visited the University of Guelph, Canada. She hopes to carry out a comparative study of rural women's organizations in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

Doris Wastl-Walter has been appointed assistant professor of geography at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

Anoja Wickramasinghe, University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka), has a fellowship at the Centre for Women's Studies, University of British Columbia. The Center will shortly publish her paper "Women, Equity, and natural Resource Management".

## FEMINIST GEOGRAPHY JOURNAL WILL BEGIN PUBLICATION

Gender, Place, and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography is being launched by Carfax Publishing Company under the editorship of Liz Bondi, Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond St. Edinburgh EH8 9XP Scotland and Mona Domosh, Dept. of Geography, College of Liberal Arts, Florida Atlantic University, 2912 College Ave., Davie FLA 33314, USA. Two issues per year will be published, beginning in January, 1994. The editors welcome submissions for articles (3,000-7,000 words), short reports, commentaries, and viewpoints (less than 3,000 words). Details regarding submissions are available from either editor at the addresses noted above.

## IN APPRECIATION

We appreciate donations from Yukiko Bedford (Japan) and Jacquelyn Beyer (USA) towards the costs of producing this newsletter.