

The University of Wisconsin System

Feminist Collections



A
Quarterly of
Women's
Studies
Resources

WOMEN'S
STUDIES



LIBRARIAN

Volume 26, Numbers 2-3, Winter-Spring 2005

Published by Phyllis Holman Weisbard

Women's Studies Librarian

Feminist Collections

A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

Women's Studies Librarian
University of Wisconsin System
430 Memorial Library
728 State St.
Madison, WI 53706

Phone: 608-263-5754
Fax: 608-265-2754
Email: wiswsl@library.wisc.edu
Website: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>

Editors: Phyllis Holman Weisbard, JoAnne Lehman

Cover illustration: Miriam Greenwald

Illustrations, pp. ii, 6, 12, 15, 16, 17, 24, 31, 32, 35: Miriam Greenwald

Graphic design assistance: Dan Joe

Staff assistance: Linda Fain, Nicole Grapentine-Benton, Christine Kuenzle, Ingrid Markhardt, Jessica Trumm

Subscriptions: \$30 (individuals or nonprofit women's programs, outside Wisconsin); \$55 (institutions, outside Wisconsin); \$16 (Wisconsin individuals or nonprofit women's programs); \$22.50 (Wisconsin institutions); \$8.25 (UW individuals); \$15 (UW organizations). Wisconsin subscriber amounts include state tax, except for UW organization amount. Postage (for foreign subscribers only): surface mail (Canada: \$13; all others: \$15); air mail (Canada: \$25; all others: \$55). (Subscriptions are by calendar year and cover three publications produced by this office: *Feminist Collections*, *Feminist Periodicals*, and *New Books on Women & Feminism*.) Make checks payable to University of Wisconsin-Madison and send to the above address. Please indicate if you do **not** want your name and address shared with other groups.

Back issues: Single back issues are \$3.50; ask about availability.

Numerous bibliographies and other informational files are available on the Women's Studies Librarian's website, www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/. You'll find information about the office, tables of contents and selected full-text articles from recent issues of *Feminist Collections*, tutorials, *WAVE: Women's Audiovisuals in English*, a link to the *Women's Studies Core Books Database*, a listing of *Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies*, including full text of a number of them, and links to hundreds of other selected websites and databases on women and gender.

Feminist Collections

A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

Volume 26, Numbers 2-3, Winter-Spring 2005

CONTENTS

From the Editors ii

Book Reviews

Writing and Reading Memoir as Consciousness-
Raising: If the Personal Is Political,
Is the Memoir Feminist? 1
by Helen M. Bannan

(En)Gendering Cooking 4
by Amanda J. Swygart-Hobaugh

Ambiguous Outcomes: Women and the Power
and Promise of Medicine 8
by Judith A. Houck

Blog This! An Introduction to Blogs, Blogging, and
the Feminist Blogosphere 11
and
A Sampling of Blogs by Women, for Women, 15
and/or Discussing Women's Issues
by Vicki Tobias

E-Sources on Women & Gender 18

New Reference Works in Women's Studies 21

Periodical Notes 29

Items of Note 33

Books Recently Received 35

Subscription Form 37

FROM THE EDITORS

Early September, 2005. Vicki Tobias's first in a series of articles on "blogging" (pp. 11-17) is timely. This "hottest trend on the Internet" has shown some of its true value and versatility in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. From the live postings of some New Orleanian citizens from their homes even as the storm hit, to personal blogs converted to disaster-information clearinghouses, to the "Katrina Blog" on the website of French-Quarter-based station WWL-TV (operating out of borrowed studios in Baton Rouge), to insightful, non-mainstream commentary on some of the very feminist weblogs Vicki has reviewed, the "blogosphere" has provided alternatives to CNN and so much more.

Other types of websites have also provided forums for thinking about our national disaster and its implications, including its feminist ones. As this issue was being readied for printing, the following thought-provoking comments from Mab Segrest appeared on the NWSA home page. With her permission they are reproduced here:

Academic Feminist Response to Katrina Disasters

As have many of us, I have spent exhausting hours watching social disaster unfold on top of natural disaster on the Gulf Coast. Many of us were hosted by our friends and colleagues in New Orleans at NWSA two years ago and have those particular and shared memories of New Orleans even as we are quite literally watching people die before our eyes on multiple cable stations. Clearly, this is a disaster the proportions of which most people — and most evidently the people in charge — have not yet understood. Those of us on dry, and high, ground have some responsibility to do some forward thinking from the comfort of our jobs and homes for those people mired along the coast. For people outside of the

Gulf region, the event is making itself personally felt first at the gas pumps and anticipating the cost of winter heating bills. But the effects are national and global and they will be multiple.

The slowness of response in the South comes not only because of the unprecedented level of catastrophe but because of the psychic distance of the Delta and the Gulf Coast from other parts of "America" and because so many of its victims had already been written off anyway. (All of the events of this week not only were predictable but had been predicted.) The Mississippi Delta is historically one of the poorest regions in the United States — a third world in the first — as are the poorest 20% of the population trapped inside New Orleans, those who had no cars to leave or who were too old, too young, or too sick to leave (and those caretakers who stayed behind).

Clearly but hardly officially observed, poor African American women and children are bearing the brunt of the disaster of disaster relief. Many reporters have observed that it is difficult to believe that the events in New Orleans are unfolding in "an American city" — which is to imply that those of us living in advanced industrial nations are supposed to be protected, somehow, from natural and human disasters and that there are not fast and growing groups of us who do not share in the affluence. The people I have seen sitting outside the Convention Center and the Superdome know exactly what is happening to them, and why. I noticed in the NY Times this morning, finally, an article noticing that

most of the people still trapped in New Orleans are black and poor.

How do those of us with the comfort and privilege of intact jobs and homes respond to this event? How should feminists in the academy use our resources and our roles as public intellectuals? How will this event shape our worlds, including our research and writing and activism? How do we help, including helping colleges and universities affected in the region; and how do we help them help their constituencies once they are up again and running?

These are some of my questions this week. Let's start thinking now about how to put feminist solidarity into action in response to this event.

[Two weeks out from Katrina's land-fall, it's clear that we have the immediate responsibility to cut through the racist stereotypes and false reports that were propagated in the media. They are resulting in the criminalization of the people already traumatized by the flood and its aftermath and then displaced to other cities.]

Thanks.

Mab Segrest
Chair, Gender and Women's
Studies, Connecticut College
Email: mmseg@conncoll.edu



Miriam Greenwald

BOOK REVIEWS

WRITING AND READING MEMOIR AS CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING: IF THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL, IS THE MEMOIR FEMINIST?

by Helen M. Bannan

Janet Mason Ellerby, *INTIMATE READING: THE CONTEMPORARY WOMEN'S MEMOIR*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2001. 234p. bibl. index. \$49.95, ISBN 0815628862; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 0815606850.

Patricia Foster, *JUST BENEATH MY SKIN: AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND SELF-DISCOVERY*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2004. 177p. \$39.95, ISBN 0820326828; pap., \$18.95, ISBN 0820326887.

Nancy K. Miller, *BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME: WHY WE READ OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. 160p. bibl. \$70.00, ISBN 0231125224; pap., \$19.50, ISBN 0231125232.

Maureen Murdock, *UNRELIABLE TRUTH: ON MEMOIR AND MEMORY*. New York: Seal Press, 2003. 176p. bibl. gloss. pap., \$14.95, ISBN 1580050832.

Long after most of their consciousness-raising (CR) groups were defunct, some second-wave feminists began writing essays that continued the process of publicly exploring the significance of events in their own lives. Their peers, who read their works and connected to them emotionally, joined a huge virtual CR community of memoir readers. Some of the academics among them analyzed the meanings of such literary acts and embellished their theoretical insights with their own autobiographical musings in a new genre called personal criticism. This review focuses on books by four women who, committed in their youth to the 1970s slogan, "The personal is political," honor the powerful truth of that adage in works that both demonstrate several approaches to feminist personal writing and help explain its current popularity.

Self-disclosure has always been important in feminist pedagogy, and insistence on a writer's clarification of

her standpoint is a hallmark of feminist scholarship. So, I will state up front: I am neither a writer nor a critic of autobiography, but a women's studies professor with interdisciplinary training as an historian. I find memoirs rich sources of understanding, and as a teacher I know that students relate to the concreteness of personal essays in ways that enable them to begin to analyze and make their own truths. I am also leery of theory, finding much postmodern feminist criticism impenetrable. Swallowing my skepticism, I hoped these books — by specialists in memoir, allegedly intended for general audiences — would help me understand the genre more deeply and teach personal essays more effectively.

My fears proved unfounded; these four books met my most optimistic expectations by elucidating both the individual process of autobiographical writing and the interactive process of reading it through the lens of one's own

life. Addressing the key theme of why contemporary women write memoir, these authors unanimously insist on the importance of life writing for identity development, interpersonal connection, and healing, for both writers and readers. However, these books are not redundant; they make similar points in very different ways, each making a unique compromise between creative nonfiction and the accoutrements of scholarship.

In *Just Beneath My Skin: Autobiography and Self-Discovery*, creative writing professor Patricia Foster demonstrates how writing memoir enhances identity development, letting her exemplary essays make her points without notes or bibliography. Two of the books, women's studies professor Janet Mason Ellerby's *Intimate Reading: The Contemporary Women's Memoir* and comparative literature professor Nancy K. Miller's *But Enough About Me: Why*

We Read Other People's Lives, blend memoir with literary analysis and personal criticism of autobiographical works by other women. Miller adds endnotes, and Ellerby includes an index and an extensive list of works cited. Maureen Murdock, a psychotherapist and creative writing teacher, devotes most of *Unreliable Truth: Of Memoir and Memory* to autobiographical essays emphasizing memories of her mother, enriched with brief references to other writers' explorations of similar themes. The last portion of Murdock's book encourages readers to try writing their own memoirs, providing prompts, directions, a glossary of writing terms, and a bibliography including both memoirs and books about the writing process. Each book contributed much to my growing understanding of memoir as a genre and a process.

A graduate course in Women's Autobiography led Patricia Foster to channel her creativity away from the visual arts to writing, first short stories, then memoir. Rather than justifying the shift by citing "the unwillingness of modern readers to surrender to disbelief" or complaining "that fiction has become too cramped" (p.76), Foster admits, "Writing fiction brought me closer to experience but left me shy of the self.... Perhaps by writing about myself I'll discover my identity" (p.82). In *Just Beneath My Skin*, she effectively demonstrates the evolution of her self-knowledge, and sparks its growth in others as well, in a series of well-crafted personal essays. Having grown up middle-class and white in Alabama in the 1950s and 1960s, Foster has a love-hate relationship with her native region, and that is a central theme in her work, as she risks much by unflinchingly confronting her racism and

class privilege. She also examines the connections between beauty, body, and self and explores how her rigid Southern gender socialization has complicated all her relationships since childhood, even as she struggles as a feminist to free herself from these influences.

"Perhaps by writing about myself I'll discover my identity." — Patricia Foster in Just Beneath My Skin.

While she doesn't engage in an extended analysis of other peoples' memoirs, Foster does defend the legitimacy of the genre, countering the criticism of a colleague that it's a fad that's already over (p.108). She notes that in other eras, fiction and poetry "told the hidden story...of who we are and what we long for," and contends that today, autobiographical essays do the same (p.83). Successful personal essays "engage the intelligent heart," serving as "a catalyst for thinking and feeling," as well as providing an opportunity to understand key cultural issues of the era (p.109). She sees the central issue of contemporary culture as the "need to locate the self in a transient world—the world of personal identity in conflict with constant change" (p.83). According to Foster, "the prevailing myth of the late twentieth century is one of social, economic and political progress," yet most memoirs expose "a countermyth of private shame and disgrace,...a spiritual longing for connection that goes unfulfilled." (p.83). The persona she creates in this memoir fits this apt generalization well.

Janet Mason Ellerby also contributes to the countermyth of shame, opening *Intimate Reading* with the telling of a secret that has dominated her life. She situates her own story within a self-constructed community of female memoirists who also overcame suffering through self-disclosure. Her younger readers will gain a new understanding of reproductive rights in the mythically liberated 1960s from her powerfully told story of her exile from California to the Midwest to give birth, at sixteen, in a home for unwed mothers. Forced to put her daughter, whom she called Sorrow, up for adoption, Ellerby swallowed her grief as Sorrow's existence was erased in a multi-generational family heritage of unacknowledged tragedies. Writing her memoir transformed Ellerby's shame into healing, and her work evokes the intuitive reading she names in her title and models throughout the book.

Unfortunately, I think, Ellerby uses gender essentialist terms to make a distinction between her usual "reading as a scholar" and her engaged emotional approach to the memoirs of other survivors that she "read like a woman" (p.xv). Criticizing the (mostly male) critics who dismiss allegedly confessional memoirs as narcissistic "bibliotherapy" (p.86), Ellerby convincingly insists on the social efficacy of memoir, as readers create community by making connections and noting contradictions between their own lives and the emotionally charged experiences writers share with them. She argues that such interactions contribute to progressive social change, serving as "catalysts to interrogate our own ethical givens," undermining readers' received values and assumed absolutes (p.128).

Most of the memoirs Ellerby analyzes feature privileged white protago-

nists, a selection she attempts to justify by explaining that she sought “confirmation rather than expansion” (p.xiv) by reading lives similar to her own. I think that challenging herself to achieve “a sense of intimate comradeship” (p.xiv) with more women of color and working-class women would have enriched her analysis. Nevertheless, I found this book both readily accessible and intellectually stimulating, an interesting blend of scholarship and storytelling.

The balance between criticism and memoir in Nancy Miller’s book is different, as her title suggests: *But Enough About Me*. The autobiographical elements she relates in the first several essays focus on her development as a feminist and a scholar, beginning in her adolescence and continuing chronologically as she moves through middle age. I particularly enjoyed her chapters “Decades” and “Circa 1959,” which explored how she and other graduate students at Columbia invented the field of feminist criticism in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These essays would work well in an upper-level course on the history of women’s studies or feminist theory. Like Ellerby, Miller engages in what she calls “interactive remembering” (p.7) with her peers, as she connects with memoirs written by other “nice Jewish girls who grew up middle-class in New York in the 1950s” (p.3). She goes on to analyze the works of other women less like herself (but still mostly white and middle-class), who reveal themselves in art and photography as well as in memoir, addressing themes of beauty and aging.

Miller stresses the importance of dis-identification as well as connection in response to others’ self-statements. I found her critical sections more theo-

retical and less compelling than her earlier chapters, and was relieved when she returned to her family history in an epilogue, extrapolating from objects that link her to her immigrant past. Miller answers the question in her subtitle, *Why We Read Other People’s Lives*, clearly and succinctly: “We read the lives of others to figure out how to make sense of our own, and in the process we also admit to our wishes for a future” (p.137).

In *Unreliable Truth: On Memoir and Memory*, Maureen Murdock similarly values the emotional link between memoir readers and writers: “Reading another person’s memoir gives the reader the opportunity to reflect upon her life’s memories, possibilities, and chances for renewal” (p.80). Murdock emphasizes the fragmented and selective nature of memory, which, though not always factually accurate, conveys an emotional truth that is crucial in identity development. She also insists upon the therapeutic effectiveness of the process of writing it all down: “The fundamental premise of memoir writing is a belief in the restorative power of telling one’s truth; once told, the writer can begin to move on with her life” (p.81). Murdock credits her Irish Catholic background for her fascination with myth, and she sees memoirists as “our contemporary mythmakers,” dealing with the same enduring, universal human emotions and arising from the same “human need for connection” (p.24). Her discussion of other people’s autobiographies traces the historical progression of women’s ability to develop and express their own authentic voices on issues important to them.

More than the other authors, Murdock explicitly encourages her

We need connections with others in an increasingly impersonal society.

readers to write their own memoirs. She provides a long list of reasons people do this: to “find the true self,...to bear witness to their life,...to lay the family demons to rest,...to heal a relationship, to come to terms with an illness, to find community,...to understand” (pp.111–12). Murdock’s autobiographical essays demonstrate how the process can be transformative, as she explains how recalling and writing her memories of her mother, who had recently died from Alzheimer’s disease, helped her understand their complicated relationship and reach compassion and forgiveness. I connected emotionally with this book more than with any of the others; our similar cultural and geographic origins — I think my cousins attended her New Jersey grade school — as well as her key themes of intergenerational conflict and continuity resonate with my own life. I found her exhortations and directions on how to start writing clear, and they would probably be helpful to someone contemplating such a project; I’m just not ready.

In conclusion, I understand more clearly now why women write memoirs, how and why we read them, and why this is important: We need connections with others in an increasingly impersonal society. Our society is also increasingly diverse, and I hope that future works of this sort will reflect our multicultural realities more directly. “The personal is political,” and it is also compelling, and I am optimistic

that developing empathy with those different from ourselves in important ways would increase peace and understanding.

Nonetheless, I would recommend each of the books to people with different interests: Murdock's to people coping with mother/daughter angst, and Ellerby's to those dealing with issues of trauma and shame. Miller's personal view of the development of femi-

nist criticism would be most interesting to those who study literature, and I'd recommend Foster's work to those who teach or write creative nonfiction. Although I enjoyed reading each of these books and learned a great deal from them, this assignment left me hungry for more direct confrontations with different selves. The library beckons! In the end, I enjoy reading autobiographies more than reading about them.

[Helen M. Bannan is Director and Associate Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. She is eager to start her first sabbatical after thirty years of teaching. She is not writing memoir, but biography, studying Jessie Jack Hooper, 1865–1935, an Oshkosh suffragist, peace activist, and Indian policy reformer.]

(EN)GENDERING COOKING

by Amanda J. Swygart-Hobaugh

Laura Schenone, *A THOUSAND YEARS OVER A HOT STOVE: A HISTORY OF AMERICAN WOMEN TOLD THROUGH FOOD, RECIPES AND REMEMBRANCES*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2003 (cloth). 412p. bibl. index. \$35.00, ISBN 0-393-01671-4; pap., \$18.95, ISBN 0-393-32627-6.

Jessamyn Neuhaus, *MANLY MEALS AND MOM'S HOME COOKING: COOKBOOKS AND GENDER IN MODERN AMERICA*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003 (cloth). 336p. notes. bibl. index. \$42.95, ISBN 0-8018-7125-5.

In her preface to *A Thousand Years over a Hot Stove*, Laura Schenone muses, "I have days in my very own kitchen when I am a high priestess of life" (p.xv). She then confesses,

On some days I detest cooking, for it makes me a wretched woman.... How I curse that Susie Homemaker plastic oven I loved as a child and the cooking badge I labored for as a Girl Scout — raised to be a kitchen slave by my culture, my mother — tricked into this bondage. (pp.xv–xvi)

I believe this passage encapsulates the conflicted relationship many self-

proclaimed feminists have with the cultural practices that are oft-deemed "feminine," e.g., sewing, crafts, and, of course, cooking. In my opinion, while offering differing approaches and perspectives, the authors of both books under review here seek to explore the historical, social, and cultural context from which this discord arises and, if not to reconcile, then to more fully understand this struggle. In this sense, both works offer meaningful insights sensitized by feminist/gender perspectives and would thus be valuable additions to women's/feminist studies collections.

Schenone presents a sweeping narrative of the social history of food and women's seemingly inexorable tie with

cooking in America, from pre-colonization to the present day. A journalist/freelance writer by trade, Schenone relates this captivating history using a narrative style rather than a traditional academic treatment; however, she draws on various scholarly sources to buttress her arguments, thus adding credence to her account.¹ Also, the various recipes — including Native American "Moose Butter" (p.28), of African-origin but oft-anglicized "Hoppin' John" (p.79), the Women's Christian Temperance Union's "Temperance Punch" (p.127), Italian-immigrant "Italian Easter Cake" (p.221), and Depression-era "Poor Man's Cake" (p.293) — and illustrations interspersed throughout this history lend an artistic flair as well as fuller body to the narrative.

When first reading the introductory material, I was somewhat leery of Schenone's overarching purpose, fearing that her celebratory approach to women's link with food/cooking would fail to also critique this relationship from a feminist perspective. However, my mind was set at ease with this: "Throughout history, cooking reveals itself as a source of power and magic, and, at the same time, a source of oppression in women's lives" (p.xv).

Schenone adroitly balances this "consistent paradox" (p.xv), at once celebrating the "power and magic" that cooking has brought to American women's lives as well as highlighting how women's relationship with cooking has throughout history been a "source of oppression." For example, although she details the grueling household responsibilities of the colonial housewife and her concomitant social/legal inferiority under English law, she then segues into a discussion of the housewife's necessity to the colonial family's survival. Similarly, she shows how racial/ethnic groups, when faced with various social inequalities — colonization, indigenous people being forced from their lands, enslavement, the relegation of domestic labor to African-American and immigrant women — and/or targeted for "Americanization" to serve white, middle-class values/interests, attempted to preserve their cultural identities and resist those social inequalities via their foodways. Schenone also notes the nineteenth-century separation of the public/economic and the private/home spheres and the concomitant "middle-class 'cult of domesticity'" ideology (p.125), wherein a woman's true worth was illustrated by her ability to conform to the ideals of perfection in housekeeping, motherhood, and, of course, cook-

ing — an ideological rationale for the domestic science/home economics movement, which created a professional and educational niche for women.

Whereas Schenone extols the creativity, sacredness, and power of food in American women's lives throughout history, Neuhaus turns a chiefly critical/analytical eye toward this subject matter. Analyzing cookbooks published in the U.S. from the 1920s to the mid-1960s, she explores the medium's role in prescribing traditional gender norms and roles for men and women in relation to cooking as a household responsibility.² Neuhaus's opening chapter on cookbooks from 1796 to 1920 echoes much of Schenone's discussion of separate spheres, the cult of domesticity and "Republican Motherhood" (p.12), and the domestic science movement during the nineteenth century. Moreover, and again like Schenone, Neuhaus notes the growing middle-class desire to "Americanize" immigrants in the early twentieth century to "groom students for future employment as maids and cooks" (p.19) in middle-class homes, and discusses the impact of the processed/prepackaged foods boom, the food industry's targeting of women as consumers, and the dwindling domestic labor market on (middle-class) women's expected cooking role in the home during the early to mid-twentieth century. Furthermore, both Schenone and Neuhaus note how the rhetoric of patriotism permeated cookbooks during the World Wars, manifesting in the call for rationing foods, the backlash against canned/processed foods, and the campaign for "victory gardens."

Neuhaus departs from Schenone in her nuanced analysis of the

gendered rhetoric pervading cookery instruction between the 1920s and mid-1960s. For example, Neuhaus reveals that in response to women's increased social, economic, and educational freedoms during the 1920s and 1930s as well as to the shrinking domestic labor market, cookbooks dispensed a domestic ideology that promoted (middle-class, white) women's proper place as in the kitchen cooking.³ Furthermore, she observes, the cookbooks of these decades encouraged women to approach cooking as a creative or artistic outlet — admonishing them that their husband's happiness, which was to be their utmost concern, depended upon their ability to be creative in the kitchen, day after day, week after week.

Neuhaus points out that cookbooks — constructing inherent differences between men's needs/desires for "manly" foods such as steak and potatoes and women's propensity for "dainty" foods such as salads and finger sandwiches — advised women to sacrifice their tastes to please their potential or current husbands, as the following excerpt from a cookbook illustrates: "[L]earn how to cook a steak properly as 'He' likes it. The girl who can broil a steak well, make good coffee and light fluffy biscuits, will be forgiven many sins and omissions" (p.78). She finds that many cookbooks (particularly those targeting male audiences) attested to men's superiority in the kitchen due to their adventurousness and daring (to which women were to aspire) — quickly banishing any question of male cooks' masculinity by constructing cooking as a masculine hobby akin to sports and the prepared meals as the acceptable manly fare.

Neuhaus next examines cookbooks published during the WWII years. She notes that while the domestic ideology of the kitchen as women's proper place persisted, patriotism, duty to country, and national security became the rallying cry. With women's traditional gender roles being challenged by "Rosie the Riveter," cookbooks responded accordingly:

What accounts for this outpouring on the centrality of a woman's home cooking to the safety of the nation?...[A]nxiety about gender norms at a time when "traditional" gender roles seemed threatened created the need for such messages, though now that threat came from wartime upheavals and uncertainties rather than "the new woman" and processed foods.... [L]oaded with rhetoric about domesticity, cookbooks demanded far more of their readers than simple patriotism.... [T]hey also insisted that a woman's wartime duties included creating a relaxing atmosphere at the dinner table,

where war-weary families could rest and enjoy delicious, satisfying meals. They insisted, in short, that women belonged in the kitchen. (p.137)

Moreover, while some pre-WWII cookbooks questioned women's cooking abilities, WWII-era cookbook authors were reluctant to criticize: "In a time when soldiers really and truly went into battle 'for Mom and apple pie,' cookery authorities could hardly criticize mom's piecrust" (p.153).

Neuhaus turns to the post-WWII years through 1963 — the year Betty Friedan exposed the "feminine mystique" to the nation⁴ — proclaiming that a comparably intense and vehement domestic ideology, dubbed the "cooking mystique" (p.161), saturated cookbooks of this era. Men once again were deemed superior to women in cooking ability, and cooking remained masculine as long as it was relegated to a hobby and conformed to prescribed notions of masculine tastes and practices. In ways reminiscent of the WWII era, Cold War anxieties were

intertwined with the domestic ideology permeating cookbooks, as the following cookbook excerpt illustrates:

The world today needs people with stamina and courage. Good meals can help to supply them. Each homemaker has a part to play through seeing that her individual family is provided with the essentials for giving it health and vigor. *Family security, as well as national security, results from good management of meals.* (p.224, emphasis in original)

Many cookbooks, Neuhaus argues, asserted that a woman's primary fulfillment in life should come from providing her family three square meals a day — eerily reminiscent of Mrs. Brown's thoughts from Michael Cunningham's novel *The Hours*⁵:

She is going to produce a birthday cake.... The cake will speak of bounty and delight the way a good house speaks of comfort and safety.... At this moment, holding



Miriam Greenwald

a bowl full of sifted flour in an orderly house under the California sky, she hopes to be as satisfied and as filled with anticipation as a writer putting down the first sentence, a builder beginning to draw the plans....

The cake is less than she'd hoped it would be. She tries not to mind. It is only a cake, she tells herself. It is only a cake.... She'd imagined it larger, more remarkable. She'd hoped (she admits to herself) it would look more lush and beautiful, more wonderful. This cake she's produced feels small.... (pp.77, 99)

Neuhaus also observes, "Cookery experts usually did not attempt to validate women's feelings of lethargy or weariness — rather, they exhorted women to overcome dullness and boredom and to 'be pretty, be bright, and be a good cook'" (p.232). However, while a "cooking mystique" permeated many of the examined cookbooks, some — notably, Peg Bracken's *The I Hate to Cook Book* — reflected a "discontent" with this domestic ideology by not wholeheartedly embracing the tenets but recognizing cooking as a "necessary bore" (p.239) fated to be a woman's lot in life — perhaps foreshadowing the second-wave feminist movement soon to erupt.

Both of these works offer nuanced insights into the gendered aspects of cooking and would thus be welcome additions to feminist/women's studies collections. While Schenone's writing style lends itself more readily to a general versus an academic audience, I would not necessarily exclude her book from college/university collec-

tions. In fact, I believe her accessible writing may encourage readers to go on to more academic treatments of the subject matter, such as Neuhaus's, which I highly recommend for college/university collections in gender and social history.

In closing, I believe the following excerpts from the authors' concluding remarks bring us full circle:

Cookery clearly offers innumerable Americans the opportunity for creative expression, for demonstrating care and affection, and for sensual, satisfying pleasures. But we should be aware that the cookbook we casually consult for a favorite recipe has a history. We should remember that...food manufacturers, cookbook authors, editors, and publishers used this medium to sell their products and their magazines. In the process, they helped establish links between gender and food preparation that remain strong to this day. (Neuhaus, p.267)

We can be ashamed of our wars and flaws, our capacity for evil as human beings. But cooking and caring for one another — this is our bright side. In cooking, we find our creativity, ingenuity. And I believe women want to embrace this connection because of our special history with food. If men want to join us in the kitchen, I think that's great. We need all the hospitality and caring we can get. (Schenone, p.349)

[Amanda J. Swygart-Hobaugh, Ph.D., is Consulting Librarian for the Social Sciences at Cornell College, as well as an instructor in and Chair of the Women's Studies Program. Her doctoral research examined anti-prostitution crusades in Progressive-Era Chicago, devoting significant attention to the permeation of gendered discourses throughout the crusaders' claims about prostitution.]

Notes

1. The academic in me was somewhat put off by Schenone's lack of precise source citation; however, her chapter-by-chapter "select bibliography" (pp.355–78) lists several useful sources geared toward both general and academic audiences, some accompanied by brief annotations.
2. See Neuhaus's "Essay on Sources," pp.320–23, for a detailed discussion of her sampling procedures.
3. Neuhaus acknowledges that as the primary audience assumed by most cookbook authors/publishers excluded racial/ethnic minorities, the domestic ideology conveyed was thus decidedly targeting white, middle-class women.
4. Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, 2nd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 1974).
5. Michael Cunningham, *The Hours* (New York: Picador, 1998).

AMBIGUOUS OUTCOMES: WOMEN AND THE POWER AND PROMISE OF MEDICINE

by Judith A. Houck

Jean Elson, *AM I STILL A WOMAN? HYSTERECTOMY AND GENDER IDENTITY*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2004. 264p. bibl. index. \$59.50, ISBN 1-59213-210-3; pap., \$19.95, ISBN 1-59213-211-1.

Barbara Seaman, *THE GREATEST EXPERIMENT EVER PERFORMED ON WOMEN: EXPLODING THE ESTROGEN MYTH*. New York: Hyperion, 2003 [paperback 2004]. 332p. bibl. index. ISBN 0786868538; pap., \$13.95, ISBN 0786887346.

Laura Briggs, *REPRODUCING EMPIRE: RACE, SEX, SCIENCE, AND U.S. IMPERIALISM IN PUERTO RICO*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. 278p. bibl. index. ill. \$55.00, ISBN 0-520-22255-5; pap., \$21.95, ISBN 0-520-23258-5.

In the 1970s, second-wave feminists began to examine the relationship between women and the medical profession. These critiques often claimed that medicine, infused with misogyny, regularly victimized its female patients. At the beginning of the twentieth-first century, feminist scholars and activists are still mapping the complex relationship between women and the medical establishment. These three books, taking very different approaches, contribute important new insights into our understanding of the power medicine wields over women.

In *Am I Still A Woman? Hysterectomy and Gender Identity*, sociologist Jean Elson examines the effects of hysterectomy on women's sense of womanhood. She concludes, perhaps predictably, that different women react in different ways to the removal of their wombs (and ovaries). Some do indeed feel that hysterectomy renders them less womanly, while others feel no particular loss of femininity or womanhood. Despite such diverse reactions, Elson identifies which women are at greatest risk for suffering "disrupted

gender identities" (p.173): Women mostly likely to feel gender loss with hysterectomy are those who lose both their ovaries and uteruses to surgery; those who were still fertile before surgery; those who feel less sexually attractive as a result of the operation; and those who feel they had no "control over decisions to undergo surgery" (p.174).

For those women who feel less like women after surgery, Elson examines the precise biological change that contributes to their diminished sense of womanhood. For some women, the loss of fertility makes them feel less womanly; for others, it is the loss of female hormones that seems to rob them of their femininity. Some women feel that hysterectomy made them less physically attractive, while others claim that surgery changed their sexual experiences. A few, but only a few, say they miss their menstrual periods, for menstruation had linked them to other women.

Elson's project engages questions at the heart of the relationship between biology and gender. She asks, at least

implicitly, What are the biological parameters of womanhood? How does biology make women feel "womanly"? Can medical treatments remove or restore a woman's femininity? Her book demonstrates that gender identity emerges from a complex relationship between biological markers and cultural expectations of women. As a result, a hysterectomy, by eliminating some of the physical signs of womanhood, encourages women to assess their gendered status.

Barbara Seaman's approach to her subject, the widespread medical use of estrogen, is spelled out clearly in her title, *The Greatest Experiment Ever Performed on Women*. Part history, part exposé, part cautionary tale, the book offers a series of vignettes that provide an outline of the troubled history of prescription estrogens. Seaman argues that the risks estrogens posed to women were long suspected by the drug companies and some physicians, but the dangers were ignored or denied in order to improve drug companies' bottom line.

The experiment began in 1899, when Merck offered Ovariin, a sub-

stance derived from dried cow ovaries, for the symptoms of menopause and other womanly ills. This obscure and, in Seaman's words, "gruesome" beginning launched an experiment that continues to this day, as millions of healthy women have been prescribed estrogens for various uses: to prevent ovulation, to ease menopausal symptoms, to decrease the risk of miscarriage, to maintain a healthy heart. In each case, however, the alleged benefits of estrogens came with great costs. Far too many women paid for the convenience of an oral contraceptive and the promise of strong bones with their lives.

Seaman's account of the false promise of hormones is an important one. Just as important is the story Seaman tells about the concern and determination of physicians, consumer advocates, and feminists who challenged the widespread use of estrogens when their safety was clearly unproven. In particular, she highlights the efforts of various feminists who disrupted congressional hearings on the safety of the Pill in 1970, and of the sympathetic doctors who listened to the women's concerns. These hearings ultimately led to the inclusion of a potentially "life-saving" (p.148) package insert with prescriptions of oral contraceptives.

Seaman fills her book with heroes and villains. She portrays the work of Edward Charles Dodds, "the father of diethylstilbestrol" (DES), for example, as a patriotic effort to prevent the "Devil's Chemists" from patenting estrogen. Estrogen, Dodds (and Seaman) argued, rightfully belonged to "nature," "God," and "women," and assuredly not to drug companies, particularly not German drug companies (p.34). According to Seaman, Dodds never dreamed that DES would be prescribed for healthy women, and he

spent most of his career "fretting" about the possible connection between estrogen and cancer. After the 1976 revelations that DES caused cancers and others problems in the offspring of the women who had taken it during pregnancy, Seaman assured Dodds — who was no longer alive — "It wasn't your fault, Charlie. . . . You did everything you could to stop it" (p.39). In contrast, she castigates Robert Wilson, the Brooklyn gynecologist who promoted hormone replacement therapy for the alleged "tragedy" of menopause in his best-selling 1966 book, *Feminine Forever*. She also blames individual doctors for their role in the greatest experiment. While she does not hold them accountable for prescribing hormones for menopausal symptoms or to slow bone loss (uses approved by the FDA), she does brand physicians "reckless" who gave known carcinogens to healthy women for off-label uses (to prevent heart disease or Alzheimer's, for example). Nevertheless, most of her rage is directed at "Big Pharma," whose ability to "buy and influence medical opinion" exposed countless women to "serious, often devastating risk" (pp.5–6).

Seaman is not a disinterested party in the drama she describes; indeed, her 1969 *The Doctors' Case Against the Pill* "helped stir public opinion in favor of accurate patient information" (p.97). Her 1977 book, *Women and the Crisis in Sex Hormones*, offered a more general critique of prescription hormones and their widespread use by healthy women. In 1975, Seaman co-founded the National Women's Health Network, an organization that vigorously opposed Wyeth-Ayerst's request that the FDA approve Premarin to promote heart health. As Seaman recounts, the Network's impassioned resistance encouraged Congress

These books remind us that while medicine can offer remarkable benefits to health and well-being, it should not be regarded uncritically.

to fund the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) to study the safety and efficacy of longterm hormone therapy. Instead of showing that hormone replacement therapy decreased the risk of heart disease, the study indicated that hormone therapy actually increased a woman's risk of cardiac complications and breast cancer.

In her attempt to make her subject readily accessible, Seaman regularly provides salacious and largely irrelevant morsels about her cast of characters. We learn, for example, which FDA employee was forced to moonlight to keep up with alimony payments, which popular health writer "was very fond of sex" (p.117), and which pro-hormone physician died "by his own hand" (p.55). While these details make for lively reading, they also distract the reader from the serious issues that should remain central to Seaman's project — the widespread medical prescription of estrogen to millions of healthy women.

Seaman's book will appeal to readers who already believe that "Big Pharma" and the profit motive explain all that is wrong with modern medicine. It will be less satisfying to those who want to understand why so many people, for so long, saw in hormone therapies a cure for much of what ailed women.

Laura Briggs, in her important study *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*, moves well beyond a discussion of physicians' and pharmaceutical companies' exploitation of women. Instead, she focuses on the uses of medicine and biomedical social policies as part of a larger imperialist agenda. She argues that Puerto Rican women's bodies, particularly their sexuality and reproduction, have been constructed in order to make "colonialism in Puerto Rico possible and necessary" (p.4). In a series of chronologically overlapping examples that include venereal disease control in the early twentieth century, eugenic arguments for birth control in the 1920s and 1930s, and oral contraceptive research in the 1940s and 1950s, Briggs makes a compelling case for the central role of biomedicine in colonial policy.

Briggs avoids simple narratives. When she describes the intersection of birth control policies and questions of nationalism, for example, she examines the various nationalist agendas that focused on "questions of motherhood and birth control" (p.75), describing two that supported birth control, one that saw smaller (and thus healthier) families as the key to economic progress in Puerto Rico, and another that sought to protect the United States mainland from the "uncon-

trolled" reproduction of the "working-class and/or dark-skinned Puerto Ricans" (p.75). She also examines a Puerto Rican nationalist movement that valorized mothers as the key to an independent citizenry. Briggs also brings complexity to the history of coercive sterilization in Puerto Rico. Indeed, she challenges the very notion of a mass sterilization campaign, conceding only that "sterilization was easy to get and quite possibly even improperly urged on working class women in municipal hospitals for a period of fewer than five years" (p.158).

This last example nicely illustrates one of Briggs's major points, that the history of Puerto Rico is simultaneously a history of the mainland United States. In the 1970s, mainland feminists, reflecting a new awareness of the effects of race and poverty, began to denounce involuntary sterilization while they continued to fight for access to abortion and birth control. By projecting this agenda onto Puerto Rican women, mainland feminists ignored the efforts and needs of Puerto Rican feminists. By trying to speak for Puerto Rican women rather than listening to them, Briggs argues, mainland feminists participated in the same project of colonialism that they criticized, by framing Puerto Rican women as "victimized and need[ing] to be saved" (p.144).

These books remind us that while medicine can offer remarkable benefits to health and well-being, it should not be regarded uncritically. As Seaman illustrates, the profit motive of drug companies often compromises access to unbiased research on safety and efficacy. Elson points out that hysterectomy, a surgery most often performed to treat benign conditions, can have profound consequences on women's sense of themselves. Briggs shows that biomedicine has been used as a tool of imperialism. Taken together, these books remind us that women often bear a disproportionate share of the risks of pharmaceutical therapies, surgical procedures, and biomedical social policies.

[Judith A. Houck is an assistant professor of medical history, history of science, and women's studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.]

Note

1. Seaman does not invent this language, but she uses it to describe Third Reich chemists Adolph Butenandt and Hans Inhoffen, who were allegedly working to patent a steroidal estrogen. Perhaps to lessen the association of these chemists with the Nazis, Seaman conceded that Butenandt was "not anti-Semitic" (p.25) and Inhoffen was "more or less clean" (p.34).

BLOG THIS! AN INTRODUCTION TO BLOGS, BLOGGING, AND THE FEMINIST BLOGOSPHERE

by Vicki Tobias

Blogging is the hottest trend on the Internet.¹ Any serious political junkie immersed in the 2004 election season was quickly initiated into the world of the weblog, or “blog.” Although blogs have existed since the late 1990s, persistent media buzz surrounding Howard Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign blog, *Blog for America*, and his blog-inspired “Internet Revolution” to harness grassroots support among young, tech-savvy voters only intensified interest in this innovation in communication.

For any given topic, there are probably several blogs presenting varying viewpoints about it. However mundane, absurd, controversial, or pedantic their themes may be, blogs have in common an unregulated and libertarian essence. Blogs are a modern manifestation of our First Amendment rights, providing both voice and audience for anyone with an opinion, including self-identified feminists and those engaged in women’s issues.

What Is This Thing Called Blog?

The term “weblog” is a portmanteau of “web” and “log.” In 1999, Peter Merholz split the word into the phrase “we blog” in the sidebar of his website.² In March 2003, the *Oxford English Dictionary* sanctioned the terms *weblog*, *we-blogging*, and *weblogger*,³ further strengthening their presence in the English lexicon. Blog technology and its use can be traced to precursor electronic communities such as Usenet, email listservs, and electronic bulletin boards.

In short, a blog is a website format containing periodic time-stamped posts on a common Web page.⁴ It is an organic entity, usually — but not always — maintained by a single person who publishes entries or “posts” text, images, or other data formats on a regular basis. Blogs are either publicly or privately accessible on the Web, presenting theme-based discussions related to news, sports, fashion, entertainment, politics, popular culture, or other issues of personal significance. Some blogs present commentary on and link to other websites, while others serve as a creative outlet, presenting original writings, artwork, or music.

Content presentation and organization depend on the software or system used to create the blog. Most blogs include information about the blog owner, navigational links,

Web links, an archive of previous entries, a listing of entries receiving recent comments, and a blog search function. The core content is dynamic, consisting of date-stamped posts often arranged by sub-topic, in some cases allowing user comments and ratings. These posts usually appear on the front page of the blog in reverse chronological order, with the most recent postings at the top. After a prescribed period of time, entries disappear from the front page and are usually archived on separate pages, organized by date or topic, for posterity. Most blogs note the number of comments received in reply to each post, allowing users to easily identify more active discussion “threads.”

Blog entries are usually short, maybe a sentence or a paragraph, and may reference other websites or entries on other blogs and include hyperlinks to them. Entries are most frequently the authors’ commentary on current events, politics, or their daily routines.⁵

Two common blog features are “blogrolls” and “comments.” Blogrolls are lists of another blog’s entries, often organized by topic, that create context for a blog by referencing similar or relevant entries. Reciprocal linking is also a common practice, as bloggers agree to reference each other’s blogs to increase Web traffic to their own sites. *Brutal Women* (<http://brutalwomen.blogspot.com/>) presents an exceptional blogroll of other feminist blogs. This provocative personal blog offers discussion topics such as Plan B contraception, women’s body image, boxing, and other random musings of a young urban professional female living in Chicago. *Alas, a Blog* (<http://www.amptoons.com/blog/>) and *feministing.com* (<http://www.feministing.com/>) also maintain exceptional blogrolls of sites focused on feminism and women’s issues.

The use of feedback comment systems allows readers to comment on an individual blog entry. Some blogs have regular postings by identified commenters whose contribution may increase the blog’s reputation or popularity, depending on the individual commenter and his or her relationship to the blog topic. For example, *Bush vs. Choice* (<http://bushvchoice.blogspot.com/>) is a pro-choice, anti-Bush blog that provides active discussion on current reproductive

rights issues. Regular contributors include National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) staff.

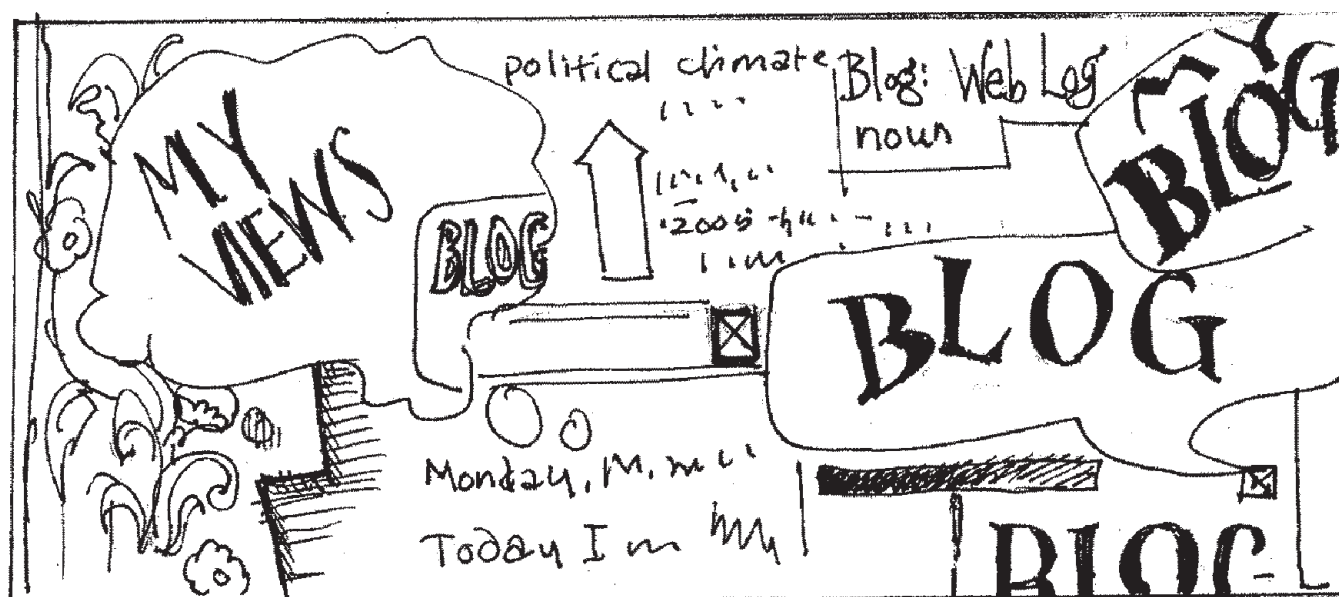
Blogs by women, about women, or presenting women's issues are growing in numbers. Like most blogs, they vary in subject matter, degree of activity, and target audience. Nonetheless, these blogs share a common purpose — to provide a living forum for women's issues. From stream-of-consciousness tirades to well-honed and fact-based political debate, from the hilarious and satirical political musings of *Wonkette* (<http://www.wonkette.com/>) to the self-described *Thoughts of an Average Woman* (<http://toaaw.typepad.com/toaaw/>), feminist rhetoric thrives in the blogosphere.

Blog Formats and Examples

A number of blog types exist. It's likely that a particular blog may be categorized as more than one type. In fact, some may fit into multiple categories. *Wikipedia* (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weblog>) offers a description of

issues are *Personal*, *Topical*, *Collaborative*, *Political*, *Corporate*, and *Advice*.

The *personal* blog resembles an online diary or journal. One example is *Pinko Feminist Hellcat* (<http://pinkofeministhellcat.typepad.com/>), an active and intelligent personal blog that recently discussed spousal abuse, Ann Coulter, the gender gap in wage earnings, and misogyny in hip hop music. *CultureCat: Rhetoric and Feminism* (<http://culturecat.net/>) is an active personal blog with extremely compelling intellectual postings on the underrepresentation of women in op-ed pieces, *Bust* magazine, Plan B contraception, the gender gap in publishing and punditry, and writing. *Back to the Kitchen: Media, Culture, Politics and Women in a New American Century* (<http://www.backtothekitchen.org/>) is a personal blog maintained by four women who have observed “a dismaying trend toward once again idealizing women's role as wife, mother, and homemaker, and disregarding or even denigrating other



Miriam Greenwald

common blog “types” including Personal, Thoughtful, FriendBlog (“a distributed networked journal on the web, composed of short, frequently updated posts written by friends”), Topical, News, Political, Legal, Media, Literary, and Religious. Collaborative or collective (group) blogs are those written by more than one person, usually on a specific topic. Educational blogs are increasingly used by both students and instructors to create a living record of course curriculum and student activity and progress. Some of the most common types that present information related to women's

equally legitimate, personally satisfying, and societally beneficial contributions that women may choose to make.” Recent topics include gender segregation in schools, Teresa Heinz Kerry, Catholicism and feminism, and parental notification laws.

Topical blogs focus on either a general or a specific theme, or both. *Black Looks: Musings and Rants by an African Fem* (http://okrasoup.typepad.com/black_looks/) is an excellent resource for discussions related to African women, gender violence, black women's health, and human

rights. It also includes book reviews, links to other blogs and sites discussing African authors, violence against women, refugees, female genital mutilation, and feminism in Africa. *Misbehaving.net* (<http://www.misbehaving.net/>) is a self-described weblog about women and technology; a celebration of women's contributions to computing; and a place to spotlight women's contributions as well point out new opportunities and challenges for women in the computing field. Recent postings discussed Google's attempt to recruit women, gender and website linking practices, and feminism and technology. *Reproductive Rights Blog* (http://cara.typepad.com/reproductive_rights_blog/) is a highly active, intellectual blog discussing abortion issues in North America and Europe, contraception, Catholicism, and "Abstinence Only" policies.

Collaborative or **collective** blogs focus on a specific topic but are maintained by more than one person. A good example is *Blog Sisters* (<http://blogsisters.blogspot.com/>), an active community weblog of contributions by hundreds of loosely related women bloggers who share knowledge, ideas, stories, conversation, wisdom, and the occasional dirty joke, as well as more serious deliberations related to breast cancer, divorce, body image, international women's issues, and human rights abuses. *Media Girl* (<http://www.mediagirl.org/>) is a community of, by, and for women (and men, too) who are interested in the media, politics, culture, and feminism. Recent postings include a review of Lynne Cheney's novel *Sisters*, information about emergency contraception, feminism and television, and female education in the third world. *XX* (<http://www.xxblog.com/>) is an active community blog concerned with gender issues, parenting, pop culture, feminism, and the Bush administration. Recent postings focused on women in politics, rape, fathers' rights activism, abortion, black and white feminism, and gender in video games.

Political blogs include *What She Said!* (<http://the-goddess.org/whatshe-said/>), an active politically themed blog exploring a range of current issues such as *Roe v. Wade*, Afghan women, contraception, conservative women bloggers, and women's health issues. *Bitch (S)Hitlist* (<http://www.bitchmagazine.com/blogtest/index.html>) is an active blog associated with *Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture*, a print magazine devoted to incisive commentary on a media-driven world. Recent discussion topics include *Roe v. Wade*, women in boxing, *Ms. Magazine*, and female political columnists such as Maureen Dowd and Susan Estrich. *Feminist Bias* (<http://www.liberalfeministbias.blogspot.com/>) is "a brazen, unapologetic, and biased liberal, third wave

feminist, pro-women's reproductive rights, pro-racial civil rights, pro-LGBT civil rights, socio-cultural, political blog" with recent postings on breast implants, Title IX, the gender gap in earnings, pornography, and recently deceased feminist writer Andrea Dworkin.

Corporate blogs are associated with an organization or business entity. *Ms. Musings* (<http://www.msmagazine.com/blog/>) is a highly active and intellectually provocative blog associated with *Ms. Magazine*. Post topics include religion, the Mothers' Movement, perspectives on women in advertising, and women's bodies in popular culture. This blog also provides links to other highly regarded new sources and writers, focused on women's issues. *Now What?* (<http://www.saveroe.com/blog/index.php>) is a highly active blog associated with Planned Parenthood Federation of America and presents informative and current discussions focused on all issues related to *Roe v. Wade*, reproductive rights, contraception, and other women's health issues.

Advice blogs present fact-based information on a single topic. *The Well-Timed Period: At the Intersection of Medical Fact and Fiction* (<http://thewelltimedperiod.blogspot.com/>) is an active informational blog devoted to disseminating detailed and factual information related to contraception. Blog topics include birth control methods, book reviews, Plan B contraception in Canada, and the HPV virus. *Knife-Wielding Feminists* (<http://feministfoodies.blogspot.com/>) is "a recipe spot for feminist foodies." There's nothing explicitly political here — simply an active archive of exceptional recipes from a gathering of self-described feminists.

Find a Blog!

The Perseus Development Group, a corporation focused on developing Web survey technologies, recently examined several major blog hosts such as Blogspot, Xanga, Pitas, and Typepad, and reported that there were currently 31.6 million hosted blogs, a number predicted to grow to a startling 53.4 million by the end of 2005.⁶ Taking into account the vast quantity of non-maintained or abandoned blogs currently living in cyberspace, as well as others created for what Perseus COO Jeffrey Henning has called the "nanoaudience" — blogs rarely linked to by other blogs and created for a tiny target audience of family or friends⁷ — it's easy to question how one might discover topically useful, authoritative, and current blogs related to feminism or women's issues in general.

A search for "feminist" or "feminism" on the home page of any major blog site such as *Bloglines* (<http://>

www.bloglines.com) or *LiveJournal* (<http://www.livejournal.com>) will result in a list of blogs hosted by these systems that focus on women's issues. Perusing blog rings provides an overview of blogs organized under a specific topic. Much like Web rings, blog rings list other blogs maintained by those who share a common interest in the blog list theme. *The Progressive Women's Blog Ring* (<http://www.ringsurf.com/netring?ring=carla;action=list>) is a "ring for women who blog on progressive or liberal politics." *Women Bloggers* (<http://ringsaround.net/womenbloggers/>) is another blog ring whose member blogs focus on women's issues. Finally, search the blogroll of a favorite feminist blog to discover related blogs.

Blog On!

Several websites, systems, and software packages facilitate blogging. Blog host sites and Web services that provide free Web-based editing and publishing include *Blogger* (<http://www.blogger.com>), *LiveJournal* (<http://www.livejournal.com>), and *Xanga* (<http://www.xanga.com>). Tech-savvy bloggers may choose to use server-side software tools such as Movable Type, Serendipity, WordPress, or bBlog to publish their own blogs, while others employ advanced programming skills to create blogs from scratch using an open source server-side scripting language such as Perl or PHP, or a server-side software system such as Common Gateway Interface (CGI).

Conclusion

From their humble beginnings as online soapboxes for personal rants to their status as White House-accredited media organs — contributing editor for Washington media blog *FishBowlDC*, Garrett M. Graff, was invited to attend the White House press gaggle in March 2005 — blogs have come a long way in a short time. They're belittled by some tech industry professionals as the "e-flavor of the month"⁸ while others rally to support blogs and "bloggers" for "enabling true democratization of the information age."⁹ But it may be too soon to predict the blog's longevity and ultimate influence in a world where information is increasingly ubiquitous. For now, it's enough to know that women and those interested in women's issues are actively contributing to this ever-growing blogosphere of information!

This article is the first in a series presenting information about blogs and women's issues. Future articles will focus on using blogs as academic resources and classroom tools, present criteria for evaluating blogs as research resources, and offer reviews of additional blogs related to feminism and women's issues.

[Vicki Tobias is a Digital Services Librarian for the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center. She attended the University of Washington—Seattle (B.A., Chinese, 1997) and the University of Wisconsin—Madison (M.A., Library and Information Studies, 2003). Vicki maintains active interests in information technology and its application to libraries and in women's issues.]

Notes

1. Scot Petersen, "Throw Another Blog on the Fire: Blogging Is Red-Hot, But Just How Constructive Is It?" *eWeek*, vol. 21, no. 22, May 31, 2004, <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1603587,00.asp>.
2. "Weblog," from *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weblog>.
3. "Quarterly Updates to *OED Online*," *Oxford English Dictionary*, March 13, 2003, <http://www.oed.com/help/updates/motswana-mussy.html#oos>.
4. "Weblog," from *Wikipedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weblog>.
5. Phil Gyford, "An Introduction to Weblog Terms for Weblog Readers," in *Writing*, February 5, 2003, http://www.gyford.com/phil/writing/2003/01/05/an_introduction_.php.
6. Jeffrey Henning, Perseus Development Corporation, "News & Events: The Blogging Geyser," in *Perseus: Understanding Your World*, April 8, 2005, <http://www.perseus.com/blogsurvey/geyser.html>.
7. Jeffrey Henning, Perseus Development Corporation, "News & Events: The Blogging Iceberg," in *Perseus: Understanding Your World*, October 4, 2003, <http://www.perseus.com/blogsurvey/iceberg.html>.
8. Marcelo Vieta, "What's Really Going On with the Blogosphere?" *CPROST Digest*, vol.2, no.3, December 2003, <http://arago.cprosf.sfu.ca/digest/dec03/Blogger.html>.
9. Scot Petersen, "Throw Another Blog on the Fire," <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1603587,00.asp>.

A SAMPLING OF BLOGS BY WOMEN, FOR WOMEN, AND/OR DISCUSSING WOMEN'S ISSUES

by Vicki Tobias

The sites listed below are a representative sample of blogs that present women's issues. They vary greatly in quality and quantity of content, level of activity, and target demographic. Urban, rural, white, black, straight, gay, mothers, daughters, local, international — they all share a common desire to provide an active forum for discussing women's issues. From stream-of-consciousness rantings to well-honed political debate, feminist rhetoric abounds in the blogosphere!

Abortion Clinic Days

<http://abortionclinicdays.blogspot.com/>

A personal blog maintained by two abortion service providers. Discussion topics include abortion experience, abortion politics, women's lives, counseling, reproductive health, and reproductive law and policy.

Bitch, Ph.D.

<http://bitchphd.blogspot.com/>

"Least likely to pacify social conservatives." A left-leaning personal blog exploring a range of political and social issues related to women, including reproductive rights, pro-choice politicians, immigrants' rights, and

general comments on being a female blogger in NYC. Includes a link to the "Feminist of the Day" website.

Black Feminism

<http://blackfeminism.org/>

A moderately active community weblog focusing on how race and gender intersect in the realms of education, culture, health, and general life. Recent discussion topics include HIV care for black women, the gender gap in education, women in IT roles, and black women and body image.

Body and Soul: The Body Politic, the Human Soul, and Billie Holiday

<http://bodyandsoul.typepad.com/>

An active personal blog with highly provocative discussions on topics including the Bush administration, civil liberties, poverty, the Middle East, and a range of women's issues. Provides links to a bevy of intellectual left-leaning websites and blogs.

Bohemian Mama

<http://www.bohemianmama.blogspot.com/>

"The Point of Revolution is to get away with it!" A personal blog professing opinions and activism by radical, leftist mothers. Recent discussion topics include Iraq, women in the Middle East, and Social Security.

Des Femmes

<http://desfemmes.blogspot.com/>

A marginally active personal blog. Recent postings focus on female military veterans, violence against women, sexism, and homophobia. Provides a useful listing of other websites and blogs focused on women's issues.

I Am Dr. Laura's Worst Nightmare

<http://gracedavis.typepad.com/>

"Botox-free at 50!" A moderately active personal blog with discussion on a range of issues including conservative pundit Ann Coulter and popular culture and other personal rants.



Miriam Greenwald

Feminary

<http://feminary.blogspot.com/>

"What happens when a socially liberal theologically conservative inclusive tolerant feminist Episcopalian goes to one of the world's top evangelical seminaries?" A moderately active personal blog featuring discussion of religion, feminism, politics, Christianity, and more.

Feministe

<http://www.feministe.us/blog/>

A provocative and highly intelligent personal blog maintained by a Midwestern single mother. Recent discussion topics include feminism, body image, fathers' rights, sexism in hip hop music, rape culture and masculinity, the Kobe Bryant trial, and stereotypes depicted in "Desperate Housewives."

Feminist Blogs

<http://www.feministblogs.org/>

A community of blogs by self-identified feminists, women's liberationists, womanists, and pro-feminist men providing an "independent alternative to the 'malestream' media."

Girl in the Locker Room! ...and other women's tales from back then

<http://blogs.salon.com/0003945/>

Hosted by Salon.com and maintained by a woman who worked as a sports reporter for the *New York Times* in the 1970s, this blog includes anecdotes from readers about dating, eroticism, politics, health, and sports. Recent blog postings include persuasive commentary on contraception, feminism and Judaism, sexuality in music videos, and women's health issues.

GrannyRant

<http://grannyrant.blogspot.com/>

"Adjust your TinFoil Bonnets, Granny is on a Rant." A marginally active, left-leaning, personal blog discussing Social Security, Baby Boomers, *Roe v. Wade*, and the Christian Coalition.

Hot Flash Report

<http://www.hotflashreport.com/>

"Opinionated liberal views of the wrongs of the right." A highly active personal blog associated with the Progressive Women's Blog Ring and maintained by two professional women involved in women's health issues with the National

Women's Health Organization. News contributors are published authors, editors, political analysts, and intellectuals, with topics including from reproductive rights to *Roe v. Wade*, the 2004 election results, and Iraq.



Miriam Greenwald

Liliputian Lilith

<http://www.liliputianlilith.com/>

An intelligent and literary blog providing personal musings on a multitude of topics related to women, including women in science and technology fields, education, religion, and personal discovery.

Many United for Feminism

<http://muff.ws/>

A highly active blog for MUFF (Many United for Feminism), an organization whose meeting topics include body image issues, women's health, women in media, female sexuality, and women's rituals.

Netwoman

<http://netwomen.ca/Blog/>

"This g'ur'l's blog discusses gender with a focus on technology and the Internet plus other digital divides and 'isms.'" An active and academic blog whose recent postings discuss the digital divide, gender and technology, and African women.

Raging Feminist: Angry Dyke on the Loose
<http://ragingfeminist.crimsonblog.com/>

An active personal blog with recent postings related to *The L Word* and presentation of lesbian lifestyles on television, the Equal Rights Amendment, and women's health issues.

Redneck Feminist
<http://redneckfeminist.blogspot.com/>

An active personal blog by "a rural-dwelling, gun-owning feminist strongly opposed to racism and other forms of bigotry." Recent discussions include the Terri Schiavo case and marriage law, female boxing, and "men's rights" activism.

Sisters Talk
<http://sisterstalk.tblog.com/>

An active and provocative personal blog focusing, in general, on LGBT issues, sex and sexuality, pop culture, and politics. Recent discussions include women of color, Condoleezza Rice as a role model, breast cancer, and domestic abuse.

Tennessee Guerilla Woman: Challenging the Conservative Politics of Sexism, Homophobia, Racism and Classism
<http://www.guerillawomentn.blogspot.com/>

An active and thoughtful personal blog discussing women in Iraq, gender gap in wage earnings, gay marriage, Southern women, and religion.

Thoughts of an Average Woman
<http://cepetro.blogspot.com/>

"Targeting issues and policies harmful to women, working families and other rhetoric." An active personal blog with engaging discussions on proposed legislation related to unborn children and pregnant women's health care, breast cancer, Condoleezza Rice's political agenda, and the education gender gap.

Utopian Hell
<http://www.utopianhell.com/>

An active independent blog presenting personal views related to media perceptions of women, gender roles and relationships, and pay equity.

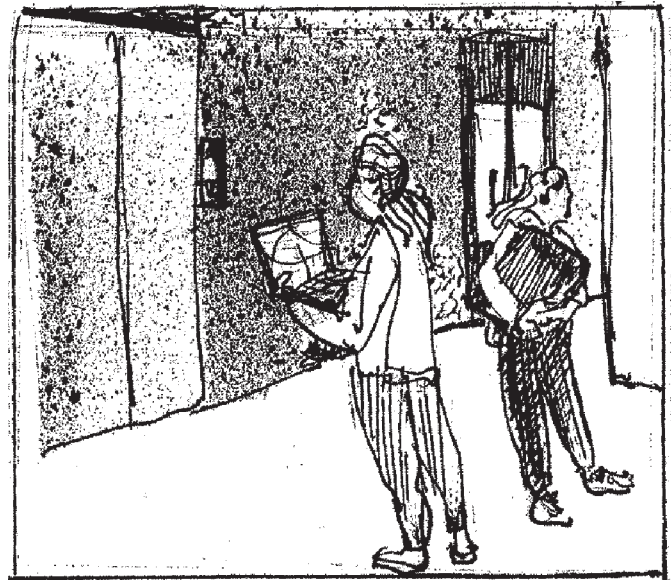
We Have Brains (and We Use Them): A Feminist Discussion Project

<http://wehavebrains.com/> until March 2005, at which point the blog switched over to LiveJournal: **http://www.livejournal.com/community/_wehavebrains/**

"[A] collaborative project aimed at feminists and the feminist-curious." An active and intelligent blog presenting news and discussions related to women's issues worldwide. Recent postings include gender apartheid in the Middle East, lesbian health care, Martha Stewart, rape, and breast cancer.

Women as Mothers
<http://womenasmothers.blogspot.com/>

An active personal blog committed to disseminating information that counters "the current media attack against women in their role as single mothers." Postings include divorce and pregnant women, the Terri Schiavo case and marriage law, and rape.



Miriam Greenwald

E-SOURCES ON WOMEN & GENDER

Our website (<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>) includes all recent issues of this column, plus many bibliographies, core lists of women's studies books, and links to hundreds of other websites by topic.

Information about electronic journals and magazines, particularly those with numbered or dated issues posted on a regular schedule, can be found in our "Periodical Notes" column.

WEBSITES

FOR COLLEGE WOMEN: In a laudable effort, Brandeis University students have created a website with links to health information on many topics at <http://www.4collegewomen.org>, "a user-friendly, single point of access to health information for college-age women across the country." Some of the information appears to be written or adapted specifically for this site; many pages are directly linked articles from mainstream, "official" (often governmental) sites, such as those of WomensHealth.gov (DHHS), NIH, the FDA, the CDC, NIDA, NIMH, NIAAA, the federal Office on Women's Health, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (part of NIH), the American Psychiatric Association, Medline Plus, and the Kaiser Family Foundation, with very occasional links to other organizations such as Planned Parenthood. (Given founder/director Susan J. Blumenthal's position as U.S. Assistant Surgeon General and her history with government health agencies, the preponderance of governmental sites is not that surprising.) Topics include not only physical and mental health conditions and treatments but such issues as insurance coverage (and lack thereof) and health careers. The site is obviously still developing: it would be wonderful to see it branch out from the mainstream and include links to other reputable but more independent sources, such as the Boston Women's Health Collective, which recently revised the late-twentieth-century classic *Our Bodies, Ourselves* (see extensive online resources at <http://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/>), and some of the knowledgeable voices in the size-acceptance/health-at-every-size movement (see, e.g., the one at <http://www.jonrobison.net/FDNH/>)

GIRLSPOKEN: CREATIVE VOICES FOR CHANGE, a project of Laurentian University's School of Social Work (Ontario), is creating an anthology of writing and art by

young women aged thirteen to nineteen. It also offers free community workshops across Canada to help girls "explore identity, assertiveness, body image, sexuality and women's health." Read about it all at <http://www.girlspoken.ca>

"No honour in murder" is the slogan of the **KURDISH WOMEN ACTION AGAINST HONOUR KILLING (KWAHK)**, a network established in London in 2000. The organization's website at <http://www.kwahk.org> states its mission: "KWAHK aims to raise national and international awareness about the issue of violence against women in the Kurdish communities, in particular honour killing, both in Kurdistan and in the Diaspora."

MINNESOTA GIRLS IN THE 20TH CENTURY: Students in Susan Freeman's Women's Studies 251 course, "Coming of Age: Gender and Culture," gather oral histories from Minnesota women who grew up during the twentieth century. Biographical summaries, photos, interview transcripts and videos, and student comments about the first eleven women — whose years of birth range from 1912 to 1963 — can be viewed at <http://www.mnsu.edu/mngirls/>

Readers fluent in German can learn all about the **MUSE-UM OF CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION** being developed in Vienna, Austria, at <http://www.contraceptive-museum.org>.

For women everywhere: **NOT-2-LATE.COM**, the **EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION WEBSITE** at <http://ec.princeton.edu>. Search in English, French, Spanish, or Arabic for what (legally available) pills to take, and how many and when, if you need emergency birth control in any country from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Also news (e.g., the latest on the FDA and making "Plan B" non-prescription in the U.S.), frequently asked questions about EC, scientific references, and lists of informational materials available for popular audiences.

THUS SPAKE ZUSKA: A BLOG FOR ALL AND NO ONE is the work of Suzanne Franks at <http://radio.weblogs.com/0147021>. Franks writes about Engineering/Science/Gender Equity ("issues relating to gender equity in engineering and science education and in the engineering and science workforce") and Feminism/Science/Engineering ("feminist critiques or analyses of science and engineering"). Her post on July 28, 2005 ([http://](http://radio.weblogs.com/0147021)

radio.weblogs.com/0147021/2005/07/25.html#a15), was a humorous “synopsis” of the speech given in January by Harvard president Lawrence Summers “on the topic of gender equity in science and mathematics.”

“Now is the time to build a US-based women’s movement that is in dialogue with women of Cuba,” declare the founders of the Seattle-based **U.S. WOMEN AND CUBA COLLABORATION**. Read about the organization’s history, goals, and current activities, including advocacy for the right of US citizens to travel to Cuba, at <http://www.womenandcuba.org>

WOMEN’S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (WITT) has established, at <http://www.witt-project.net/>, “a portal site to link women’s organizations and feminist advocates for the Internet in Eastern and Central Europe.... WITT is committed to bringing women’s actions, activities and struggles to the spotlight, promoting the use of free software to highlight women’s voices” (quoted from emailed KNOWHOW press release, March 8, 2005). One nice personal touch is the “Cyber Diary,” where you can read about such things as Gabrijela Ivanov’s experiences with computers from ages seven to twenty-eight (<http://www.witt-project.net/article110.html>).

ONLINE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Helene Androski, *CONTEMPORARY WOMEN NOVELISTS: NEW VOICES FOR THE NEW MILLENIUM: A SELECTED LIST*, on our office’s website at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/bibliogs/contempnovelsnew.htm>

Margaret F. Karsten, with a contribution from Joan E. Riedle, *MANAGEMENT, GENDER, AND RACE*, on our office’s website at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/bibliogs/ManagementGenderRace.doc>

A Journal of the Practices, Theories, and Scholarship of Feminist Teaching

Feminist Teacher

Since 1984, *Feminist Teacher* has been at the forefront of discussions about how to fight sexism, racism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression in our classrooms and in the institutions in which we work. A peer-reviewed journal, *Feminist Teacher* provides a forum for interrogations of cultural assumptions and discussions of such topics as multiculturalism, interdisciplinarity, and distance education within a feminist context. *Feminist Teacher* serves as a medium in which educators can describe strategies that have worked in their classrooms, institutions, or non-traditional settings; theorize about successes or failures; discuss the current place of feminist pedagogies and teachers in classrooms and institutions; and reveal the rich variety of feminist pedagogical approaches. The journal also remains committed to addressing issues that face educators today, including anti-feminism, anti-academic backlash, and sexual harassment.

Subscription rate: institutions, \$75 (\$95 non-U.S.); individuals, \$30 (\$50 non-U.S.)

ISSN: 0882-4843

Frequency: Three times a year (FALL, WINTER, SPRING)

Contact:
University of Illinois Press
1325 S. Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Toll-free: 866-244-0626; Fax: 217-244-9910
journals@uillinois.edu
www.press.uillinois.edu

DATABASES

The **ELDIS GENDER RESOURCE GUIDE** at <http://www.eldis.org/gender/> is a gateway to hundreds of e-papers, reports, and books on worldwide women’s issues, from many different organizations — Amnesty International, the Population Council, Human Rights Watch, the Southern

African Regional Poverty Network, and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, just to name a very few. Be sure to click “More on gender” at the end of the “Latest News” listing on the main page. See below (under “Downloadable Reports”) for a few examples from the latest listing.

The **SOCIAL INCLUSION DIRECTORY** at <http://www.oxfamgb.org/ukpp/sid> is an “online information bank,” developed by Oxfam’s UK Poverty Programme, that “contains information about organisations and individuals working in the areas of gender, participation and social inclusion at a UK-wide level and in Scotland, Wales and the North of England. It also contains details of resources, both UK-produced and international, which are relevant to work in these areas.”

DIGITIZED BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

THE AMERICAN JEWESS, “the first English-language periodical targeted to American Jewish women, covering an evocative range of topics that ranged from women’s place in the synagogue to whether women should ride bicycles,” was published from April 1895 through August 1899. All but one of the original forty-six issues are now available for browsing and searching electronically at <http://www.hti.umich.edu/a/amjewess/>

The **HISTORY OF WOMEN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN** goes back to 1860, when the first female students were admitted to the UW’s “Normal Department” to train as teachers. A digitized collection of seven books, now available at <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/UW.UWWomen>, covers that story through the 1980s, plus the history of women’s studies in the UW System, the history of women at the UW-Stout campus, and the story of a Wisconsin project to reform science education from a feminist perspective. **More material from the UW campuses is sought for this collection!** Contact Phyllis Holman Weisbard (pweisbard@library.wisc.edu) with suggestions for items to add.

If you can read Danish, you can explore full-text, searchable versions of **MAGAZINES PUBLISHED BY DANISH WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS** from 1885 to 1920, which are online in both HTML and PDF format at <http://www.kvinfo.dk/side/471/>, courtesy of **KVINFO: THE DANISH CENTRE FOR INFORMATION ON WOMEN AND GENDER**.

DOWNLOADABLE REPORTS

Found via the Eldis Gender Resource Guide (see under “Databases” above): Sondra L. Hausner, ***THE MOVEMENT OF WOMEN: MIGRATION, TRAFFICKING, AND PROSTITUTION IN THE CONTEXT OF NEPAL’S ARMED CONFLICT***. Kathmandu, Nepal: Save the Children USA, 2005: http://www.humantrafficking.org/collaboration/regional/s_asia/resources/pubs/stc_2005_movement_of_women_nepal.pdf

UN Millennium Project 2005, Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, ***TAKING ACTION: ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERING WOMEN***. London, UK, and Arlington, VA: Earthscan, 2005. 280p. Downloadable PDF files at http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/tf_gender.htm

Found via the Eldis Gender Resource Guide (see under “Databases” above): Oxfam Briefing Report, ***THE TSUNAMI’S IMPACT ON WOMEN***. Oxfam International, March 2005: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/conflict_disasters/downloads/bn_tsunami_women.pdf

TURKISH CIVIL AND PENAL CODE REFORMS FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE: THE SUCCESS OF TWO NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGNS. Women for Women’s Human Rights (WWHR) – NEW WAYS, 2005. 68p. ISBN 975-92677-4-8. PDF at <http://www.wwhr.org/images/CivilandPenalCodeReforms.pdf>

WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S POVERTY: MAKING THE LINKS. London, UK: Women’s Budget Group, 2005. 34p. See <http://www.wbg.org.uk/documents/WBGWomensandchildrenspoverty.pdf>

○ Compiled by JoAnne Lehman

NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

AMERICAN WOMEN

Gordon Morris Bakken & Brenda Farrington, eds., *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN WEST*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2003. 381p. index. \$130.00, ISBN 0-7619-2356-X.

Reviewed by Sharon L. Drugan

One delivered a future chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (p.99). Another helped to start the Mattel toy company; the long-popular Barbie and Ken dolls were named after her daughter and son (pp.132–33). A third is called the “best-known writer” of the Lakota Indian tribe (p.250). The stories of these women and more than a hundred others are told in the *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West*.

I haven't found a recent, single-volume biographical encyclopedia with the scope of this one. I looked for scholarly works published in English since 1995, consulting the WorldCat database of international library holdings and Amazon.com, plus other sources. Books with a similar focus include *The Women's West* (1987) and *Writing the Range: Race, Class and Culture in the Women's West* (1997), both edited by the duo of Elizabeth Jameson and Susan Armitage. (I am not considering multi-volume works here.) The majority of articles in those two works are essays about conditions or lifestyles common to groups of women. In contrast, the 2003 Sage encyclopedia predominantly sketches the lives of individual women. Some of the alphabetically arranged articles are less than a

page long and emphasize a woman's professional achievements. Others, several pages long, offer personal details about a subject in addition to her public accomplishments. Grace Lillian Burke Hubble (1889–1981), wife of the famous astronomer, and Jeannette Rankin (1880–1973), first U.S. Congresswoman, are among the women who are described in greater detail.

The editors of *Encyclopedia of Women in the American West*, who are professors, recommend that readers use the book in conjunction with another Sage volume: the 724-page *Handbook of American Women's History, Second Edition* (2000), edited by Angela M. Howard and Frances M. Kavenik (p.xxiii). Also meriting consideration is *African American Women Confront the West: 1600–2000*, edited by Quintard Taylor and Shirley Ann Wilson Moore (2003).

You may wonder, as I did, whether a volume devoted to Western American women's lives would be a worthy addition to a library that already featured one or more general histories of American women. My time with this volume has convinced me that a regional treatment is valuable. Consider this: In the mid-1800s, much of the West was environmentally harsh and socially unruly. Women had to assume new roles to sustain family farms or to push their territories toward statehood. In “Oklahoma's Daughters: A Neglected Gender,” Jayne Sinegal writes, “Essentially, this rugged environment produced equally tough women who gave identity, shape, and refinement to Oklahoma's path to modernity” (p.218). The West became a context

for my reading experience, and that context heightened my understanding of many articles in this volume. I would have had a different reaction to the same articles if they had appeared in a general encyclopedia of American women's history.

But what exactly is “the West”? Where does it begin in the continental United States? Bakken and Farrington define the West, for the purposes of this encyclopedia, as the area “west of the 100th meridian...where explorers, pioneers, and present-day environmentalists confronted the fact of aridity” (p.xxiii). This longitudinal line drops through what are now North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

And what *years* bound this West? A reader of this work can sense much activity occurring between the years 1850 and 2000. “The Chronology of America and Its Women” (pp.329–34) begins with Lewis and Clark's travels with Sacagawea (1804–1806) and finishes with Representative Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) promotion to House Democratic Whip in 2003.

As I mentioned above, most of the encyclopedia's articles are biographical. The remaining 36 (of 166) have topical titles, such as “Education,” “Kansas,” and “Veterinary Medicine.” These pieces are largely about women's roles, influence, or condition in relation to the given topic. For example, “Education” sketches the circumstances of early women schoolteachers. Some teachers, under the terms of their contract, “could not smoke, drink alcoholic beverages, be out alone after dark, or accept unchaperoned social invitations

from men" (p.115). The reader finds many individuals' stories within topical articles. For example, in "Kansas," one discovers the story of Carrie Nation, whose "6-foot-tall frame created an imposing presence, especially when she was swinging an ax" (p.164). Nation targeted illegal saloons.

About two dozen black-and-white photographs are sprinkled throughout the volume. Some were produced about a hundred years ago. Recent photos accompany articles concerning women born in the mid-twentieth century.

The editors state in the introduction that they have "attempted both a selective and a suggestive set of entries" that will "encourage interest in further research." They recommend that "all" read the appendix on research strategies "before entering the pages of our enterprise" (p.xxiii). I second this recommendation. "Researching Women's History: Access and Strategy in the Electronic Age" (pp.337–40) is an excellent starting point for research in primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. The author of this section — Judy Ruttenberg, a librarian with a master's degree in history — has composed a clear, concise, practical discussion of research sources and strategies. She advises the researcher to be aware of the forces acting upon information: "How information is produced, collected, preserved, categorized, and accessed reflects (and shapes) the society in which it originated" (p.340). After reading this section, a non-researcher is more likely to appreciate modern writings about women's history.

The research-strategies guide is one of several helpful sections that accompany the encyclopedia proper. Another is the "Reader's Guide" (pp.xiii–xiv), which groups "most" of the en-

tries into the following nine categories: "Agriculture/Ranching"; "Arts and Letters: Artists, Poets, Writers"; "Education: Teachers, Librarians, Professors, Researchers"; "Entrepreneurs"; "Law/Lawyers, Judges, Police, Incarceration, Crime, Legislators, Public Officials"; "Pioneers"; "Public Performance"; "Religion"; and "Women's Organizations/Organizational Leadership."

The "About the Contributors" section (pp.xix–xxii) describes a mix of fifty-eight researchers, from professors to independent scholars. I referred back to this section on several occasions to learn more about the perspective from which an article was written.

The volume's index (pp.363–81) offers entry points and subject categories not found elsewhere in the book. Examples are "Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society" and "Athletes." Some cross-references are provided, but I encourage the reader to think creatively about terminology when using the index. For instance, if one looks for "Blacks" or "Black Women," one finds only "Black Women's Forum." One must think of the term "African Americans" to uncover twenty-seven related index entries.

Many researchers may value the "Women's Organizations" section (pp.335–36), which offers Web addresses or contact information for twenty-seven organizations. The organizations vary from the expected ("Western Association of Women Historians") to the unexpected ("International Women's Air and Space Museum"). And the bibliography, "Readings, Resources, and References" (pp.341–62), presents hundreds of options for the zealous learner. (Suggested readings are also listed after individual encyclopedia articles.)

This volume would be well suited to academic collections that support

undergraduate and graduate programs in women's studies. It would also be at home in a public library. It could provide a serendipitous intellectual journey for the curious general reader. In these pages, one encounters, for instance, a woman who illustrated several of Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* books (p. 259), as well as a would-be "voodoo queen" of San Francisco (p.233). The vocabulary is very accessible, even to a younger audience, although some of the material could be disturbing. For example, mistreatment of women — not a major theme in the book — is prominent in "Prostitution" and "In Penitentiaries."

[Sharon L. Drugan is an Advanced/Lead Library Services Assistant in College Library, University of Wisconsin–Madison.]

Susan Ware, ed., **NOTABLE AMERICAN WOMEN: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY COMPLETING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2004. 729p. index. \$45.00, ISBN 0-674-01488X.

Editors' note: We offer not just one but two separate reviews of this important reference work — the first by Betty Glass and the second by Mary Hitchcock.

What if a scholarly biographical dictionary was produced as if women had made significant contributions in all areas of civilization throughout the history of the United States? That was the radical notion entertained by two Harvard historians and Radcliffe College's administrators in the mid-1950s. College President W.K. Jordan and Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger proactively supported the acquisition of primary resources of women's history, and

by 1950 Radcliffe had established its Women's Archives research library. Recognizing the omission of women from most history books, Schlesinger was instrumental in initiating the creation of a dictionary about women and suggested the venerable *Dictionary of American Biography* (1928–1958)¹ as its model. The three-volume *Notable American Women, 1607–1950* was published in 1971, profiling 1,359 women who died before 1951. This landmark set was in the vanguard of publications that reflected the second-wave feminist movement's impact on the publishing world in the 1970s. Volume 4, *Notable American Women: The Modern Period*, was published in 1980, covering 442 women who died between 1951 and 1975. Now we have Volume 5, which contains entries for 483 women who died between 1976 and 1999.

For each volume, the same guidelines have been used in selecting women to profile: "the subject's influence on her times or field; the subject's innovative or pioneering work; and the relevance of her career for the history of women" (p.x). A conscious effort was made to include women from all races, regions, socioeconomic classes, sexual orientations, and political persuasions. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the most well-known contributor, and there are some men among the historians and other scholars who were invited to write specific entries. The Field Index sorts the women into seventy career or activist categories.

Some profiles are literally about twentieth-century women — those born at the close of the nineteenth century and living into their nineties or beyond, including Marian Anderson, Marlene Dietrich, and Marjory Douglas. More bittersweet entries cover the influence of women whose lives

were tragically cut short, such as Anna Mae Aquash, Christa McAuliffe, and Judith Resnik. Margaret Grierson's entry may be of particular interest to librarians. Grierson, the first archivist at Smith College, was a pioneer in collecting primary women's history materials. Her work helped establish a sound scholarly foundation for women's studies as a new academic discipline.

Volume 5 is filled with names that we grew up hearing: those of women whose music we enjoyed, women we saw in films, and women who challenged traditional gender roles to expand educational and professional opportunities for all women. Legendary names are here, including Lucille Ball, Ella Fitzgerald, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Ginger Rogers. Many feminist matriarchs are recognized, including Bella Abzug, Virginia Caraballo, Catherine East, and Audre Lorde.

In reading the entries, I was struck by the similarity of the societal obstacles that challenged so many women from both privileged and impoverished backgrounds. Their determination in overcoming those obstacles and the magnitude of their accomplishments are truly inspiring. The world was made a better place by their efforts, and we are the beneficiaries of their ambitions.

Students of women's history will welcome the latest volume of *Notable American Women*. The bibliographies accompanying each entry are excellent collection development resources for librarians building women's studies collections. Highly recommended for all high school and college libraries.

Note

1. Allen Johnson and Robert L. Schuyler, Eds. *Dictionary of American Biography*. New York: Scribner's, 1928–

1958 (under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies).

[Betty Glass is the Resource Analysis & Support Librarian for the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries. She serves on the University's Women's Studies Advisory Board and its Status of Women Committee and is a past Chair of ACRL's Women's Studies Section.]

Entries for this fifth volume in the *Notable American Women* series reflect the lives of women in all aspects of professional and academic life who died between January 1, 1976, and December 31, 1999. Many of the 483 women included were actors, socialites, entertainers, or authors (e.g., Lucille Ball, Audre Lorde, Rita Hayworth, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis), but the volume does a great service by also including pioneers who created pathways for women in the military, biology, physics, politics, business, journalism, and other fields. Different races, nationalities, and socioeconomic backgrounds are also represented here.

The clearly written entries, which range from one to three pages, are arranged alphabetically by last name and begin with general biographical information such as birth date and place, parents, and education. Each biography is based on primary and secondary sources ranging from personal papers and interviews with family and friends to standard published biographical texts. Very few audiovisual or Internet resources are listed, and there are no photos in the volume. Two indexes are provided: one of Biographies by Field (some women, not surprisingly, are listed under more than one field) and one of Contributors.

One potential drawback to the structure of the books in this series is that without a comprehensive index to all the volumes, it could prove time-consuming to locate an entry for a particular woman if one is not certain when she died. Overall, however, the series and this volume in particular are very valuable resources, providing useful information about women whose lives might be glossed over or ignored completely by more general biographical dictionaries.

[Mary Hitchcock is a Senior Library Services Assistant at the University of Wisconsin—Madison's Ebling Library.]

FEMINIST LITERATURE

Kathy J. Whitson, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FEMINIST LITERATURE*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004. 312p. \$65.00, ISBN 0-313-32731-9.

Jessica Bomarito & Jeffrey W Hunter, project eds., *FEMINISM IN LITERATURE: A GALE CRITICAL COMPANION*. Thomson Gale, 2005. 3,720p. 6v. Set: \$850.00, ISBN 0-7876-7573-3.

Reviewed by Helene Androski

Meant for high school and undergraduate students as well as the general reader, the one-volume *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature* provides basic introductory information on about seventy primarily English and American feminist poets and novelists, plus a few world authors likely to be included in a class on feminist literature. These range from Catherine de Piza, born 1365, to present-day authors. In addition, there are short entries on relevant themes such as Abolition, Community, Spirituality, etc.

The aim of the volume is to give the reader enough of a taste of each author and theme to encourage her to explore further. It is difficult, however, to see who is best served by these little tastes. The entries are too slight to make them useful reference tools for a researcher, even a beginning one. A one-page entry on the concept of Community, for example, hardly does justice to it. The authors get a bit more coverage — two to five pages — but are still underserved. The three-page Jane Austen entry gives a cursory treatment of Austen's life, says nothing about critical reception over the years, and is almost wholly taken up with a pleasant enough but oversimplified commentary on only one of her writings, *Pride and Prejudice*. The list of suggested readings about Austen runs to three: two sources of quotes used in the entry and another encyclopedia with short entries. At least one major biography would have been helpful.

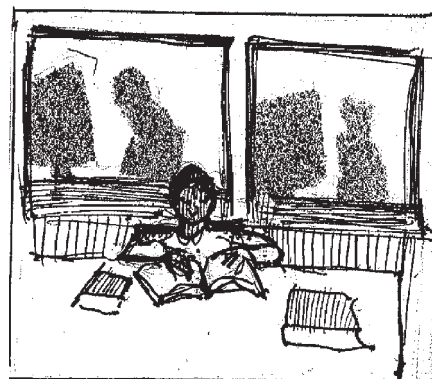
A saving grace is the inclusion of relatively obscure or newly discovered authors not easily found elsewhere. Perhaps a general reader, curious about the notion of feminist literature, could use this book as a checklist of authors to try. Yet the price of the book is more than a general reader can be reasonably expected to pay.

A better purchase for libraries that can afford its understandably steep price is the six-volume *Feminism in Literature: A Gale Critical Companion*. At the risk of carrying the culinary metaphor too far, we may be comparing apples and oranges here, but this set offers full-course meals rather than tastes. Also aimed at high school and undergraduate students, it provides critical essays, either full-text or fully cited, on major women authors of fiction and nonfiction, plus substantial background and context information, including overview essays, reproduced

primary sources, and extensive suggestions for further study. The emphasis is on European and United States writers, with a few representatives from Africa and South America. The arrangement is chronological from classical antiquity to the present, with authors grouped within eras ("Women in the 19th Century") or themes ("The Feminist Movement in the 20th Century").

Although all this clustering of relevant material is for the benefit of the beginning researcher, the encyclopedia does not "dumb down" its treatment. The entries are lengthy, although written in an engaging style. Only major writers are included, so some of the obscure ones given cursory treatment in the *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literature* do not appear at all here. Cumulative author, title, and subject indexes appear at the end of each volume for ease of use. The author index also includes cross-references to other encyclopedias in the Gale literature series. This is an expensive set, but it has pulled together and presented important material on feminism in literature as no other encyclopedia has.

[Helene Androski was a reference librarian for the University of Wisconsin—Madison for twenty years. She retired in 2005.]



Miriam Greenwald

FILM STUDIES

Denise Lowe, *AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN IN EARLY AMERICAN FILMS, 1895–1930*. New York: Haworth Press, 2005. 623p. illus. bibl. index. \$69.95, ISBN 078901842X; pap., \$49.95, ISBN 0789018438.

Reviewed by Gwen C. Verkuilen-Chevalier

The early American film industry was fast-paced and hectic, churning out movies at an alarming rate. Because there was such a high demand for writers, designers, directors, and actors, early American cinema included a diverse female population. Although women's involvement was predominantly in acting, some women held other positions within the studio system. In this new encyclopedic dictionary, author Denise Lowe examines the varied roles of women in this intense experimental period.

The work is arranged in alphabetical order by last name. Most of the entries are for individual people and contain name, date and place of birth and death, a picture if available, the entry, and the individual's film credits. Some entries are rather short; as the author explains in the preface, "Their stories are gone. Sometimes small bits are known. Sometimes nothing at all of their childhood or early years is known. Sometimes only the life invented by the studio is known" (p.viii). But despite such gaps, Lowe successfully delineates each woman, making her experience stand out uniquely from the rest. Some of the women in early American cinema were successful throughout their entire lives. Others, while only momentarily successful, made important contributions to the history of cinema. Still others shone

for a moment, only to disappear and be only vaguely remembered now.

It is for the women in these last two categories that this volume is most valuable. Without this work, some of their contributions to cinema would have gone undocumented and unremembered. Early contributions by female pioneers such as editor Margaret Booth, actor/writer Nell Shipman, and director Lucille McVey could be lost due to lack of preservation and the rapid deterioration of early American film. Lowe's work prevents their accomplishments from being forgotten.

The volume is also significant in that it moves beyond the labels "Vamp," "Flapper," and "American Sweetheart," which were traditionally assigned to some female actors, and delves deeper into their lives to create more complete pictures of them than their film personas alone could portray. The entries show that some women were content to live out their film identities; others lived out the persona while secretly resenting it, while still others pushed for more varied roles in order to dispel the stereotypes.

An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Women in Early American Films, 1895–1930 is invaluable to the study of women in film as well as to film history in general. By assembling this work, Lowe allows us to realize the enormity of the contributions these female pioneers made to American film history.

[Gwen C. Verkuilen-Chevalier is a graduate candidate in the School of Library and Information Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison.]

GENDER STUDIES/ WOMEN'S STUDIES

Philomena Essed, David Theo Goldberg, & Audrey Lynn Kobayashi, eds.,

A COMPANION TO GENDER STUDIES. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005. 561p. bibl. index. \$124.95, ISBN 0631221093.

Reviewed by Deirdre F. Joyce

The debate over the sex/gender dichotomy has long functioned as a favorite (if vexing) subject for both students and scholars working in the related fields of Gender Studies, Queer Studies, Women's Studies, etc. For those looking for a definitive end to this debate, Blackwell's most recent contribution to the field — *A Companion to Gender Studies* — will be of no help whatsoever. For a serious student of gender, though, nothing could be more reassuring.

In fact, the editors of this *Companion* offer students, scholars, and theorists a collection of forty essays that encourage thinking about "gender" as it operates across a wide variety of sociocultural institutions and theoretical contexts. To facilitate this process, the volume is thoughtfully divided into nine subgroups of four to six essays apiece. These subgroups are organized under loose themes that point to the particular characteristics of gender and gender theory as well as to the different ways they might be usefully employed across a number of diverse fields of study. Although these various themes are prominently labeled in the table of contents and the essays listed under them may provide some context, certain thematic titles like "Re-positionings" and "Mobility" may require consulting the editors' introduction in order to grasp their full significance. That said, the introduction is well-written and highly informative, and the editors have largely avoided jargon in all but a few instances.

Perhaps most satisfying is that *A Companion to Gender Studies* is actually

about gender; the title does not just suggest another way to say women's studies (although that could be a worthy pursuit in its own right). Throughout the volume, matters of masculinity and race figure prominently alongside more traditional "women's issues" like the family and domestic violence. By placing an essay devoted exclusively to women's studies right at the front, the editors seem to reinforce the idea that, with thirty-nine more essays to go, women's studies makes up only a fraction of the gender studies domain. Furthermore, this initial essay is only one of four essays under the heading "Interdisciplinarity" that discuss how various interdisciplinary fields might use or be affected by gender studies (the other three pieces in this section are devoted to area studies, postcolonial scholarship, and queer studies). Thus "gender studies" (as a theoretical tool) operates both in- and outside the purview of women's studies. The care that the editors take in making this distinction for their readers is significant.

Taking their cue from Judith Butler, the editors have assembled the essays in a manner that recognizes the shifting nature of gender, defining it in no particular way, so that the volume reflects an "anti-essentialist" nature, making no special consideration for gender or sex (p.5). Thus, we do not see forty authors gnashing their teeth over definitions of sex and/or gender per se. Rather, we have forty essays that treat gender as a tool that may help us better understand the differentiated world in which we live. Here are just a few of the titles: "Genetic Sex" and "Lived Body versus Gender" in Part II ("Re-positionings"); "Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing" in Part III ("Jurisdictions"); "Prostitution and Sex Work Studies" and "Arab Women: Beyond

Politics" in Part IV ("Nonconformity"); "Migration and Refugees" and "Unions: Resistance and Mobilization" in Part V ("Mobility"); "The Caribbean Family?" in Part VI ("Familiality"); "Disability" and "Reproduction" in Part VII ("Physicality"); "Architecture and Planning" in Part VIII ("Spatiality"); and "The Violence of Gender" in Part IX ("Reflectivity").

The authors have cast their net very wide indeed. Even so, this volume makes no claims to complete inclusion, a fruitless endeavor. Instead, it offers starting points and theoretical provocations that both students and scholars in any number of fields will find useful.

[*Deirdre F. Joyce holds a master's degree in history and is currently a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.*]

Linda Krikos & Cindy Ingold, ***WOMEN'S STUDIES: A RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY, THIRD EDITION***. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004. 848p. indexes. \$120.00, ISBN 1563085666.

Reviewed by Sara Brownmiller

Linda Krikos and Cindy Ingold have produced the third generation of an essential resource for women's studies collections. *Women's Studies: A Recommended Bibliography* continues the identification of core monographs published in women's studies that was begun by Esther Lanigan and Catherine Loeb in 1979 with *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography* and updated in 1987 (by Lanigan and Loeb with Susan Searing) as *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliogra-*

phy, 1980-1985. The third edition, edited and coordinated by Krikos and Ingold, clearly reflects the expertise and dedication of sixteen librarians and faculty in women's studies who wrote the individual chapters.

The newest version provides lengthy, evaluative annotations for approximately 1560 monographs and websites that were published from 1986 to 1998. If the books mentioned within the annotations were included in the count, the number of works assessed in this bibliography could easily double.

The bibliography is arranged into eighteen chapters in broad disciplinary categories, with a final chapter covering periodicals that began publication during the time period. Each chapter begins with a brief description of a subject focus. The rest of the chapter is devoted to the bibliography for that subject, with sections on reference sources, monographs, 1999 core titles (with only bibliographic information), and websites. A nice complement to the Periodicals chapter is an appendix listing special issues (devoted to a single topic) of women's studies journals published between 1986 and 1999.

As mentioned above, each chapter provides a selected list of core monograph titles published in 1999. Unfortunately, these 1999 titles are not annotated, nor are they covered by any of the indexes. Lack of inclusion in the Author Index is the most serious problem, since it makes it difficult to identify all the works of a particular scholar listed in the bibliography.

One hundred fifteen websites are included in the bibliography; each chapter identifies sites appropriate for its subject. The inclusion of websites may be the book's weakness. Although the sites are thought to "emphasize stable, reputable information sources"

(p.xi), at the time of this review more than twenty percent of those listed were inaccurate or no longer available.

The book concludes with three indexes — Author, Title, and Subject. A useful feature is the inclusion of authors and titles mentioned in the annotations, rather than just those with their own numbered, annotated entries.

Women's Studies: A Recommended Bibliography is strongly recommended for any collection that supports research on women and women's issues. The importance of this work has already been recognized by the Women's Studies Section (WSS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, with the 2005 WSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship.

[Sara Brownmiller is *Women's Studies Librarian and Director of Library Systems for the University of Oregon Libraries*.]

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

Silke Staab, *IN SEARCH OF WORK: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN — SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY*. Santiago, Chile: United Nations Publications (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Women & Development Unit), 2004. 140p. bibl. index. \$10.00, ISBN 92-1-121440-8 (English), ISBN 92-1-322310-2 (Spanish). Order online at <https://unp.un.org/catalogue.aspx> (search by title). Also available as No.51 in "Mujer y Desarrollo" series; downloadable PDF (English version) at <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/>

UnidadMujer/8/LCL2028/lcl2028i.pdf [Version reviewed: English, print.]

Reviewed by Nicole Grapentine-Benton

In Search of Work is a compact, user-friendly list of publications from 1994 to 2003 that concern the migration of Latin American and Caribbean women looking for employment. Specifically, the bibliography includes information regarding "international migration among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and from those countries to the United States and the European Union" (p.10). The criteria exclude internal migration and migration that is not motivated by work, such as that of refugees. Silke Staab explains in the introduction that the guide seeks not only to organize and present available information on this topic, but also to highlight gaps in research on particular issues, such as studies of skilled labor migration and gender. To that end, a "Review on the State of the Literature" outlines some of the issues and arguments surrounding women's migration as well as topics in need of further investigation.

Each entry includes a detailed summary, and many entries list a website where the text of the article or publication can be found. Articles in both Spanish and English are listed, but in the English version the titles in Spanish are followed by a translation and all other text is in English. No titles in Portuguese were included because of time constraints, according to the author. This severely limits the presence of sources on Brazil. In fact, the bibliography includes just four.

The sources are arranged in reverse chronological order by year, and alphabetically by author within each year. While this is a perfectly logical method of organization, it tends to make casual

skimming of the entries difficult — unless you know exactly which article you're looking for, this listing is not very useful.

However, this guide also incorporates three very helpful indexes. The first is alphabetical by author, the next by subject, and the last by country. For navigational ease, each entry lists only the title of the article, its abstract number, and the year it was published. In this way, if one were searching for information on political participation of migrant women in the 1990s, for example, a quick look at the subject index would yield a tidy list of sources. One potential inconvenience is that titles in Spanish are not translated in these indexes, forcing English-language readers to flip back and forth between the index and abstracts in order to discover what each publication is about.

Several additional lists aid further exploration. The first is a list of international agreements pertaining to this topic passed in the last century. Another delineates laws and decrees pertaining to women and migration passed in Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as in the U.S. and member countries of the European Union. There is also a list of websites for organizations, centers, and libraries that may have further information.

This bibliography is narrow in scope but very detailed, and should prove an essential guide for those interested in this pivotal issue. Its clear descriptions and ease of navigability would also make it an excellent starting point for anyone wishing to learn about migration or women in Latin America in general.

[Nicole Grapentine-Benton is currently studying Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she also works as a student assistant in the Women's Studies Librarian's Office.]

MEDIEVAL WOMEN

Carolyn Dinshaw & David Wallace, eds., ***THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO MEDIEVAL WOMEN'S WRITING***. Cambridge, UK; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2003. 289p. bibl. index. \$60.00, ISBN 052179188X; pap., \$22.00, ISBN 0521796385.

Reviewed by Cindy Severt

To be a chaste wife is good, to be a chaste widow is better, but to be a virgin is best. (p.25)

Virginity, widowhood, and marriage, and the declining rate of "heavenly returns" associated with each of these "estates" (p.25), permeate the mindsets of the nonfictional cast of characters in *Medieval Women's Writing* — from Joan of Arc to the lowliest peasant's daughter. Divided into three sections, the book is an overview of the lives of medieval women from childhood to widowhood; their social spaces as authors, anchoresses (ascetics), teachers, and preachers; and the lives and writings of remarkable women such as Marie de France, Margery Kempe, and Julian of Norwich, among others.

Written by nine academic contributors and extensively footnoted with primary sources, the book purports that we know what we do about medi-

eval women because of the texts they authored that upheld and supported the social mores, and because they also lived their lives according to existing writings, for example, *Rules of the Anchoritic Life* and correspondence. "Authorship," however, was not necessarily the act of pushing a pen across paper, since few medieval women could actually write. "As professional copyist Thomas Hoccleve complained, working with dead animal skins was not a glamorous pursuit" (p.2).

In the most illuminating chapter, "Women and Authorship," Jennifer Summit (Stanford University) places authorship in historical context. The notion of authors as sole originators is fairly recent and bears little relevance for medieval writing, which considered single sources as either divine (coming directly from God) or historically remote. Rather, medieval authorship was a tradition of past authorities that flowed through individual writers who, more often than not, considered themselves — as Chaucer did — to be compilers, not writers. Actual writing was intrinsically bound up with (if not inseparable from) patronage, scribal reproduction, and circulation: "No medieval writer could unilaterally declare him- or herself to be an *auctor* [emphasis in original] without the support of the multiple agents and acts of textual transmission through which writing gained cultural authority" (p. 93). Paradoxically, although the act of writing was not an expression of individual

identity but a suspension of identity and gender, anonymity was not seen as lack of authorship, but as a *form* of authorship. Medieval signatures, where they exist, are not proof of authorship, but more likely the penmanship of scribes, readers, or even people practicing their handwriting. Visionary writers expressed their authority through self-effacement in order to show that their writings had a heavenly, not human, source. But when the English anchoress Julian of Norwich insists, "I am a woman, uneducated, feeble, and frail," her feminine humility makes her not only the conduit for God's word, but ultimately a "powerful strategy for self-authorization" (p.96).

The value of this volume lies in the fact that it is a firsthand account of medieval women's involvement in the textual world, and because "all women, from agrarian worker to queen, maintained relationships with textual culture: everything from records of birth and death to pardons, romances, and Sunday sermons" (pp. 1–2), it is a window to their cultural and social lives as well.

[A 1989 graduate of the University of Wisconsin's School of Library and Information Studies, Cindy Severt is a Senior Special Librarian at the Data & Program Library Service, where she manages a collection of electronic social science datasets. She is also the UW representative to the Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research and the Roper Center for Public Opinion.]

PERIODICAL NOTES

SPECIAL ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

ART HISTORY v.26, no.3, June 2003: "Difference & Excess in Contemporary Art: The Visibility of Women's Practice." ISSN: 0141-6790. Published on behalf of the Association of Art Historians by Blackwell Publishing, 350 Main St., Malden, MA 02148; phone: (800) 835-6770 or +1 (781) 388-8206; email:

subscrip@bos.blackwellpublishing.com; website: **http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0141-6790&site=1** Available online to licensed users through Academic Search Elite, Blackwell-Synergy, and Ingenta.

Partial contents: "Out of It': Drunkenness and Ethics in Martha Rosler and Gillian Wearing," by David Hopkins; "A Strange Alchemy: Cornelia Parker," interviewed by Lisa Tickner; "Antibodies: Rachel Whiteread's *Water Tower*," by Sue Malvern; "Hybrid Histories: Alice Maher," interviewed by Fiona Barber; "Reading Black Through White in the Work of Kara Walker," a discussion between Michael Corris and Robert Hobbs; "Corporeal Theory with/in Practice: Christine Borland's *Winter Garden*," by Marsha Meskimmon; "Cultural Crossings: Performing Race and Trans-Gender in the Work of Moti Roti," by Dorothy Rowe.

BULLETIN OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY v.23, no.1, 2003: "Careers of Women in Science: Issues of Power and Control." Issue eds.: Lorna Erwin, Barbara Lazarus, Anne MacLachlan, & Sheila Tobias. ISSN: 0270-4676 (print), 1552-4183 (online). Published by Sage Publications, **http://bst.sagepub.com/** Single issue price: \$16.00 individual, \$111.00 institution. Also available online to licensed users through Sage Journals Online.

Partial contents: "Reluctant Rebels: Women Scientists Organizing," by Sylvia Braselmann; "Women in Science-Based Employment: What Makes the Difference?" by Patricia Ellis; "Geek Mythology," by Jane Margolis & Allan Fisher; "Is MIT an Exception? Gender Pay Differences in Academic Science," by Donna K. Ginther; "Women and Science: Issues of Power and Responsibility," by Giovanna Gabetta; "Perspectives From Pioneer Women Activists: An Introduction," by Barbara Lazarus; "Personal Views on Careers of Women in Science and Engineering," by Mildred Dresselhaus.

CONSUMPTION, MARKETS AND CULTURE v.6, no.1, January 2003: "Consumption, Gender and Identity." ISSN: 1025-3866 (print); 1477-223X (online). Published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis, **http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10253866.asp**

Partial contents: "Producing and Consuming Gendered Representations: An Interpretation of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras," by S. Kates; "Identity, Ethnicity and Gender: Using Narratives To Understand Their Meaning in Retail Shopping Encounters," by L. Friend & S. Thompson; "Televised Consumption: Women, Advertisers and the Early Daytime Television Industry," by I. Stole; "Equal Dreams: The One Child Policy and the Consumption of Education in Urban China," by A. Veeck, L. Flurry, & N. Jiang.

DEVELOPMENT v.46, no.2, June 2003: "Globalization, Reproductive Rights and Health." ISSN: 1011-6370 (print); 1461-7072 (online). Published on behalf of the Society for International Development by Palgrave Macmillan, **http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/index.html**

Partial contents: "Inequalities and Health in India," by G. Sen; "Paradoxes for Gender in Social Movements," by J.S. Francisco; "The Limits to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights in a Corporatized Competitive Global Economy," by P. Bunkle; "Supporting Women and Girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights: The Ugandan Experience," by R. Ojiambo Ochieng; "The Role of Men in Addressing Domestic Violence: Insights from India," by N. Duvvury & M.B. Nayak; "Sexual Politics and Reproductive Rights in Indonesia," by N. Katjasungkana & S. Wieringa; "Political Disruption, Violence Against Women and Its Impact on Health in Nepal," by M. Maskey; "Abortion Law Reform Advocacy in Thailand," by A. Whittaker; "China: Taking Up the Reproductive Health and Rights Agenda," by Q. Shen; "Motherhood as 'an Act of Defiance': Palestinian Women's Reproductive Experience," by J. Abu-Duhou; "Preventing HIV/AIDS Among Women and Children in India," by J.M. Antonyappan; "A Moment in History: Mass Training for Women Village Health Workers in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea," by E. Cox & T. Hendrickson.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS v.82, no.3, September 2003: Special issue on women's health. ISSN: 0020-7292. Published by Elsevier Science.

Partial contents: "Female Genital Mutilation: Have We Made Progress?" by N.F. Toubia & E.H. Sharief; "Safe Motherhood: The FIGO Initiative," by G. Benagiano & B. Thomas; "Reproductive Health and Human Rights," by K. Yanda, S.V. Smith, & A. Rosenfield; "Emergency Contraception — Clinical and Ethical Aspects," by A. Faundes, V. Brache, & F. Alvarez; "Mammography and Breast Cancer: The New Era," by L. Tabar & P.B. Dean; "FIGO and Women's Health 2000–2003," by S.S. Sheth; "Cancer in Women," by S. Pecorelli et al.; "The Aging Woman: The Role of Medical Therapy," by C. Wilken-Jensen & B. Ottesen; "Smoking as a Risk Factor in the Health of Women," by V. Seltzer; "Gender and HIV/AIDS," by T. Turmen; "Sexual Violence and the Obstetrician/Gynecologist," by R. Uribe-Elias.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION v.7, no.1, January 2003: Special issue on gender equity in schools. Issue eds.: Debra Hayes & Bob Lingard. ISSN: 1360-3116 (print), 1464-5173 (online). Published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis, <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/13603116.asp>. Also available online to licensed users through Academic Search Elite.

Partial contents: "A National Approach to Gender Equity Policy in Australia: Another Ending, Another Opening?" by Jo Ailwood; "Where To in Gender Policy in Education After Recuperative Masculinity Politics?" by Bob Lingard; "Shaping the Boys' Agenda: The Backlash Blockbusters," by Martin Mills; "Recapturing Imaginations and the Gender Agenda: Reflections on a Progressive Challenge from an English Perspective," by Pat Mahony.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL POLICY v.23, nos.4–5, April 2003: "Health Professions, Gender and Society: Shifting Relations in Times of

Celebrating Samizdat Since 1979!

EXILED FOUNDER OF THE RUSSIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

TATYANA MAMONOVA'S

Woman and Russia

Is Now **Woman and Earth**

INTERNATIONAL ECOFEMINIST ALMANAC
IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN


**Literary Writings, Poetry, Personal Notes,
Art, Music, Film and Dance News and Reviews,
International Reports, Russian Women's History
and Current Reports, Travel, Economy,
Health, Environment, Recommended Reading and More!**

Special Kind of Russian Aid

\$10 US; \$2 Shipping (US, Canada); \$4 Shipping (Abroad)
Free copies sent to women in Russia/CIS/NIS
To Order: Send Check or Money Order
Payable to "Woman and Earth" to:
Woman and Earth Press
467 Central Park West, Suite 7F
New York, NY 10025
Tel/Fax NYC: 212-866-8130
Tel. CT: 860-233-6487
E-Mail: womearth@dorsai.org OR womearth@metconnect.com
www.dorsai.org/~womearth/

Celebrating 10 Years as Woman and Earth
by Returning to Our Original 6" x 9" Format
130 Pages, Annual, Fully Illustrated

Subscribe at www.offourbacks.org



- ▶ cutting-edge
- ▶ irreverent
- ▶ controversial
- ▶ activist
- ▶ visionary
- ▶ woman-centered
- ▶ radical
- ▶ subversive

or write for a free trial issue:

Name ▶ _____

Address ▶ _____

City, State, Zip ▶ _____

send to: off our backs ▶ 2337B 18th St. NW
Washington, DC 20009 ▶ offourbacks@cs.com

off our backs
the radical voice of women since 1970

Institutional and Social Change." Issue eds.: Birgit Blättel-Mink & Ellen Kuhlmann. ISSN: 0144-333X. Published by Barmarick Publications, Enholmes Hall, Patrington, East Yorkshire, HU12 0PR, England. Available online to licensed users through Emerald and ABI/Inform.

Partial contents: "Continuity and Change in the Gender Segregation of the Medical Profession in Britain and France," by R. Crompton & N.L. Feuvre; "The Career and Work of Pathologists: A Gender Perspective," by E. Riska; "Gender Differences, Gender Hierarchies and Professions: An Embedded Approach to the German Dental Profession," by E. Kuhlmann; "Professional and Domestic Work Arrangements of Women General Practitioners in France," by N. Lapeyre; "Interprofessional Education in Maternity Care: Shared Learning for Women-Centred Care," by K. Crozier; "Shifting Boundaries and Negotiations on Knowledge: Interprofessional Conflicts Between Nurses and Nursing Assistants in Norway," by R. Dahle.

JOURNAL OF BALTIC STUDIES v.34, no.3, Fall 2003: "Perspectives on Women in the Baltic Countries." Issue ed.: Tiina Kirss. Published by the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 14743 Braemar Crescent Way, Darnestown, MD 20878; phone: (301) 977-8491; fax: (301) 977-8492; email: aabs@starpower.net; website: <http://www.balticstudies-aabs.lanet.lv/>

Partial contents: "Women, the Devil, and a Cat's Head: The Trial of Anna and Tobbe Mall in Reval, 1594," by Jüri Kivimäe; "Two Mothers of Latvian Literature: Aspazija and Anna Brigadere," by Sandra Meškova; "The National Woman: Constructing Gender Roles in Estonia," by Edgar Kaskla; "Other Things Happened to Women: World War Two, Violence, and National Identity in *A Sound of the Past* by Käbi Laretei and *A Woman in Amber* by Agate Nesaule," by Leena Kurvet-Käosaar; "Female Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprise Ownership in Lithuania: A Comparison," by Ruta Aidis; "Dilemmas in Private/Public Discourse: Con-

texts for Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Lithuania," by Jolanta Reingardiene.

JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY AND HUMAN SEXUALITY v.15, nos.2-3, 2003: "Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Mental Health, Part I"; and v.15, no.4, 2003: "Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Mental Health, Part II." Issue eds.: Robin M. Mathy & Shelly K. Kerr. ISSN: 0890-7064. Published by The Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY

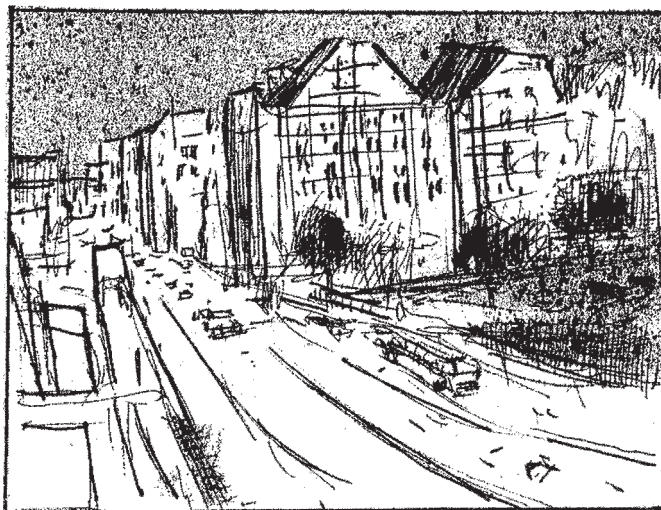
13904; phone: (800) 895-0582 or (607) 771-0012; website: <http://www.haworthpress.com/web/JPHS>.

Also available online to licensed users through Haworth Press Electronic Journals.

Partial contents, Part I: "Counselor Trainees' Assessment and Diagnosis of Lesbian Clients with Dysphoric Disorder," by Shelly K. Kerr et al.; "Depressive Distress and Prevalence of Common Problems Among Homosexually Active African American

Women in the United States," by Vickie M. Mays, Susan D. Cochran, & Michele R. Roeder; "The Impact of Religiosity on Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Psychosexual Development: Child Maltreatment, Suicide Attempts, and Self-Disclosure," by Robin M. Mathy & Marc Schillace; "Lesbians in Psychotherapy: Relationship of Shame and Attachment Style," by G. Beverly Wells; "Mental Health Implications of Same-Sex Marriage: Influences of Sexual Orientation and Relationship Status in Canada and the United States," by Robin M. Mathy, Shelly K. Kerr, & Barbara A. Lehmann.

Part II: "A Review of Lesbian Depression and Anxiety," by Shelly K. Kerr & Alice M. Emerson; "The Effects of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Role on the Mental Health of Women in Taiwan's *T-Po* Lesbian Community," by Mei-Fun Kuang et al.; "Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Sexual Fantasies, Psychological Adjustment, and Close Relationship Functioning," by Jessica Dawn Robinson & Carlton W. Parks; "Lesbian Body Image and Eating Issues," by Paula Wagenbach.



Miriam Greenwald

JOURNAL OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP v.13, no.1, January 2003: "The Final Closet: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Educational Leaders." Issue eds.: Catherine Lugg & James Koschorek. ISSN: 1052-6846. Published by Rowman & Littlefield Education, 4501 Forbes Blvd., Suite 200, Lanham, MD 20706; phone: (800) 462-6420; fax: (800) 338-4550; email: custserv@rowman.com. Single issue price: \$33.00 individual, \$40.00 institution in U.S.; for more information see <http://www.rowmaneducation.com/Journals/JSLBackIssues.shtml>

Partial contents: "Homosexuality and School Superintendents: A Brief History," by Jackie M. Blount; "Easing the Violence: Transgressing Heteronormativity in Educational Administration," by James W. Koschorek; "Our Straight-Laced Administrators: The Law, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Educational Administrators, and the Assimilationist Imperative," by Catherine Lugg; "Do You Have Any Idea Who You Just Hired?!?: A Study of Open and Closeted Sexual Minority K-12 Administrators," by Donald J. Fraynd and C.A. Capper.

JOURNAL OF THE WEST v.42, no.3, Summer 2003: "Women and Politics in the American West." Issue ed: M. Mackey. ISSN: 0022-5169. Published through 2004 by Sunflower University Press, PO Box 1009, Manhattan, KS 66505; phone: (800) 258-1232; website: <http://www.sunflower-univ-press.org/books/jow.html>. Single back issues: \$12.00 individual, \$15.00 institution. Published beginning 2005 by ABC-CLIO.

Partial contents: "From Study to Action: The Impact of a Half Century of Women's Club Activism on the Northwest," by S.L. Haarsager; "We Are Here for Business': Women in the Arizona Legislature, 1914 to 1940," by H. Osselaer; "Nellie Tayloe Ross and Wyoming Politics," by M. Mackey; "The Power of a Morally Indignant Woman': Republican Women and the Making of California Conservatism," by M. Nickerson; "Gender and the Congressional Career of Idaho's Gracie Pfof," by K.G. Aiken; "Hermine Tobolowsky, the Texas ELRA, and the Political Struggle for Women's Equal Rights," by R. Fink.

SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES v.22, no.2, Second Quarter 2003: "Women With and Without Guns: Gender, Conflict and Sexuality." Issue ed.: Christine Mason. ISSN: 0155-0306. Published by an editorial collective through the School of Education, University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia; website: <http://www.socialalternatives.com>. Also available online to licensed users through Academic Search Elite.

Partial contents: "Barbie in the War Zone," by Jennifer Turpin; "Castrating Conflict: Gender(ed) Terrorists and Terrorism Domesticated," by Sharon Pickering & Amanda Third; "Remembering the Holocaust — Gender Matters," by Sue Andrews; "Gender and the 1999 War In and Around Kosovo," by Ivana Milojevic.

○ Compiled by JoAnne Lehman



Miriam Greenwald

ITEMS OF NOTE

The Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press has published a new booklet (No.7) in its "Looking Toward a Radical Restructuring of the Communications Media" series.

THE MEDIA LIBERATION MOVEMENT, by Sena Christian (61p., ISBN 0-930470-23-0), is a continuation of WIFP's effort to expand communication rights to all members of society. In the booklet, readers will find information on the current state of the mass media, a description of the movement to democratize media access, including the important role played by women, and examples of "liberated media." To obtain a copy, contact WIFP, 1940 Calvert St., NW, Washington, DC 20009; phone: (202) 265-6707; website: www.wifp.org

The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute presents **JEWISH + FEMALE = ATHLETE: PORTRAITS OF STRENGTH FROM AROUND THE WORLD**, a 2005-06/5766 wall calendar. Each month features a photograph, the accomplishments and background of a modern and a historical Jewish female athlete, and "national and Jewish holidays, candle lighting times, and weekly Torah portions." The limited edition calendars cost \$13.95 each plus shipping and handling. To place an order or for more information about a traveling exhibit about Jewish athletes, contact the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, website: www.brandeis.edu/hbi; email: hbi@brandeis.edu; phone: (781) 736-8114.

The script for **IN THEIR OWN WORDS: 19TH CENTURY SUFFRAGISTS TELL IT LIKE IT WAS**, a one-act play written by Carol Atkins and produced by the American Association of University Women, is now available. In the play, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other leaders of the fight for women's suffrage describe this unique social movement, which accomplished its goals without resorting to violence. The one-hour play was performed at the May 2005 Celebrating Women Festival in Manistee, Michigan. To order a script for \$25.00, contact Carol Atkins, 1870 Pine Ridge Dr., Manistee, MI 49660; phone: (231) 398-0336.

The World Health Organization has released a guide for health care professionals working with mothers and newborns. **BEYOND THE NUMBERS: REVIEWING MATERNAL DEATHS AND COMPLICATIONS TO MAKE**

PREGNANCY SAFER (150p.), available in both English and French, advises health professionals on how to gather information about maternal complications they encounter in order to prevent maternal death and complications in the future. The English version is available online at <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/btn/btn.pdf>; for more information, send an email request to rhpublications@who.int

BETWEEN "MODERN WOMEN" AND "WOMAN-MOTHERS": REPRODUCTION AND GENDER IDENTITY AMONG LOW-INCOME BRAZILIAN WOMEN, by Gina Hunter de Bessa, a 26-page working paper from the University of Michigan's Women & International Development program, explores the consequences of societal change on poor women and gender identity in Brazil. For poor women, these changes have led to conflict between the ideals of traditional motherhood and the demands of "modern life" and a destabilization of traditional gender roles. Contact Women and International Development, 206 International Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035; website: <http://www.isp.msu.edu/wid>; email: wid@msu.edu; phone: (517) 353-5040; fax: (517) 432-4845.

While male-to-female population ratios are close to equal in the West, in some Asian countries men outnumber women. Some researchers have concluded that "excess female mortality" has meant there are as many as 100 million fewer women in the world than there should be. In her paper, **HEPATITIS B AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING WOMEN**, Harvard economist Emily Oster argues that the "missing women" can be explained by the increased prevalence of Hepatitis B virus. According to medical research, carriers of the virus give birth to as many as 1.55 boys for every girl, a fact that Oster says accounts for 45% of the "missing women" worldwide and as many as 75% in China, where 10-15% of the population is infected with the virus. To view the 56-page paper online, visit www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~eoster/hepb.pdf

The status of women varies greatly among the nations of the Middle East and the Arab world due to diverse laws and social customs across the regions. In **TOWARDS GENDER**

EQUALITY IN THE ARAB/MIDDLE EAST REGION: ISLAM, CULTURE, AND FEMINIST ACTIVISM, a Background Paper for the UN Development Report, 2004, Valentine M. Moghadam profiles the economic, legal, and political status of women by nation, with a focus on the role of Muslim family laws. The 74-page paper, which also explores role and limitations and Islamic feminism, is available online at http://hdr.undp.org/docs/publications/background_papers/2004/HDR2004_Valentine_Moghadam.pdf or through the Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Program, 304 E. 45th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017; phone: (212) 906-3661; fax: (212) 906-3677.

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing a decade ago, women have moved toward gender equality in the areas of political participation, economics, and war and conflict resolution. Despite this progress, much work remains to achieve full equality in these areas. According to

GENDER EQUALITY: STRIVING FOR JUSTICE IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD (ISBN 9290850523), a new report from the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), women in politics still face conflict in using their newfound power to implement “women-friendly” policies in the face of existing male-dominated power structures. Women working in the formal economy still face a gender pay gap, and women still bear the burden of care work, especially in areas experiencing the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Finally, women involved in wartime conflict as combatants are often marginalized, and perpetrators of wartime sexual violence often escape punishment. To read more about the progress of women and the inequality they still face, view the report free online at www.unrisd.org/research/gender/report or order a paperback version for \$32.00 from UNRISD/UN Publications, 2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-853, New York, NY 10017; website: <http://unp.un.org>

○ Compiled by Jessica Trumm

ARCHIVES

The papers and photographs of **HELEN C. BULOVSKY**, a World War I nurse from Madison, Wisconsin, are available for research at the **WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM**, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI; phone: (608) 266-2320; email (to Archivist Russ Horton), russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us

The **VICTORIAN WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND LESBIAN FEMINIST (VWLLF) ARCHIVE** — with the papers of 127 people and organizations — is now part of the University of Melbourne (Australia) Archives. For more information, see <http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/vwllf.html>; email: archives@archives.unimelb.edu.au

BOOKS RECENTLY RECEIVED

ARBELLA: ENGLAND'S LOST QUEEN. Gristwood, Sarah. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE: DOROTHY OSBORNE'S LETTERS TO SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE 1652-1654. Hintz, Carrie. University of Toronto Press, 2005.

BEYOND IDENTITY POLITICS: FEMINISM, POWER AND POLITICS. Lloyd, Moya. Sage, 2005.

BREAKING THE BOWLS: DEGENERATING AND FEMINIST CHANGE. Lorber, Judith. W.W. Norton, 2005.

CONTESTING THE TERRAIN OF THE IVORY TOWER: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE ACADEMY. Garner, Rochelle. Routledge/Taylor & Francis, 2004.

DEALING WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF MENOPAUSE: FINDING HOPE IN THE MIDLIFE. King, Dana E. and others. Haworth Pastoral, 2005.

DEPRESSION IN NEW MOTHERS: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES, AND TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES. Kendall-Tackett, Kathleen A. Haworth, 2005.

DICTIONARY OF MUNSTER WOMEN WRITERS, 1800-2000. O'Toole, Tina, ed. Cork University Press (Ireland), 2005.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE MARGINS: READINGS ON RACE, CLASS, GENDER, AND CULTURE. Sokoloff, Natalie J. and Pratt, Christina, eds. Rutgers University Press, 2005.

DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME: THE LIFE OF CASS ELLIOT. Fiegel, Eddi. Chicago Review; distr. Independent Publishers Group, 2005.

EARLY WOMEN'S WRITINGS IN ORISSA, 1898-1950: A LOST TRADITION. Mohanty, Sachidananda, ed. Sage, 2005.

ELISE BOULDING: A LIFE IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. Morrison, Mary Lee. McFarland, 2005.

EMBODYING GENDER. Howson, Alexandra. Sage, 2005.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY. Boynton, Victoria and Malin, Jo, eds. Greenwood, 2005.

GEOGRAPHIES OF MUSLIM WOMEN: GENDER, RELIGION, AND SPACE. Falah, Ghazi-Walid and Nagel, Caroline, eds. Guilford, 2005.

GRASSROOTS: A FIELD GUIDE FOR FEMINIST ACTIVISM. Baumgardner, Jennifer and Richards, Amy. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Sheldon, Kathleen. Scarecrow, 2005.

INTERNET GUIDE TO COSMETIC SURGERY FOR WOMEN. Wood, M. Sandra. Haworth, 2005.



Miriam Greenwald

JUST ADVOCACY?: WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS, TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS, AND THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION. Hesford, Wendy and Kozol, Wendy, eds. Rutgers University Press, 2005.

LETTERS FROM LINDA M. MONTANO. Montano, Linda M. Klein, Jennie, ed. Routledge, 2005.

LITERARY SISTERHOODS: IMAGINING WOMEN ARTISTS. Heller, Deborah. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005.

THE OTHER VOICE: ARMENIAN WOMEN'S POETRY THROUGH THE AGES. Dalley, Maro, ed. Der-Hovanessian, Diana, trans. Armenian International Women's Association, 2005.

PLAZA OF SACRIFICES: GENDER, POWER, AND TERROR IN 1968 MEXICO. Carey, Elaine. University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

A PURSE OF HUMOROUS VERSE FOR THE JEWISH WOMAN. Kruger, Mollee and Gold, Doris B., eds. Biblio, 2005.

THE SEVEN SISTERS OF THE PLEIADES: STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. Andrews, Munya. Spinifex (Australia), 2004.

TALES FROM THE TRENCHES: POLITICS AND PRACTICE IN FEMINIST SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS. Kravetz, Diane. University Press of America, 2004.

UNDIVIDED RIGHTS: WOMEN OF COLOR ORGANIZE FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE. Silliman, Jael and others. South End, 2004.

UNZIPPING GENDER: SEX, CROSS-DRESSING AND CULTURE. Suthrell, Charlotte. Berg, 2004.

A WOMAN'S CONCISE GUIDE TO COMMON MEDICAL TESTS. Moore, Michele C. and De Costa, Caroline. Rutgers University Press, 2005.

WOMEN AND EDUCATION IN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES IN ENGLISH, 1975–2003. Shavarini, Mitra K. and Robison, Wendy R. Scarecrow, 2005.

WOMEN AND SMOKING IN AMERICA, 1880–1950. Segrave, Kerry. McFarland, 2005.

WOMEN CHARACTERS IN BASEBALL LITERATURE: A CRITICAL STUDY. Sullivan, Kathleen. McFarland, 2005.

WOMEN SCIENTISTS IN FIFTIES SCIENCE FICTION FILMS. Noonan, Bonnie. McFarland, 2005.

WORKING AMERICANS 1880–2005: VOLUME VI: WOMEN AT WORK. Derks, Scott. Grey House, 2005.

WORLDS APART?: DUALISM AND TRANSGRESSION IN CONTEMPORARY FEMALE DYSTOPIAS. Mohr, Dunja M. McFarland, 2005.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Subscribe to *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources* and two other publications, all for one low subscription price! You'll get ten issues—four of *Feminist Collections*, four of *Feminist Periodicals: A Current Listing of Contents*, and two of *New Books on Women & Feminism*.

- ☐ Individual subscriber with University of Wisconsin-Madison campus address, \$8.25/year
- ☐ Organizational/departmental subscriber with University of Wisconsin-Madison campus address, \$15.00/year
- ☐ Individual, or nonprofit women's program, elsewhere *in* Wisconsin, \$16.00/year
- ☐ Individual, or nonprofit women's program, *outside* Wisconsin, \$30.00/year
- ☐ Library or other organization in Wisconsin, \$22.50/year
- ☐ Library or other organization outside Wisconsin, \$55.00/year

[Additional postage for non-U.S. addresses only (per year): Surface mail: Canada & Mexico—add \$13.00; other countries—add \$15.00; Air mail: Canada & Mexico—add \$25.00; other countries—add \$55.00]

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____ SUBSCRIPTION YEAR: 2005 or _____

Subscriptions are by **calendar year only**. You will receive all issues whose cover dates are in the year you specify, regardless of when they are actually printed or when you send in your subscription form. (For example, because of schedule delays, the Fall 2004 issue of *FC* was not published until May 2005, but all subscribers for **2004** received it as part of their subscriptions.)

Students should give a permanent address where mail can reach them year-round.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

We occasionally provide our mailing list to publications/groups whose missions serve our subscribers' information needs. If you do NOT want your name and address shared, please check here. ☐

Make your check payable to UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON and send it with this form to:

UW System Women's Studies Librarian
430 Memorial Library
728 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>



Women's Studies International (WSI) covers the core disciplines in women's studies to the latest scholarship in feminist research. *WSI* supports curriculum development in the areas of sociology, history, political science & economy, public policy, international relations, arts & humanities, and business and education. Nearly 800 sources includes: journals, newspapers, newsletters, bulletins, books, book chapters, proceedings, reports, dissertations, theses, NGO studies, important websites & web documents, and grey literature. Over 2,000 periodical sources are represented and include ISSNs.

Subject coverage includes:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • feminist studies - theory & history | • law & legislation | • women's liberation movement | • family & relationships |
| • art, language & culture | • women's rights & suffrage | • sexuality & sexology | • racial & ethnic studies |
| • literary criticism | • psychology & body image | • employment, workplace harassment | • modern period |
| • political & social activism | • developing countries | • lesbianism | • Victorian period |
| • mental & physical health | • women in development | • reproductive rights | • historical studies |
| • violence & abusive relationships | • social welfare & socioeconomics | | • girl studies |
| • prejudice & gender discrimination | • women and the media | | • marriage & divorce |

Over **370,000 records** drawn from a variety of landmark women's studies indexes & databases.

Women Studies Abstracts (1984–present) was edited by Sara Stauffer Whaley and provides more than 74,000 records.

Women's Studies Bibliography Database Publications indexed in this database cover a wide range of social science disciplines including anthropology, sociology, social work, psychology, health sciences, education, economics, law, history, and literary works. Source documents include related websites, internet documents, professional journals, conference papers, books, book chapters, selected popular literature, government reports, discussion & working papers and other sources. Enhanced sub-sets of records from U.S. government databases and other files are included to make *WSI* as comprehensive as possible. This file of 212,000+ records is produced by NISC with contributions by many individuals.

Women's Studies Database (1972–present) is compiled by Jeanne Guillaume, Women's Studies Collection Librarian of New College, University of Toronto; *WSD* provides more than 157,000 records drawn from 125 journals worldwide.

Women Studies Librarian — Four files from the University of Wisconsin:

New Books on Women & Feminism (1987–present) is the complete guide to feminist publishing.

WAVE: Women's Audiovisuals in English: A Guide to Nonprint Resources in Women's Studies (1985–1990) is a guide to 803 feminist films, videos, audiocassettes, and filmstrips.

Women, Race, & Ethnicity: A Bibliography (1970–1990) is an annotated, selective bibliography of 2,458 books, journals, anthology chapters, and non-print materials.

The History of Women and Science, Health, and Technology: A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines (1970–1995, selective coverage) is an excellent tool for curriculum development, providing 2,380 records from biographical and historical books and articles.

MEDLINE Subset on Women (1964–2000) has 46,846 abstracts. The *MEDLINE Subset on Women* is part of the *MEDLINE* database from the National Library of Medicine. With an emphasis on the health and social concerns of women in the developing world, this subset includes many journals, reports, books, and published and unpublished papers, previously not indexed in *WSI*.

Women of Color and Southern Women: A Bibliography of Social Science Research (1975–1995) was produced by the Research Clearinghouse on Women of Color and Southern Women at the University of Memphis in Tennessee and provides over 7,600 citations on 18 different ethnic groups.

Women's Health and Development: An Annotated Bibliography (1995) provides 200 records drawn mainly from English-language journals and other holdings of the World Health Organization library in Geneva.

for a free trial
www.nisc.com/Gender

NISC National Information Services Corporation
 3100 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218 • phone +1 410 2430797, fax +1 410 2430982
sales@nisc.com