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Women's Voice

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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## Women's Voice, Volume 3, Issue 2, September 1998

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
*Illinois State University*

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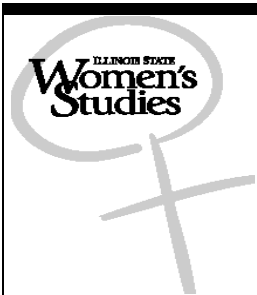
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# Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 3, Issue 2, September 1998

## From the Director

A specter is haunting the University – it is the specter of Curriculum Transformation through the combined effects of Feminist Thought, Interdisciplinarity, and Globality. These trends are challenging the disciplines to rethink some premises and to acknowledge gaps. For example, three of the disciplines that I know best – sociology, political science, and economics – have traditionally focussed their attention on the single, Western society, on the nation-state, and on the national economy. As a result of globalization (or globality), those forces and institutions that transcend or cross national borders – transnational social movements, international organizations, and the global economy – now figure into research and pedagogy. At the same time, the feminist critique has made inroads into the disciplines – although in some more than in others. Sociology has been fairly receptive, in part because it is a discipline that examines stratification systems and change processes, issues that are conducive to a feminist intervention and a gender perspective.

It wasn't always like this. In a 1985 essay, feminist sociologists Judith Stacey and Barrie Thorne maintained that feminist theory had made little impact on the core theoretical perspectives in sociology. They argued that a gendered paradigm would provide a better understanding of such social phenomena as the sex segregation of labor markets, male domination in the family, and sexual violence, as well as industrial capitalist society as a whole. In a subsequent essay (1989), Joan Acker wrote that one reason for the absence of a feminist revolution in sociology could be found in the power and organization of the discipline. But another reason lay in the underdevelopment of feminist theory, particularly with respect to some of the key areas that sociologists study: revolutions, social change, capital accumulation processes, class structure, and so on. Too much feminist

theorizing remained focused on microprocesses, the subjective, and the specific. Since then, however, the situation has changed, in my view. Feminist scholarship has contributed to such disciplinary subfields as the welfare state, social movements, revolutions, national development, work, migration, and organizations.

In this connection, ISU's Women's Studies Program has organized a semester-long Brown Bag series on Gender Across the Disciplines, in order to explore the ways in which women and gender issues have been integrated into various disciplines. (See schedule in this issue.) As background reading, I ordered "discipline analyses" from the National Center for Curriculum Transformation Resources on Women, itself part of a nationwide project to internationalize Women's Studies and "en-gender" the broader curriculum. The Women's Studies Library also has issues of the journal *Transformations: A Resource for Curriculum Transformation and Scholarship*. The Fall 1997 issue includes the following articles: "Bringing Women's Studies to Teacher Education Via the Course in Human Growth and Development", and "Enhancing Multiculturalism in the Business School Setting." The Spring 1998 issue has an article entitled "Doorways to Curriculum Change: Internationalizing Women's Studies, Integrating Women into Global Studies", with sample syllabi for political science courses called "Women, Power, and Political Systems", "Gender and the State", and "Women's Culture, Women's World." Also of interest is an issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly* on women's studies departments and programs around the world and across the U.S.

All are welcome to attend the Women's Studies Brown Bags and to consider ways of contributing to disciplinary transformations and the enhancement of learning. ✍

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Visit our website at: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/WomenStudies/womenstudies.html>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Call for Papers

The American Association of University Women has issued a call for papers for the 1999 AAUW College/University Symposium, *Higher Education in Transition: The Politics and Practices of Equity*, scheduled for June 17-19 in Washington D.C. AAUW welcomes proposals focused on gender, race, and class-and especially on the intersection of the three-in higher education. Proposals relating to teacher education and the critical link between higher education and elementary/secondary education are encouraged. AAUW will consider proposals from all disciplines and from undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Proposals must be postmarked by October 30, 1998. Further information and proposal cover pages are available from Women's Studies.

## Help Take Back the Night!

The annual march to protest violence against women, known as Take Back the Night, will take place on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will be held in the Ballroom of the Bone Student Center and all are invited to attend. If you have any questions or would like to help in the planning, contact Liz at 662-2906 or Becca at 827-4095.

## Women's Wellness Conference

*Professor Denise Davison, of the Social Work Department, and her assistants provided the following.*

Illinois State University Women's Wellness Initiative is a coalition of grass roots women's organizations that address the needs of women's wellness by utilizing culturally specific systems of delivery and serving as a support system for accessing larger regional, statewide, and national organizations. The primary health issues addressed are HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, diabetes, substance abuse, domestic violence, heart disease, and mental health (depression).

The Women's Wellness Initiative (WWI) diligently works to provide information and training to women's organizations, professionals, lay persons, and students in Peoria, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur, Springfield, and Bloomington-Normal. The WWI strives to promote the empowerment of women by providing opportunities and programming that fosters networking and encourages women to be advocates for their own health. To further the agenda of the ISU Women's Wellness Initiative, ISU is hosting the **1998 Empowerment and Skills Building Conference for Women's Health** on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of October.

A **National College Roundtable on Women's Health** is scheduled at ISU, Bone Student Center Ballroom on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. A national, state, and community panel of experts will address women's health issues. A luncheon and **Community Roundtable** will be held from 12:00-3:00 PM at the ISU University Galleries Center for Visual Arts (CVA) located off the corner of Beaufort and School street. Peer facilitators will lead the roundtable discussions.

National renowned advocates for women's health issues, Bylye Avery, founding President and Executive Director of the National Black Women's Health Project, and Emily D. Gunter, Executive Director of the National Rites of Passage Empowerment Program, will speak during the conference. A skills building workshop, "Grantwriting for Community Organizations" will be part of the community focus at Miller Park Pavilion on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

A series of **National College Roundtables on Women's Health** began in October 1996. The roundtables begin with a screening of *Get Real: Straight Talk About Women's Health*, a video discussing the health concerns of young women today and in the future. The screening is followed by roundtable discussions, led by peer facilitators, and a question and answer panel. Five roundtables have been held across the country to date, and the October 23<sup>rd</sup> roundtables will be the first in the state of Illinois.

## Internship

The **Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF)** is seeking graduating college students and recent college graduates dedicated to women's rights to apply for two exciting career opportunities in their Washington, DC office. The positions are full-time, year-long paid positions, and they are accepting applicants on a rolling basis throughout the year. Applicants are also encouraged to apply early. The two positions include **Field Representative** for the Feminist Majority Leadership alliances and **Campus Cyberspace Representative** for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances. To apply, send or email a resume, writing sample, two academic/professional references and cover letter detailing leadership experience and interest in feminist issues and grassroots organizing to: Justine Andronici, Director, Campus Program, Feminist Majority Foundation, 1600 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 801, Arlington, VA 22209. Fax: (703) 522-2219, Phone: (703) 522-2214. Email: Justine@feminist.org.



## Materials Available At Women's Studies

### Africa

Dr. Moghadam has received a number of publications on women and gender issues in Africa from the UN's Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), based in Addis Ababa. These include the African Platform for Action, which was adopted in November 1994; a study on women and socio-economic development, published in 1996; and the African Women's Report 1995. Students or faculty undertaking research on Africa or African women may call Dr. Moghadam concerning these publications.

### South America

For faculty and students researching women in Latin America, Dr. Moghadam has publications from the women and development unit of ECLAC – the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. These publications cover such issues as women and politics, gender-based violence, women and the new technologies, female human resources development, health, women and the urban informal sector. An interesting publication is entitled "Changing Power and Autonomy of Caribbean Women". Also available for research purposes are national reports on Mexico, Venezuela, and other countries, prepared for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, Sept. 1995). ☞

## Join ISU Women's Coalition

ISU Women's Coalition meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Stevenson 219. This semester's schedule will include speakers, films, displaying the Clothesline Project and planning for Take Back the Night. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have further questions, contact Liz at 662-2906 or Becca at 827-4095.

## Upcoming Career Fair

On **Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, Student and Alumni Placement Services is sponsoring a **Workforce and Diversity Career Fair**. It will be held from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Bone Student Center Ballroom.

## Women's Studies Minor on Australia

*Sarah Anderson, a current women's studies minor, recently spent a semester studying abroad in Australia.*

Spending my Spring 1998 semester abroad in Perth, Australia was a great way for me to see the importance of women's issues in another country. While I was choosing where I wanted to study abroad, I found Edith Cowan University offered a number of women's studies courses. I later found out that all of the women's studies courses were being offered on different campuses (ECU had five campuses within a two-hour vicinity of Perth), and that taking those classes would require me to find accommodations close to that campus, rather than giving me the opportunity to meet other exchange students in student housing. In the end I decided to live in student housing and take one course that incorporated women's studies in its curriculum—"Gender and Media."

My Gender and Media class was taught by a Scottish male, and in it we mainly discussed American and Australian television and films. This class, as well as living my day-to-day life in Australia, gave me a lot of insight as to how the Australian culture perceives women. One issue which we discussed in the Gender and Media course was eating disorders, and I found the views of my classmates disturbing. At one point we were asked whether or not we thought certain famous women looked overweight. While I felt the majority of them were either average or underweight, many of the other students thought they were indeed overweight.

In writing papers on this same topic, another American, a Canadian and myself, were all told that we had an "American" point of view when it came to eating disorders. All three of us felt something should be done in the media to portray women in a manner that was more attainable and realistic, and that this could have a positive effect on women. Our professor apparently thought this was too idealistic.

Women's activism in regard to social and political issues did exist, and got about the same attention that activism in the U.S. receives. In March I attended a march and rally for Western Australian women's right to have abortions. While abortion is legal throughout most of Australia, it is currently a criminal offense to have or perform an abortion in W.A. Marching with Australian feminists made me feel at home because it reminded me a lot of our own women's coalition at ISU and our Take Back the Night March. They do have a Take Back the Night at ECU, it's called "Reclaim the Night" and it is held in October.

There was a women's organization at ECU, but the organization was not as active on the campus where I lived and attended classes. ECU's organization is a part of the National Union of Students Women's Department, which I think every university's women's organization was a part of. While I only took one class in Australia that dealt specifically with women's issues, I feel the experience as a whole made me more aware of issues that affect women on a more international level.

## Report on Symposium by Dr. Harmon

On September 17-19, I participated in the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center's Seventh Annual Symposium entitled "Schoolmarms and Scholars: Women Educators of the American West," which was held in Laramie. Participants presented papers and panel discussions on topics such as Native American education, Americanization and feminization of the teaching profession, normal schools, school administrators, private influences on teachers, and teachers in rural schools. Special panels were devoted to the life and work of two early University of Wyoming women, Dr. June Etta Downey (1875-1936), professor and pioneer in the field of psychology, and Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard (1861-1936), member of the university's first board of trustees and later professor of political economy.

My presentation, given in one of the two sessions devoted to normal schools and their graduates, suggested that a normal school diploma afforded women some autonomy in choosing marriage and/or career paths-gave them some control over "the pace of their lives," as historian Kathleen Underwood phrases it. My study centered on nineteenth-century graduates of the Illinois State Normal University who taught at some time in the Western states and territories. Their histories illustrate the geographic mobility, career options, and marriage patterns of professionally trained teachers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

## In Memory of Dr. Jean Schfarenberg

Jean Schfarenberg, professor emeritus of Theatre, died August 2, 1998. She was one of the "Big Four" founding members of the Department of Theatre when it was created in 1968. She, along with her colleagues, was responsible for making the department into one of the country's most respected pre-professional actor training institutions. Former students, who gathered to honor her at a memorial program in Westoff Theatre on August 31, remember her for her passion and dedication to acting and for challenging them to embrace life and acting with the same passion.

Jean contributed special programming for Women's Studies in the 1980s. She and Women's Studies director Dr. Patricia Chesebro organized panels for post-performance discussions of plays she directed such as Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* and Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. During the centenary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth, Jean produced an evening of readings from Roosevelt's "My Day" columns for a Women's Studies sponsored program.

In 1995, Dr. Schfarenberg was honored as McLean County Woman of Distinction in the Arts by the YWCA of McLean County.

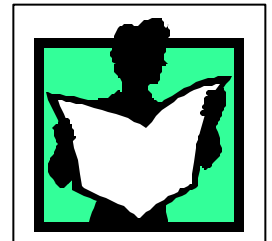
## Welcome To Women's Studies Students

### Returning Minors

Sarah Anderson--Mass Communication  
 Rebecca Auth--Philosophy  
 Corrie Baker--Theatre  
 Tina Canon--English  
 Laura Carroll--Anthropology  
 Tera Cremeens--General  
 Julie DeHart--Social Work  
 Molly DiRago--Anthropology  
 Kathryn Doyle--Sociology  
 Jenny Foster--Sociology  
 Margaret Gigante--Sociology  
 Sandra Gilbert--General  
 Erin Hale--Theatre  
 Chandra Harris--Mass Communication  
 Laurie Hartzell--Anthropology  
 Jody Herman--History and English  
 Melissa Marin--Mass Communication  
 Libby Molnar--Criminal Justice Sciences  
 Regina Petry--Social Work  
 Julie Ruby--English  
 Elizabeth Sawyer--English  
 Sarah Schroeder--Art-Teacher Education  
 Anne Smlak--Contract major  
 Meghan Smith--Psychology  
 Lisa Spaude--English  
 Alison Thomas--Speech Comm. Education  
 Diana Weekes--General  
 Kathleen Wessel--Social Work  
 Winter Wren--Art

### New Minors

Lindsay Buckley--Philosophy  
 Morgan Clark--General  
 Sarah Clark--English  
 Jessica Erlandson--Biological Sciences  
 Jennifer Friese--Food-Nutrition  
 Tracy Kremer--Public Relations  
 Erin Treece--English  
 Beth Trevino--Theatre



A minor in Women's Studies enhances any undergraduate major by integrating a working knowledge of gender issues with the student's field(s) of study. Our current Women's Studies minors represent nineteen different majors. While the majority of the minors are from the College of Arts and Sciences, five have majors within the College of Fine Arts and two within the College of Applied Science and Technology.

## Professor to Travel to Taiwan

Cynthia Kukla, Associate Professor in the Art Department, will be leaving on October 1<sup>st</sup> for Taiwan, where she will be staying for a month. Prof. Kukla, who was nominated by Dr. William Smlak, head of International Studies for Rotary Professional Group Study Exchange, and four other educators are part of the first all-women delegation chosen for the Rotary district's first uni-occupation trip. The other educators include two elementary teachers, one high school teacher and one junior college professor.

# Women's Studies Brown Bags Fall 1998

## "Gender Across the Disciplines"

The Brown Bags will take place at the Women's Studies offices, Rachel Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room 234. Please bring a sandwich. We will provide coffee, tea, and juice. For further information, call 438-2947.

Speakers will discuss the integration of women and gender issues in their disciplines, and the way they address women and gender issues in their own research and teaching.

### **Wednesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Valentine Moghadam, Director of Women's Studies:  
Introduction and Overview

### **Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Maria Canabal and Deb Gentry: Family and Consumer Sciences

### **Wednesday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> - 12:00-1:00**

John Pryor, Psychology

### **Wednesday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Torri Thompson, English

### **Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Rina Ghose and Shannon O'Lear, Geography

### **Wednesday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>-12:00-1:00**

Alison Bailey and Mark Siderits, Philosophy

### **Wednesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Mohamad Tavakoli and Maura Doherty, History

### **Tuesday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Claire Snyder, Political Science

### **Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Chris Horvath, Biology

### **Monday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Bev Smith, Criminal Justice

### **Tuesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> -12:00-1:00**

Maura Toro-Morn, Sociology

**If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact 438-5853.**

## Women's Voice

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