

WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENTS
INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 2, APRIL 1977

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to your interest in Women and Environments and its broader implications, your sense of urgency, your new ideas, and your interest in developing contacts with each other. Let us state again the purposes of the Newsletter:

As a vehicle for the sharing of personal experiences in a common area of concern.

As a means for sharing of information on existing groups concerned with women and environments issues; on bibliographies, reviews of books, articles and magazines relevant to these concerns; on ongoing theses and research projects; and on courses, conferences or other meetings.

To provide information on ongoing intervention projects and policy matters related to women and environments - especially those where innovative solutions have been attempted.

To share descriptions of jobs that are emerging in this field or potential sources of funding in this area.

To establish contacts for women travelling and working on these issues.

Please contact us with your suggestions and topics for inclusion in the next issue, to be published we hope by August 1st, if we get sufficient material. We welcome suggestions for new areas in the Network, please complete the form on page 11 of this issue.

EDITORIAL

This issue of the newsletter was scheduled to be published early in the year. Unfortunately the bugs are not out of our procedures and it has been delayed. This reflects no dampening of our enthusiasm in this project; since the first issue of the Newsletter was published a number of new participants have been added, and some of you have responded with letters of support, both financial and personal -- we thank you.

We still sense a real need for the Network and its Newsletter. For new readers we repeat here the objectives of the Network as they were stated in the first Newsletter:

- to increase the level of awareness that women are a separate group of users of any given environment with specific needs
- to demonstrate the inequality and inefficiency associated with many human environments in relation to the needs of women
- to increase the extent to which women intervene directly in the planning, design, and management of environments of particular concern to them
- to increase women's access to those environments in which they are commonly discouraged or excluded.

These clearly remain contentious statements. There is obviously opposition still to the separate consideration of women as users and creators of environments, both from male-dominated professional standpoints and from some women who resent their separation out from the general population as condescension and a put-down. These obviously have to be faced in any area of women's studies or women's problem-solving. We welcome your personal reflections on these and other matters associated with the objectives of the Network.

If it is to survive, both the Network and the Newsletter require your participation. Unless they can perform an effective role for you, the members of the Network, it is difficult to justify their existence. We are trying to tap your enthusiasm related

WOMEN IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP, OCT. 1976
NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION, OTTAWA, CANADA

appropriate way. Thus Bobbie Sue Hood was only one of the founders of WSPA. There were seven of us altogether. Gail Freese, became a coordinator after that first session, as did several others. (Gail's address in Connecticut is the central mailing address of WSPA.), and it would be appropriate to identify any of us as "a coordinator of WSPA" and to identify any of the original seven as "a founding coordinator of WSPA". I'm sure you can see why this matter is important to us. We have managed fairly well to resist the efforts -- in the world at large -- to discuss WSPA in terms of its more well-known people.

Ellen Perry Berkeley reports that the WSPA will be held again this summer, but in an altered form. Considerable discussion is now taking place about the format, and objectives of the WSPA. Network members wishing to contribute to this discussion are urged to send their comments to the Connecticut address.

NEW COURSES BEING OFFERED

WOMEN'S ROLE IN CHANGING THE FACE OF THE EARTH

Marie Hartman, Instructor
Geography Department
Portland State University
Portland, Oregon 97207

Offered: Winter Term 1977

The course announcement includes the following information:

For some time geographers have recognized that human activities greatly affect the natural environment, that most of the earth's landscapes have been profoundly altered by people. Many of these geographical efforts are summarized in the classic volume, Man's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth. Upon a close look, however, it appears that women play a crucial role in developing the techniques and tools which have allowed the most fundamental environmental modifications. This course is designed to investigate Woman's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth and to recognize woman as a geographical force.

Topics of Study will include:

- Women in Geography: The Strange Case of the Missing Female Geographer
- The Division of Labor by Sex: How and Why?
- Women's Contribution to the Development of Human Social Organization and Why it Matters to Geography?
- The Demography and Population Geography of Women
- Women's Role in Changing the Face of the Earth...In Hunting and Gathering, Pastoral, Horticultural, Agricultural, and Industrial Economics

Gilda Stern Good of the National Capital Commission describes the activity that has followed from the Workshop:

1. Distribution of 2400 copies of the workshop report to all NCC Commissioners, Advisory Committees, all members of the House of Commons, federal departments and Women's Resource Bureaus, women's groups, schools of architecture and planning, and the Habitat NGO Forum of the UN Settlements Conference.
2. The Women's Bureau of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (the federal department responsible for carrying out legislation on housing) has used the report to develop recommendations for change in the National Housing Act to improve women's access to mortgages.
3. The NCC has initiated an interdepartmental Committee to examine the recommendations in the report and consider means for implementing them.
4. The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities has shown great interest in the report and requested a wide distribution among its associations membership.
5. The report has been used as a resource document by the Canadian Housing Design Council at their annual seminar in Winnipeg in April 1976. This Council holds an annual design competition and a new criterion for judging entries has become the effects of housing on women.

WOMEN'S SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
SPRING LANE, FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Ellen Perry Berkeley (Box 311, Shaftsbury, Vermont 05262) has asked us to clarify an entry in the last Newsletter in the listings of the interests and background of participants. On page 13 described a network member as "founder of the Women's School of Planning and Architecture". Ellen Perry Berkeley writes:

Our effort was always considered by us to be an attempt at a cooperative and nonhierarchical venture, and I'd like to ask -- on behalf of all of us that you identify us in an

- Women's Perception and Use of Space: A Feminine Landscape?
- Women's Geographical Role in the United States: From Jamestown and Plymouth to the Present
- Women, Politics and the Environment

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: SEX ROLES AND SOCIAL POLICY

Jackie Leavitt, Lecturer
Columbia University, Graduate School
of Architecture and Planning
Division of Urban Planning
410 Hall Avery
New York, N.Y. 10027

(212) 280-3524

One of the few courses of its type in the country, "The Built Environment: Sex Roles and Social Policy" is a continuation of "Women in Planning and Architecture," which was offered at Columbia last spring. This year's course will explore the implications of feminist theories for planning and will examine a cross-section of major planning and policy decisions to determine their view of an effect on women. A comprehensive annotated bibliography is to be one of the products of the course; it will be available in June. To share concerns about planning for changing sex roles, write or call Jackie Leavitt. The preliminary bibliography is available free, although a small charge may be instituted if the volume of requests becomes too great.

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND VOLUNTEERISM

John McLoughlin
Research Director
Alliance for Volunteerism
Suite 617 Colorado Building
Boulder, Colorado 80302
U.S.A.

(303) 449-5452

John McLoughlin is eager to receive proposals for research on women in the voluntary sector. He is functioning as research director for the Alliance for Volunteerism this year. In that role, he is in a position to forward proposals to foundations who are interested in funding research on the role that women play in the voluntary sector, in the past, present and future.

CONFERENCES

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, April 24-27.

There will be a special session on Monday, April 25 titled: **GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN**, organizer and Chair: Susan Caris, University of Washington.

- Michael Libbee, University of Oklahoma, "Geographic Research and Women: Speculations on the Use of Data About Women"
- Sallie Miller, University of Washington, "Alternative Growth Strategies: Male vs. Female Preferences"
- Carolyn Hock, Johns Hopkins University, "Spatial Analysis of Female Labor Submarkets in the Baltimore Metropolitan Region"
- Lowry Taylor, Northwestern University, "The Pattern of Employment Equality in Kenya"
- Chris Bose, University of Washington, "Gender and Social Standing: The NDRC Prestige Scores as Applied to Women Workers and Women's Jobs"
- Clare M.T. Stapleton, University of Wisconsin, Madison, "A Re-examination of Sex Differentials in Migration"
- Jeanne North, University of Chicago, "The Growth and Spread of the Women's Movement"
- Susan Caris, University of Washington, "Sex Differences in Pollution Abatement Strategies"

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association will be held in Chicago, September 3-5.

A discussion session which may be of interest to network members is **WOMEN AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**, chaired by Gerda Wekerle and David Popenoe.

URBAN INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE, this conference will be held at York University, May 12-14. There will be a session on "Women's Environments and the Process of Innovation" on Friday afternoon, May 13. The session is being organized by Becky Peterson. Some of you received an earlier mailing which announced the title as "Services for Women". This has been changed to the above title. You will also be glad to hear that Janet Abu-Lughod of Northwestern will be chairing the plenary session on "World Perspectives on Urban Innovation" on Friday morning May 13. For further information contact Becky Peterson at the address on the cover, or Ann Montgomery, Urban Innovation Conference, York University, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R5, Telephone (416) 667-3827.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (April 18-20), University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

This year's Women and Environment's Session at EDRA will provide a forum for the exchange of information on special interests, projects, and other activities in the women and environments area. The co-ordinator Anne Marie Pollock is asking you to complete the attached questionnaire and to pass copies of the blank questionnaire to other people you know. She is hoping for a snowball, maybe an avalanche, effect. We shall carry a report on the session and a summary of the responses in a later newsletter.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DOLORES HAYDEN AND GWENDOLYN WRIGHT (1976) "Architecture and Urban Planning" Signs 1:923-933.

An essay describing current areas of research on women in architecture and urban planning. Examines reasons for women's lack of involvement in design and the effects of design on women, especially in the home. The article notes that housing studies rarely focus on women's needs and that most research is on the nuclear family instead of exploring alternative forms of family life. Extensive references are provided.

DOLORES HAYDEN "Collectivizing the domestic workplace" Chrysalis 1, 1977.

An examination of the social and architectural aspects of feminist attempts at domestic reform 1800-1915. Examples of designs for restructuring domestic work, eliminating the isolation of domestic work, and integrating home, work, production are drawn from utopian socialist programs and the cooperative housekeeping movement.

LYN LOFLAND (1975) "The 'thereness' of women: a selective review of urban sociology." Pp. 144-170 in R.M. Kanter and M. Millman (eds.) Another Voice: Feminist Perspectives on Social Life and Social Science. Garden City, New York: Doubleday.

Loiland finds that urban sociology treats women as background figures who are largely irrelevant to the action, while men are viewed as the active agents in the urban environment. The lack of data on the urban life of women is attributed to three factors: (1) the emphasis on community, territory, and public sectors of urban life tends to exclude women who are most evident in private sectors; (2) the funding of research on urban trouble-makers and deviants who have been overwhelmingly male; (3) the fact that urban researchers have largely been males who lacked access to women's urban subcultures.

STUART NICHOLSON and M. FRIES (1974) "Women, Society and the Environment." American Biology Teacher, 50, 5:275-279.

The authors examine the impact of women's roles as sex and beauty

objects, as household consumers, and as mothers, on various aspects of the environment including the threat to endangered species, environmental pollution, and over-population.

DAVID POPENOE The Suburban Environment: Sweden and the United States. University of Chicago Press, April 1977.

A comparison of the quality of life in the communities of Levittown, Pennsylvania, a sprawling community of single family homes dependent on the automobile, and Vallingby, Sweden which is built at higher densities and has ready access to public transit. The two communities contrast sharply in their implications for the lives of women and children. Levittown forces women to be housewives; jobs for women are limited and far away, second cars are necessary, maintenance of the home is time consuming, and daycare is scarce. In Vallingby, almost all women work and jobs are easily reached by public transportation. Daycare is provided by the community. Children of Levittown are isolated from the world outside their neighbourhood: recreational facilities are located outside the community and are costly; transportation is unavailable and mothers become chauffeurs. In Vallingby, teenagers have access to planned youth centers, and public transportation allows ready access to the city. Popenoe suggests that Vallingby may be a model for the future American city as single family home ownership climbs out of the reach of most American families.

GWENDOLYN WRIGHT (1975) "Sweet and Clean: The Domestic Landscape in the Progressive Era." Landscape 10: 38-43.

This paper examines relationships between the social reform movement, the rise of home economics, and the role of women as household consumers. There is a discussion of the impact on women of the acceptance of standard household appliances such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners.

JAMES J. ZULCHES "Acceptability of energy policies to Mid-Michigan families". Research Report # 298 Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing, Michigan, March 1976 (this is one of a series of reports based on the research project "Functioning of the Family Eco-System in a World of Changing Energy Availability").

The study concludes that "women generally had higher scores on the energy awareness scale and were more likely to believe in the reality of the energy crisis than men. From a high degree of awareness and a conclusion that the energy crisis was real should follow an acceptance of policies which will facilitate energy conservation."

BONNIE LLOYD, a geographer living in Oakland, California and associated with the University of Syracuse who has published work on women and the home has suggested that network newsletter readers might be interested in a study of the built environment which devotes some pages to the historic association of women with interior space.

Simone ROUX, La Maison dans l'histoire Paris: Albin Michel, 1976.

Roux does not offer a history of high architectural style. She wants to know how the ordinary urban and rural people lived. If she steps into a palace or house, it is because she sees innovations that filter down to the tenements and farmhouses: plumbing, heating, lighting, and decoration. This is a social history. The political climate, economics, customs, and technical inventions are as integral to the house as stones and timbers.

Roux constructs three major definitions of home -- as sacred space, as an implement of labor, and as merchandise. To buttress the first she assembles evidence from folklore, law and religion. She exhibits quotations from Cicero, Ruskin, and Sorre. Her case is convincing. To explain the position of the home in the economic system she unearths quaint sketches of the peasant and the artisan in the cottage. Only the construction of factories removed the workers from the home. The label, merchandise, is the most novel. She pursues this concept particularly well by discovering changing ways of assessing the value of the home. The ground beneath it, the site, the materials, the construction, the profit it might bring, the furnishings, and the craftwork are all part of the formula.

Roux also grasps the role of the house as a social symbol. She emphasizes that this function is not confined to the homes of the elite. The homes of all classes express social standing and aspirations in their own grammar. She explains politely that geographers overlook social symbolism when they frame their analyses in the imperatives of the natural environment or economic organization.

In a brief tangent Roux discusses the traditional association of women with the protected, interior space of the home. In broad brush strokes she paints a picture of the division of labor in prehistoric times based on biological necessities of reproduction and long periods of childcare, as well as the need for someone to guard the fire and supplies at a home base. The reasons have vanished, but the imprint remains. Roux fumes that in an era of intellect sheltering women is an historical anomaly.

Simone Roux's background as an historian is always apparent, but she opens up new territory for geographers to explore. The themes she proposes suggest plans of attack. With the advent of tract houses the research avenue of folk house types is ending. But we need not view houses simply as artifacts in the landscape. We can investigate their entire social and historical fabric. We need not stop at the front door after describing the architecture; we can step inside and change our focus from the house to the home.

ANNE MARIE POLLOWY'S QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME.....

Affiliation,
Address
Telephone.....

What environmental issues are you concerned about regarding women?
(Education, research, design, user participation, etc.)

List specific/projects that you are/have been/will be working on.

Do you have any specialized literature/bibliography of interest to us?
-YES NO

Topic

Could you make it available? YES NO

Do you give/know of courses dealing with any aspect of women's
environmental issues? YES NO

Given by:

Affiliation:

Could you provide a syllabus? YES NO

Are you searching for any specific information or topic or support
network?

Please return to:
Anne-Marie Pollowy
P.O. Box 457
Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387
U.S.A.

WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENTS NETWORK

I am interested in participating in your proposed information-sharing network.

Name _____

Address _____

Nature of interests in women and environments:

Mail this form to:

- D. Morley
- B. Peterson
- G. Wekerle

Editors of Women and Environments Newsletter
Faculty of Environmental Studies
4700 Keele Street
Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R2

NEW NETWORK PARTICIPANTS

Abell, Helen C
Box 7
Stouffville, Ontario
L0H 1L0

Interests: Women in agriculture women and development.

Berman, Mildred
Dept. of Geography
Salem State College
Salem, Mass. 01970
U.S.A.

Judith Bernstein
Apt. 7, 455 Landfair Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024
U.S.A.

Interests: MA thesis topic: space use and space needs of different groups in Los Angeles' urban parks, and to the unequal provision for those needs vis a vis women.

Birch, Eugenie L
Briarcliff College
Briarcliff Manor
New York, N.Y. 10510
U.S.A.

Interests: Women and housing, women and urbanization.
Member: Institute for Research in History (Urban History Group); Columbia University seminar on the history of the city.

Burnett, Pat
Department of Geography
University of Texas
Austin, Texas
U.S.A.

Interests: Geographical studies of Women.

Lydia Burton
6 Admiral Road
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2L5

Interests: Attitudes toward and alterations in the status and role of women in society a) as reflected in fiction b) as displayed in the urban environment c) women as developers of counterculture.

Carol A. Carlson
3203 Sepulveda Blvd.
Apartment 3
Los Angeles, Calif. 90034
U.S.A.

Cropper, Mrs. Ann
"Chriswell House"
Edenbridge
Kent, England TN8 5PR

Interests: Status of Women in the European Economic Communities. Women living in hostile environments preparing an article on Northern Ireland and the "Peace Women".

*If your name is listed and your interests are not included here, or are incorrect, please send in the corrections on the network form.

Farnsworth, Winnie
55 Uxbridge Crescent
Hazeldean, Ontario K2L 1P6

Office: Public Service Commission
4C East
Sir Charles Tupper
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H2

Fathy, Ann Tyler
828 Silvergate Ave.
San Diego, Calif. 92106
U.S.A.

Office: County of San Diego
Integrated Planning Office
County Administrative Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, Calif. 92101
Interests: Increasing the impact of women; identifying and planning for women's needs

Fava, Professor Sylvia F.
78-12 35th Avenue
Jackson Heights
New York, N.Y. 11372
U.S.A.

Interests: Women and urban sociology; megalopolis and women's opportunities; women in suburbia; sex differences in urban and suburban activity patterns. Urban and suburban ecological patterns and their implications for the status of women.

Fernhout, Jolinda
Freeman Hall
Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass. 02181
U.S.A.

Ms. Fran Goldberg
1117-35 Cadarcroft Blvd.
Willowdale, Ontario M2R 2Z4

Interests: Crime Preventing and Environment. Design; Victimization of women and families
Wants newsletter to share information job opportunities.

Goldstein, Joan
E-14 Lakeview Terrace
Princeton, N.J. 08540
U.S.A.

Gunderson, Peter K.
Geography and Environmental
Sciences
4200 Farm Hill Blvd.
Canada College
Redwood City, Calif. 95061
U.S.A.

Interests: Especially interested in women in time-space constraints framework. Particularly interested in suburban women and the build environment.

Hartman, Marie
Dept. of Geography
Portland State University
P.O. Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207
U.S.A.

Hayden, Dolores
Fellow, Radcliff Institute
3 James Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02138
U.S.A.

Hoog, Marjorie
Urban Deadline Architects
2245 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10024

Pain Risa
Department of Geography
University of California
Berkeley, California
U.S.A.

Schiff, Myra
Dept. of Urban and
Regional Planning
University of Toronto
230 College Street
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

Silberfein, Marilyn
Dept. of Geography
Temple University
Philadelphia, Pa. 19122
U.S.A.

Steinberg, Lois
424 Petrose Street
Chicago, Illinois 60657
U.S.A.

Takanashi, Jane, Poroy
7500 Pacific Highway
San Diego, Calif. 92101
U.S.A.

Gilda Stern Good
Planning Research and
Services
National Capital Commission
48 Rideale
Ottawa-Hull
Canada K1N 8K5

Interests: Women and housing, especially forms of collective housing in urban and suburban areas which are designed with the needs of the working women in mind.

Interests: Current women's architecture the "Kitchen-garden" movement of the 1890's in the New York and Boston areas and particularly its relationship to the 19 the feminist cause.

Temporary: Mountain Research Station
University of Colorado
Nederland, Colorado, 80466
Interests: Media and Public Education on Environmental Issues.

Interests: Neighborhood Planning for women, especially as to facilitate their return to work.

Interests: Constraints on Female Mobility in Traditional rural Societies.

Interests: Women's role in decision making re local community services (urban, suburban) particularly education. Also interested in medical and other community based services.

Interests: Planning for economically and socially balanced communities. Citizen participation in planning process.

Rcsaria, Hodgdon
Dept. of Architecture
Eugene, Oregon 97403
U.S.A.

Mrs. G. Wiltshire
President, Provincial Council
of women of Ontario
492 Cooper Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5H9

Karla, Werner
Mosstena Backen 3
12432 Bandhagen, Stockholm
Sweden

Joan Goldsten, Fellow R.F. F.
E-14 Lakeview Terrace
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
U.S.A.

Jolinda, Fernhout
Freeman Hall
Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass. 02181
U.S.A.

Susan Blumenthal
Graduate Student
City planning
Cornell University
Box 485
Etna, New York 13062

Ms. Fran Goldberg
1117-35 Cedarcroft Blvd.
Willowdale, Ontario M2R 2Z4

Interests: sharing of information, Job opportunities, am working now in area of Crime Prevention and Environmental design.
Victimization of Women and Families

Interests: Planning for women in the environment; open-space planning; recreation, parks