



Canadian Women and Geography New sletter

SPRING 2001

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

On Ways of Celebrating Women's Accomplishments in Geography

As I look out of my office window at the Spring sunshine and buds bursting forth on bushes and trees, it seems an entirely appropriate time to celebrate all women have accomplished and will yet accomplish in Geography. Despite the many challenges we face, both professional and personal, from the vantage point of this Sunday morning in late April 2001 the prospects for women in Geography have in many ways never seemed brighter.

The accomplishments of women who have worked in Geography for some time are impressive: from establishing international networks and organizations to promote and facilitate geographic research on gender issues (notably, the International Geographic Union's Commission on Gender), to heading major research projects and initiatives in physical and human geography—many of which push conventional disciplinary and subdisciplinary boundaries (including those between physical and human geography), to acting as Presidents of major professional associations such as the Canadian Association of Geographers, and doing outstanding scholarly and applied work. And of course, we've accomplished much more as well: mentoring new female scholars and researchers, coming up with innovative ways of using our skills to assist persons often on the margins of society and space (such as the production of tactile mapping to assist persons with visual impairments), making presentations about our work to others, teaching courses, writing papers, attending meetings, working on employment equity issues and even sometimes managing to keep our private lives on track!

It is clear that women in Canada and around the world have made major contributions to what Geography is and have helped to lay the groundwork for a discipline and for working environments which are inclusionary of women in all their diversity – across differences of class, age, race, sexual identity and places in an unevenly developed world. There is a lot of work to do – on issues of disabling differences for instance – but to get there we need to remember how far we've come, and the many, many women and sometimes men who have helped us on our way.

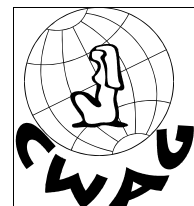
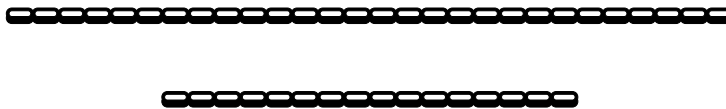
There are many ways of celebrating the accomplishments of women working in Geography. For me, spending time with valued women colleagues and new female scholars always feels like a bit of a celebration; giving me a kind of ‘women are here to stay’ uplifting feeling. Listening to women present innovative ideas and work also gives me that kind of intellectual and spiritual ‘lift’ and I hope that many of you had the opportunity to attend and enjoy the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial lecture and reception at last year’s CAG meeting in that positive way. It is important that we support such CWAG events financially and organizationally, and I hope that many of you will choose to make a financial donation to the lecture fund so that this event will continue to bring women working in Geography together at the annual meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers. No donation is too small (or too large of course!) and every one is another cause for celebrating women’s contributions in Geography. Equally important we can contribute to the CWAG poster session celebrating women’s work in Geography in Montreal. Posters do not need to be elaborate and can even be cut and pasted from web or other photos and statements already on hand. Just let Colleen Youngs know you are bringing one so she can arrange space! At McMaster, we are encouraging women faculty and students to contribute a brief statement of their work to a poster being funded by the School of Geography and Geology. Our poster will have a final home on the walls of the department; there for all to enjoy and celebrate!

I hope I will have the opportunity to celebrate with many of you at this year’s CWAG events at the Canadian Geographer’s meeting in Montreal. And, hoisting an imaginary celebratory glass of cheer, let me just say thanks to all of you who’ve helped to make positive differences for women working in Geography. Here’s to you from me!!

Vera Chouinard
 CWAG Chair
 chouinar@mcmaster.ca

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Publications of Interest For Members:

Gisèle Yasmeeen recently published a few articles that may be of interest to CWAG members. Both deal with gender relations and women's role in the food-system. Here are the references.

"Stockbrokers turned Sandwich Vendors: the Economic Crisis and Food-retailing in the Philippines and Thailand". Geoforum (special issue on the Asian Economic Crisis). Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 91-102 February 2001.

"Not 'From Scratch': Thai Food Systems and 'Public Eating". Journal of Intercultural Studies, (Special Issue on Women and Food edited by Dr. Sneja Gunew). Vol. 21, No. 3, 2000. Pp.341-52.

Gisèle also recently completed a consultancy for the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on Urban Agriculture in India which has a strong gender relations component. The report will be available from IDRC in May 2001. Here is the reference.

CFP Report 32 "Urban Agriculture in India: A Survey of Expertise, Capacities and Recent Experience" by Gisèle Yasmeeen, Ph.D. A Study Commissioned by IDRC's South Asia Regional Office, 2001.

Gisèle current consulting contract with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Feeding Asian Cities is nearly complete.

Damaris Rose (Institut national de la recherche scientifique) has co-authored a major book on Montréal published in Wiley's World Cities series. It addresses the cultural, linguistic, social and economic issues and paradoxes that have historically shaped the city's urban development and that today pose new challenges for its identity as an international city with a French character. Full

reference: Germain, Annick and Damaris Rose (2000). *Montréal: The Quest for a Metropolis*. Chichester: Wiley. ISBN: 0471-94907-8, 306 pp., 78 illustrations. Canadian price: \$99.95.

She is also the coordinator of a “Strategic Workshop” funded by SSHRC which has brought together an interdisciplinary team of nine female researchers to develop a policy-relevant knowledge base on how immigrant women “make place” in Canadian cities, and recommend research priorities concerning gender, immigration and settlement. Three other geographers are involved in this endeavour: Isabel Dyck (UBC), Catherine Nolin Hanlon (Dalhousie) and Valerie Preston (York). This initiative is associated with the Metropolis Project.

In the context of the Metropolis Project, she has also coordinated the development of a Web-based Atlas of Immigration in Montréal in 1996. This is presently in beta form at <http://immigration.inrs-urb.quebec.ca/> but will eventually be transferred to the Metropolis web site.

CWAG Business Information

Suzanne Memorial Lecture Fund:

Donations are urgently needed to maintain funding for future Memorial Lectures in honour of Suzanne Mackenze's contributions to feminist geography and to supporting women working in Geography.

Those who can afford to do so may wish to commit to an annual contribution. When you forward your cheque to the CWAG treasurer simply include a note that you wish to be a sustaining supporter and what you would like to contribute. Your name will be entered on our sustaining supporters list.

Please contribute what you can to help ensure that this celebration of women's work in Geography is a long-term one!

Donations to the Fund should be sent to CWAG's treasurer, Dr. Audrey Kobayashi, kobayasi@post.queensu.ca, (613) 533-3035 x33035.

CWAG Student Travel Grants Available:

Students presenting papers in CWAG sponsored sessions at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, or who are CWAG members presenting in other sessions at the conference, are encouraged to apply for CWAG travel grants.

To request travel support contact Dr. Audrey Kobayashi at kobayasi@post.queensu.ca or (613) 533-3035 x33035 with your paper's title and abstract and the name of the session in which you are presenting. Please note that a term and condition of this grant is that a complete conference paper be submitted to the CWAG treasurer no later than at the CAG conference meeting, and that notes or overheads will not be accepted as fulfillment of this term and condition.

CWAG Business Luncheon:

The business lunch for CWAG members will be on Thursday May 31 from 12:15 to 1:45. If you haven't done so, please RSVP Colleen Youngs, the special sessions coordinator, at colleen.youngs@usask.ca to confirm your attendance. The lunch will be at the conference site and will be low cost.

The only interesting answers are those which destroy the questions.

- Susan Sontag

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Announcement:

Population Studies Centre - University of Western Ontario

The Population Studies Centre at the University of Western Ontario is seeking a post-doctoral fellow to join the research program on Family Transformation and Social Cohesion, funded by a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant in the strategic area of Social Cohesion in a Globalizing Era.

The successful candidate will develop and conduct research projects on various aspects of family transformation and relationships to social cohesion, at the micro, meso and macro levels of analysis. Priority will be given to candidates with previous experience in analysing relevant data sets from Statistics Canada or comparable surveys from other countries, in particular the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, the General Social Survey on the Family, the General Social Survey on Time Use, the General Social Survey on Social and Community Support, and the National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, along with the World Values Survey, and Canadian censuses.

The position will start in September 2001. The amount of the fellowship is \$26,000.

Admission criteria:

- A PhD in demography or in a related discipline (sociology, economics, geography) with a focus on demography and solid training in quantitative analysis.
- Completed PhD thesis (by September 1, 2001).
- Experience with large data sets and longitudinal data analyses constitutes an asset.

Applications:

- A cover letter describing research experience and the reasons motivating the application
- A two page research proposal relating to the research program on Family Transformation and Social Cohesion, see <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/sociology/ftsc/>
- A curriculum vitae
- The academic record at the master and doctoral levels
- A summary of the PhD thesis
- Names of two references (including the thesis adviser)

Send the complete application by 31 July, 2001 to:

Roderic Beaujot

Department of Sociology

University of Western Ontario

London, Ont N6A 5C2

Judith Rempel (jrempel@gov.calgary.ab.ca)

Gustave Goldmann (gustave.goldmann@statcan.ca)

Canadian Population Society, Population Studies Centre - University of Western Ontario

Update on Recent Female Graduates From Carleton University:

Carleton University's Recent Female Graduates (2000-2001)

Aining Zhang PH.D.

"The Role of Geomatics in Supporting Sustainable Development Policy-making"

Patricia (Panayota) Cosmopoulos M.Sc.

"Temporal analysis of forest change at an abandoned mine site using high-resolution remote sensing"

Heather D.M. Hirtle M.A.

"The relation between spectral reflectance and dissolved organic carbon in lake water: Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia"

Tania J. Dolphin M.A.

"The Discursive Construction of Hunza, Pakistan, in Travel Writing: 1889-1999"

Erika Westman M.A.

"Food Security, the Global Food System and Local Resistance: A Case Study of the Community Garden Network of Ottawa"

Erin Turner M.A.

"Undergraduate Cartographic (and Geomatics/GISciences) Education at North American Universities"

Katherine Jean Wilson M.A.

"Ice Motion Dynamics in the 1998 North Water Polynya (NOW) Season: Validation and Monitoring using Radarsat-1 SCW Data and the Canadian Ice Service Ice tracking Algorithm"

Status Report from One Recent Graduate:

Alette Willis has infiltrated the field of epidemiology. She is finishing up a thesis at the University of Ottawa that examines how taking into account geographical concepts of scale, the importance of place, and spatial autocorrelation can change the observed mortality risk estimates from exposure to ambient air pollution. She has worked for the last two years as a research project coordinator at the Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment within the Institute of Population Health at the University of Ottawa. Although she is helping to spread the work of geographers to other disciplines, she misses the company of geographers, and the company of women; there are no female faculty members in the department of epidemiology.

"...words are a form of action, capable of influencing change. Their articulation represents a complete, lived experience."
- Ingrid Bengis

~~Events at the upcoming annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers~~

GIS at the CAG:

GIS is not an area of Geography that springs to mind in conjunction with "Canadian women in geography," but there are a number of GIS related topics that have potential impact on women's lives and the research of women in geography. As GIS becomes an increasingly important sub-discipline, intersections between feminism and GIS are growing. Interest and participation from feminist scholars promises to influence the course of GIS as well. Renée Sieber (McGill University) has organized a *GIS Theme Day* for the upcoming CAG in Montreal. A number of GIS-related sessions will be scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd. These include sessions on Public Participation in GIS (PPGIS), environmental management, the nature of spatial data, geo-libraries as well as a number of other GIS topics. I encourage CWAG members to attend to look for links between their own research and geographic technologies.

Nadine Schuurman,
Dept. of Geography
Simon Fraser University

CWAG Sponsored Sessions:

I: Feminist Issues in the Canadian Academy:

Time-slot C, May 30th., 2 :00 –3:15 Wednesday

Chair – Jennifer Hyndman, SFU

Organizer – Jennifer Hyndman, SFU

Panelists – Catherine Jean Nash, Queen's

Jodi Decker, Wilfred Laurier

Renee Sieber, McGill

II: Domestic Violence and Regionalizing Gender

Time-slot D, May 30th., 3:45 – 5:00 Wednesday

Chair - Colleen Youngs, Saskatchewan

Organizer – Colleen Youngs

Papers - Diane Martz

Oksana Starkenko

III: New Directions in Feminist Geographies of Space and Place:

Time-slot: B, May 31st., 9:45 – 11:00 Thursday

Conceptual developments: the body and 'race'

Chair - Linda Peake, York

Organizer – Linda Peake

Papers - Katherine McKittrick

Vera Chouinard and Emily Freeman

Allyson Mitchell

CWAG Business lunch:

Chair: Vera Chouinard

12:15-1:45: May 31st. Thursday

IV: New Directions in Feminist Geographies of Space and Place:

Time-slot: C, May 31st., 2:00 – 3:15 Thursday

Women and Development?

Chair - Jennifer Hyndman

Organizer – Linda Peake

Papers: Linda Peake and Amrita Persaud

Nina Laurie

Roxanne Richardson
Colleen Youngs

VI: New Directions in Feminist Geographies of Space and Place:

Time-slot A, June 1st., 8:00 – 9:15 Friday

Marginalised Groups for Feminist Geographers

Chair – Audrey Kobayashi

Organizer – Linda Peake

Papers: Kim England

Sue Frohlick

Maureen Reed

Tracey Skelton

V: Workshop - Planning the Plenary in Toronto:

Chair: Audrey Kobayashi

Time-slot B, June 1st., 9:45 – 11:00 Friday

Other CAG Sessions:

“Safe” community spaces and places I: safe locations for people with varying (dis)abilities:

Chair: Erin Mifflin, McMaster University, School of Geography and Geology

1. Community Spaces for Women Living with Arthritic Conditions in Hamilton-Wentworth. Valorie A. Crooks. McMaster University, School of Geography and Geology. 1280 Main St. W. Hamilton ON, L8S 4K1. E-mail: crooksva@mcmaster.ca
2. A Rite of Passage? The (re)production of “safe space” at the Environmental Health Centre, Fall River. Fiona Coyle. Geography Department, B349 LOEB Building, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6. E-mail: fcoyle@chat.carleton.ca
3. Users' Evaluation of Drop-in Centres: The Perspective of Low-Income Mentally Ill Persons in Vancouver BC. Kareem D. Sadiq. York University, Department of Geography, 4700 Keele St., S410 Ross Building, Toronto ON Canada, M3J 3L3. E-mail: ksadiq@yorku.ca
4. Agoraphobic Havens: An exploration of the tensions within grassroots organizations dealing with panic and agoraphobia. Ruth Bankey. University of Edinburgh. E-mail: rbankey@home.com

“Safe” community spaces and places II: examining the gathering of marginalised groups:

Chair: Valorie A. Crooks, McMaster University, School of Geography and Geology

1. The Contestation of Space and the Importance of Place Within a Homeless Shelter in Hamilton, Ontario. Erin Mifflin. McMaster University, School of Geography and Geology. 1280 Main St. W. Hamilton ON, L8S 4K1. E-mail: miffliel@mcmaster.ca
2. A Search For Home: Refugee Voices in the Romero House Community. Jennifer Woodill, Department of Women’s Studies, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3. E-mail: jwoodill@hotmail.com.
3. How ‘Women’ Got Lost in the Woods: a case study of women’s activism for safer community spaces in High Park, Toronto. Carolyn Whitzman, McMaster University, School of Geography and Geology, 1280 Main St. W., Hamilton, ON, L8S 4K1. E-mail: whitzmc@mcmaster.ca.
4. When is a woman not a woman?: A exploration of a transgendered woman's encounter with Rape Relief, Vancouver, BC. Deborah Thien. Coordinator, Northern Secretariat for the BC Centre of Excellence for Women’s Health. University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9.

Fun at the CAG??

Dear CWAG Members:

Have you worked too hard and too long this year? Do you need some fun? Some of us had considered a day at the baths in Montreal. However, perhaps we could improvise some fun event when we arrive at the CAG and celebrate ourselves!

Colleen Youngs

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