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*Citizenship, Identity,
Community:
Feminists (Re) Present
the Political*

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Appendix: Conference Programme of
"Citizenship, Identity, Community: Feminists
(Re) Present the Political," a Conference Hosted
by the Women's Caucus of York University's
Graduate Program in Political Science,
March 19th and 20th, 1994, York University

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Editors' Note

This volume of *Problématique* stems from the conference *Citizenship, Identity, Community: Feminists (Re)Present the Political* hosted by the Women's Caucus of York University's Graduate Program in Political Science at York University on March 19th and 20th, 1994. The conference was a great success and brought together many graduate students from across North America and even some from Europe. Unfortunately, not all the papers presented that weekend could be reproduced here, however, the papers that are collected here represent several of the panels on citizenship, community, and identity.

Stella Gaon's "Thinking the Ethical Relation" and Monique Lanoix's "Liberal Democratic Theory and the Situated Individual" were presented together at the panel on *Feminism, Critical Theory and Post-Metaphysical Thought*. Gaon's paper contests the oft heard complaint that deconstruction provides no ground for progressive politics. Lanoix investigates the implications of Seyla Benhabib's concept of the individual as "situated" rather than "abstract" for liberal democratic theory. *Citizenship at the Margins* was the name of the panel at which Pura Sanchez Zamorano discussed Richard Rorty's attempt to glorify the ideals of liberal democracy. Sanchez argues that Rorty's narrative of the progression of liberal democracy is one that "alienates 'East' and 'South' from their contributions to humanism, and makes liberal democracy's practices, values, and goals the private property of the West." In the same panel, Ursula Biemann presented her study of images and text (and the politics of their production) created by women "between cultures" in a project entitled "Spaces In-Between."

Michelle Perez presented her paper "A Woman-Centred Theoretical Perspective on Interest Groups" at the panel on *Feminist Organizing and Community Politics*. Perez outlines the usefulness of Jill Vickers' et. al. "woman-centred" framework of interest groups, which more closely reflects the activities of new social movements and feminist groups, as opposed to that of more traditional analysts such as Paul Pross. Rohit Lekhi addressed the *Race, Class and Gender* panel with

"Context(s) of Class," which contests reductionist understandings of "class" and presents a way of thinking of class as "incorporat[ing] a whole range of contradictory and antagonistic, as well as complimentary and mutually supportive struggles." Cressida Heyes ("Investigating Wittgenstein") engaged Wittgenstein in an inventive dialogue which explored the possibilities of a Wittgensteinian feminism that might address essentialism in feminist thought, at the panel on *Problematizing Community: Beyond Atomism and Essentialism*.

Julianne Pidduck presented a critical discussion of radical feminism and the discourse of fear in "Feminist Rhetoric of Violence Against Women and the Production of Everyday Fear" at the panel on *Theorizing Violence*. And, at the panel on *Gender and the "Third World,"* Joanne Wright discussed the importance of a feminist deconstructive approach toward development theory, which "underscore[s] the patriarchal ideologies embedded in development," in her paper "Toward a Feminist Deconstruction of Development Theory." Other panels at the conference included *Feminist Pedagogy, Feminists and International Relations, Theorizing Motherhood, Employment Equity & Public Policy, Limitations of the Academic Feminist Community, The Construction of Marginalized Identities, Cultural Practices and Strategies for Resistance and Female Autobiographies and Narratives of Resistance*.

Neither the conference nor this journal would have come to fruition without the help of many people, especially the members of the Political Science Department Staff at York University, the members of the Women's Caucus Conference Committee and the editorial committee of *Problématique*. Our thanks to them and all those who helped out on both endeavors. We are also deeply indebted to the *Academic Initiatives Committee* of the Department of Political Science at York University, without whose generous support the production of this volume would not have been possible. We hope you enjoy this volume of *Problématique*.

Carolyn Bassett and Leslie Jeffrey
Editors