



Women's Voice

Illinois State University

Volume 5, Issue 6, February 2000

From the Director - Consider the Children: Provide Quality and Affordable Childcare

Last month, I reported on preparations for Beijing Plus Five, the UN summit to take place in New York in June 2000, which will assess progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action. One of the issues that was raised at the regional preparatory meeting I had attended in Chicago was the need for paid maternity leave and quality child care in the United States. In fact, this is among the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Platform calls for "action to promote economic autonomy for women, and ensure their access to productive resources", and it calls for "action to encourage an equitable sharing of family responsibilities." Strategic objective F.3, recommends that Governments in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector should "Provide affordable support services, such as high-quality, flexible and affordable child-care services, that take into account the needs of working men and women" (para. 173(g)). Similarly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) -- which the United States has signed but not ratified or implemented -- calls for equality of women and men in employment and labor rights through the banning of discrimination and the recognition of reproduction. Article 11 of CEDAW calls on States Parties:

[...]
(b) to introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority, or social allowances;

(c) to encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities; [...]

As we know, the United States, unlike most Western countries, does not have a national policy or program on paid maternity leave and childcare services. At the Women's Studies conference, "Women and Employment: Linking Local and Global", that took place here last September, feminist economist Barbara Bergmann discussed her calculations of the cost of federally-funded or subsidized quality childcare services. Professor Bergmann is the author of the book *Saving Our Children from Poverty: What the United States Can Learn From France* (Russell Sage, 1996).

At this year's Fifth Annual Women's Studies Symposium (24 March), and in keeping with the University theme of *Consider the Children*, we are proud to present another noted expert on childcare issues. Professor Sonya Michel is the Director of Women's Studies and Associate Professor of History at the University of Illinois. She obtained her Ph.D. in history from Brown University in 1986. She specializes in women and gender in the United States and in gender and social welfare in comparative perspective. Prof. Michel is the author of *Children's Interests/Mothers' Rights: The Shaping of American's Child Care Policy* (Yale, 1999), and co-editor of *Mothers of a New World: Maternalist Politics and the Origins of Welfare States* (Routledge, 1993). She is also co-editor of the journal *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State, and Society*, which has had several issues devoted to welfare and social policy questions.

Professor Michel will be the keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Women's Studies Symposium, which takes place at the University Galleries of the Center for the Visual Arts on Friday, 24 March 2000. Her talk will be at 1 pm, following luncheon. She will speak on the subject of why the United States has no child care policy. We are delighted to host her, and invite you to join us. ☺

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Visit our website at: <http://www.cas.ilstu.edu/WomenStudies/womenstudies.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FEATURES

Dr. Michel is Symposium Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sonya Michel will be the Keynote Speaker at the Women's Studies Symposium. She is Director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a professor in the history department there, co-editor of the journal *Social Politics*, and author of the book, *Children's Interests/Mother's Rights: The Shaping of America's Child Care Policy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999.

The topic of her talk will be "Why the U.S. Has No Universal Child Care." Dr. Michel will trace the halting development of child care in the U.S. during the 20th century, looking at trends in both the public and market sectors, and the relationship between them. She will discuss how ideologies about mother-child bonding intersected with a deep-seated antipathy to state provision to curtail the growth



Dr. Sonya Michel

of public services. She will also examine how the government used tax incentives to spur the growth of market-based services. Finally, she will argue that the divided constituency for child care has blocked development of a lobby for universal services. ✍

Women's Studies symposium
FRIDAY, Mar Ch 24, 2000
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
University Galleries
Center for the Visual Arts
Keynote Address 1:00 P.M.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE LUNCH.
SEE INSERT FOR REGISTRATION FORM.

New Legislation on Battling Attackers

The Illinois legislature is considering what could become first state law in the country that will allow victims of domestic abuse, gay-bashing, and other violence based on gender or sexual orientation to sue their attackers.

The bill was introduced in the state's House of Representatives with strong support from Gov. George Ryan. This legislation would empower the victims to sue in the Illinois courts. The Democratic-controlled House is likely to pass the bill but the Republican-controlled Senate is of major concern.

Conservative groups, such as the Family Taxpayers Network, are opposing the bill; however, women's and gay rights groups are praising the new measure. Says Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, "This is the first of its kind for civil damages for gender-based and sex-based crimes." Support also comes from the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Jerry Roper the chamber's president and chief executive says, "This gives an individual an opportunity to sue the real perpetrator."

The law is modeled on the 1994 federal Violence Against Women Act. This allowed women to sue their attackers in federal court and was specifically tailored to women. ✍

An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity.

Internship Opportunities

Margaret Sanger Papers Project

The Margaret Sanger Papers Project, a documentary editing project located in the History Department at New York University, announces the availability of summer internships for 2000.

The Project is currently offering internships to work on its book edition of Sanger's papers, electronic edition, and indexing its microfilm edition.

Interns will be exposed to all facets of the Sanger Papers Project's work and will undertake analysis on historical documents and conduct directed research in libraries, archives, and the Sanger Project's own holdings. The Project is unable to offer paid internships, but interested students can inquire about receiving credit at their universities.

A complete description of the internships, including application and housing information, is available at web site: www.nyu.edu/projects/sanger/intern.html.

Feminist Majority Foundation

The Feminist Majority and Feminist Majority Foundation are offering two different opportunities to those seeking leadership skills to promote women's rights. The first is a full time internship in their Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles offices for the upcoming summer. This internship is listed as one of the nation's top 100 internship programs by Princeton Review's [America's Top 100 Internships](#).

The second is a full time, year-long Field Representative position that will organize Campus Leadership Programs and act as mentors and liaisons between college activists and the Feminist Majority Foundation. The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) focuses on promoting women's social, political, and economic equality through innovative research and action campaigns. For further information you can contact the FMF at sboonin@feminist.org or silvia@feminist.org.

Student Peace Action Network

Peace Action is the nation's largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization located in Washington, D.C. In 1998, Peace Action reached 4.4 million voters through its Peace Voter '98 campaign to hold elected officials accountable. Throughout the election season, Peace Voter '98 mobilized volunteers to keep the pressure on candidates and Members of Congress to address peace and justice issues in their campaigns. In 2000, Peace Action will continue to hold elected officials accountable through the Peace Voter 2000 campaign. You can become a part of this exciting campaign by signing on as SPAN (Student Peace Action Network) Intern Organizer.

SPAN Summer is designed to support Peace Voter 2000 and to provide organizing skills training to student activists. SPAN Summer intern organizers will work with the Peace Voter 2000 campaign at their National Office in Washington, D.C. or one of several other possible cities. Internships run from four to twelve weeks. Interns will be provided training in effective organizing strategies, speaking out on peace and justice issues, fundraising, public education, lobbying and other necessary campaign skills, and will be supervised by experienced organizers. For further information pertaining to qualifications, housing, and stipend, contact Van Gosse, Organizing Director, Peace Action, at 202-862-9740 or visit the website at www.webcom.com/peace/act/html. Application forms are due by March 15, 2000. The forms are available at Women's Studies or from their website.

Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy

Women's Research and Education Institute, Washington, D.C. has available a fellowship for women with the Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy division for graduate students. Activities supported are individual study, advanced study or training. For further information call 202-628-0444, fax: 202-628-0458, e-mail wrei@wrei.org, or their website at <http://www.wrei.org/>. ✍

Women's Studies Celebrates 25 Years

Women's Studies celebrated 25 years as an academic minor with an open house and awards ceremony on Wednesday, January 26. Three former directors and the current director of the program were acknowledged: Beverly Smith, Criminal Justice Sciences, served as acting director 1987-1989; Cynthia Huff, English, the first person hired as a director, served from 1989-1995; Sandra Harmon, History and Women's Studies, served as acting director from 1995-1996; and Valentine Moghadam, Women's Studies and Sociology, is the current director since January 1997.

Other guests at the reception included professors Elizabeth McMahan, emerita English; Mildred Pratt, emerita Social Work; Laura Berk, Psychology; Vanette Schwartz, Milner Library; Elizabeth Chapman, Associate Provost; and Jeanne Howard, Social Work, all of whom served the program in the 1970s and 1980s.

The featured speaker at the reception was women's studies alumna Diana Onken, who graduated with a degree in English in 1997. She is currently the Membership Development Associate in the national office of Peace Action in Washington, D.C. Peace Action is the largest grass-roots peace and disarmament organization in the United States. She spoke about the importance of her women's studies minor to her current work.

Student Awards

Two women's studies students were recognized for their accomplishments. **Rosanne Reid** received the Women's Studies Academic Achievement Award for the minor with the highest grade point average. She graduated in December with a major in Psychology. A returning student, she began her college education seven and half years ago, working two jobs and rearing her son as a single parent. She currently works for State Farm Insurance Company as a training specialist for the Customer Response Center. **Sarah Anderson** was recognized as Women's Studies Future Alumni Leader. A Communications major and honors student, Sarah has been a reporter and columnist for the *Vidette*, participated in the study abroad program at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia, and had a Women's Studies professional practice internship with Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois. ❧

Student and Alumni Update

Dr. Valentine Moghadam, Director of Women's Studies, has received a message from **Liz Lammert** thanking her for her letters of recommendation for graduate school. So far Liz has been accepted at the University of Wisconsin; University of Washington, Seattle; University of Arizona; University of Maryland; Ohio State University; Florida State University; and Purdue. Liz graduated in 1998 with a degree in communications. She received the 1998 Women's Studies Academic Achievement Award.

Dr. Sandra Harmon, Assistant Director of Women's Studies, received an update from **Elizabeth Sawyer**, women's studies minor. She is working for The Feminist Press at The City University of New York this spring, while finishing up her bachelor's degree in English. She originally heard about the internship opportunity through the National Women's Studies Association conference two years ago. She reports the Feminist Press office has been in something of an upheaval because they just moved in September to a more central location at the CUNY Graduate Center on the corner of 34th street and 5th Avenue (across the street from the Empire State Building). Because they just recently got settled, she is the only intern for the time being and therefore doing both editorial and marketing work. She splits the week between those two departments and is getting a good look at how small nonprofit presses are run.

She is planning to return to Normal at the end of April or the very beginning of May for graduation. ❧

Faculty News

Dr. Valentine Moghadam, Director of Women's Studies, is co-guest editor for a special issue of *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State, and Society* (vol. 6, no. 3, Fall 1999). She and Nitza Berkovitch of Ben Gurion University, Israel, also co-wrote the introductory essay, "Middle East Politics and Women's Collective Action: Challenging the Status Quo".

Dr. Moghadam's other recent publications are the following:

"Economic Restructuring and the Gender Contract: A Case Study of Jordan", pp. 99-115 in Marianne Marchand and Anne Sisson Runyan, eds., *Gender and Global Restructuring: Sightings, Sites, and Resistances* (London and New York, Routledge, 2000); "Social Development, State Capacity and Economic Reform: The Experience of Viet Nam", pp. 190-228 in Dharam Ghai, ed., *Social Development and Public Policy: A Study of Some Successful Experiences* (London: Macmillan and UNRISD, 2000); "The July Student Protests and the Movement for Reform in Iran: A Sociological Analysis", *Journal of Iranian Research and Analysis*, vol. 15, no. 2 (Nov. 1999): 97-105; "Population, Urbanization, and the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty", pp. 239-262 in *Understanding the Middle East*, edited by Deborah Gerner (Lynne Reinner, 2000).

Shari Zeck, Assistant to the Dean and recently named the Director of Arts Technology, College of Fine Arts, was a respondent on the panel "Witnessing Class: Passing and Class Boundaries in American Culture" at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference in Minneapolis November 4-6, 1999. ❧

Women's Studies Faculty and Conference Team Receive Awards

Six Women's Studies affiliated faculty members and the Women's Studies team that planned the Women and Employment: Linking Local and Global Conference were all honored at the Founders Day Convocation, February 17.

All three of the Outstanding University Teaching Awards went to faculty members affiliated with Women's Studies: **Deborah Gentry**, **Louis G. Perez**, and **Roberta Trites**. Gentry is professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and currently serves on the Women's Studies programming committee. Perez is professor in the Department of History where he integrates women's history into his Asian history courses. Trites is associate professor in the Department of English and associate dean for administration in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is author of the book *Waking Sleeping Beauty: Feminist Voices in Children's Novels*.

One of the two Outstanding University Teaching Awards—Category II went to **Sandra Harmon**, assistant director of Women's Studies and lecturer in History where she teaches women's history courses. **Maura Doherty**, History, and **Sophia McClennen**, Foreign Languages, received recognition as recipients of University Teaching Initiative Awards. Both serve on the Women's Studies curriculum committee.

The University Team Excellence Award went to the team that staged the Women and Employment: Linking Local and Global Conference last September. Team members are **Valentine Moghadam**, director of Women's Studies; **Maria Canabal**, professor in the department of Family and Consumer Sciences; **Sandra Harmon**, assistant director of Women's Studies; **Rozel White**, Women's Studies secretary; **Colleen McCormick**, Women's Studies undergraduate student assistant. The conference brought scholars, together with national, state, and local labor leaders, local businesswomen and workers, and lobbyists to discuss issues relating to women and employment locally, nationally and globally. ❧

Welcome New Women's Studies Minors

Mika Keegstra--Social Work
Angela Rice--History

Women's Voice
Illinois State University
Women's Studies Program
Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor
Campus Box 4260
Normal, IL 61790-4260



**New Videos at Women's Studies
Resource and Documentation Center**

Defying the Odds: Women Around the World Create New Roles
Beyond the Veil: Are Iranian Women Rebelling?
To be a Woman in Burkina Faso
Women: The Double Shift
Algeria: Women at War
Arab Women at Work
Honorable Murder

International Women's Day

You are invited
to the

**Women's Studies
Video showing
in celebration of
women internationally**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2000
3 - 5 PM**

Women's Studies, Rachel Cooper 2nd Floor

Coffee and cake will be served.

For more information, contact Rozel White at (309) 438-2947 or rwhite@ilstu.edu.

March is Women's History Month