

**Kanellopoulos, Anne**

---

**From:** Ciavarella-Sanchez, Laura  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:07 AM  
**To:** Kanellopoulos, Anne  
**Subject:** RE:

Anne:

It was either Susan Saegert or Mary Parlee (I think Parlee took over after Saegert, but it could have been the other way around). It was also called the Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles originally, but then the title was changed. To be sure, I would suggest checking with Susan Saegert.

Laura

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kanellopoulos, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:02 AM  
**To:** Ciavarella-Sanchez, Laura  
**Subject:**

Good morning Laura,  
I have a question and maybe you can answer it for me. Elizabeth Small needs to know who was the founder of the Center for the Study of women and Society. I'm in the folder right now but I cannot find who was the founder. I'm looking in the by-laws and that too does not say who was the founder. We only know that it was established in 1977 and the director in 1981 was Mary Brown Parlee. I know you always did a great job with the centers and you also have a good memory and this why I thought maybe you could answer my question.

Thank you,  
Anne

*Anne Kanellopoulos*  
*The Graduate School and University Center/CUNY*  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
365 5th Avenue, Room 8309  
New York, NY 10016-4309  
Phone (212) 817-7527  
[akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu)

## Small, Elizabeth

---

**From:** Kanellopoulos, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 2:53 PM  
**To:** Saegert, Susan  
**Cc:** Small, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE:

Thank you so much, Laura was correct.

*Anne Kanellopoulos*  
*The Graduate School and University Center/CUNY*  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
365 5th Avenue, Room 8309  
New York, NY 10016-4309  
Phone (212) 817-7527  
[akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Saegert, Susan  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 2:26 PM  
**To:** Kanellopoulos, Anne  
**Subject:** RE:

Anne, I was the first director and here before Mary Parlee. AS a way too junior person, I was pretty overwhelmed and managed to get permission to recruit Mary. She came after maybe 2 years of my being director.  
Susan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kanellopoulos, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:33 AM  
**To:** Saegert, Susan  
**Subject:**

Professor Saegert,

I have a question for you do you remember who was the founder of the Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles back in the year of 1977? In our files we have Mary Brown Parlee who was the Director. Were you after her or was she before you or was there someone before both of you?  
Thank you.  
Anne

*Anne Kanellopoulos*  
*The Graduate School and University Center/CUNY*  
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs  
365 5th Avenue, Room 8309  
New York, NY 10016-4309  
Phone (212) 817-7527  
[akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:akanellopoulos@gc.cuny.edu)

 You replied on 4/4/2008 6:36 PM.

---

**Humpherys, Anne**


---

**From:** Epstein, Cynthia **Sent:** Fri 4/4/2008 3:14 PM  
**To:** Humpherys, Anne  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Center for the Study of Women&Society  
**Attachments:**

Dear Anne:

My memory is more than dim on this subject. I remember being involved but I don't think I could be said to have spearheaded it.

It's planning and origin was probably more due to the efforts of Judith Lorber (now emerita from Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center) ([jlorber@rcn.com](mailto:jlorber@rcn.com)) and perhaps Gaye Tuchman (now at U of Conn). Gaye and I established a training grant on the Economics and Sociology of Women and Work at that time (Charlotte M Fuller was the third faculty member and was the "economics" person) with grants for students and post graduate fellowships. We had a number of outstanding students, one of whom, Mary Clare Lennon just became a member of our department (after being in the school of Public Health at Columbia).

(I must admit that I started a Center for Sex Roles and Social Change at Columbia University with Jonathan Cole and Cynthia Lloyd right about that time with money from the Ford Foundation -- at that time I was mainly positioned at Queens College and not a fixture yet at the Graduate Center!).

That's about the best I can do.

Yours,  
 Cynthia

Cynthia Fuchs Epstein  
 Distinguished Professor  
 Graduate Center, CUNY  
 365 Fifth Avenue  
 New York, N.Y. 10016  
 212 817 8782

---

**From:** Humpherys, Anne  
**Sent:** Fri 4/4/2008 1:27 PM  
**To:** Epstein, Cynthia  
**Subject:** Center for the Study of Women&Society

Dear Cynthia,

The Center for the Study of Women and Society is to undergo an External Review this spring. Since the Women's Studies Certificate Program went through a major external review last spring, this will be a kind of addendum to that report. But one of the things I have to do to prepare the report that goes along with the review is to write a history of the Center. I have tracked down most of the material, but what I don't have is a clear sense of how the Center got started. I know it started in 1977 officially, and I have the directors and so forth from that point on. But how did it start? Susan Saegert said it was a (long?) joint effort by yourself, Gay Tuchman, and others but she doesn't know the details. Would you be able to give me a few sentences about the pre-history of the Center as it were: who was involved if possible and so on? Anything you remember would be very helpful. I think this will be a useful document for the Center and for its future Directors when finished.

Thanks.

 You replied on 4/4/2008 12:44 PM.

**Humpherys, Anne**

**From:** Saegert, Susan **Sent:** Fri 4/4/2008 11:37 AM  
**To:** Humpherys, Anne  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Center for the Study of Women and Society  
**Attachments:**

Hi Anne,

I was director from the time the Center was operational 1977 until Mary Parlee came. During that period, we did manage to get a Ford grant (or maybe it didn't actually come through until Mary was here but it was originated prior) and Cynthia Epstein and Gay Tuchman had a women and work federally funded project. I think Mary Clare Lennon who is now on the Soc. Faculty here may have been a post doc on it. My task was to talk with all the EO's here to get them on board (the no vote was indicative of the skeptical and sometimes hostile climate to the idea that this was even a topic), form a group of faculty who could work with a GC center which involved a lot of cross campus negotiations that were really arcane and I was very young at the time.

The ground work for the center was laid by a group of senior women faculty including Cynthia Epstein, Joan Kelly (deceased), Florence Denmark I think, Gerta Lerner, and a lot of others. They had worked for years on the development of the Center but since it was essential more work with no compensation, none of them wanted to direct the center. I am afraid an effort to enumerate them would run the risk of offending some by leaving them out and adding in others who came later.

Hope this helps. I think that Cynthia would be a good informant as well.

Susan

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Humpherys, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2008 5:55 PM  
**To:** Saegert, Susan  
**Subject:** Center for the Study of Women and Society

Dear Professor Saegert,

As you may know I am currently the Coordinator for the Women's Studies Certificate Program and Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society. We are going to have an external review of the Center this spring and part of the requirement is that I write a history of the Center. We have good documentation from 1979 when Mary Parlee came to the GC and became Director, but beyond knowing that the Center was founded in 1977 we have nothing about the previous years. Laura Cavarella-Sanchez says she remembers that you were in at the founding of the Center and that you were, as she remembered, Director for those years before Mary Parlee took over.

First, is this right? And second, is there anything you can tell me about the founding of the Center? We have the original proposal for an Institute for the Study of Women and Sex which was approved by the Board in 1976 (with Dr. Golder voting no (!! What was that about?)). Do you know when the name

## Small, Elizabeth

---

**From:** Humpherys, Anne  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2008 4:40 PM  
**To:** Small, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** External review

Elizabeth: I am starting to write my part of the External Review of the Center. I find that I don't know the history of the Center. When did it start? Who started it? Who were the Directors until 1993 when the WSCP and CSWS were combined under one person? Can you locate in the files any information about the history of the Center from its start (in 1977)?

Also, was there ever a separate Advisory Board for the Center? If so, when? Who was on it? What happened to it?

In other words, can you get from the files any information about the Center that can help me answer questions like these?

History and date of establishment? 1977-  
Leadership and advisory committee and advisory mechanisms?  
Center Programs?  
Faculty and student involvement?  
outreach efforts?

Thanks

Anne

Professor Anne Humpherys  
Coordinator of Women's Studies Certificate Program  
Director of the Center for Research on Women and Society  
The Graduate Center CUNY  
Professor of English, Lehman College and  
Ph.D. Program in English, The Graduate Center  
City University of New York