



**The Graduate School and University Center**  
of The City University of New York

Center for the Study of Women and Society / Box 135-192  
Graduate Center: 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-8099  
212 790-4435

January 8, 1985

Alison Bernstein  
Program Officer  
The Ford Foundation  
320 East 43rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Alison:

Here is the final report on the grant from the Ford Foundation, "Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles: Planning for the Future" (11/1/80 - 18/31/83). I thought I had sent it long ago, and was very embarrassed to discover I had not. I am sorry for any inconvenience this delay might have caused.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Mary Brown Parlee  
Associate Professor, Psychology

MBP:jr  
Enc.

FINAL REPORT

Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles: Planning for the Future

November 1, 1980 - August 31, 1983

Mary Brown Parlee, Principal Investigator  
(Director, Center for the Study of Women and Society, 1979 - 1984)

As a result of work over the two and one half years of the project period, the Center for the Study of Women and Society began to serve, in fact, the functions it was established in "principle" to perform. It began to act as a focus for coordinated activity among faculty and students throughout the 21-campus City University of New York. This occurred through the newsletter, the newly-formed CUNY Feminist Network with its annual conference and more frequent meetings, the directory of CUNY feminist researchers and scholars, and renewed interest among faculty in working toward increased communication and coordination of research and Women's Studies activities among the campuses.

*added by  
secretary  
CSWS*

The development of a continuing, visible organizational structure to facilitate and support women's research and other activities at CUNY was a necessary first stage in our effort to reach out to the other institutions and populations in New York City and to integrate various research into mainstream teaching and research within the university. During the project period, this outreach effort was most successfully focused in two sets of activities.

In the area of health concerns, one of the principal research foci of the Center, substantial connections with researchers at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (a part of CUNY) began to bear fruit, not only in the form of our highly successful seminar series, but also in identification of individual researchers who now have appointments at both Mt. Sinai and at the Graduate Center or other CUNY campuses. A group of women has also formed at Mt. Sinai and has received funding to assess the feasibility of establishing a research group in Community Psychiatry. The Center was represented in these discussions by Charlotte Muller, a member of our Executive Committee, and I kept in touch with the organizers (Myrna Weiss, Marcia Hurst, Sam Bloom). Once the group is established at Mt. Sinai, closer coordination with the Center at the Graduate Center will be formalized. Our hope is that this will strengthen not only joint research efforts, but also the emergence of a coordinated graduate curriculum in health and the behavioral sciences (which continues to be discussed at the Graduate Center), a curriculum in which women's health issues would be an integral part from the beginning.

Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles: Planning for the Future

The second way in which the Center's outreach activities began to pay off was through the CUNY Feminist Network and through related efforts that I participated in with a group of research center and women's studies directors in the New York metropolitan area. The CUNY Feminist Network is a broad-based, grass-roots group of CUNY faculty and students who meet to discuss both intellectual/personal/political issues around the integration of sex, race, and class perspectives in the content and forms of academic life and also political actions in support of women and minorities at CUNY.

In the meetings of the Network there was an excitement that I think has been too often missing in feminist scholarship and women's studies recently: a feeling of creative excitement and personal commitment to the role of intellectual activity in the struggle for social justice. In my experience, it is groups of this kind that most consistently focus on the interconnectedness of issues around gender, race, and class, and which know and act on the understanding that the body of researchers and scholars has to be diverse ( in race, age, sexual orientation, and the like) if the body of knowledge produced in the academy is to be true and useful for effecting social change.

In these and many other ways, the Center for the Study of Women and Society at CUNY's Graduate Center has begun to serve as the kind of coordinating, facilitating umbrella organization for CUNY that was planned at its inception. Our need now is to strengthen these ongoing activities into projects and project proposals and to plan systematically both for expansion and for more effective coordination over the next few years.