

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY

Newsletter

The City University Graduate Center
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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

On May 7-8, 1982, representatives from women's research centers across the country convened in Washington, D.C. for the first annual meeting of the National Council for Research on Women. The Council, which unites university affiliated research centers with each other, as well as with independent, free-standing centers, seeks to create solid channels of communication among the centers to allow them to coordinate vital activities. These include: research endeavors; publication and information dissemination; efforts to secure funding; national and international scholarly exchange; political action; and strategies to influence public policy.

The National Council for Research on Women grew out of a meeting held on November 19-21, 1981 at the Seaman's Institute in Manhattan that was sponsored by the Institute for Research in History and funded by the Ford Foundation. Recognizing the need for collaboration on projects of concern to all centers for research on women, the participants established the Council, designated Mariam Chamberlain, Visiting Scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, as its chair, and formed an ad hoc steering committee to prepare working papers to guide the development and clarify the purpose of the Council.

At the May 7th meeting in Washington, which was subsidized by the Carnegie Foundation, Council members formally approved the constitution and elected officers. They elected Myra Strober, Director of Stanford University's Center for Research on Women, Chair of the Board of Directors, and Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, Co-Director of C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center's Program on Women and Work, Vice Chair. Mary Parlee, Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, was designated as one of the Board representatives to the Executive Committee. Task force committees presented reports and the Council members defined committees and appointed chairs. Committees will focus on coordinating the following areas: educational programs; publication, communication and dissemination; collaborative research; data needs; public policy and political action; and membership.

The Council will engage in activities to facilitate contact among the centers as well as between member centers and other kinds of organizations and professionals. The Council hopes to provide some mailing services to the centers. It will centralize mailing lists to optimize use of combined center resources and will explore the possibility of handling some of the centers' direct mail activities. In addition, the Council seeks to facilitate scholarly exchange by centralizing information about scholars, and providing access to information about centers for those who wish to visit from other regions, as well as from other nations. In the area of publications, the Council plans to create a

master listing of all center publications, and to the greatest possible extent, collect copies of everything produced by the centers. The Council plans also to maintain a file of consultants, including experts in a variety of academic disciplines, as well as those with expertise in the areas of finances, management, and program development. The Council also will provide information about funding opportunities and trends. By sharing proposals of member centers, the Council could help prevent duplication and encourage collaboration on research projects. The Council might also act as a sponsor of meetings between research centers and representatives from the corporate or public sector. By encouraging collaborative research among the centers, the Council hopes to enhance the activities of the individual centers. Overall, the Council may be able to suggest a research agenda for the coming years which will help provide direction and coherence for the development of women's studies.

The Council will be based at Roosevelt House, Hunter College, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, in space donated by Donna Shalala, President of Hunter College.

-Lisa Master

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MAILING LIST

The National Women's Mailing List, a computerized data bank, is an alternative news source about events and issues, on both the community and national level, of interest to women. "The National Women's Mailing List is a project of the Women's Information Exchange. Formed by grass-roots feminists, the Women's Information Exchange is dedicated to putting information technology to use in facilitating outreach, networking, and resource sharing among women. The goal of the organization is to provide computer technology at the lowest possible cost, to support the efforts of women's projects throughout the country." (National Women's Mailing List brochure) Individuals and organizations may choose which types of organizations may have access to their names, and may join the mailing list for no charge, though the project needs financial support. To receive a brochure with registration form or for information about how to publicize events and issues through the National Women's Mailing List, write or call, National Women's Mailing List, Women's Information Exchange, 1195 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California, 94110, 415/824-6800.

Readers wishing to send ideas and announcements for future issues, or to respond to items appearing in the Newsletter, are encouraged to do so. Decisions about publication will be made on the basis of space considerations.

Please submit all materials for the November-December issue no later than October 5th and mail to: Center for the Study of Women and Society Newsletter, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42 St., New York, NY 10036, Att: Lisa Master, Editor.

Announcements

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT!, a march and rally sponsored and endorsed by more than twenty women's groups, will take place on Sunday, September 12th at 7:30 p.m. at Columbia University on Broadway at 116th Street. The march aims to bring public attention to the issue of violence against women in our society. For more information, call 212/477-0819 or 212/777-4000.

COALITION OF WOMEN IN GERMAN will hold its annual conference from October 13th through 17th on Thompson's Island in Boston Harbor. For additional information, contact Barbara D. Wright, Conference Coordinator, The University of Connecticut, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages, Storrs, Connecticut 06268.

BLACK WOMEN AND PUBLIC POLICY: ISSUES FOR THE 1980'S, sponsored by Spelman College's Women's Research and Resource Center, will take place from October 21st until 23rd at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Sessions include: "Setting a Research Agenda: Black Women in Women's Research Centers"; "Aging: Special Needs and Concerns of Black Women"; "Violence Against Women"; "Women's Rights/Feminism: A Black Perspective" and others. For further information, contact: Beverly Guy-Sheffhall, Director, Women's Research and Resource Center, Box 127, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia 30314, 404/681-3643.

WOMEN AND WORK, the fourth national conference sponsored by Women in Crisis, Inc., will take place from November 10th through 13th at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York. The conference will address issues common to all working women, whether they work at home or in a formal job environment. Sessions will focus on the needs, problems and goals of working women in the four areas of aging; alcohol; drugs and health; and employment resources and leadership. For further information, contact: Women in Crisis, Inc., 37 Union Square West, New York, N.Y. 10003, 212/242-3081.

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS, a conference sponsored jointly by Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts, will take place from November 11th through 13th. For further information, contact Eliana Ortega, Department of Spanish and Italian, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Association for Women in Psychology requests program proposals for their Ninth Annual National Conference on Feminist Psychology: Theory, Research, Practice and Celebration, to be held on March 3rd through 7th, 1983 in Seattle, Washington. The conference theme is Bonding Between Women and suggested formats include workshops, paper and poster sessions, symposia, discussions, film, and demonstrations. Proposals must be postmarked by October 1, 1982. For further information, application and proposal submission forms, contact: Vickie Sears & Ruth Baetz, AWP Program Review Committee, P.O. Box 31449, Wallingford Station, Seattle, Washington 98103. Contributors need not be members of AWP.

Feminist Education: Quality and Equality is the theme of the National Women's Studies Association Fifth Annual Convention to be held June 26th through 30th, 1983 at The Ohio State University. Proposals for presentations must be submitted by October 1, 1982 to Marlene Longenecker & Elaine Pugh, Conference Coordinators, Center for Women's Studies, The Ohio State University, 207 Dulles Hall, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210, 614/422-1021. For proposal details, consult the flier in the Center for the Study of Women and Society, Room M03 at the Graduate Center.

CUNY News

SEMINAR IN SOCIAL ISSUES OF MEDICINE, introduced by the CUNY Graduate Center Medical Sociology Program in Fall, 1981, will meet in the 1982-83 academic year on alternate Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the CUNY Graduate Center beginning September 23. The interdisciplinary seminar covers such topics as aspects of traditional medicine, health care of working women, women physicians, media coverage of medical issues, and innovative medical care. For further information, contact Judith Lorber or Marian Smith, Department of Sociology, 212/790-4419 or 4320.

ALERT TO CUNY FACULTY MEMBERS: The deadline for the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program (open to CUNY faculty only) is October 15, 1982. Two review panels in this program might be especially appropriate for research proposals in women's studies: Interdisciplinary Studies and Ethnic and Area Studies. For information, contact the Grants Officer at your college or Ms. Brenda Newman at the Research Foundation, 212/840-4553.

WORKSHOP FOR CUNY FEMINIST NETWORK, originally scheduled by the Feminist Student Organization of the CUNY Graduate Center to take place on May 1, 1982, has been postponed until November 15. The workshop, which aims to establish connections and encourage collaboration among Graduate Center students and faculty in the branch colleges, will focus on work that links activism and scholarship addresses how women empower themselves in their neighborhoods, families, and organizations. For further information, call the Center for the Study of Women and Society office at 212/790-4435 after September 15th.

"THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP ON WOMEN," an article by Mary Parlee, Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society, which appears in the Spring, 1982 issue of CUNY Graduate School Magazine, highlights the work of selected scholars of women's studies in the City University of New York system. Describing the work of scholars in a variety of disciplines, including history, art history, sociology, political science, and psychology, the article demonstrates how inquiries into the experiences of women have helped transform traditional ways of thinking and have contributed to the development of a new body of knowledge.

WOMEN WORKING, a one-day conference presented by the Queens College Continuing Education Program, will take place on Friday, October 29, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The conference will explore specific job and career opportunities as well as strategies for making decisions and obtaining employment. Registration is \$12.00, including lunch. For further information, contact the Continuing Education Program at Queens, 212/520-7052 or 520-7056.

Women's Studies

In the Fall of 1982, Women's Studies courses at the Graduate Center include:

SELECTED TOPICS IN AMERICAN ART: HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN SCULPTORS,
taught by Prof. M. Park, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This course will treat the history of women sculptors beginning with Patience Lovell Wright in the late eighteenth century and ending with contemporary sculptors such as Louise Nevelson. The course will examine the history of the sculpture medium, including works in wax, marble, bronze and steel. The course will conclude with an exploration of how the resurgence of the women's movement in the late 1960s has affected the work of women sculptors during the last fifteen years.

LABOR ECONOMICS, taught by Prof. L. Edwards, Monday, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Labor Economics is concerned with the determination of compensation and employment in labor markets. Topics covered are: derived demand analysis; derivation of labor supply; analysis of the structure of wages; mobility in the labor market; labor market imperfections such as minimum wage laws, unions and occupational licensing; and the relationship between unemployment and inflation.

WOMEN IN AND OF FRENCH LITERATURE, taught by Prof. R. Lamont, Thursday,
4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

This course will examine the manner in which women carve a space for themselves in society by means of literary expression. The course will deal with what French feminists call "l'espace feminin" and "l'écriture feminine," culminating in an analysis of "l'espace de l'écriture." Simone DeBeauvoir's Le Deuxieme Sexe will serve as a base for the exploration. The course will be taught in English unless everyone in the class speaks fluent French. Students will read the books in French, or in translation and papers will be accepted in French or English.

SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER STRATIFICATION, taught by Prof. G. Tuchman, Tuesday,
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

This course will examine the most important contemporary sociological and anthropological theories purporting to explain gender stratification. At issue will be such questions as whether women are universally socially and politically subordinated to men, how subordination is related to socio-economic organization, and how to study empirically gender stratification in the United States. Special attention will be paid to the contrast between Marxist theories, particularly the increasingly well-known British works, and American empiricism. Readings will include Sokoloff's Between Money and Love; Barrett's Woman's Oppression Today; and DeBeauvoir's The Second Sex.

FEMINIST SOCIAL THEORIES, taught by Prof. C. Muller, Wednesday, 4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

This course will consider some of the major schools of feminist theory and will attempt to understand them within their social and theoretical context--from their inception in the French Revolution to the present. These schools will be related to the traditions of social philosophy they have both drawn upon and opposed, including Liberalism, Utopian Socialism, Marxist Socialism, Anarchism, Existentialism, and Psychoanalysis. Readings will include Sheila Rowbotham, Adrienne Rich, Dorothy Dinnerstein, Juliet Mitchell, and their forerunners, Crystal Eastman, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and others, as well as writings by Freud, Marx and Engels, Hegel and Sartre to which they are related.

Resources

Women's Organizations: New York City Directory is a 144-page listing of the more than 340 women's advocacy and professional groups in the New York City area, including city-based national organizations. The Directory also includes a sub-directory of 77 professional groups and networks and a bibliography of related resources. It is available from the New York City Commission on the Status of Women for \$5.95 for single copies or \$4.95 for 5 or more copies (postage and handling included). To order, make check payable to: CSW Fund, Inc. and mail to: Directory, New York City Commission on the Status of Women, 250 Broadway, Suite 1412, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Ladyslipper, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Women in the Musical Arts. Their catalog and resource guide contains listings of use in women's studies, black studies, folklore, musicology, literature, and anthropology courses. For a copy of their catalog, write to: Ladyslipper, Inc., P.O. Box 3124, Durham, North Carolina 27705, or call 919/596-0717.

The Women's History Research Center of Berkeley, California has recently published their major collections on microfilm. Microfilm sets are available on WOMEN AND HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH, WOMEN AND LAW, and HERSTORY for libraries, women's groups, researchers, and teachers. For details on contents, prices, and ordering procedures, contact the Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak, Berkeley, California, 94708, 415/548-1770. The Center also has established a National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape. In addition to providing information about marital rape, the Clearinghouse aims to assist victims directly and to prevent marital rape by educating the public and providing resources to battered women's shelters, crisis centers, district attorneys, etc. For more information, contact the National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape at the Women's History Research Center address listed above.

The Center for the Study, Education, and Advancement of Women at the University of California in Berkeley announces their WORKING PAPER SERIES which stems from their research program on "Women and Work: Intersections of the Marketplace and the Household." Titles include: "The Popular Image of Women in Clerical Occupations, 1880-1920" by Mary E. Adams; "Feminization, Mexican-Border Industrialization and Migration" by Maria-Patricia Fernandez-Kelly; "The Fruits of Labor, 1935-1950" by Clair Brown; and "Bitches and Babes: Women at Work in American Cartoons from the 19th Century to the Present" by Annegret Ogden. For a complete listing of available papers, monographs, and prices, write to: Publications, Center for the Study, Education, and Advancement of Women, Building T-9, Room 112, University of California, Berkeley, Ca. 94720.

The Clearinghouse Newsletter, a publication of the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues in Congress, provides bibliographic data on legislation, hearings, court actions, news reports, national meetings, and books concerning women's rights issues. The newsletter, formerly funded within the U.S. Congress, has been cut from the Congressional budget. It is still available on a monthly basis by subscription but now costs \$47.00 annually. To subscribe, send a check or money order for \$47.00 to the CWIC Newsletter and include your name, organization, and address. Mail to: Clearinghouse Newsletter, Clearinghouse on Women's Issues in Congress, 1620 Brookside Road, McLean, Virginia 22101.
