

The City University Graduate Center

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WORK IN PROGRESS

This section of "Work in Progress" will serve as an introduction to the work and research of the Center members for 1980-81. In future issues we will present more detailed descriptions of the work of individual members.

Elaine Baruch (York College)

Elaine Baruch has been working on a study titled "Women in Utopia: Implications for Ethics and Values." Her study focuses on literary works, but also touches on a range of actual utopian experiments. She is also beginning to organize a conference on women and utopia.

Adrienne Block (The Graduate School and University Center)

In May she chaired a meeting on women composers, part of the series, American Women in the Arts. Currently she is working on a history of American women composers and is editing the correspondence of an American woman musician.

Elizabeth Brusco Steering Committee (The Graduate School and University Center)

Elizabeth Brusco, a doctoral student in Anthropology, is a founding member of the Feminist Students Organization at the Graduate School. She is interested in the study of how religious movements reveal women as agents of social/ideological change, particularly in the Pentecostal movement in Latin America.

Paula Carien Steering Committee (The Graduate School and University Center)

As Director of Sponsored Research and Program Funding, Paula Carien works with researchers to develop proposals for funding research and demonstration projects. She maintains information on grants and files of proposals that have been funded at the Graduate Center.

Florence Denmark Steering Committee (Hunter College and the Graduate Center)

Florence Denmark's research is on the psychology of women with a focus on the effects of gender in interpersonal interactions. She is particularly interested in research concerning leadership, status, and power and their relation to sex role stereotypes. Her most recent work is on the conditions under which identical behaviors in women and men are given different descriptions and explanations. This year she is President of the American Psychological Association.

Laura Gordon Visiting Scholar (Montclair State College)

Laura Gordon is investigating programs for the integration of women in non-traditional jobs. She will focus on the characteristics of programs which are most successful in terms of the adjustment of workers and workplace to sex-desegregation in various industrial settings.

Vivian Gornick

Vivian Gornick, journalist and author, will be writing on the careers and lives of women in science today, exploring and describing the emotional, intellectual and professional experiences of scientists who are women.

Judith Greenwald (Psychotherapist, private practice)

Judith Greenwald's research interests are focused on domestic violence, and with Julie Doron, she has developed a proposal on marital rape. She is also working with feminist therapists to organize a conference on "Feminism and Psychotherapy: The Gap Between Ideology and Practice."

Rita Guttman (Professor Emerita, Brooklyn College)

Rita Guttman is acting as the co-ordinator of a project to involve retired CUNY faculty and staff in the work of the Center.

Barbara Katz Rothman (Baruch College)

Barbara Katz Rothman is a medical sociologist who has done research on maternity care, and the conceptualizations surrounding pregnancy. She is currently studying the differences between medical and woman-centered health care.

Joan Kelly Steering Committee (City College and The Graduate Center)

Joan Kelly's work in women's history has dealt with women in the Renaissance and with the implications of this study for historical methodology and theoretical development. She has written on Marxism and feminism, on housework and feminist theory, and on feminist social theory.

Judith Lorber (Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center)

Judith Lorber is working on a study of the career development of female and male physicians. She has also been elected President of Sociologists for Women in Society.

Charlotte Muller Steering Committee (Graduate School and University Center)

Charlotte Muller has contributed to the research literature on women and health through her economic studies, including: insurance coverage of fertility control and maternity services, data needs relating to women's health, and economic issues in retirement. She is a member of the editorial board of Women and Health.

Mary Brown Parlee Director (The Graduate School and University Center)

Mary Brown Parlee's primary research interests are in the psychology of female reproductive processes over the life cycle; nonverbal communication of beliefs and attitudes concerning women's bodies and the functional significance of these beliefs; biological and social rhythms in behavior.

Sarah Pomeroy Steering Committee (Hunter College and the Graduate Center)

Sarah Pomeroy's work is on women in classical antiquity, Greek literature and social history. She is co-ordinator of the Women's Studies program at Hunter College. With a grant from NEH she is working with other Hunter faculty members to develop a new textbook for introduction to Women's Studies.

Claire Riley Steering Committee (The Graduate School and University Center)

Claire Riley is interested in developing feminist theory within anthropology, particularly in the areas of kinship and socio-political organization. A founding member of the Feminist Students Organization, and a student in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology, she will do her field work in New Guinea.

Ruby Rohrlich (Borough of Manhattan Community College)

Ruby Rohrlich is developing an analysis of the linkages between gender roles and race relations. With Diane Lewis of University of California at Santa Cruz, she directed an NEH Summer Seminar on the historical and contemporary linkages between gender roles and race relations. She was recently appointed to the Academy of Arts and Sciences of the City University of New York.

Susan Saegert Steering Committee (The Graduate School and University Center)

Susan Saegert's research focuses on women's experiences and needs in their communities, dual roles and role strains, identification and elimination of barriers to economic equity and the housing needs of women and working parents. She works with the Women and Urban Environments Group sponsored by the CSWSR.

Ethel Tobach (American Museum of Natural History and the Graduate Center)

Ethel Tobach is investigating social systems and socialization processes which bring about institutionalized sexism, the use of science to justify sexism, and the organization and dissemination of human knowledge to institutionalize sexism.

Margaret Strosser

Margaret Strosser is working with Lisa Wilde on a film entitled "Breasts: From a Woman's Point of View." The film will examine the ways women see themselves and their cultural image in specific relation to breasts.

Gaye Tuchman Steering Committee (Queens College and the Graduate Center)

With grants from the Ford Foundation and NEH, Gaye Tuchman is researching the structure of opportunity for women (particularly women writers) to create culture. Tuchman and Cynthia Epstein have also been awarded a training grant on the sociology and economics of women and work.

Rhoda Unger (Montclair State College)

Rhoda Unger is attempting to delineate a theoretical framework for a feminist psychology of women and analyzing the development of the field in terms of a sociology of knowledge approach.

Paula Webster (The Graduate School and University Center)

Paula Webster, an anthropologist, is engaged in two projects: 1) research on the development of etiological models of rape in early postwar America, examining social construction of scientific thought about the nature of rape and the rapist; 2) with Lucy Gilbert, she is writing a book titled "Sexual Antagonism," which examines the link between women's socialization as daughters to femininity, and their victimization within and outside the nuclear family.

Dennis Werner (The Graduate School and University Center)

Dennis Werner is an anthropologist who is working on a proposal to evaluate three major theories about why people hold negative or stereotyped ideas about homosexuality.

Lisa Wilde

Lisa Wilde, with Margaret Strosser, will direct the film "Breasts: From a Woman's Point of View."

Elizabeth Wood

Elizabeth Wood is working on an oral history project on contemporary American women composers and on chapters for a forthcoming book "American Women Composers: 1870-1950," in collaboration with Adrienne Block and Ruth Julius. She has recently completed a review essay in musicology for SIGNS 6, 2.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Ruby Rohrllich is compiling material for an anthology on the emergence of patriarchy as a critical factor in the formation of early state societies, and is interested in hearing from people working in the area. Contact her through the Center, or write to her at 303 West 66th Street, New York, New York 10023.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

An international network of women in psychology was established at the 22nd International Congress of Psychology, held in July, 1980. The network will organize sessions at the next Congress to be held in Mexico in 1984.

Judith Lorber was elected President of the Sociologists for Women in Society. She will serve a two year term as head of the 1000 member organization. SWS runs a program and social activities at the national and regional sociology meetings. Barbara Katz Rothman will serve as one of the coordinators of this years national SWS program. For information on SWS meetings this fall, call Judy Lorber, 689-2155.

The New York Chapter of the Association for Women in Psychology will be meeting on the third Friday of each month beginning in October. For notices of meetings, contact Ethel Tobach, Room 609, The Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd, NYC.

Submissions are being accepted until December 15 for the Research on Women in Education Award. A published or unpublished research report on women in education that was conducted or written in 1979-80 is eligible. Send 5 copies of abstract and paper to Carole Shakeshaft, School of Ed, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, 11550. A cash prize accompanies the award.

Women's Studies Courses

For Fall, 1980, Women's Studies courses at the Graduate Center include:

--Seminar in Sex Roles and the Environment (Psych. U801.57), a three credit course taught by Susan Saegert on Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30.

Examines the development and maintenance of sex differences through the environmental experience and demands on the designed environment with emphasis on childhood environments, housing and community planning.

--Political Economy of Class, Race and Sex, a three credit course, taught by Professor Franklin on Tuesday, from 6:30-8:30 pm, in Room 1223. (Soc. U845.12)

The course is concerned with theories and historically based explanations which relate technologies, culture and stratification to race and sex. Specifically, it is concerned with explaining the position of the black population vis-a-vis the white population, black/white males vis-a-vis black/white females, and females versus males.

--Women and the Power Structure (Soc. U854.10), a three credit course, taught by Cynthia Epstein on Wednesdays, 2-4 in room 1525.

The changing roles of women in elite occupations and professions will be explored. Units of inquiry will include the spheres of law, medicine, business and government. Theories of leadership, prestige and access to power will be explored to explain women's participation in high demand, high prestige domains.

--Proseminar on the Sociology and Economics of Women and Work, taught by Gaye Tuchman on Wednesdays from 4-6. 3 credits for 2 semesters. Room to be announced.

A full description of the course will be posted outside room 1400 in September.

Classes begin on September 15. For information, contact the Registrar, the Center, or Professor Meyersohn, Committee on Interdisciplinary Study and Research, Room 901.

Study Groups / Seminars

WOMEN AND URBAN ENVIRONMENTS GROUP

Feminists from planning, design, community organizing, environmental psychology, political science and a range of women's organizations met this summer to discuss the problems women face in finding necessary services, housing, transportation, jobs, etc. in urban areas. Four foci emerged: 1) the desire to develop a technical assistance program in conjunction with women in low-income neighborhoods; 2) a plan to have a series of speakers on the environmental needs of women; 3) a need to develop a network of feminists concerned with the needs of women in urban environments, policy-making, and community development; 4) a plan to maintain a list of relevant newsletters, organizations, and projects. Anyone interested in this group may contact Susan Saegert at 790-4551. A meeting is planning for September 16, in room 1629. Call to check time and place.

WOMEN AND HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP

The Women and Health Research Group, which has been meeting regularly at the Graduate Center for a year and a half, consists of a group of faculty, students and others concerned with feminist issues in health. Each meeting focuses on a single topic, with two or three people presenting their work or work in progress. Topics in the past have included menstruation, sterilization, economics of health care delivery, breastfeeding, occupational health and safety issues in pregnancy. Planning for this year is underway, and ideas for topics/speakers are welcome: Contact Judy Lorber (689-2155), Mary Brown Parlee (790-4435), or Barbara Katz Rothman(434-2688). All interested are invited to come and bring interested colleagues. The first meeting takes place on September 26 in room 1401, 3 o'clock.

FEMINIST METHODS OF INQUIRY

Last year the Feminist Methods of Inquiry Seminar met to examine the ways in which women writers have utilized literary methods to develop women's histories and mythologies. Plans for the seminar's focus and speakers for the next year are now being made. The first meeting will be on October 14, at 3 pm, on "Reports from the International Congresses". For more information, call Gertrude Berger, at 780-5476.

Women & Work Project

NIMH has funded Gaye Tuchman and Cynthia Epstein to direct a training grant on the sociology and economics of women and work. The grant includes four post-doctoral fellowships and four pre-doctoral fellowships. Fellows are being drawn from the fields of sociology, economics and business. Two postdoctoral fellowships may still be available for January. In addition to coursework, some fellows will do research in corporations and possibly in unions. They will also have the opportunity to work on their own research topics. The research on women and work will include aspects of work and family and aspects of health. More information on the program is available from the Center or from Gaye Tuchman or Cynthia Epstein.

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- Monday, September 15 First Day of Classes at The Graduate Center
- Tuesday, September 16 6 pm Women and Urban Environment Group, Room 1629
- Friday, September 19 3 pm Associates Meeting, Room 1401
- Thursday, September 24 4 pm Proseminar on the Sociology and Economics of Women and Work will present a prominent guest lecturer on new areas of investigation on women and work. Call the Center or the Sociology Department for room number and details.
- Friday, September 26 3-5 pm Women and Health Group meets in Room 1401. Panelists: Dorothy Jessop of the Albert Einstein Medical Center will speak on "Effects of Children's Chronic Illness on Mothers". Corinne Karchner of the American Foundation for the Blind will speak on "Marital Status of Disabled Women". Discussant to be announced.
- Wednesday, October 8 4 pm First speaker in the Fall Lecture Series: Catharine R. Stimpson, Professor of English at Rutgers University, and the founding Editor of Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, will speak on "THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP ABOUT WOMEN: THE STATE OF THE ART" Room 207.
- Friday, October 10 3 pm Feminist Methods of Inquiry Seminar meets to hear "Reports from the International Congresses". Invited speakers include Amy Swerdlow on the United Nations Copenhagen Conference and Libby Frank and Trudy Berger on the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Conference. For room number and more information, call Trudy Berger, 780-7456 or call the Center.
- Friday, October 24 3 pm Women and Health Research Group meets. Topic and room number to be announced. Call for details.
- Friday, November 14 2 pm Second Speaker in the Fall Lecture Series: Judy Walkowitz, Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University, will present "'MURDER, MURDER, MUTILATION WHITECHAPEL': JACK THE RIPPER AND OUTCAST LONDON", an examination of the effect of public discourse on class and sexuality on a working class neighborhood. 3rd Floor Studio.