

# **International Geographical Union Commission on Gender and Geography**

**NEWSLETTER No. 25**

**November, 2000**

## **THE COMMISSION ON GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY AND THE IGC 2000 MEET IN SEOUL**

Last August the IGU assembled in Seoul for the international congress: IGC2000, held once every four years. This meeting is important for two reasons. In the first place it is the place where geographers from all parts of the world meet, share information and discuss new fields of interest in the discipline. In the second place it is the place where a new president and vice-presidents are elected and where decisions are made about the creation and continuation of Commissions and Study Groups.

### ***Pre-meeting***

During the weekend before the starting of the main congress we had a wonderful pre-meeting of the Commission on Gender and Geography excellently organized by **Hae Un Rii**. We had good and creative discussions about the work of the Commission, and pleasant and stimulating visits to women's organizations and other places of interest. The pre-meeting began with presentations by each participant on the "state-of the art" of gender and geography in their country. Later we discussed the plans for activities during the next period, how to communicate within the Commission and the funding of activities, the newsletter in particular.

We visited the Asian Centre for Women's Studies of the Ewha Woman's University and were deeply impressed by the extensive programmes on gender studies and their long existence. We also visited the Korean Women's Hot Line, an extremely active and effective organization supporting women facing several kinds of problems, in particular violence. Hae Un Rii and her student "volunteers" did excellent work for the Commission.

### ***Main congress***

During the Congress we had one full day of presentations on gender issues. The programme was good and the presentations were stimulating, although some announced presentations were missing because some scholars were unable to attend as they had planned. Presentations addressed research on rural women, women in new towns, violence, work, women on the move, housing, education and grassroots activism.

Speakers were women and a few men from Asia, Australia, North America and Europe. These geographers were from all over the world in another sense too: we had presentations by an Indian woman living and working in the USA, an Australian woman from the USA, and Indonesian woman from Australia, a Dutch woman who finished her PhD on women in eastern-Germany at a British university. Personally, I have very good memories to the Seoul meeting and enjoyed to meet all these people from all over the world involved in gender and geography. I hope there will be more such sessions during the next period of the Commission.

### *Continuation of the Commission*

The IGU decided to continue the Commission on Gender and Geography for the next four years. With 33 of all 34 votes the Commission can be considered as an "established" one, respected for its activities and output. During the meeting of the IGU President and Vice-Presidents with the Chairs of the Commissions, Ann Buttimer, the new President of the IGU, praised the innovative character and the development of concepts in our Commission. I hope we can continue.

### *New chair of the Commission*

The IGU confirmed my nomination as new chair of the Commission. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to be nominated and elected; it is a challenge for me to make the next period a successful and stimulating period by my efforts and the efforts of the full members and active corresponding members of the Commission. I am happy with the supportive group of full members and the large number of active corresponding members in our Commission.

In contrast with the former chairs of the Commission, Janet Momsen and Ruth Fincher, I am not a world- wide known feminist geographer. It is therefore good to introduce myself. I am lecturing and doing research at the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Amsterdam since 1977. For several years I taught a graduate course on gender and geography with Lia Karsten. From 1991-98 I coordinated the ERASMUS network on Geography and Gender in which six universities from the European Community participated. Each year the network organized an intensive programme on geography and gender for students from these (and other) universities. My research themes in gender studies have been time-space behaviour and mobility of dual-earner families and older women in urban, suburban and rural contexts. Most of my publications are written in the Dutch language in Dutch journals, books and reports for national, provincial and municipal authorities.

As new chair of the Commission I have two priorities in my work: to continue the tradition of frequent and stimulating debates in Commission and co-sponsored meetings and to focus on communication between the members of the Commission and between the Commission and other organizations. The newsletter will be the most important medium to promote cohesion within the Commission. The creation of a web-site will form a second medium of communication.

### ***Full members***

The full members during the 2000-2004 period are Gisella Cortesi (Italy), Tovi Fenster (Israel), Audrey Kobayashi (Canada), Eleonore Kofman (UK), Robyn Longhurst (New Zealand), Agnes Musyoki (vice-chair) (South Africa), Brenda Yeoh (Singapore), Judit Timar (Hungary), and myself as chair. There are two vacancies now. Monica Colombara (Argentina) withdrew because of changes in her employment, and we are looking for a full member from Latin America and one from Asia. Two other people have formal positions in the Commission. Fortunately, Janet Momsen will continue to be treasurer of the Commission. As the financial position of the Commission is not flourishing, I am very happy that Janet will continue to give her expertise. And we are extremely happy that Janice Monk will continue her work for the newsletter. We aim to have a newsletter twice a year and are especially eager to distribute as many copies as possible electronically for financial reasons.

### ***Plans for the 2000-2004 period***

The theme around which the program over the next four years will be organised is GENDERED SPACES OF INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION. This theme allows us to pursue the longstanding interest of our members in the ways physical space is organised to produce gendered inequalities. It also allows us to direct our focus towards social scientific debates about identity and difference, asking questions about how gender combines with factors like age and ethnicity, to produce particular life experiences of inclusion and exclusion, in particular political and social spaces that have gendered characteristics.

In general the Commission works towards a mixture of activities that we initiate and cosponsored meetings with other IGU Commissions and organizations outside the IGU. Currently, the main meetings planned are the 2002 meeting (Regional Congress) in Durban and the 2004 World Congress in Glasgow. Agnes Musyoki and Joan Fairhurst will devote time and energy to the Durban-meeting we will discuss the time, place and outline of a pre-meeting and the participation of our commission in the main congress. Eleonore Kofman will take responsibility for the Glasgow meeting. There are several vague and more concrete - plans for meetings in Asia, Europe and Northern America. This means that the Commission will have at least 1 or 2 Commission or cosponsored meetings a year.

### ***Thanks***

I want to thank Ruth Fincher who left me a well-organised and extremely active Commission. During the four years the Commission has been very active and has organised lively debates. The number of corresponding members has grown to include people from all over the world many and many geographers feel part of the academic community of gender studies in geography. Ruth Fincher has been responsible for this

success in the first place, but many women have been responsible with her: the full members who continue, the full members who finished their work: Yoga Rasanayagam, Monica Colombara, Hae Un Rii, Janice Monk and Janet Momsen who continue their work for the Commission and all active corresponding members who make the Commission such a success. I want to thank these women for all the work they did and I hope the coming period will be as successful and stimulating.

-- **Joos Droogleever Fortuijn** (j.c.droogleever@frw.uva.nl; Department of Geography and Planning, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 31-20-5254296 (ph), 31-20-525-4051 (fax))

## **RECENT CONFERENCES**

"Geographies of Home," a multidisciplinary international conference with a strong geographical component was held at University College, London, November 8-9, 2000. Organized by Ann Varley and Alison Blunt the conference explored the imaginative and lived experiences of home on domestic, national, and transnational scales. Conference web site: [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/geographies\\_of\\_home.stm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/geographies_of_home.stm)

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

*The Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* is preparing a special issue on global processes, local responses: resistance and compliance in Southeast Asia. Contributions can be sent to guest editors Mike Parnwell (M.J.Parnwell@pol-as.hull.ac.uk) Centre for South-East Asian Studies, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX, UK or Jonathon Rigg (J.D.Rigg@durham.ac.uk) Department of Geography, University of Durham, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE, UK.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

*Gender, Place and Culture* is seeking a new co-editor and book review co-editor to start in October, 2001. This editor will replace Lynn Staeheli. Gill Valentine will continue for two more years. In the spirit of maintaining the international status of the journal, the Editorial Board particularly encourages inquiries from scholars outside the UK. To be considered for either position, send a short statement about yourself and your vision to either Lynn Staeheli (lynner@spot.colorado.edu), Institute for Behavioral Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0487, USA or Gill Valentine (G.Valentine@sheffield.ac.uk), Department of Geography, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, UK. The new book review editor would begin October, 2001 and should be from outside the UK. For further information on this position contact the editors or Larry Knopp (lknopp@d.umn.edu).

**Vandana Desai** (Royal Holloway, UK) has received a British Council grant for the project "Women's empowerment and poverty reduction: promoting microlevel enterprises" in collaboration with Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, India.

Congratulations to **Saraswati Raju** on her promotion to full professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

**Sylvia Chant** (London School of Economics) will be Visiting Professor in Gender Studies at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in March, 2001.

**Pamela Moss, Brenda Murphy, and Jennifer Hall** are developing a focus section of the *Canadian Geographer* on women and equity in academic geography. The project developed out of working sessions on the status of women in Canadian geography held at the Canadian Association of Geographers meeting in June, 2000.

**Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt** recently was a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Human Geography at Australian National University, focusing on resource management in the Asia Pacific. She was on leave from the University of Burdwan, India. Her recent work has addressed the roles and perceptions of women in the Raniganj Coalbelt, West Bengal.

**Iren Kukorelli** (Hungary) recently spent a period of research at the University of California, Davis for collaborative research with Janet Momsen on women and entrepreneurship in Hungary.

**Inger Birkeland**, a research fellow in the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at the University of Oslo is finishing her Ph.D. on changes in the experiences of nature in tourism in the North Cape, Norway is interested in developing a cross-disciplinary network among researchers working on nature, place, and local culture with a view to developing collaborative work. She can be contacted at [i.j.birkeland@sgeo.uio.no](mailto:i.j.birkeland@sgeo.uio.no) or at the Department of Sociology and Geography, University of Oslo, PB 1096 Blindern, N-0317, Norway.

## **NEW BOOKS**

Ahsan, Rosie Majid, Nasreen Ahmad, Ammatz Zohra Eusuf and Khondakar Nizamuddin (eds.). 1998. *Women, Work and Environment: Studies in Gender Geography*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Geographical Society and IGU Commission on Commercial Activity. (Includes 24 case studies on women in South Asia status of women; women and natural resources; women and commercial activity; access to health and residence; women and degrading social environments).

Chant, Sylvia and Matthew Gutmann. 2000. *Mainstreaming Men into Gender and Development: Debates, Reflections and Experiences*. Oxford: OXFAM

Fagnani, Jeanne. 2000. *Un travail et des enfants: Petits arbitrages et grands dilemmes*. Paris: Bayard Ed.

Johnson, Louise (with Jackie Huggins and Jane Jacobs). 2000. *Placebound: Australian Feminist Geographies*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. 2000. *Hands that Shape the World: Report on the Conditions of Immigrant Women in the US Five Years after the Beijing Conference*. San Francisco: NNIRR (<http://www.nnirr.org>).

Özgüç, Nazmiye, 1998. *Kadınların Corafyası*. Istanbul: Çantay Kitabevi. (In Turkish). *Geography of Women*. This is the first publication on women in Turkish geography. Part I deals with the emergence of the field and theoretical and methodological approaches as well as the situation of women in geography in Turkey and elsewhere. Part II deals with thematic issues in geographical perspectives ( women and work, women and environment, women in rural areas etc.).

Rao, Aruna, Rieky Stuart and David Kelleher, Kumarian Press. From the United Nations: *Ageing in a Gendered World: Women's Issues and Identities* (E 99.III.C.1, \$US 25); *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics* (E.00.XVII.14, \$US 16.95). For further information check <http://www.un.org/publications> or Sales and Marketing Section, Room DC2-0853, Dept. A162, United Nations Publications, New York, NY 10017.

## **SPECIAL JOURNAL ISSUES**

*IDS Bulletin*. 31(2), 2000 focuses on "Men, Masculinities, and Development: Politics, Policies, and Practice. A forthcoming issue of the *European Journal of Development Research* 12(2) will also be devoted to men, masculinities, and work in developing countries.

*Women's Studies International Forum*, 23(4), 2000 addresses "Diasporic Subjects and Identity Negotiations: Women In and From Asia." It is guest edited by Shirlena Huang, Peggy Teo, and Brenda S.A. Yeoh (articles are listed below).

*Feminist Economics* 6(3), 2000 is a special issue on globalization and gender.

## **ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

Aitken, Stuart. 2000. Families, communities, and the scale of difference, *Social and Cultural Geography*, 1(1).

Barber, Pauline Gardiner. 2000. Agency in Philippine women's labour migration and provisional diaspora, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 23(4): 399-412.

- Blumen, Orna. 1999. Am I my sister's keeper? On the gender definition in Israeli geography, *Horizons in Geography* 51: 57-71 (in Hebrew).
- . 2000. A dissonance in women's commuting: the experience of exurban employed mothers in Israel, *Urban Studies* 37(4): 731-48.
- Blunt, Alison. 2000. Spatial stories under siege: British women writing from Lucknow in 1857, *Gender, Place and Culture*, 7(3): 229-46.
- . 2000. Embodying war: British women and domestic displacement in the Indian 'Mutiny,' 1857-8, *Journal of Historical Geography*, 26(3): 403-28.
- Brickel, Chris. 2000. Heroes and invaders: gay and lesbian pride parades and public/private distinction in New Zealand media accounts, *Gender, Place and Culture* 7(2): 163-78.
- Cox, Rosie. 2000. Exploring the growth of paid domestic labour: a case study of London, *Geography*, 85 (3): 241-51.
- Dodson, B. 2000. Porous boundaries: gender and migration in Southern Africa, *South African Geographical Journal*, 82(1), 40-6.
- Dowling, R. 2000. Cultures of mothering and car use in suburban Sydney: a preliminary investigation, *Geoforum* 31(3): 345-54.
- Dwyer, Claire. 2000. Negotiating diasporic identities: young British South Asian Muslim women, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 23(4): 475-86.
- Elmhirst, Rebecca. 2000. A Javanese diaspora? Gender and identity politics in Indonesia's transmigration settlement program, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 23(4): 487-500.
- Evans, Sally Lloyd and Sophia Bowlby. 2000. Crossing boundaries: racialised gendering and the labour market experiences of Pakistani women in Great Britain, *Women's Studies International Forum* 23(4): 461-74.
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García Ramon, Maria Dolors & Alba Caballe. 2000. Gender, place and international geography: the emergence of different regional models in gender geography, *Working Paper Series*, Issue 3. Gender Institute, London School of Economics.

Grey, Leslie and Michael Kevane. 1999. Diminished access, diverted exclusion: women and land tenure in sub-Saharan Africa. *African Studies Review*, 42(2): 15-39.

Hanlon, Catherine Nolin and Finola Shankar. 2000. Gendered spaces of terror and assault: the testimonio of REMHI and the Commission for Historical Clarification in Guatemala, *Gender, Place and Culture*, 7(3): 265-86.

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Huang, Shirlena, Peggy Teo and Brenda S.A. Yeoh. 2000. Diasporic subjects and identity negotiations: women in and from Asia, *Women's Studies International Forum*, 23(4):391-98.

Kevane, Michael and Leslie C. Gray. 1999. A woman's field is made at night: gendered land rights and norms in Burkina Faso, *Feminist Economics*, 5(3) 1-26.

Kobayashi, Audrey & Linda Peake. 2000. Racism out of place: thoughts on whiteness and an antiracist geography in the new millennium. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 90: 392-403.

Krenske, Leigh and Jim McKay. 2000. 'Hard and Heavy': gender and power in a heavy metal music subculture, *Gender, Place and Culture*, 7(3): 287-304.

Kwan, Mei-Po. 2000. Gender differences in time-space constraints, *Area*, 32(2): 145-56.

Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala. 2000. Gender dimension of mining: women workers in Indian coalmines, *Mining Environment Management* (London). September.

Longhurst, Robyn. 2000. Geography and gender: masculinities, male identity, and men, *Progress in Human Geography*, 24(3): 439-44.

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Luzzadder-Beach, Sheryl and Allison M. Macfarlane. 2000. The environment of gender and science: status and perspectives of women and men in physical geography. *The Professional Geographer* 52(3): 407-424.

- McDowell, Linda. 2000. The trouble with men? Young people, gender transformations, and the crisis of masculinity, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 24(1): 201-.
- . 2000. Acts of memory and millennial hopes and anxieties: the awkward relationship between the economic and the cultural, *Social and Cultural Geography* 1(1).
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- McKittrick, Katherine. 2000. "Black and 'Cause I'm Black I'm Blue:" transverse racial geographies in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. *Gender, Place and Culture*, 7(2): 125-42.
- Momsen, Janet H. 2000. Gender differences in environmental concerns and perception, *Journal of Geography*, 99: 47-56.
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