



## Activism versus "academic quality"

How to combine the interests of political activists with the need of feminist academics for scholarly merit and intellectual stimulus? Views vary on how successful the Women's Worlds 99 Conference in Tromsø was in this respect.

Page 9 -11

## Research Course

In August 2000 NIKK will organize a course that applies critical feminist perspective to the research processes in qualitative research.

Page 15

## "Living for Tomorrow":

With NIKK as organizer, people from eight European countries met for three days in Tallinn in Estonia this November to explore grounds for cooperation, linking gender research to sex education for young people. Basis for the cooperation is the NIKK project "Living for Tomorrow".

Page 18

## The 2000 Calender

"News from NIKK" provides you with an updated international Calender of Events for the year 2000.

Page 25-27

## Focus on:

# Gender Equality and Feminism(s)

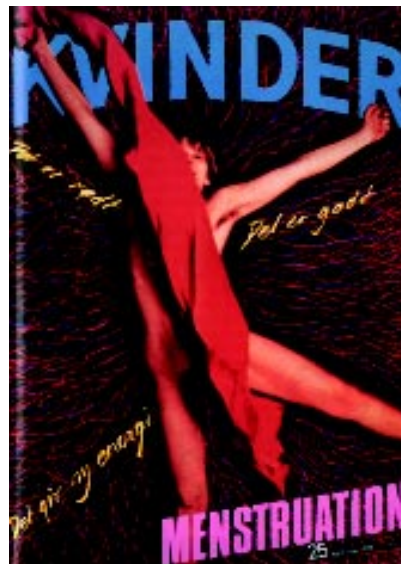
**How do we define gender equality in relation to feminism in the Nordic countries today, and how similar actually are the Nordic countries to each other in this area? What is the difference between feminism of today and the feminism of yesterday? Were the feminists of the seventies raving man haters - and is the "new wave" of Nordic feminism, which first began in Sweden, really only a phenomenon created by the media?**

Gender researchers from several Nordic countries met in Oslo last November to debate and challenge widely-held conceptions and myths concerning feminism, the Nordic model of gender equality and the normative stereotypes regarding gender presented in the media and advertising.

The conference "Invisible boundaries - gender and power" was held under the auspices of the Research Council of Norway by the research programs Gender in Transition and Power and Democracy (Kjønn i endring og Makt- og demokratiutredningen). About 150 participants, among them also representatives of the political and administrative gender equality "establishment" in Norway and the media, were gathered at the beautiful conference site Soria Moria on top of the hill overlooking the centre of the capital.

### The Danish "Redstockings"

In the session "The gender equality project: reflection and opposition" led by NIKK's research director Eva



The Danish feminist magazine "Kvinder" from the seventies and eighties exposed issues that so far had belonged to the private sphere.

Magnusson, Drude Dahlerup presented the Danish radical feminist movement Rødstrømperne ("Redstockings") from the seventies and eighties. In her extensive

cont. page 2



Christina Smith-Erichsen, one of the editors for the Norwegian anthology "Matriark", finds it problematic to focus on women as a group the way they did with the book.

research, which is unique in its field, Dahlerup analysed and described the Redstockings' history from 1970-85: who they were, what ideals and aims they aspired to, how they organised themselves and what they achieved. Drude Dahlerup, who was herself a Redstocking, is today Professor of Political Science at Stockholm University. Also on the panel was Christina Smith Erichsen, one of the editors of the Norwegian anthology "Matriark" and an exponent of the "new" feminist trend.

**Media Focus**

Is it in any way possible to compare the feminism of the seventies with the new wave of feminism which we encounter in the Swedish book "Fittstim" ("Cunt Cascade") and the similar Norwegian anthologies "Råtekst" (raw/rough draft) and Matriark ("Matriarch")? One similarity at least is the focus on how the media, fashion industry and advertising speculate in women's bodies and sexuality - at the same time as these protests get wide media coverage. The Redstockings' debut on the media "scene" is described like this by Drude Dahlerup in her two volume book:

*"On the 8. April 1970 a group of young women - there were actually not more than about 15 of them - marched down Copenhagen's main pedestrian street, Strøget. They shouted slogans against the cosmetic industry's exploitation of women and demanded equal pay. On the placards they had written: "Women, stand up!". With enormous stuffed bosoms, big hats, false eyelashes and red stockings, they brought not only their slogans, but also their own young bodies to the attention of the public. Here was a new kind of feminist. This was the first demonstration by the Redstockings in Denmark, and the press covered the event extensively."*

- Many myths abound regarding feminists of the seventies and the Redstockings. That they were raving man haters, that they actually were against gender equality, states Drude Dahlerup. These are myths and stories based on prejudice, which are transmitted to the next generation - and also in fact reproduced by some of the "new" feminists.

**Radical, social movement**

But according to Dahlerup, the Danish Redstocking movement was first and foremost a radical, leftist, social liberation movement. Here they differ both from today's young feminists and the gender equality oriented women's groups which Drude Dahlerup names "equality feminism", and which today is official state policy in the Nordic countries.

The women's liberation feminists as the Redstockings maintains that a prerequisite for women's liberation is a classless society and vice versa. Their slogan was therefore: "No women's liberation without class struggle" and "No class struggle without women's liberation." At that time the great potential of the Redstockings in Denmark was their ability to mobilise, to develop new ways of thinking and alternative ways of doing things, Drude Dahlerup points out.

At the same time this feminist movement was a necessary prerequisite for the development of the gender equality politics. While the gender equality feminists concentrated on bringing women into the public sphere, into politics and business, and left out the private sphere, the women's lib feminists did not distinguish between the oppression of women in the private and in public sphere. They argued that every woman had to liberate herself, whilst the gender equality model had as its aim to save "the others", Dahlerup states in her presentation. She also shows how women's lib feminism actually legitimised the gender equality politics. Gender equality became the state's answer to the more extreme demands from the women' lib feminists for changes in society, over and above gender equality.

That which gender equality feminism and women's lib feminism also had in common was that they both rebelled against deterministic biology tradition which talked about the "unchangeable nature" of women and men, a trend which is well on its way back into today's popular debate on gender issues in media. Moreover, the two tendencies were united in their demands regarding



Drude Dahlerup has analysed and documented the development of the largest feminist movement in Scandinavia during a period of 15 years.



The many colourful protestmarches launched by the "Redstockings" against the portrayal of women in the media and advertising got wide media coverage in the early seventies.

women's autonomy and the integration of both sexes in the private and public sectors.

**The sole player on the field**

What challenges are the Nordic societies faced with after twenty years of legislation and politics of gender equality? Drude Dahlerup draws a picture of a rather "monocultural" society:

- State feminism is the only player left on the field. Gender equality is not an election topic and has in general a low political leverage. Today's Nordic gender equality policy turns a completely blind eye to ethnic groups and the challenges they represent as far as gender

equality is concerned. Moreover, gender equality feminism completely ignores structural conditions, as the question of power in a globalizing world.

- Gender equality suffers under consensus at its lowest level, namely: "Let us all agree on gender equality because it is to everyone's advantage". But real gender equality can not be to everyone's advantage. It has to involve exclusion and discrimination, that somebody has to go without privileges. It will be about confrontation, for how much can you change the world by being nice? asks Drude Dahlerup.

**Ambivalence to feminism**

Christina Smith-Erichsen admits to being what has been characterised as "one of the young, hip feminists" and describes the attention given to the publishing of the Norwegian anthology "Matriark" as "absurd".

She admits that she herself and her generation of women feel ambivalent about feminism. She thinks the feminism of the seventies was characterised by portraying themselves as victims in every way, and if there is anything today's young, well-educated feminists refuse to be seen as, it is as victims.

- There is something destructive in joining a community which worships everything feminine and sees itself as victim of outside forces, she argues. It is difficult for us to speak on behalf of other women. It is problematic in itself to focus on women as a group, the way we do in the collection of essays "Matriark". Our aim is to be seen as individual human beings, not as members of a sex, she says.

At the same time Christina Smith-Erichsen recognises that women are still unfairly treated because of their sex and that it is necessary "at times" to act as a group, that there still is a need for being organised as women to achieve certain goals. But there is reason to protest against the glorification of the female. Women are not saints by nature, she points out.

**A common utopia**

The debate following the panel presentations there was pointed out that it is easier to see what unites than what divides feminism throughout the ages. Feminism involves a shared utopia, it is a rebellion against oppression, a protest against being undermined and dominated. Drude Dahlerup concluded by saying that each generation of feminists will define themselves differently according to the way society changes, and that it is only natural for young girls to rebel against their mother.

Trine Lynggard



## The "Cunt Cascade" takes on Denmark

The notoriously titled feminist anthology *Fittstim* ("Cunt Cascade") first took Sweden by storm, and created a media uproar. Sexual equality was on the agenda again, in a way that hadn't been seen for years. Less than six months later a Norwegian version of the book *Råtekst* (Rough Draft) with original Norwegian contributions hit the bookstands, inspiring a heated feminist debate in Norway. A new and vocal generation of uncompromising feminists had emerged – at least in Sweden and Norway.



The Danish edition of "Fittstim".

The Danish webmagazine *FORUM For Gender and Culture* ([www.forum.kvinfo.dk](http://www.forum.kvinfo.dk)) was the first Danish magazine to snap up the news about *Fittstim* and *Råtekst*. A couple of months later the story was picked up by the dailies *Information*, *Politiken* and *Berlinske Tidende*. Everybody wondered what was going on in Denmark – or rather, what wasn't going on. Where was the new generation of feminists? Why was the debate about sexual equality so limp and uninspired?

### Youth appeal

Things may yet change. In November 99 the daily newspaper *Information* published a Danish translation of „Fittstim“. The journalist Christina Grøntved has written an introduction to the Danish edition and Stine Willumsen, a student at the University of Copenhagen, has written the single Danish contribution. *Informations* hosted a debate night on „the problems young women have with their self-esteem in a so-called ‚equal-status‘ society“. The book has been reviewed by all major newspapers to general right-on-chicks applause.

The book is published to appeal to a younger set of feminists – the daughters of 70s feminists. The editors of the Swedish publication Linda Norrman Skugge and Belinda Olsson said to *FORUM for Gender*

*and Culture*: „Feminism is about equality between the sexes – if you don't approve of that, you'r not even a humanist. We aren't tired of the feminists of the 70s. We honour them!“. The Danish editor Christina Grøntved, however, denounces those feminists as „man-hating and bitter“, likens them to „men with lipstick“ and concludes: „I am not a feminist. I am a Fittstim-feminist.“

This garble illustrates one of the problems in the Danish debate on equality. While a number of younger women want to embrace a feminist ideal or vision, they jump through hoops to distance themselves from the feminists and the feminism of the 70s. Preferring in some cases to idealize the „honest and stalwart suffragettes“ from way back. Clear thinking gets completely clouded over by mythological memorabilia of the 70s women's movement.

### Something is going on

Several recent publications in Denmark, however, testify to the fact, that there is *something* going on – also among the „younger set“. Just to mention a few: four young writers and opinion-makers have come clean as feminists in the debate book *Borgerlig ord efter revolution* ("Civil observations after the revolution") – although they of course aren't „70s feminists“. A group of younger women from the

University of Copenhagen *„Feministisk Forum*, have started a series of debate meetings on women in academia, Kvinfo is currently holding a series of lectures on *Girl Power* and two books on „why it's such a hell of a problem to be a woman“ have just come out.

### Lacking funding and direction

On top of that, women's issues make good copy and the newspapers are full of it. But lacking is political backing, funding and direction. Successive governments seem to think that equal opportunity is a problem that will take care of itself ... given time rather than given political impetus, prestige and resources. A Minister of Equal Status has been appointed and The Danish Council on Equal Status is undergoing radical restructuring – but we've heard from neither for quite a while. Women and gender research lacks funding and prestige, university centres in the field of gender research are slowly dying from exhaustion, few universities have any kind of policies in place to secure women equal employment and research opportunity at university level.

*Annette Nielsen, Editor Forum for gender and culture*



# When feminism becomes entertainment

**- The most important arena for today's young Swedish feminists, the anarchist feminists and the tabloid feminists, is the media. Whilst the anarchist feminists burn porno pictures which look good on direct TV-news broadcasts, the tabloid feminists write, talk and make themselves visible in the media, for example, through the book "Fittstim", states journalist and author Petra Ulmanen.**

- Personal stories of complexes about ones own body, fashion pressure and influence of the media, eating disorders and sexual problems are well-suited to the media world, where focus on the personal and the body sell well at the newsagents', whatever the ideological implications. One day they sell copies because of beauty and sex. The next day sales are based on reports of feminists raging against beauty and sex fixation, continues Petra Ulmanen, author of the book about the Swedish "Stödstrumporna" ("supportstockings") in the nineties, an effective women's network and pressure group before the 1994 elections. She is also one of the editors of the Swedish feminist cultural magazine "bang".

## **Losing their political edge**

Petra Ulmanen was invited to the Conference "Invisible boundaries – gender and power" in Oslo to talk about feminism in Sweden in the nineties, where the "new feminist wave" started. She was however not able to come, but talking to *News from Nikk* she says that she is afraid that both the tabloid and the anarchist feminists risk getting stuck in the media's logic of continually having to sell more magazine and

newspaper copies. Criticism is turned into entertainment. She thinks they risk losing their political edge.

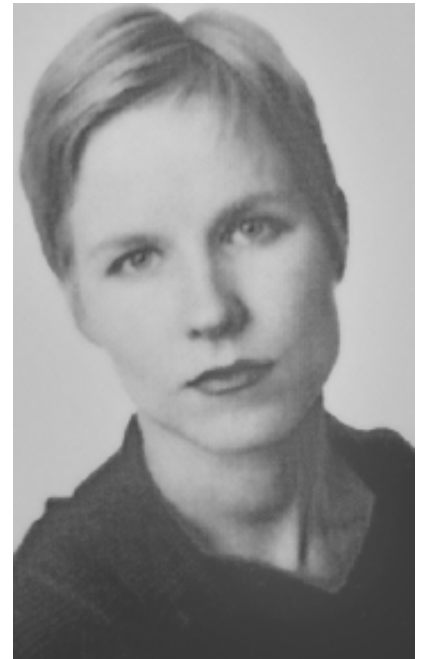
## **Criticism of the politics of equality**

*- Sweden is considered number one on the "Gender Equality List". How would you account for the fact that this "wave" of new-feminism started here of all places?"*

- Perhaps both anarchist and tabloid feminism is an answer to and a criticism of the politics of gender equality and its rhetoric. The struggle for women's liberation has become institutionalised at the same rate as the illusion has spread that other people would now take care of it all, that "everything is fine now". This is an illusion that can easily lead to passivity and frustration. Contempt for politicians and bureaucrats is common and increasing. At the same time the struggle for gender equality is being run more and more from the top, by others, in more and more sophisticated ways. In this way the dependency on the media as intermediaries of new developments on the gender equality front, increases. On the other hand, gender equality politics have employment and workplace as the main focus. So here we risk losing focus on the more private and personal aspects of oppression, says Petra Ulmanen.

## **Media's picture of women**

She points out that there is no political tool, which can be used against advertising, the porno industry and the entertainment media industry speculating in sex, body and sexuality. That would be to forgo basic democratic values, such as freedom of speech and



*Petra Ulmanen, Swedish journalist and author, warns today's young feminists against using media as their most important arena.*

freedom of the press, even if by doing so we could put an end to the way women's democracy is being limited.

- What we have left are demonstrations, advocacy and initiating public debates. But I would like a debate which focuses more on what the media's picture of women means for women as citizens, not only for women as private people. The way things look in Sweden today, the debate risks strengthening divisions between the private and the political sphere instead of showing the connection between the two, says Petra Ulmanen.

*Trine Lynggard*



# - State feminists have forgotten immigrant women

**- Both the feminists of the seventies and the state feminists of the eighties have a cultural problem. Today they are themselves inside administrative positions, while immigrant, refugee and minority women are still on the outside, says Birte Siim. The Danish researcher includes also feminist researchers in state institutions in this privileged category of state feminists whom she claims have overlooked the question of ethnicity in their gender research.**

In her presentation in the session "Liberal feminism's borders" at the Oslo gender research conference "Invisible boundaries – gender and power" in November, Birte Siim from the Feminist Research Centre in Aalborg talked about citizenship and feminism, gender, democracy and a changing welfare state. She was extremely critical of the established state feminists - and here she also included feminist research workers in the state institutions - for letting down the immigrant and minority groups. According to her, Nordic

feminist research has not included ethnicity.

## **Part of the system**

- The perspective of change, which lies in feminism, the perspective from below, has become invisible. Women's liberation has become a part of the system, coupled to the struggle for a more just society based on solidarity, says Birte Siim. She sees gender equality as part of the established political culture, while gender equality for minorities is a non-issue. She points out that in the USA and England the picture is different. Here there is a long tradition of linking together women's rights and the rights of minorities.

## **Equality can become conformity**

- Instead, the public debate is about women's possibilities to wield power in the welfare state. Gender equality becomes a niche, detached from other political questions. But for the question of women's power, it is a democratic problem that all women do not have the same power. It is our responsibility as state feminists and

feminist researchers in public institutions to focus on this democratic problem. Instead one talks of integrating "the strangers" who have "other cultures and values". Within the discourse on gender equality and solidarity lies a barrier against integrating "the others", states Birte Siim who feels that the norm for gender equality easily can become the norm for one-sided conformity.

## **Women have a lot of power**

At the same time Siim points out that women today actually have a lot of power in public institutions. There has been empowerment, women sit in positions where they have the power to draft laws, they are able to wield influence. But this has also created new differences between women - and in particular with regard to minorities. Birte Siim's conclusion is that state feminism has lost its base, as well as transformational power and radicalism.

*Trine Lynggard*

## **New Book on Gender Equality - now in English!**

How equal are women and men in the Nordic countries? How homogeneous are the Nordic countries? Can we talk about a Nordic Model of Gender Equality? These questions are raised in a new book published by the Nordic Council of Ministers now available in English. The contributors confirm that different Nordic countries including the self-governing islands of the Faeroes, Greenland and Åland have many characteristics in common in this field. But the book reveals that processes of creating gender equality have also differed in many respects. In fact, the differences are greater in quantity and kind than we have been aware of so far. The diversity reflects different cultural, structural and historical conditions, but also different strategies developed by the feminist and gender equality movements in each country.

*"Equal Democracies? Gender Politics in the Nordic Countries". Oslo: Scandinavian University Press, 1999. Ed. Christina Bergquist. ISBN 82 00 12 7990.*



# What is gender equality in politics today?

**A part of the joint Nordic research project “Nordic Gender Equality” Between Rhetoric and Practice is a study of variations in politicians’ rhetoric when expressing their favourable attitudes to gender equality, i.e. the different ways they write about, and argue for, gender equality. The first part of the study, briefly reported here, deals with Swedish politicians.**

In institutionalized political life in the Nordic countries the concept gender equality<sup>1</sup> has a firm standing, and is a fairly frequent topic in party-political rhetoric and legislation. There are several institutions and other societal structures geared towards developing and implementing gender equality policies. Practically all politicians in the Nordic countries today, regardless of political affiliation, express themselves in favour of gender equality. This political unanimity has been part of the “Nordic profile” in politics for some time now, while also being subjected to continuing scrutiny by feminist researchers. This article presents one such study.

## From seven political parties

I have studied documents from the seven parties in the Swedish parliament written explicitly to show political party lines on gender equality politics, such as political party programs, parliamentary bills and articles in political journals. All texts are contemporary and all argue for gender equality. In political texts “gender equality” is sometimes used in ways that give it several meanings and make it serve several purposes; also seemingly contradictory ones. Since this pattern was also present in the documents I had access to, I searched for the different versions of gender equality that were implied in these various arguments. A “version”

of gender equality consists of a specific view of what is important where gender equality is concerned, often emphasizing a certain part of daily life, and a certain way of conceptualizing femininity and masculinity. The versions are connected, although not in simple ways, to theoretical divisions of arguments for gender equality in rights, resource, and interest arguments. There are also connections, though still not simple ones, to the main lines of the respective political parties.

In order to give some indication of the rather complicated rhetorical patterns in the texts, I list the versions, sorted into five tentative subgroups, and with short descriptive labels:<sup>2</sup>

## Five versions

**A.** Versions emphasizing social consensus and gender neutrality. (1) Gender equality seen as identical to the liberal-humanist ideal of general equality. (2) Gender equality that will benefit everybody, men as well as women. (3) Gender equality seen as the ultimate proof of democracy.

**B.** Versions emphasizing individualism. (4) Real gender equality seen as basically a question of individual attitudes. (5) The gender equality of new generations: personal expression as the ideal, rather than political struggle. (6) Gender equality issues seen as family matters that should stay outside of politics.

**C.** Versions emphasizing sex differences. (7) Gender equality as a question of imparting scientific knowledge: how to take sex differences into account. (8) Women’s perspective: gender equality and women’s unique contributions as women. (9) “If only there were more men here!” Men’s contributions as men to gender equality.

**D.** Versions emphasizing men’s relations to gender equality. (10) Gender equality that will benefit men. (11) Women are not enough: the new man helps women become equal.

**E.** Versions emphasizing women’s relations to gender equality. (12) Gender equality is about women’s issues and should therefore be women’s responsibility. (13) Gender equality is in the interest of women as a group, and is therefore in opposition to men’s interests as a group.

**F.** Gender equality’s boundaries at the extreme: in what political and other areas having to do with women and/or men is “gender equality” not actualized?

## Not a common meaning?

A first impression after scrutinizing the party documents is that there may not be a common meaning of gender equality in Swedish politics today. Not surprising, perhaps, but worth thinking about when encountering rhetoric concerning gender equality as gender equality, in the generic sense. A second impression is that some of the coexistent meanings given to gender equality are theoretically incompatible. Even within the same text, rhetoric aims sometimes seem to override demands for logic and stringency. Finally, it is obvious from the documents studied that distinctions in arguments having to do with difference/similarity/equality etc., are seldom as clear-cut in political practice as when made on philosophical and meta-theoretical levels. This is in one sense so self-evident as to be almost banal, but still it needs to be taken into account when studying gender equality practices and rhetoric. The “practical noise” introduced by daily life ►





and practical political positioning is high enough to permit muddiness, contradictions and incompatibilities to remain unnamed or passed by, in order to serve rhetorical purposes.

**Comparative study**

A final reflection is in order here, on whether this approach to gender equality furthers our knowledge about the tension between rhetoric and practice in gender equality politics. Perhaps in a sense it really does; by helping to map the political and conceptual terrains to show where the gender-equality political territory in practice begins and ends. Perhaps it may also help in achieving a clearer vision of the agreements and disagreements about the map, and where it could be changed. If all the versions are to be taken into account as legitimate "gender equality" (and there are sure to be more than the ones here), then politicians and others may want to rethink what "being in favour of" gender equality means.

The next step for the Nordic project studying gender equality rhetoric and practice is to carry out a comparative study of gender equality versions involving Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

Co-workers in the Nordic project of which this study is a part are: Eva Magnusson, psychology, NIKK, Oslo; Anne Maria Holli, political science, Helsinki; Beatrice Halsaa, political science, Oslo/Lillehammer; Dorte Marie Søndergaard, psychology, Roskilde; Guro Karstensen, linguistics, NIKK, Oslo; Harriet Silius, sociology/women's studies, Turku; Malin Rönblom, political science, Umeå; Maud Eduards, political science, Stockholm.

*Eva Magnusson*  
Head of research,  
NIKK

1 The expression "gender equality" is an English translation of the terms "jämställdhet" (Swedish), and "likestilling/ligestilling" (Norwegian/Danish), used to designate politics and policies to further equal rights between women and men.

2 The report on this study is available from NIKK's web site in both a Swedish and an English version.

# Women in science, why so few?

Governments, industry and research funders around the world want to increase the numbers of women in science. The relatively recent recognition of the economic value of not squandering half of our scientific potential is the modern face of a grass roots campaign many decades old.

Despite many years of increased representation of women amongst science graduates, this has, remarkably, failed to translate into their presence at senior levels within academia, science institutions and science policy-making bodies. In the year 1999 many widely respected scientific institutions around the world find that the percentage of their female staff remains, stubbornly, in single figures.

With growing evidence of both real and unconscious discrimination against female researchers, and against a backdrop of increasing political and even legal activity, Nature launched a web debate on the issue that run from 9th of September to 14th of October 1999.

The debate was led by six senior international figures within the arena of women in science. Questions raised by contributors in the first weeks of the debate was: Why are there so few? Is discrimination real or imagined? How important is the conflict between family and a research career? Are women-only positions the answer?

In addition to this debate we have released a special web-feature bringing together our reports and articles on the subject of women in science from the past 2 years onto an open access site; <http://www.nature.com/cgi-bin/wbsp-index.cgi?def=37c03951.def>

*Natasha Loder, Web Editor, Nature*  
*Nancy Lane, Moderator, University of Cambridge*

## From the debate....

*"Each generation of young women, including those who are currently senior faculty, began by believing that gender discrimination was «solved» in the previous generation and would not touch them. Gradually however, their eyes were opened to the realization that the playing field is not level after all, and that they had paid a high price both personally and professionally as a result."*

Mary-Lou Pardu, Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

*«At the end of the 20th century women remain a minority in the scientific disciplines. We have waited for women to trickle up through the system for at least a decade and we seem to be no closer to equality.»*

Nancy J.Lane, cell biologist at Cambridge University and Director of the University's new Initiative for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology

*"The promotion of women in science is of crucial importance for European society as a whole. By «letting women in», the scientific system can only improve and better respond to societal needs."*

Nicole Dewandre, head of "Women in Science" sector of DGX11 within the European Commission

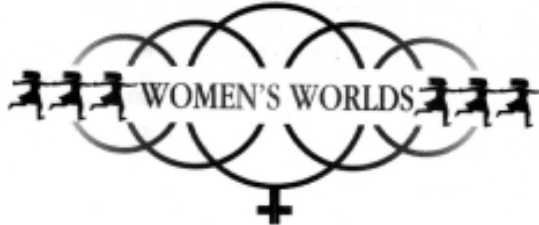
*"There are now not enough women applicants for professorships or institute director positions, even though enough of them were in the starting positions twenty years ago."*  
Sybille Krummacher, scientist at the Research Centre Jülich.

Read the debate at: <http://helix.nature.com/debates/>





# From “down under” to “the top of the world”



**Whereas the sixth Women's Worlds congress in 1996 took place in Adelaide in Southern Australia, Women's Worlds 99, the Seventh International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, was set on the northernmost university campus in the world – in Tromsø, Norway, from June 20 to 26. With approximately 1600 participants from almost 80 countries, Women's Worlds 99 was a gigantic task to undertake for the small and recently established Centre for Women's Studies and Women in Research of the University of Tromsø. However, by most accounts it was a success, academically, culturally as well as socially.**

From early on the congress planning emphasized the “meeting-place” ambition. Although feminist research and interdisciplinary scholarship have formed the basis for these conferences, every Women's Worlds congress has also aimed at serving as a meeting-place – for grassroots activists and affirmative action officers, for young and old, for students as well as for established academics. A particular ambition to us Tromsø organizers was to serve as a meeting-place for representatives from the North – the high Arctic areas included – and the South, men as well as women, and artists/practitioners as well as theoreticians.

Considering that Tromsø has no congress hall which can house more than 800 people, it was just not

going to be possible to assemble all the Women's Worlds 99 participants in one physical meeting-place at any one time during the conference week. Hence it was all-important to structure the program in a way which took this logistic limitation into account.

In keeping with these ambitions the conference program that was constructed was very varied and very big. The basic program structure was made up of thirteen program sections: (I) GenDerations; (II) New Constructions of Gender; (III) Women, Power and Politics; (IV) Gendering Work and the Economy; (V) Gendering Health; (VI) Sexualized Violence; (VII) Gendering the Past; (VIII) Gendering the Future; (IX) Peace, Indigenous and Human Rights; (X) Culture, Creativity and Spirituality; (XI) Gender, Science and Technology; (XII) The Women's Movement/Feminist Activism Worldwide; and (XIII) Gendering Men.

In addition to the thirteen program sections, five “special focus areas” were formulated: “the Nordic experience”, “North-South perspectives”, “Young voices”, “Celebrating multiculturalism and diversity”, “Questioning work”. These five focuses were supposed to serve as cross-disciplinary guidelines in formulating session themes, in the process of selecting keynote speakers and in setting the general conference atmosphere. With the very broad profile chosen for the conference, both in thematic

and in geographical terms, it was felt to be particularly important to cast our net of invitations as widely as possible. Of the thirty-one invited speakers presented in the conference program, twenty-eight were able to make it to Tromsø.

## **Activism versus “academic quality”?**

A major challenge to all the Women's Worlds conferences has been how to combine the interests of political activists with the need of feminist academics for scholarly merit and intellectual stimulus. Not surprisingly, reactions and views vary on how successful this year's conference was in this respect. Whereas some complain that there is not enough fighting feminist spirit in today's feminist scholars, others were more worried that the really exciting – and important – new research is in danger of being drowned by the political activism *and* research of mediocre quality that, in their view, seems to follow from the latter. The organizing committee would love to hear from more of you on this issue, which *still* seems a very central one to feminists and feminist research!

## **Cross-disciplinary rather than inter-disciplinary?**

Based on the reports and reactions that we have so far received, in addition to our own observations during the conference week, it seems fair to conclude that the conference was quite successful in its ambition to serve as a meeting-place for researchers and consumers of research. The “interdisciplinarity” aim, which was another key ambition, that is of breaking down traditional barriers between disciplines, was perhaps less successful: did we perhaps not go far enough in



encouraging the crossing of disciplinary borderlines when setting up the program? We certainly did try to when setting up thematic program sections like "genDerations" and "New Constructions of Gender". However, I think it may be argued that this remains one of the major challenges of women's/feminist studies and research today. In a world which seems to become increasingly specialized, it is a tremendous challenge to create genuine fusion and not merely meetings or "touchdowns" between different disciplines or areas of research. However, attempts were made, and in some cases fascinating new processes started, which we hope to hear more about in the years to come.

#### **Bringing North, South, East and West together**

For a *world* conference to be truly that, it needs of course to have speakers and a program that aims at covering as broad a selection of topics and themes as possible. But it also needs delegates from as broad a geographical basis as possible. Consequently, the organizing committee at an early stage formulated an ambition to seek financing for a "solidarity fund" aimed at sponsoring delegates from so-called Third World countries and Eastern Europe. We had hoped to be able to get funding for 150 delegates, but ended up being able to sponsor 84. However, even though we thus must be said to have fallen short of our ambition, we can still say that we were pleased at being able to finance this number. In general, we can say that Norwegian sources were on the whole very generous. NORAD, the Norwegian development agency, above all, should be thanked profusely. But what we did not manage at all, was attracting international funds (i.e. anything beyond Nordic sources).

#### **"Young voices ambition"**

The ambition to attract young people must be said to have been one of the ambitions that we felt we

were not able to fulfill in the way that we intended. For one thing, we did not attract as many young participants as we had hoped to, although it was an important criterion in our "solidarity fund" delegates selection. This has partly to do with the expense involved in travelling to what is to most people a very remote and expensive part of the world. But I think it also has to do with one of the tendencies of modern academia/conferences. Whether this is going to make a conference like Women's Worlds lose its appeal in the years to come, will be one of the questions that remains to be answered by the organizers of coming International Interdisciplinary Congress(es) on Women.

#### **Proceedings are in the making**

The organizing committee is now working on the Proceedings, among other things trying to find funding for producing a CD-rom version. To date we have received more than two hundred papers, so obviously the process of selecting the papers and other material for inclusion will take some time. But with a CD-rom format it will be possible to include a lot more of the conference material – not only in the form of papers, but also abstracts, the full program, some of the media coverage and so on. By the summer of 2000 we hope to have the Proceedings ready for distribution in one form or another.

#### **Women's Worlds 2002 – in Uganda!**

Finally we say "Good luck, Uganda!" The responsibility for organizing the next, the 8th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, is now on the point of being handed over to Makerere University in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. We hope to see many of you there, in three years' time!

*Gerd Bjørhovde  
Dr.Philos., Professor of English  
Literature and Convenor of  
Women's Worlds 99*

## **New Co-ordinator for Men's Studies**

A project-financed position as Nordic Co-ordinator for Men's Studies was established at NIKK for the period 1999-2001. Øystein Gullvåg Holter who was appointed for it, started his work at NIKK in May 1999, but has now left us. His new e-mail address is oeholter@online.no. The position was announced again in November, five men and a woman have applied, and the new co-ordinator will be appointed as soon as possible. At NIKK we will do our best to continue and strengthen the important work to further advance Nordic Men's Studies and strengthen links between Men's Studies and Women's Studies. This implies also to integrate Men's Studies with relevant areas of Nordic Women's Studies and Gender Research, as well as contribute to co-operation in the Nordic countries and the adjacent areas, throughout Europe and in other parts of the world. A growing demand for research-based knowledge and information on men and masculinity has been the primary impetus for the establishment of this position for the Nordic Co-ordinator for Men's Studies. The Nordic countries have the means to serve as pioneers in the Men's Studies field and play a key role in promoting and enhancing this area of study and inquiry on an international scale.

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## **New information Advisor at NIKK**

Trine Lynggard started working at NIKK last August as senior information advisor and editor of the bulletins "News from NIKK" and "Nytt fra Nykk". Trine Lynggard has more than 20 years of experience as journalist specialised in international women's issues. She came to NIKK from FOKUS – Forum for Women and Development in Norway - where she had worked for ten years as head of information and editor of the quarterly magazine "Kvinner Sammen".



# Does academic feminism have a political project?

## A few thoughts in the aftermath of Women's Worlds 99 in Tromsø

Hundreds of women, new impressions, standing in lines for lunches, travelling in buses, crowded meeting rooms and a mixture of languages; there is much to be said and thought about big international women's studies conferences. Though they are sometimes a bit impersonal and superficial, I still see such conferences as free spaces, rooms for validation but also for criticism. Among my thoughts about Women's Worlds 99 in Tromsø, I have chosen to highlight one issue that is constantly present in my thoughts about feminist research: the relation between research and movement, that is, the political project of academic feminism.

### "Should we do something?"

As a group of conference participants, on the fifth day of the conference, were sitting down in the bus that was to take us from Tromsø center to the university campus where the conference was held, a discussion started among us on the theme "shouldn't we be *doing* something? Why aren't we *saying* anything; here we are, more than a thousand feminists gathered for five days. We ought to be able to make some kind of public statement in common!?"

Now, a few months afterwards, I think that this intense discussion on the bus came out of frustration over the way the conference week had turned out. Slowly but steadily a longing for opportunities for longer discussions had grown; in rushing between sessions, lining up for lunch packets and in the discussions that were terminated because of time shortage. For me this was also about a wish for a more manifest connection between feminist research and feminist political work

for change. This conference was after all not for researchers alone; there were also sizeable numbers of activists present. Some politicians also participated; among them the gender equality ministers from the Nordic countries, who were invited to a session on Nordic gender equality policies. Perhaps it was particularly in this session I felt the absence of critical perspectives on the part of the organizers. Having to listen to hours of empty political rhetoric, with no critical questions asked, almost made me burst. The usual hegemonic picture was reproduced: the Nordic countries as the stronghold of gender equality, and they ought now to give their gender equality resources to the men...

### Surviving in patriarchal structures

My overall good impression of the conference was saved by the last two conference sessions, where the theme was the women's movement in the academy. The mere fact that the conference organizers had reserved one full session for discussions where all participants had a chance of introducing themselves and work through issues that were evoked by previous sessions, was a liberating experience. The sessions on academic feminism were held by a group of Canadian researchers who had worked together over some years. Among them, professor Keith Louse Fulton spoke under the heading "Living strategically as a professor." The major theme canvassed throughout the whole session was the possibility for surviving and working as feminists in a patriarchal setting. What does it actually imply that women's studies and feminist research today has very largely been

integrated into existing university structures? Carmen Lambert gave us one possible reply, when she pronounced: "We have been busy being ladies!"

### From women to gender

Francine Descarries discussed the relation between Anglo-Saxon feminist research and "the other" feminist research and pointed to the interpretative prerogatives and the language hegemony, English. Based on her presentation among others, the next session started a discussion about the concept "gender". The organizers wanted to discuss the implications of the current change in terminology, from previously *women's studies* or *feminist studies*, to the currently common *gender studies*. Many different voices were heard in the debate on this, but my impression was that there is a fairly strong critique against the ways the "gender" concept is being used. This critique was well illustrated by a woman from Pakistan who described the effects of such changes in terminology on economic development aid: today it is not possible to get support for projects directed specifically at women. The term *women's projects* has been substituted by *gender projects* which means that half of the people involved in any project have to be men. According to this woman, feminist perspectives are seen as confrontational, for instance by the World Bank. They have instead chosen to adopt a "gender" terminology that may work against women's needs when concretized in projects. Thus, when researchers make what seems to be "just" a change in terminology, the consequences in practice may be very



problematic for women's daily work for change.

**Academic concepts politicized**

My main conclusion after that discussion was that we have to keep an eye on what happens when our academic, analytical concepts are politicized, and on the fact that this process often is very quick, since feminist research in itself is often seen as a political project. This of course is not a problem only for what we export to the Third World. For instance, in Sweden, though there is a close cooperation between women politicians and femocrats in the administrations, and feminist researchers, we still cannot entirely avoid such "word abuse." A recent example comes from the Swedish government authority for social security, which has issued a *gender program* for social welfare, without once mentioning in their text that a *gender perspective* has something to do with power relations between women and men. Is there some connection here between our work as feminist academics who want our research to make a difference, and take our departure in feminist perspectives in order to also change the world in which we ourselves are living, and what happens when "our" concepts are disseminated and used in other contexts – or abused?

**No politics**

In reply to a direct question about why the conference did not have a final plenary where the conference participants could have had the chance to consider making a common statement or resolution, the conference organizers answered that they were not doing politics; they were organizing a research conference. To my mind that is a strange answer, and definitely not in accord with my view of what feminist research is. It is self-evident that there may be great difficulties in finding a common line of policy that all the conference participants could agree on, but there are issues such as men's violence against women,

# NIKK on the Net

On NIKK's web site you will find regularly updated information about NIKK's activities, publications and online databases, as well as an events calendar, links to Women's Studies and Gender Research web sites, gender equality bodies, funding possibilities etc. Below is a short list of the content.

**Research Projects**

Find out more about the ongoing research projects; Living for Tomorrow, Gender Equality between Rhetoric and Practice, and Gender, Power and Psychology.

**Online Publishing**

You can also order paper versions of NIKK's publications and subscribe to our free newsletters directly from the web site.

**Nordic Virtual Women's Studies and Gender Research Library**

The virtual library contains searchable resources to Women's Studies and Gender Research in the Nordic countries on the net. Included are Bibliographical databases, Databases on areas of competence, projects, and institutions, Archives, Statistics and Gender Equality Information. The virtual library is a collaborative project between libraries and information services in the Nordic

countries focused on gender. Included are also the two NIKK databases **EDITH & EMILJA**.

**AOIFE**

the secretariat for the Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe is located at NIKK, as well as the AOIFE web site.

**Women's Studies and Gender Research Addresses & Links**

Here you find contact information for Women's Studies and Gender Research in all the five Nordic countries. We have also linked to all Women's Studies and Gender Research institutions and organisations with web pages in the Nordic countries. The links by countries in Europe are many and we also have a few international links.

**Nordic/International Calendar**

Information about research related events with focus on gender both within and outside the Nordic countries.

**Funding Sources**

A few are specifically related to Women's Studies and Gender Research, whereas most have a general and/or Nordic focus.

**New URL - please update links and bookmarks;**

<http://www.nikk.uio.no>

women's rights to paid work and political representation, on which it should be possible to make common statements. The midnight sun Marathon that was arranged during the conference could have been a women's march against men's violence against women, for instance. I cannot see that that would have been more tastelessly "political" than allowing five Nordic ministers for gender equality to present their political messages uncontradicted. As we should know

by now, whether we are acting explicitly politically or not, what we do does have political implications. Not ending the conference with a common resolution is just as political as making one; our silence may sanction other political actions, maybe ones that have quite opposite tendencies.

*Malin Rönnblom,  
Department of Political Science,  
Umeå university, Sweden*



# ”Crashing the top”

”The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is one of the world’s preeminent research universities, dedicated to advancing knowledge and educating students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. It is known for rigorous academic programs, cutting-edge research, a diverse campus community, and its longstanding commitment to working with the public and private sectors to bring new knowledge to bear on the world’s great challenges... The Institute is a coeducational, privately endowed university, with more than 900 faculty and 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students.” (from MIT’s own presentation). University Professor Ann Douglas comments on the gender policy bias of the famous University in an article titled ”Crashing the top” in Salon-magazine website October 11, 1999:

”Women at elite universities may have broken the ivory ceiling, but they’re still battling old-fashioned discrimination. When MIT posted its «Study on the Status of Women Faculty in Science» on the Internet in March 1999, it made the front page of the New York Times under the headline, «M.I.T. Acknowledges Bias Against Female Professors.» Since then, Nancy Hopkins, the professor of biology who chaired the report, has received an outpouring of e-mails, faxes and phone calls from female academics, confirming her contention that gender discrimination is still commonplace in top-flight universities at every level of institutional life. As a longterm veteran of elite higher education myself, I needed no persuading. I, too, have spent years, as Hopkins put it, «chronically recovering from the battle of yesterday or preparing for the one tomorrow. Like Hopkins, I was part of the first generation of women to teach in the top-level

universities. Inevitably, since I began my professional life just as affirmative action went into effect in the early 1970s, my career has been a series of firsts — I was the first woman to be offered an assistant professorship in my department at Harvard, the first woman to teach in Princeton’s English department, the first to get tenure in the college

division of Columbia’s English department. I saw the elite universities before they had perfected their civil rights manners, before they learned how to correct, or camouflage, their gender assumptions.”

([www.salonmagazine.com](http://www.salonmagazine.com))

printable version of the MITreport:  
<http://web.mit.edu/news.html>

## WWW-sites of interest

### **Gender, Science and Technology for Development (GST)**

A global clearinghouse WWW site of information, resource and recommendations in gender, science and technology for equitable and sustainable development was launched at the UNESCO World Congress on Science in Budapest in June 1999. The GST Gateway contains policy recommendations, examples of case studies and best practices, key issues and research, existing initiatives, and limits of resources, including organisations working in each area, publications and internet resources. These resources are useful to policy makers interested in increasing national and regional capacity-building, human resources development, improving the health status of populations, and expanding the economic base of their countries in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is found at: <http://gstgateway.wigsat.org>

The site was conceived and developed by Women in Global Science and Technology

(WIGSAT) for the Gender Advisory Board (<http://gab.wigsat.org>).

### **The Women’s International Electronic University (WIEU)**

WIEU offers an alternative for women worldwide who cannot attend traditional universities and colleges. Founded in 1996, WIEU has been contacted by women in over 60 countries. It offers Internet courses in information technology, health promotion and living skills, academic and professional training, continuing education, and global awareness. Courses can be taught in any language. The web site is now available in English, Spanish, German and Japanese:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~womensu>

### **Feminist Theory Web-site**

The site has been fully updated and expanded to include over 5000 bibliographic references, nearly 600 internet links, material on feminism in 130 different countries, and indepth profiles of 80 internationally-known feminists. You can access this site at:

<http://www.cddc.vt.edu./feminism/>



# Building Gender Awareness in Croatia



Photo: Jill Lewis

*Sanja Cesar, the director of CESI, in full action during the 3 day workshop on gender awareness, here with participant Damir Skrjanec.*

**The Building Gender Awareness programme, developed by CESI, aims to promote values of tolerance, gender equality among young women and men. Through this programme CESI also seeks to empower girls and young women to become involved in their communities, to assist women in developing awareness of women's health and social issues. CESI has established contact with NIKK and is now involved in cross-cultural research project about young people and attitudes to sexuality.**

The process of transition in Croatia with its ideological breakdowns, war devastation and sufferings, as well as the post-war rebuilding of the

country resulted in reduced concern for the status of women in the society. During the previous political order, women were brought up in the

The **Center for Education and Counselling of Women (CESI)** is a local women's NGO established March 8, 1997 in response to problems of the violation of human rights, in particular minority and women's rights, nationalism, militarisation and the deterioration of economic standards in the post-war period.

spirit of equality which resulted in equal education and employment possibilities for women, as well as equal wages. What came out of this was emancipation based on women's economic independence. Children's social welfare was developed simultaneously, being a precondition for employment of women. Due to the war, the process of transition and right-wing ruling party, the status of women has deteriorated in economic, social and political spheres.

#### **Traditional values**

The rising influence of the Catholic church, as well as the promotion of a traditional patriarchal society model by the state, have both had a impact on the public perception of reproductive rights and freedom. Young women have become very confused by the imposed new conservatism that calls for exclusion of women from the public. Those who are ambitious and wish to be in equivalent partnership with men face many difficulties and thus require support and help.



### **Collapse of the Health care system**

Croatia is now facing collapse of the Health care system. The percentage of the state budget allocated to health care was drastically reduced on account of the financial demands of the war and a more expensive state administration. One of the consequences of this collapse is a lack of sexual education which results in incomplete understanding of one's sexual behaviour and poor understanding of different sexuality issues. What this means for young people is exposure to risks of sexual behaviour such as sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies, unrealistic expectations and distorted views of their own sexuality, and in particular high risk of succumbing to sexual exploitation. The issue of women's adolescent sexuality is often taboo. This topic has not only been neglected by girls' families and school surroundings, but by society as a whole. Thus, the number of counselling centres dealing with family planning has been reduced, and institutionalised education greatly neglects health education, sexual education in particular.

Considering these conditions, urgent development of new and more appropriate programs and methods is of utmost importance for the whole society.

### **Linking with NIKK**

Forming teams of trainers in gender sensitivity was CESI's first goal. Their task is to educate young people and raise awareness of gender issues, and to change young people's patriarchal attitudes and behaviour to sex roles. Exploring different aspects of gender development, gender identities, sexuality, gender and power is important in youth development and their active participation in the world of adults. We read about Living for Tomorrow on its webpage and established contact with Jill Lewis from The Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research. We invited Jill to hold a 3 day workshop based on the NIKK Living for Tomorrow issues

and methods, on Gender Awareness and Sexual Health for CESI volunteers and members of youth groups from whole Croatia. Jill won the admiration of CESI staff and trainees for her ability to motivate others and stimulate them to achieve solutions and show empathy to those around her. Her knowledge, energy and substantial experience has been stimulating and encouraging for all participants and very soon we started with planning and implementation of gender sensitivity programs for youth.

Through NIKK we are now involved in a cross-cultural research project aimed at exploring comparative responses from young people on "Attitudes to Men, Women and

Sexuality". CESI will conduct research in Croatia on the basis of a questionnaire developed by NIKK's Living for Tomorrow project. The issues that the questionnaire focus on are: perceptions of gender difference and equality; beliefs about gender differences and sexual behaviour; expectations about agency; gendered sexual scripts and normative sexual risk behaviours.

The networking preparations have so far included people working within the fields of sexual health, education and gender studies in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia, England and Croatia.

*Sanja Cesar, Director of CESI*

### **Announcing a cross-disciplinary Nordic research course:**

## **Method, Power and Ethics in Qualitative Research: feminist perspectives on the research process**

The course is organized by NIKK, Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research, and will take place on August 21-26 2000, at Lysebu, a conference hotel just outside of Oslo.

Teachers will be Eva Magnusson, NIKK; Erica Burman, Manchester Metropolitan University, England; Hanne Haavind, University of Oslo; and Karin Widerberg, University of Oslo.

The fact that some kind of exchange and power relations are active in any interaction between researcher and participant, seems to be agreed on by most researchers today. Opinions on what this actually "does" and what attitude to take towards issues of power, vary greatly between researchers, depending on the epistemological stance. This course applies critical feminist perspectives to the research processes in qualitative research. Attention will be given to

all phases of these processes, such as writing a research plan, selecting participants, establishing a working research relationship, collecting material and analyzing it, and reporting the results. The main emphasis is on methodological and ethical concerns in the interaction between researcher and participant and in the data analysis, but the steps before and after will also be dealt with.

The teachers share a view of "method" in research as more than a set of techniques for handling research participants or research data. "Method" is conceptualized as an integrated field where ethical issues as well as a project's theoretical starting point need to be taken into consideration. Techniques for data collection and analysis need to be developed in the light of the ethical and power concerns in each project.





Issues of method, ethics and power will be seen in relation to the discussion among feminist researchers about the researcher's possibilities of, and right to, represent "others", above all groups that are socially situated at a distance from the researcher. Awareness of power relations in the research process brings to the fore the importance of ethical concerns and stresses the moral responsibility of the researcher, but also the limitations to her latitude of movement. In this connection reflexivity will be emphasized as a necessary stance for researchers undertaking qualitative research, and special use will be made of techniques for reflexivity developed among feminist researchers.

Teaching and work on data analysis during the course will be done partly by using material that the teachers bring, and partly material brought by the participants. This work will take place in seminar form in small groups.

The course is primarily directed towards postgraduate students working with some kind of feminist perspective on their research, who are using interviews or participant observation for their collection of data. The course is cross-disciplinary, and a broad spectrum of participants will be welcome.

For information and details about applications, course layout, teaching, and examination, please contact Eva Magnusson or Guro Karstensen at NIKK.

## "Women and democracy": High level networking in Reykjavik

**More than 300 participants from the Nordic countries, the Baltic Region and Russia gathered in Reykjavik, Iceland from 8-10 October to agree on concrete measures to strengthen democracy and women's rights at the dawn of the new millennium.**

This conference was a joint initiative by the Government of Iceland and the US/Vital Voices Global Initiative headed by the First lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, who revealed a strong commitment to women's rights in her closing address to the conference.

The Nordic Council of Ministers was co-sponsor for the Conference, and the Ministers for Equality and other high ranking officials in the Nordic countries and the other participating countries were actively involved as key note speakers and chairs of the ten workshops. The aim of the conference was to strengthen women's participation in political and economic life and to develop co-operation between the established democracies in the Nordic region and the new democracies in the East as well as between different sectors in society. Among the specially invited participants were representatives of academia, NGOs and governmental institutions on the national and regional levels as well as representatives from the industrial and business sectors.

### **Practical plans of actions**

The discussions in the ten workshops had a clear purpose: to propose practical plans of action within each workshop theme, including finance. The projects agreed on shall be put into practice and developed over a period of one and a half years and summed up in a new conference to be held in

Vilnius in Lithuania. The ten themes addressed in the workshops were: learning skills, leadership skills, networking and mentoring, participating in public life, energising entrepreneurship, creating a quality workplace for all, increasing NGO effectiveness, promoting equality through legislation and practice, mastering information technology and media and the changing roles of women and men, cultural challenges.

Among the most outstanding results of the conference was the US Government contribution of one million US dollars to women's projects in Russia and the contribution of one million Euro from the Nordic Investment Bank to micro-credit schemes for small entrepreneurs in the Baltic States. There is so far no overview of the whole range of projects that came out of the Conference. But some of them will be integrated into the programme of co-operation between the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Baltic States and Northwest Russia. These are projects concerning legislation in the field of equality and mechanisms for implementing laws as well as measures to fight violence against women. Norway will host a conference on trafficking in women focusing on economic and social structures that promote prostitution and sexual exploitation in the OSCE region. This was agreed in a joint statement between the Norwegian Prime Minister Bondevik and the United States President Clinton when he recently visited Norway, obviously with a clear directive from Hillary Clinton.

The Lithuanian government is hosting a follow-up conference in 2001 with assistance from Finland.

*Trine Lynggard*



NEWS

# aoife

NEWS

Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe

The AOIFE network is now in its fourth year, and the association has grown from its developing stage to become a well functioning organisation in full action with many activities on the agenda for the year to come. Among the most prestigious of them is the fourth European Feminist Research Conference in Bologna in early autumn 2000. The conference which is called 'Body, gender, subjectivity - Crossing disciplinary and Institutional Borders' will be held in Bologna, Italy from September 28 - October 1, 2000.

## Bologna 2000

The conference is co-ordinated by AOIFE in co-operation with Biblioteca del Centro di Documentazione delle Donne in Bologna (The feminist library and documentation centre in Bologna) and the ATHENA thematic network. The conference is a high level scientific conference following the third European Feminist Research Conference in Coimbra, 1997.

Alongside keynote speakers talking on Body, Gender and Subjectivity there will be a range of workshop sessions which in a cross disciplinary way will monitor the diversity and the newest movements within European feminist research.

The conference is funded by the EU DG XII grant for high scientific conferences. The EU evaluation of the project was very good (87 points of 100).

A special emphasis will be on the next generation of feminist researchers. Every workshop will be co-ordinated by a junior as well as a senior researcher. The Keynote speakers will be responded to by junior researchers. This insures that the conference not only crosses disciplinary and institutional borders but also gaps between generations.

## General Assembly

Prior to the conference AOIFE will have its general assembly where the new AOIFE council will be elected. AOIFE has so far been active and successful in lobbying for gender in the fifth framework research programme in the EU and facilitated the establishment of the dynamic thematic network ATHENA.

## EU projects

Concerning EU projects within AOIFE we presently are active in two main applications for exchange networks. One exchange network with the United States under the Trans Atlantic programme and one network with South America under the ALFA project.

Under the AOIFE umbrella there are also planned several research projects that will seek funding from the EU under the fifth framework. The applications will be made this spring.

## Next GENDERation

Another spin-off of AOIFE is the Next GENDERation network, which was formed in Sweden in 1998. A group of young feminists recognised the need for greater dialogue and co-operation among young women and men

throughout Europe interested in Women's/Gender/Feminist Studies and Feminism. Apart from a discussion list that helps members of the network inform and exchange information with each other, the network is also engaged in a study trying to investigate the kinds of attitudes and goals young women in Europe have in regard to job opportunities and career paths, having been engaged in Gender/Women's Studies.

Next GENDERation is also hosting a one day seminar in connection with the 4<sup>th</sup> European Feminist Research Conference. It will try to address some of the dilemmas the next GENDERation of feminists face with another history and an other social context. Programmes for this one day seminar will be available in the new year.

## ATHENA Thematic network a continuing success

The ATHENA thematic network is functioning well. There will appear published a joint publication for all the ATHENA panels by the end of 99.

ATHENA has got funding from the EU to run for its second year, to the amount of 104.000 Euro. This is an increase of funds since last year.



*Next GENDERation meet in Leeds November 99 - 10 different nations across Europe participated in the meeting. Projects for year 2000 was discussed.*



Setting things in motion:

# the Living for Tomorrow cross-country meeting



*Some of the participants in the cross country meeting in deep concentration*

**Support from the Nordic Research Co-operation Fund enabled NIKK to organise a three-day exploratory meeting in Tallinn, this November, with participants from eight Nordic, Baltic and European countries to discuss a questionnaire exploring young people's attitudes to gender and sexual behaviour.**

The aim is to collect new national data raising awareness of how gender beliefs influence sexual behaviour, that could usefully inform national sexual safety education as well as allowing cross-cultural comparisons of findings to stimulate wider regional debates.

Those invited to the meeting were people in both research and in active safer sex education practices, participants coming from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Russia (St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad), Croatia and England. This combination of researchers and

sexual health promoters made it easier to explore some of the complexities of the project and the considerations the study must take into account in its strategy and design. The collaboration of researchers and sexual health promoters is to ensure that findings from the study will be taken into action.

### **Living for Tomorrow – a growing project**

The collaboration between the eight countries is aiming to strengthen dialogue and cooperation regionally and take the **Living for Tomorrow** interrogation of gender issues into wider discussion, linking them immediately with participatory, interactive ways of working that encourage active youth participation and mobilisation on sexual health issues. The intent is to set in motion discussion of aspects of sexual health prevention and prevailing gender beliefs that are not often explored together. The similarities

and differences in the various national data will hopefully raise interesting questions about sedimentation of gender traditions in changing societies as well as about 'globalising' of sexual risk behaviours though common media references. An initial piloting of the questionnaire in the Isle of Wight in the South of England has provocatively indicated great similarities between attitudes to the gendering of sexual behaviours between the group of English teenagers and the Russian and Estonian young people in Tallinn.

### **Drawing on the Estonian experience**

The newly established Living for Tomorrow NGO in Tallinn will take up the questionnaire results using interactive teaching methods to engage young people in discussing gender beliefs and norms of heterosexual behaviour that increase risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STD's in Estonian culture today.

Holding the meeting in Estonia gave us the chance to draw on the Estonian experience of the data collection and emerging indications from the findings. Swedish, Norwegian and English experiences in test-piloting the questionnaire gave valuable perspectives on processes involved and issues of comparison raised. The seminar looked at the questionnaire within the **Living for Tomorrow** priorities and frame of gender research, before running interactive workshops based on the three sections of the questionnaire itself: wider beliefs and perceptions of expectations concerning gender; beliefs about how sexual behaviours ►



## Nordic Research Program on Gender and Violence

In previous issues of *News from NIKK* and *Nytt fra NIKK* we announced the coming of a joint Nordic research program on gender and violence, supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers. This program is now fast becoming a reality. For year 2000, 3.5 million Danish crowns have been reserved, followed by equal grants for the next four years. A program committee is in process of being named, and is probably in place when this is published. The administration of the program will be located at a research institute, which will be selected during this same period. The committee hopes to be able to announce their first call for grant applications by March 2000, and some activities in the program will hopefully be started before the summer of 2000.

Information about the program is available at NIKK, and at the Nordic Council of Ministers.

and expectations are gendered; and how risk behaviours and actual experiences of sexual relations illustrate the gender issues haunting sexual safety.

### Cross-cultural dilemmas

Discussions explored how wording of different questions and translation of terms needed to be considered in relation to the social acceptance and framing of the subject. In some countries it is more difficult to discuss sex at all, while in others it is totally accepted to use the youth cultures', at times 'popularised', language to connect with the young in education about sexual health. National differences had to be turned and tossed, and differences in language use, social acceptance of sexual explicitness, parents' roles and expectations were debated. These aspects are important to clarify if the project is to succeed in generating useful information about the symptomatic gender concerns haunting preventive sexual health in all countries. Care in establishing common ground and delineating well-co-ordinated strategies and methods is crucial for the research to have cross-cultural significance. Participants from seven countries

committed themselves to developing the project further and seeking funding next Spring to support its co-ordinated implementation.

### Future movements

In February, The Norwegian Aids Association (PLUSS - LMA) will host participants from the eight countries to collaborative training and discussions in Oslo. In the program a one-day seminar on 'understanding gender' at NIKK is also planned. In relation to this, researchers from Norway, Sweden, Croatia, Estonia and St. Petersburg will present aspects of their gender-focussed work. As well discussing the further processing of the questionnaire, the meeting it is also meant as a way of creating a context for Norwegian youth-focused NGO's and other researchers and sexual health promoters to explore how to include the problems of gender and 'critical literacy' about gender and sex in sexual health education. Meanwhile the whole group is working to refine the questionnaire in national focus group discussions to prepare new funding joint applications for next Spring.

*Jill Lewis and Elisabeth Lorenzen*

## The Nordic Association for Women's Studies and Gender Research

The Nordic Association for Women's Studies and Gender Research is an independent and autonomous non-profit organisation (NGO) founded in 1994.

The Association has three main aims:

- Publish the journal NORA: Nordic Journal of Women's Studies.
- Organize scholarly conferences for feminist researchers in the Nordic countries.
- Cooperate with other organisations and institutions involved in feminist research and Women's Studies.

Membership is open to private individuals as well as institutions and organizations with a commitment to or interest in Women's Studies and Gender Research.





## News from the Nordic Region

### Network-seminars in Arkangelsk: Crisis centres

In November a seminar on gender politics and crisis centres took place at Pomor University, Arkhangelsk. This was the first seminar as a result of the newly established network to connect Nordic and NW. Russian researchers at ten universities and research institutions.

The aim of the network is to build up a vivid scientific community for the NCRB - the Nordic-NW.Russian development and research project - around crisis centres for women in the Barents region and the School of Politics Aleksandra Kollontai. The seminar was held in conjunction with a conference on Social work in changing cultures and societies, initialized within a long-term co-operation between the Bodø Regional University, Norway, and the Pomor University.

The ten universities and research centres in the network are: Kola Science Centre, Pomor University, Petrozavodsk University, St. Petersburg University, European University and Nevsky Institute at St. Petersburg, and Bodø, Umeå, Lapland and Oulu Universities in northernmost Norway, Sweden and Finland. The network is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers from Autumn 1999 till Spring 2001.

Twenty papers by Russian, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian women researchers and by scholars from UK and US were presented at the seminar in Arkangelsk. The framework for the discussions was drawn by analyzing multiple models for crisis centres with differing history and present day preconditions and practices. The debates strived for problematizing a transference of institutions rooted in Western autonomous women's movements in the mid-1970s into the post-socialist and Russian regions since the mid-1990s.

This is a period of turbulent transition and transformation, struggling with feminization of poverty, simultaneous re-traditionalization and de-traditionalization of gender relations, most often without support from strong and openly feminist movements and organisations. Within this context, challenges for comparative and cross-cultural investigations are evident.

More specific themes included a presentation of feminist group work model and discussion on prostitution, sexism as a symbolic violence in schools, anti-violent pedagogy and sex education intervention. Also problems in investigating domestic violence in Russia as well as recent struggles for law reforms were on the workshop agenda. A visit was paid to two newly established local centres, one being part of the local administration, one part of the university.

### Gender politics

Another network seminar to discuss gender politics, women's movements and women's political representation, both in the past, today and in the future political orders, is planned to be held at St. Petersburg May 25-28 2000. The local organizer will be the Nevsky Institute, in co-operation with the St. Petersburg State University and the European University. The national election in Russia in December 1999 will, without doubt, provide material for analyzing strategies especially within and in relation to the formal political institutions.

The co-ordinators and contact persons for the network are Aino Saarinen, Oulu University (aino.saarinen@oulu.fi) and Elena Kudriashova, Pomor University (kudr@arkhangelsk.ru).

### Aino Saarinen appointed as Nordic Visiting Professor

Aino Saarinen, former Head of Research at NIKK, has been appointed as Nordic Visiting Professor in Women's Studies at Nevsky Institute

for Language and Culture, St. Petersburg, by NorFA, Nordic Academy for Advanced Study. The part-time position in runs from Autumn 1999 till Spring 2002, and is intended to assist Nevsky Institute in its future programme for post graduate studies and in establishing a unit for Women's Studies, both in local and international co-operation.

### Norway

#### New Master Degree in Gender & Development

The Master of Philosophy programme in Gender and Development is a higher degree offered by the Faculty of Arts at the University of Bergen. The Centre for Women's and Gender Studies co-ordinates the teaching programme, which is run in collaboration with relevant research centres and departments. The chief aim of this interdisciplinary programme is to enable students to understand the significance of gender within development issues, and to use gender as an analytical category within their research. Applicants must normally have completed a 3-year First Degree (Bachelor's Degree) or its equivalent, including a concentration of course work corresponding to 1-years' full-time study in a field or subject of specialisation relevant to gender and/or development issues. If you are interested in obtaining an application form and more information about this programme of study, please write a statement of interest including your previous education and a short essay on your ideas about gender and development to the Programme Co-ordinator: Kjell R. Soleim, Centre for Women's and Gender Research, P.O.Box 7800, N-5020 Bergen, Norway.

Application deadline: 1 February 2000.

#### Gender and Cultural Change

CT, Gender and Cultural Change is a new course at NTNU (The Norwegian University of Science and



## News from the Nordic Region

Technology) for undergraduate students from the faculties of Arts, Social Sciences and Computer Science. The course teaches theories of technology related to social and cultural change, focusing particularly on information technology, Internet, and gender relations. There is a user perspective on technology. How do people communicate with computers and with other people via computers? What do new ways of communicating mean for conceptions of self and identity, and for social relationships? How are differences conceptualised between 'screen life' and 'real life', and between 'screen relationships' and 'real life relationships'? Centre for Feminist and Gender Research, Department of Interdisciplinary Studies of Culture is responsible for the course. For further information, contact merete.lie@hf.ntnu.no

*Margrét Helgadóttir Næss,  
KILDEN - Norwegian information and documentation centre for women's studies and gender research*

### Sweden

#### Post-graduate studies and gender

Male scientists feel most motivated to apply for post-graduate research education, while female humanists and social scientists are least motivated. These are the findings of a study conducted at the Faculties of Natural science, Health care science and Philosophy at Linköping University. The questionnaire and interview study "Students, post-graduate education and gender" was commissioned by the vice-chancellor, the faculties and Centre for Women's Studies in Linköping, and is the work of Cecilia Åsberg. It analyses why so few female students go on to do post-graduate research, in spite of the fact that half the students graduating from Linköping University are women.

The study establishes that both gender and social background help to

determine whether a student goes on to do post-graduate research, but that gender is more decisive, especially for women with a non-academic background. Many students feel that there is informal contact between students and researchers, something that makes it easier for certain students to continue with a research career. This encouragement is felt more strongly by men than by women. Women who are deterred from making a commitment to research quote obstacles linked to their own personalities, saying that they do not have enough self-confidence or are not sufficiently intelligent. Male students who are deterred give reasons that are not associated with their personalities, such as the shortcomings within research when it comes to funding, for example. One suggestion for improvement put forward by the study is that acceptance for research education should be governed by formal criteria of which everyone at a faculty or department is aware. The study also stresses that it is important for female students to benefit from the informal contact between students and researchers.

#### Research project based on queer theory

The first major research project in Sweden based on queer theory is about to get under way in Stockholm. This is an interdisciplinary project and the aim is to study how heterosexuality functions as a normative, structuring principle. Three researchers and four post-graduate students are involved in this project, which is being supported by the Bank of Sweden Jubilee Fund. The research project, which comprises seven sub-projects divided between three areas, will be led by social anthropologist Don Kulick, theatre and gender scientist Tiina Rosenberg and social anthropologist Mark Graham. The first area deals with the way heterosexuality is perceived and experienced. Girls at sixth-form college in a Stockholm suburb will be studied, together with

single men in Norrland in the north of Sweden and their contact with women in Russia. The second area focuses on the symbolic dimensions of heterosexuality. The Swedish model industry and Swedish dramatic art in the 20th century will be studied. The way heteronormative behaviour and assumptions are rejected is the theme of the third area. In this case, the study will focus on consumption patterns among homosexual men and women in Sydney, Australia, funeral rituals for homosexual men in Sweden who have died of AIDS and Brazilian transvestite prostitutes in Milan in Italy. The post-graduate students who are involved in this research project are social anthropologists Fanny Ambjörnsson, Ann Frisell-Ellburg and Lissa Nordin, together with ethnologist Ingeborg Svensson.

*Lena Olson*

*Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research*

### Denmark

#### Centre for European Cultural Studies

In April this year Cekvina, Centre for Gender Research, at the University of Århus, was united with Centre for European Studies. The name of the new centre is Centre for European Cultural Studies. The new subjects that will be taught are European Studies, Gender, Communication and Culture, Scandinavian Studies and European Studies. Head of the Center is associated professor Uffe Østergaard. Kirsten Gomard is head of the department for gender research. This part of the center continues as before and will develop around issues related to cultural studies, a wide, interdisciplinary field, which includes gendered perspectives as an integrated part. The magazine CekvinaNYT will still be published as a magazine for gender research, though its name will be changed. E-mail: cekvina@cfk.hum.aau.dk



# Preparations for Beijing+5

**In September 1995, more than 180 governments signed the Beijing Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Five years later, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly will review progress achieved and obstacles encountered and whether governments, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector have fulfilled the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.**

Informally called Beijing +5, the review's official title is 'Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the twenty-first Century'. The UN is holding a series of meetings to prepare for this. The UN Commission on the Status of Women acting as Preparatory Committee for the Special Session invited governments that had not yet done so to prepare national action plans. As of 15 November, 116 governments and two observer states had prepared such plans and submitted them to the UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

As of 18 November 1999, 124 member states and two observer states had responded to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action.

## **Global Discussion Forum**

From September to 17 December, WomenWatch, the UN website on women's issues, is holding The Beijing +5 Global Forum, a series of Internet Working Groups to provide input into the UN review. The input will feed directly into the General Assembly's assessment of progress and the recommendations that it makes for further action. The Working Groups are discussing: policies, legislation, strategies and partnerships that have been successful in furthering women's equality, case studies; best prac-

tices and other examples of successful, government and civil society efforts; obstacles that remain and how they can be overcome and what still needs to be done. The working group topics follow the 12 critical areas of concern from the Beijing Platform of Action. The discussion and weekly summaries are available from the WomenWatch website: <http://www.un.org/womanwatch/>

## **European Conference in January**

The ECE Regional preparatory meeting on the 2000 review of the Beijing Platform for action will take place in Geneva from 19. – 21. January 2000 (comprising Europe, North America and Central Asia). Substantive items of the ECE-meeting are: Women and economy: women's access to employment as a major component of economic and social rights of women. This would include equal employment opportunities and equal treatment, the situation of women migrant workers, social measures for compatibility between training/science and technology. Furthermore women's income across a lifetime, including issues of concern to ageing women. Another major subject for the ECE regional conference is women and violence and trafficking in women, violence against women and girls in war/conflict situations. Gender mainstreaming is a key issue that will be addressed in a cross-sectorial manner.

For matters relating to NGO accreditation, contact: [maria.anna.knothe@unece.org](mailto:maria.anna.knothe@unece.org)

## **European website**

European WomenAction 2000 is part of the Global WomenAction 2000 information and communications platform which empowers NGOs to participate in global strategies to enhance the position of women, starting with the review process of the Beijing Platform for

Action. This website can be used for communication to collaboratively prepare and strategize for reviewing the results of agreements made in the Beijing Platform for Action.

European WomenAction 2000 is a project of the IIAV, the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement, which is based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in co-operation with Karat Coalition, a network of women's NGOs in Eastern and Central Europe, The European Women's Lobby, Les Pénélopes, US Women Connect, FAFIA, CDEACF. Website: <http://www.iiav.nl/european-womenaction-2000/>

*Trine Lynggard*

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## Gender research in the media

NIKK has taken the initiative to create a Nordic co-operation on gender research and mediacoverage. The background for this initiative is a growing media attention on gender issues as well as a renewed focus on feminism in several of the Nordic countries. The idea is to contribute to a more differentiated and improved mediacoverage and discussion of gender issues by way of creating contacts and dialogs between journalists and researchers, as well as organising workshops and seminars and trainingcourses for both groups. Information- and documentation centres on women- and gender research in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, as well as the national coordinators in the Nordic countries, have agreed to take part in this co-operation. In the spring 2000 NIKK will organise a Nordic workshop where also committed journalists and researchers from the Nordic countries will be invited to come and share experiences and ideas.





## News on men's studies

### European "Problem of men" research

A new European research program, "The social problem of men and societal problematisation of men and masculinities" and a network called *The European Research Network On Men in Europe* may receive EU support and get started in 2000 for a period of three years. The project is launched by a cooperation group which includes professors Jeff Hearn, Keith Pringle, Ursula Müller and Elzbieta Oleksy. Here are excerpts from the proposal.

«The Research Network comprises women and men researchers who are researching on men and masculinities *in an explicitly gendered way*. The bringing together of both women and men researchers is extremely important, necessary and timely in the development of good quality European research on men in Europe. Research on men that draws only on the work of men is likely to neglect the very important research contribution that has been and is being made by women to research on men. (...) Gender-collaborative research is necessary in the pursuit of gender equality, in the combating of gender discrimination, and in the achievement of equality and in the fight against discrimination more generally (Social Action Programme 1998-2000).

The Research Network brings together women and men researchers from a number of European countries (initially Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, the UK) with a research focus on the comparative study of the social problem and societal problematisation of men and masculinities. The Research Network will also act as an information resource for other researchers and policy-makers. In the medium and longer term, it is planned that the Network will include researchers from

other European countries, both within and outside the EU.

The overall aim of the Research Network is to develop empirical, theoretical and policy outcomes on the gendering of men and masculinities. Initially, the Research Network focuses on two closely related gendered questions: first, the specific, gendered social problem of men and certain masculinities; and, second, the more general, gendered societal problematisation of men (and certain masculinities).»  
(from: IASOM Newsletter 6,3, Nov.99)

#### Special issue on masculinity

Several gender journals have recently appeared with special issues on masculinity. One example is the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies* (vol 2, 2, Dec. 1998) on «Australian masculinities», with papers on "protest masculinity" (Scott Poynting et al.), sexual politics and homophobia as an element of patriarchy (Gary Dowsett), military culture (Katerina Agostino) and others. Also, more non-English journals like the Danish *Kvinder, køn & forskning* (3, 1999, with abstracts and some papers in English) have recently had, or are planning, special issues in the field.

*Men and Masculinities* was launched to publish high-quality, interdisciplinary research in the emerging field of men and masculinities studies. *Men and Masculinities* presents peer-reviewed empirical and theoretical scholarship grounded in the most current theoretical perspectives within gender studies, including feminism, queer theory and multiculturalism. Using diverse methodologies, *Men and Masculinities'* articles explore the evolving roles and perceptions of men across society.

For further journal details, visit the SAGE web site at <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/journals/Details/j0244.html>

Ordering information for *The Journal of Men's Studies* (Volume 8, 1999-2000): Men's Studies Press, PO Box 32, Harriman, TN 37748 or order on the web site at [www.mensstudies.com](http://www.mensstudies.com).

#### A preliminary Nordic region studies of men index

This is a preliminary presentation from a mapping of Nordic region men's studies done by Per Folkesson [trans. from Swedish and statistics adaption by the IASOM Newsletter]. One concrete result of the mapping is an address list of researchers and research students with connections to the men's studies area. At this date [September 1999] the list consists of 232 people, and of these, 101 (44%) are women.

Country	Number	Percent	men
Denmark	22	82	
Finland	54	76	
Iceland	7	86	
Norway	26	58	
Sweden	123	41	
Total	232	56	

In summary one may say that there has been and is currently considerable research within the area in the Nordic region. The Danish research, fairly visible in the 70s, is today less well represented. The small but still existing research on men on Iceland is growing. The Finnish men's studies which is comparable to the Norwegian and Swedish has been marginalized in the Nordic context due to the language barrier.

The family and fathering / fatherhood appears to be a strong research area with representation from the whole Nordic region for a long time, especially fatherhood. Sexuality is another area with anchorage in most of the Nordic countries. Questions about working life and men's work is a third.

(IASOM Newsletter 6,3, Nov.-99, for subscription: [oeholter@online.no](mailto:oeholter@online.no))



# New publications

Bryld, Mette & Nina Lykke: *Cosmodopkins: Feminist Cultural Studies of Technology, Animals and the Sacred*. London: Zed books, forthcoming February 2000.

Ellingsæter, Anne Lise: *Gender Mainstreaming and Employment Policy: Norway Report*. Oslo: Institute for Social Research, 1999.

Fasting, Kari et al. *The Experience and meaning of sport and exercise in the lives of women in some European countries*. Oslo: Norges idrettshøgskole, 1999.

*Fatal women: essays on film noir and related matters*/ed. Kjell R. Soleim. Bergen: Centre for Women's and Gender Research, University of Bergen, 1999.

*Gender makes a difference: gender studies at the edge of the millennium: Denmark 1999*/eds. Hilda Romer Christensen & Rikke Sanderhoff. Copenhagen: The Co-ordination of Women's and Gender Studies in Denmark, 1999.

*Global coasts: life changes, gender challenges*/Siri Gerrard & Randi Rønning Balsvik, eds. Kvinnforsk, University of Tromsø, 1999.

Guide to Women's Studies in Finland. *Helsinki: Association for Women's Studies in Finland & Council for Equality between Men and Women in Finland*, 1999.

*Images of women in the media: report on existing research in the European Union*. Luxembourg: European Communities, 1999.

Johansson, Anna: *La mujer sufrida - the suffering woman: narratives on femininity among women in a Nicaraguan barrio*. Göteborg: Department of sociology, Göteborg University, 1999. Diss.  
Koivula, Nathalie: *Gender in sport*. Stockholm, 1999. Diss.

Malmsten, Kersti: *Reflective assent in basic care: a study in nursing ethics*. Uppsala, 1999. Diss.

McFadden, Margaret H: *Golden cables of sympathy: the transatlantic sources of nineteenth-century feminism*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1999.

Muijlwijk, Margreet van: *Funding and Private Resources for Women and Gender Studies*. Utrecht: WISE, 1999.

Rosenholm, Arja: *Gendering Awakening. Femininity and the Russian Woman Question of the 1860s*. Helsinki: Aleksanteri-instituutti, 1999. Diss.

Rubery, Jill, Mark Smith & Colette Fagan: *Women's Employment in Europe: trends and prospects*. London: Routledge, 1999.

Rydström, Helle: *Embodying Morality: Girls' Socialization in a North Vietnamese Commune*. Linköping University, 1998. Diss.

Salminen-Karlsson, Minna: *Bringing women into computer engineering: curriculum reform processes at two institutes of technology*. Linköping: Univ, 1999. Diss.

Shands, Kerstin W: *Embracing Space: Spatial Metaphors in Feminist Discourse*. Connecticut, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.

*State Policy and Gender System in the Two German States and Sweden 1945-1989*/ed. Rolf Torstendahl. Uppsala University, Department of History, 1999.

Stenström, Hanna: *The Book of Revelation: a vision of the ultimate liberation or the ultimate backlash?: a study in 20th century interpretations of Rev 14: 1-5, with special emphasis on feminist exegesis*. Uppsala, 1999. Diss.

Styrkársdóttir, Audur: *From feminism to class politics: The rise and decline of women's politics in Reykjavík, 1908-1922*. Umeå: Umeå universitet, 1998.

Valaskivi, Katja: *Relations of Television. Genre and Gender in the Production, Reception and Text of a Japanese Family Drama*. Tampere: University of Tampere, 1999. Diss.

Widding Hedin, Lena: *Woman abuse during pregnancy: a prevalence study of psychological and physical abuse among Swedish women*. Göteborg: Univ, 1999. Diss.

Wikander, Ulla: *Von der Magd zur Angestellten: Macht, Geschlecht und Arbeitsteilung 1789-1950*. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer-Taschenbuch-Verl, 1998.

*Women in transition: voices from Lithuania*/Suzanne LaFont, ed. State University of New York Press, 1998.

## New Journal

*International Feminist Journal of Politics*  
This new journal works at the intersections of international relations, politics and women's studies. It will provide a unique forum to foster debate and development in this vital and rapidly growing area. For an inspection copy, please e-mail: [samples@tandf.co.uk](mailto:samples@tandf.co.uk) - more detailed information at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>

**NORA**  
*Nordic Journal of Women's Studies*

### Nordic Journal of Women's Studies

NORA is an interdisciplinary journal of Women's Studies, published in English.

Emphasis is placed on showing a Nordic profile in feminist research. NORA aims to discuss and examine the realities and myths of women's lives in the Nordic countries, historically and today. At the same time NORA is *international in scope*, offering a forum for theoretical debate, dialogue and information on research of general interest to feminist scholars and scientists.



# International Calendar 1999-2000

The included events are mostly in English language.

For updated information including events in Scandinavian languages, please check NIKK's web site <http://www.nikk.uio.no>

## 1999

03-04.12 Minsk, Belorussia

### **Women - Education – Democracy, 1999**

Annual interdisciplinary international conference. Organized by ENVILA, Non-State Institute for Women Minsk Center for Gender Studies. The conference will address the issues arising from all aspects of women's representation in education as the reflection of how democracy works. Working languages are Russian, Belarussian, English. Info: Galina Shaton, Women's Non-State Institute "ENVILA", 220002, P.O. Box 200, Belarus, Minsk, tel/fax: +375 17 226-0687, [galina@user.uinbel.by](mailto:galina@user.uinbel.by)

08-11.12 Accra, Ghana

### **Women: Personal is Political, Local is Global**

Woman and Earth's 3rd Annual World Conference & Expo, and International Film Festival "Empowering Women, Empowering the Earth". Info: Woman and Earth: Att. Tatyana Mamonova & Mildred Didio, 467 Central Park West, Suite 7F, New York, NY 10025, USA. Tel/Fax: +1 212 866 8130, [womearth@dorsai.org](mailto:womearth@dorsai.org) <http://www.dorsai.org/~womearth/>

10-12.12 Gregynog, Wales

### **Identities in Action: Languages and Discourses, Communities and Selves, Values and Representations**

Interdisciplinary conference. Info: Daniel Chandler, [dgc@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dgc@aber.ac.uk) <http://www.aber.ac.uk/~jmcwww/Identact/identact.html>

13-14.12 Turku, Finland

### **Health Care and Its Professionals: Cross-cultural and multidisciplinary approaches – the case of maternity care**

International Multidisciplinary Symposium & PhD-Course. Info: Sirpa Wrede, School of Public Health, P.O.Box 607, FI-33101 Tampere, fax: +358 3 215 6057, [sirpa.wrede@uta.fi](mailto:sirpa.wrede@uta.fi)

## 2000

08-11.01 New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

### **Women in Higher Education**

13th Annual International Conference. Info: NAWA: Advancing Women in Higher Education, 1325 18th, St, NW, Suite 210, Washington, DC 20036-6511, [nawe@nawe.org](mailto:nawe@nawe.org) <http://www.nawe.org>

04-06.02 Toronto, Canada

### **Mothering in the African Diaspora: Literature, History, Society, Popular Culture and the Arts**

International conference. Info: Andrea O'Reilly, A.R.M, 726 Atkinson College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON Canada M3J 1P3, tel: +1 416 736 2100 x40206, fax: +1 416 736 5416, [arm@yorku.ca](mailto:arm@yorku.ca)

02-04.03 Seville, Spain

### **The Rhetoric(s) of Masculinity**

Info: Carolina Sanchez-Palencia & Juan Carlos Hidalgo, Departamento de Literatura Inglesa y Norteamericana, Universidad de Sevilla, C/. Palos de la Frontera, s/n, ES-41004 Sevilla, Spain, fax: +34 954551552, [csanchez@siff.us.es](mailto:csanchez@siff.us.es) & [jhidalgo@siff.us.es](mailto:jhidalgo@siff.us.es)

09-11.03 Helsinki, Finland

### **Gender, equality and the future**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baltic Sea Women's Conference. Invites representatives from all countries around the Baltic Sea. The conference will be a forum for parliamentarians, experts, local and regional politicians, women researchers and women active in NGOs to meet at national, regional and local levels. Info: Carita Peltonen, Turku Women's Centre, Nylandsgatan 1, FI-20500 Åbo/Turku, Finland. Tel: +358 2 2336172, fax: +358 2 2336174, [cpeltone@saunalahti.fi](mailto:cpeltone@saunalahti.fi)

10-11.03 Helsinki, Finland

### **From citizenship to residence**

Research programme NordFru-Jus organises the seminar on the access to Social Protection in EU and the Nordic Countries, in co-operation with Social Insurance Institution and The Federation of Accident Insurance Institution. Info: Teresa Pohjola, Department of private law, P.O. Box 4, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. Tel: +358 9 19122813, fax: +358 9 19123108, e-mail: [teresa.pohjola@helsinki.fi](mailto:teresa.pohjola@helsinki.fi)

27-29.03 teleconference

### **Women's Lives, Women's Voices, Women's Solutions: Shaping a National Agenda for Women in Higher Education**

A national teleconference for Women in Higher. Info: Jennifer L. Longnion, 149 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis MN 55455, USA, +1 612 6267550, fax: +1 612 6269192, [longn001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:longn001@tc.umn.edu) <http://www.umn.edu/women/wiwe.html>

30.03-01.04 Arlington, Texas, USA

### **The Female Principle: Eclipses and Re-Emergences**

UTA conference on the suppressions and reassertions of the female principle in human culture. Info: Department of English, Box 19035, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019, USA, [lfrank@uta.edu](mailto:lfrank@uta.edu) <http://www.uta.edu/english/hermann/2000>

31.03-02.04 Baltimore, Maryland, USA

### **Feminist Expo 2000 for Women's Empowerment**

The Second Feminist Exposition Nationwide and World-wide invites you to attend and the opportunity to co-sponsor. Info: Feminist Majority Foundation, Expo 2000 Team. Tel: +1 703 522 2214, [Femmaj@feminist.org](mailto:Femmaj@feminist.org)

10-12.04 Murmansk, Russia

### **Women's lives in the Barents region**

International conference on women's issues. Arranged by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Family Affairs and the Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes. Info: Barents Secretariat, tel: +47 78 97 70 50, [barsek@barsek.no](mailto:barsek@barsek.no), <http://www.barents.no>

12-15.04 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

### **Gender and Technology**

3rd European Social Science History conference. Info: Raymond Hofman, Belle van Zuylen Institute, Rokin 84-90, 1012 KX Amsterdam, the Netherlands, tel: +31 20 525 3612, fax: +31 20 525 2219, [hofman@pscw.uva.nl](mailto:hofman@pscw.uva.nl)



# International Calendar 1999-2000

13-16.04 Stanford University, California, USA

**The First International Gender and Language Association (IGALA) Conference.**

Interdisciplinary conference. Deadline for abstracts: 10.01.2000. Info: <http://www-linguistics.stanford.edu/Conference/igala>

25-27.04 Aberystwyth, UK

**Virile Women, Consuming Men: Gender and Monstrous Appetites in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance**

International, interdisciplinary conference spanning anthropology, archaeology, art history, drama, history, literary studies, theology. Info: The Department of English, University of Wales Aberystwyth, Hugh Owen Building, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3 DY, UK, <http://www.aber.ac.uk/~engwww/>

04-06.05 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**From answers to Action 2000: Healing Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution**

Info: Genevieve Jones, fax: +1 780 497 5170, [a2a2000@gmcc.ab.ca](mailto:a2a2000@gmcc.ab.ca)

11-14.05 Obory, Poland

**Between wars: nations, nationalisms and gender relations in central and eastern Europe 1918-1939**

A conference organised by the German Historical Institute Warsaw. Papers deadline has expired. Info: Dr. Sophia Kemlein, GHI Warsaw PKiN, XVII p, Plac Defilad 1, skr. 33, PL-00901 Warszawa, Poland, tel: +48 22 6567182, fax + 48 22 6937006, [kemlein@dhi.waw.pl](mailto:kemlein@dhi.waw.pl)

15-16.05 Emek Yezreel, Israel

**An International Conference on: Women and Society in the Middle East**

Conference dedicated to studying women's issues in the context of the Middle East. Info: The organising committee WSME Conference, Emek Yezreel College, Emek Yezreel, 19300, Israel. Tel: +972 6 6423456, fax: +972 6 6423457, [palgi@research.haifa.ac.il](mailto:palgi@research.haifa.ac.il)

26-29.05 Ontario, Canada

**Simone de Beauvoir - L'engagement d'une oeuvre et d'une vie**

Colloque international. Info: Hélène Benbaruk, Etudes françaises, Trent university, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8, tel: +1 705 748 1394, fax: +1 705 748 1630, [hbenbaruk@trentu.ca](mailto:hbenbaruk@trentu.ca)

01-05.06 Archangels, Russia

**Social policy and intervention – in a gender perspective**

Theoretical and practical problems for research in a comparative perspective. A postgraduate Nordic - NW Russian Research Course. Funded by NorFa. Deadline for application and abstract: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000. Send to Marina Kalinina, tel: +7 8182 23 62 95, fax: +7 5129 51 61 33, [marina@pomorsu.ru](mailto:marina@pomorsu.ru)

07-09.06 Onati, Brasil

**The role of communitarian law in implementing equal rights**

Workshop org. at International Institute for the Sociology of Law. Info: Fanny Tabak, Rua Almirante Guilhem 332, Rio de Janeiro 22440-000, Brazil, fax: +55 21 274 6833, [fanny@ax.apc.org](mailto:fanny@ax.apc.org)

07-09.06 Havana Cuba

**The State of Social and Economic Thought: Marxist, Third World and Feminist Perspectives**

The international symposium seeks an interchange and reflection among social scientists and historians from various countries on themes related to the situation of global revolutionary movements in the light of recent developments in the world economy. Info: Charles McKelvey, [flacso@comuh.uh.cu](mailto:flacso@comuh.uh.cu)

8-11.06 Baltimore, USA

**Virginia Woolf out of bounds**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf will highlight work on Woolf that crosses regional, temporal, and disciplinary boundaries of all kinds. Deadline for 250-word paper proposal: January 15, 2000 to Jessica Berman, Woolf Conference Organiser, English Department, UMBC, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250, USA. Info: <http://www.umbc.edu/woolf>

08-11.06 Vancouver, Canada

**Women, Work and Computerisation: Charting a Course to the Future**

International conference. Abstracts deadline has expired. Info: Deborah Kirby, WWC2000, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC Canada V5A 1S6, fax: +1 604 291 4024, [dkirby@sfu.ca](mailto:dkirby@sfu.ca) <http://www.sfu.ca/~wwc2000/>

14-18.06 Boston, MA, USA

**2000 Subversions: Women's Studies and the "Twenty-first Century"**

National Women's Studies Association 21st Annual Conference. Info: fax: +1 617 521 3199, [nwsa2000@simmons.edu](mailto:nwsa2000@simmons.edu) <http://www.nwsa.org/2000ind.htm>  
23-25.06 Leeds, UK

**Gendering Ethics/The Ethics of Gender**

International interdisciplinary conference. Deadline for abstracts 01.02.2000. Info: Sasha Roseneil & Linda Hogan, Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK, [gender-studies@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:gender-studies@leeds.ac.uk) <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/gender-studies>

06-07.07 Edinburgh, Scotland

**Nursing History Society Conference**

The Royal College of Nursing History of Nursing Society Millennium Conference is a forum for sharing historical research in nursing. Deadline for abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2000. Post to: Andrea Stirling, HNS Conference Co-ordinator, RCN Scottish Board, 42 South Oswald Road, Edinburgh EH9 2HH, UK. Info: <http://www.qmuc.ac.uk/hn/history>

15.07-15.10. Hanover, Germany

**International Women's University**

A postgraduate program in English on the occasion of the world exposition in Hanover (EXPO 2000). Subjects: Body, City, Information, Migration, Water & Work. Info: German Academic Exchange Service, Ref. 220, Postfach 200404, DE-53134 Bonn, Germany, <http://www.Int-Frauenuni.de>

29.07-03.08 Tampere, Finland

**VI International Council for Central and East European Studies World Congress**

Special field of study: Investigating Gender. Call for papers deadline has expired. Info: Finnish Institute for Russian and East European Studies, Annankatu 44, FI-00100 Helsinki, Finland, tel: +358 9 2285 4434, fax: +358 9 2285 4431.



# International Calendar 1999-2000

06-13.08 Oslo, Norway

**Conflict and Co-operation in Sites of Cultural Co-existence: Perspectives from Women's History**

Conference sessions by the International Federation for Research in Women's History/Federation Internationale pour le Recherche en Histoire des Femmes at the meeting of the International Congress of the Historical Sciences. Info: Ida Blom, Dept. of History, University of Bergen, P.O. Box 25, NO-5027 Bergen, Norway, tel: +47 55 58 23 02, +47 55 58 23 02, ida.blom@hi.uib.no

10-11.08 Washington, DC, USA

**Sexual Harassment in Global Context**

Ninth Annual Conference International Coalition Against Sexual Harassment. Papers, workshops, panels, and discussion groups on all aspects of sexual harassment are sought. Proposals on the following topics/areas of harassment are especially welcomed: educational settings (K-12; college); cross-national studies; male perpetrators or targets; women in male-dominated environments. ICASH is a multi-discipline, international group of professionals (academics, researchers, human resource personnel, clinicians/therapists, attorneys, and activists). Proposal deadline 15.02.2000. Info: Susan Fineran, Boston University, tel: +1 617 3537912, sfineran@bu.edu

12-15.09 Zürich, Switzerland

**Gender Equality in Higher Education**

2nd European Conference. Info: Prof. K. von Salis, Geological Institute, CH-8092 Zürich, Switzerland, fax: +41 1 6321080, vonsalis@erdw.ethz.ch <http://www.equal.ethz.ch/conference2000/conf2000.html>

24-26.08 Liverpool, UK

**Posting the male: Representations of Masculinity in the Twentieth Century**

The conference aims to interrogate images and narratives of masculinity in twentieth-century culture. Proposals for papers by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2000 to Daniel Lea & Berthold Schoene-Harwood, Research Centre for Literature and Cultural History, Liverpool John Moores University, Dean Walters Building, St James Road, Liverpool L1 7BR, UK. Info: Cathy Cromby, tel: +44 151 231 5009, c.cromby@livjm.ac.uk

16-17.09 Bath, UK

**Heartlands and Peripheries in Women's History: Local, National and Global Perspectives**

Women's history network (UK) annual conference. Call for papers. Papers and abstracts of 250 words by April 10<sup>th</sup> 2000 to June Hannam, Faculty of Humanities, University of the West of England, St Mattias Campus, Oldbury Court rd, Fishponds Bristol BS16 2 JP, UK, tel: +44 1179 656261 ext 4390; fax: +44 1179750402, June.Hannam@uwe.ac.uk

28.09-01.10 Bologna, Italy

**Body, gender, subjectivity: crossing disciplinary and institutional borders**

4th European Feminist Research Conference. Jointly org. by Centro di Documentazione delle Donne, Bologna, ATHENA, AOIFE & Bologna 2000, Citta Europea della Cultura. Info: Biblioteca del Centro di Documentazione delle Donne, fax: +39 51 263460, 4thfem@orlando.women.it

05-07.10 Stockholm, Sweden

**American history, culture and society**

The Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS): The Second Interdisciplinary Conference. Theme included: Looking at Leadership: Women in Politics and Business. Call for papers. Deadline for abstracts (written in Swedish or English) January 15, 2000. For registration, abstracts and info: Dr. Kerstin W. Shands, Conference Co-ordinator, kerstin.shands@sh.se

11-14.10 Zürich, Switzerland

**Knowledge, Power, Gender. Philosophy and the Future of the "condition féminine"**

9th Symposium of the International Association of Women Philosophers. Info: IAPh Symposium 2000, P.O. Box 1207, CH-8021 Zürich, Switzerland, iaph@freesurf.ch <http://www.iaph.org>

20-22.10 Toronto, ON, Canada

**Mothering and Literature, Popular Culture and the Arts**

The Association for Research on Mothering and Centre for Research on Mothering announce their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference. Call for papers: 250 word abstract (to submit an abstract, one has to be a member of A.R.M.) and/or proposal for session and a 50 word bio by February 15, 2000. Info: Andrea O'Reilly, A.R.M., 726 Atkinson College, York University, 4700 Keele Street Toronto, ON Canada M3J 1P3. Tel: +1 416 736-2100 x60366, arm@yorku.ca

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## Millenium Greetings!

NIKK sends you warmest wishes for a Happy, Peaceful, Empowering, Safe and Healthy New Year. We thank you all for the good co-operation we have had in the past year and look forward to working with you in the new Millenium!

**NIKK**, the Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research, is an interdisciplinary, Nordic research institution financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

**NIKK** serves as a platform for cooperation for Women's Studies and Gender Research in the Nordic countries.

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