

## **SPECIAL ISSUE**

# **WOMEN'S STUDIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

When I first conceived the idea of this Special Issue I entertained ideas about the editorial. It was to be full of profundity, irony, anger and erudition - in other words - the perfect editorial. Instead, when I sat at my typewriter with the "copy" before me I found myself in the anomalous situation as an editor in search of an editorial. When you read the following pages it will become clearer to you why I reached such an *impasse*. These pages have said it all and anything I might add would be both trivial and redundant. Indeed, these pages have said much more than I hoped for in my more imaginative moments.

Therefore I shall content myself with acknowledgements to those who have made this issue possible. First, I wish to thank Nancy Sheehan who assisted me with several of the more onerous editorial tasks. I am grateful for the manner with which she quickly identifies a problem and then energetically tackles it.

This journal operates on a shoestring budget without paid staff except Marion Harper, my invaluable administrative secretary. I wish to thank the editorial committee for its support. Dean Robert Lawson deserves special thanks for his financial assistance. I believe this issue reflects accurately the scholarly foresight of the Faculty of Education, the journal's regular patron. Other funding has come from Alberta Education and The Alberta Advisory Committee on Educational Studies which also regularly sponsor the journal. Without the additional funding provided by the President's Special Project Fund, University of Calgary, we could not have published this issue.

Patricia T. Rooke,  
Editor

## THE CONTRIBUTORS

*Helene Wenzel* is director of Undergraduate Studies in Women's Studies and holds a split appointment with the Department of French and Women's Studies at Yale University. In 1974-77 she was Assistant Director for Academic Affairs at the Centre for the Continuing Education of Women, Berkeley, and Chairperson of the Women's Studies Program at San Francisco State University in 1977-80. She has published articles on French feminist thought and has given numerous lectures on feminist scholarship. She is working on a book, *'The Subject is Women': Monique Wittig's Writings and 'The Discourse on Woman'* and is editor of a forthcoming special issue of Yale French Studies, *Simone de Beauvoir: Witness to an Age* (1985). She has written on female friendships, lesbian history, and women such as Violette Leduc, Wittig, and de Beauvoir.

**CANADA:** Nikki Strong-Boag is Associate Professor at Simon Fraser University. Her professional activities include Program Co-ordinator for the Canadian Women's Studies Association Conference (1983) and National Co-ordinator for the Canadian Committee on Women's History (1975-76). She has published numerous articles on Women's History and co-researched a bibliography of Canadian Women's History, *True Daughters of the North* (1980). Her books include *The Parliament of Women: The National Council of Women of Canada* (1976) and the edited diaries of Elizabeth Smith Shortt, *A Woman With a Purpose* (1980).

**THE UNITED STATES:** Sandra Coyner is Associate Professor and the Director of Women's Studies at Kansas State University in Manhattan. She is founding editor of *NWSA Program Network Notes* and a member of the NWSA Coordinating Council. She has published articles on "Women's Liberation and Sexual Liberation"; and "Women's Studies as an Academic Discipline." Conference papers include studies of 19th century British feminism, and feminist perspectives on images of women. She has directed two projects funded by the Kansas Committee for the Humanities: "Rural Women: Their History, Their Future" in 1979 and a statewide interdisciplinary faculty seminar on "New Humanities Scholarship on Women" in 1983.

**GREAT BRITAIN:** Margaret Sutherland is Professor of Education, the University of Leeds, England, and President of the World Association for Educational Research. Since 1974 she has been editor of the *British Journal of Educational Studies*. She is the author of *Sex Bias in Education* (1981) and has written articles on "The Paradox of Women's Education in the DDR," the "Education of Girls and Boys," and "Educating Girls — To Repair the Ruins of Our First Parents." She is also the author of *Everyday Imagining and Education* (1971).

**NEW ZEALAND:** Rosemary Seymour is senior lecturer with the Department of Sociology, University of Waikato. She was founder and national co-ordinator of the WSA (NZ) and is a member of the UNESCO Extended Task Force on the Promotion of Women. She has been the editor of an annual bibliography-directory of women's studies in New Zealand since 1971 and was the editor of *Women's Studies Newsletters* (numbers 1-6) and research papers of conference proceedings with the Women's Studies Association, Hamilton (1978-80). Dr. Seymour has analysed *Malleus Maleficarum* (c 1486) to explore the witch heretic phenomena in *Women at Stake: Ideological Cross Currents in Misogyny and Philogyny* (1981). She has researched and written on such topics as women and technology, women in history through poetry and literature, affirmative action and "A Feminist Critique of Feminist Critique: The Second Wave of Women's Studies."

**AUSTRALIA — AN OVERVIEW:** Susan Magarey is about to take up a post as director of the new Research Centre for Women's Studies at the University of Adelaide. From the beginning of 1978 until mid-1983 she has been Lecturer in charge of the Women's Studies Program at the Australian National University, Canberra. Her publications include "Catherine Spence: Radical Woman" in Eric Fry (ed.), *Australian Rebels and Radicals* (in press) and *Social History in Australia in 1981*. She has been involved in women's liberation groups in Australia since the beginning of 1970.

**AUSTRALIA — PERSONAL REFLECTIONS:** Rita Helling is the author of a radical women's studies course handbook, *The Politics of Women's Studies* (1981) written while an instructor with the South Australia College of Advanced Education, Underdale. She has been involved with the women's movement and revolutionary political groups since 1971 and is passionately committed to the principle

of "The Personal is Political." After experiencing obstructionist and masculist opposition at Flinders University she has undergone a subsequent disillusionment with formal institutional legitimization of the women's cause as well as with radical politics and many of its members. She now seeks to further the cause through writing in fiction as well as through factual, personal, and political commentary. The case study she presents is also a description of similar disillusionment among women who have seen their dreams turn to dust over the last decade.

**'DIVERTISSEMENT':** Mary Lynn Broe, Associate Professor, Department of English, SUNY, Binghamton, reminds us that poetry is not only like an oasis in a wilderness (or perhaps like a cool refreshing drink of mineral water at Bellagio . . .) but that it is also powerful political commentary. The author of a major study of a poet whose voice cried in the wilderness, *Protean Poetic: The Poetry of Silvia Plath* (1980), Dr. Broe worked a forthcoming biography of Caresse Crosby, patron of the arts, while a resident fellow at the Rockefeller Study Centre, Bellagio, Italy, in 1982. The biography will be published in 1984.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Susan Walsh, an M.A. student at Simon Fraser University, is completing her thesis on four socialist feminists from the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation of British Columbia. She is Women's Access Coordinator at the Justice Institute of British Columbia where she designs programs on women's issues in justice and public safety and provides educational and consultant services to women who work in the larger justice system.

**EDITOR:** Patricia Rooke is a visiting Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Calgary. She has been editor of *JET* since 1981. Her co-authored book *Discarding the Asylum: From Child Rescue to the Welfare State in English-Canada, 1800-1956* led her to examine the role of a leading feminist and social reformer, Charlotte Whitton. She is presently co-authoring a biography *Public Figure, Private Woman: The Controversial Charlotte Whitton (1896-1975)*.