

GEOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN (GPOW) NEWSLETTER, WINTER 2012

Letter from the Chair
January 2012

Greetings from Toronto, where I am engaged in a semester-long sojourn at York University's Centre for Feminist Research. I have been honoured to serve as GPOW's Chair this past year, and have been so pleased to work with lovely and diligent feminist colleagues: Past-Chair **Deborah Thien**; Vice-Chair **Tamar Rothenberg**; Secretary **Lise Nelson**; Treasurer **Risa Whitson**; AAG/International Liaison **Sarah de Leeuw**; Awards Committee members **Christy Jocoy** and **Pamela Moss**; Student Representatives **Roberta Hawkins** and **Jill Williams**; Webweaver **Amy Trauger**; and Newsletter Editor **Jen McCormack**. A huge thanks goes to each of them for the work that they have undertaken for GPOW; this includes organizing and managing conference sessions, awards, the budget and website, the newsletter, and all of the behind-the-scenes work that makes the annual book event and reception so enjoyable!

Many of you joined us for some of the 34 GPOW sponsored sessions at the 2011 AAG conference in Seattle, Washington. Highlights of the sessions included the series of five paper and panel sessions entitled *For Julie Graham*, which we co-sponsored with the Economic Geography Specialty Group, as well as our student representative-organized sessions: *What's Feminist about this Work? Challenges and insights from feminist research methodologies*; *Feminist Geography Re-examined*; and *Ten Years On: Feminisms and 'the War on Terror'*.

At the 2011 business meeting, we celebrated the accomplishments of our award winners. Many congratulations go out to:

- **Jill Williams**, PhD student at Clark University, for the **Susan Hanson Dissertation Proposal Award**. Her proposal was entitled, "Border Enforcement and the Gendered Politics of Humanitarianism."
- **Rosemary Collard**, Ph.D. student at University of British Columbia, for the **Glenda Laws Student Paper Award**. Her paper was entitled, "Cougar Figures, Gender and the Performances of Predation."
- **Melissa Gilbert**, Associate Professor at Temple University, for the **Jan Monk Service Award**.

Last year's annual book reception and wine & cheese was another great success, and one I will remember for the wonderful conversation and camaraderie, the beautiful venue at ArtXchange Gallery in Pioneer Square, and the unexpected lessons in navigating Washington state's liquor laws to find a permit for our event! The 2011 reception celebrated thirteen new books published during the year by feminist geographers and geographers working on issues of women, gender, and sexuality and was co-sponsored by *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. As always, the book reception was a fantastic opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and this event saw more than 200 GPOW members and their friends in attendance.

There is some news to report on the question of declining membership, which emerged as a significant matter of business during 2011. The first point is that membership appears to fluctuate quite dramatically. When I wrote the last annual report in October 2011, GPOW

had 424 members. As of this writing, in January 2012, membership counts are down to 276. We need to continue to follow the numbers to determine if such peaks and dips are normal trends over the course of the calendar year. Second, we learned from members that those who have joint or reciprocal memberships (for example, CAG & AAG) have difficulty joining specialty groups in the partnering Association. For instance, Canadian geographers who join the AAG through the CAG do not have the option to automatically select and join specialty groups. After many conversations with membership directors, I learned that joining specialty groups requires a simple secondary step with membership services. (To add GPOW to a joint CAG/AAG or RGS-IBG/AAG membership, contact **Adam Thocher** at the AAG: athocher@aag.org. The same steps apply for AAG members who want to join Canadian Women and Geography or other specialty groups within the CAG.) In sum, member numbers continue to be a concern, not least because member dues fund all GPOW activities (centrally, the annual awards and reception) and we must continue to seek out the support of additional sponsors to make the reception possible. Here, let me also reiterate that although dues are advertised as \$10 for regular members and \$2 for student members, membership is always available at a sliding scale for anyone who would like to join GPOW.

As you look ahead to the upcoming AAG 2012 in February, please plan to attend some of the many GPOW-related activities that will take place during the conference. GPOW is sponsoring more than 55 paper and panel sessions this year (!); topics range from gender and health to the geographies of craft, from love and affective methodologies to the politics of resource extraction. In short, the conference sessions will showcase the fantastic scope of work that takes place within feminist geography and demonstrate the impressive vitality of this field.

All **GPOW-sponsored sessions** merit special attention, but in the interest of brevity, there are three upcoming sessions to which I would like to draw your attention as you plan your conference schedule. First, GPOW's student representatives have organized a series of four sessions entitled *Rethinking the Terrain of Geopolitics* (Tuesday, 8 AM-5:40 PM, East Suite Hilton, Fourth Floor). Second, GPOW is one of several specialty groups supporting the author-meets-critics session organized by **Geraldine Pratt** and **Lieba Faier** entitled *Sex, Love, Labor and Spaces In-Between: New Books on the Filipina/o Diaspora* (Sunday, 4:40 PM-6:20 PM, Lenox Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel, Second Floor). Third, *Gender, the Environment, and Work of the United Nations* is the GPOW-sponsored session within the AAG's "United Nations Special Session Track" (Saturday, 8 AM-9:40 AM, Concourse E Hilton, Concourse Level). Thanks to the student representatives and GPOW member **Monica Ogra** for organizing this session. Thanks also to **Jan Monk** who prompted this session by calling our attention to the absence of gender in the topics proposed for UN-related sessions.

The **GPOW business meeting** will take place on Sunday, 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM in Harlem Suite on the Fourth Floor of the Hilton. As always, there will be much to accomplish at this year's business meeting. We will unveil the work-in-progress that is the GPOW-housed Gender & Geography Bibliography, which **Ellen Hansen** painstakingly compiled and maintained for many years and which continues to serve as a tremendous resource for emerging and established scholars alike. (Thanks to **Jen Giesecking** and **Laura Shillington** for their ongoing work with this project.) We will also briefly discuss the possibility of collectively writing an ethics statement that can serve as a guide for research on gender and difference within Geography. (Thanks to **Margaret Pearce** for raising this suggestion.) Additionally, after announcing the winners of the Glenda Laws Student Paper

Award, the Susan Hanson Dissertation Proposal Award, and the Jan Monk Service Award, we hold elections for several board positions. We need one Student Representative, Awards Committee Representative, Treasurer, and Secretary; each of these positions is a two-year term (2012-2014). We also need a Vice-Chair, who will serve a three-year term (2012-2015: first as Vice-Chair, then as Chair, and finally as Past-Chair). To put yourself forward for any of the above positions, or to raise any issues or concerns that you would like to see discussed at the business meeting, ***please attend!*** Newcomers are very welcome. Alternatively, you are welcome to send me an email in advance.

Last but definitely not least, the **2012 GPOW Book Event and Reception** is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 7-9 pm at Bluestockings, a feminist/activist bookstore and fair trade cafe on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Many, many thanks go to Vice-Chair (and member of this year's conference organizing committee) **Tamar Rothenberg** for all of her work making the local arrangements, and to the Urban Geography Specialty Group for their financial support of the event. We will be celebrating the release of fourteen books. Please join us for this memorable affair!

I hope to see many of you in New York City!

With best wishes,

Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
t.mullermyrdahl@uleth.ca

GPOW and Our Place in the AAG: Promoting geographic research and education on topics relating to women and gender.

As we enter into another year of GPOW activities, and as I exit my role as Past Chair, I want to signal some of the ways GPOW is and can continue to be active in shaping our national organization and our discipline in line with our mission: **to promote geographic research and education on topics relating to women and gender**. As you may know, GPOW holds an ex officio position on the AAG Committee on the Status of Women in Geography. The post can be held by the GPOW Chair or Designee. In past years, the Chair has taken on this role; however, last year, we decided this would be a good post for the Past Chair given that the current Chair always has a lot on her plate!

The Committee on the Status of Women in Geography, as with other AAG committees, is in place to respond to AAG Council requests, as opposed to proactively generating activities. This means that issues GPOW would like to raise or changes we would like to see made need to be directed towards the AAG and the Committee. Having an ex officio role offers us that direct link. How we want to make use of that connection to advocate for positive change in our organization is something for GPOW to consider.

Another committee where GPOW is making an impact is the Enhancing Diversity Committee (<http://www.aag.org/cs/diversity>). This group has several projects ongoing with which GPOW has been or is connected. For example, in 2010, three of our GPOW-sponsored sessions were included in an activity of the AAG's ALIGNED project: a series of special tracks designed to guide conference attendees through themed sessions

highlighting diversity. Three GPOW sessions were included in the 'Enhancing Diversity in Higher Education' track:

- Supporting Women In Geography, Part 1: Undergraduate Perspectives
- Supporting Women In Geography, Part 2: Graduate and Professional Perspectives
- Gender, Sexuality, and Space: In Memory of Glen Elder

More recently, I joined the Enhancing Diversity Committee's new project: "Catalyzing Research on Geographies of Broadening Participation" funded by the National Science Foundation (<http://www.aag.org/cs/gbp>). This project aims to enhance diversity and promote inclusion of underrepresented populations in higher education by focusing unique disciplinary perspectives and significant scholarly capacity on the "Science of Broadening Participation". Again, I see this as an opportunity for GPOW to continue to have a voice in shaping our national organization and our discipline. In my capacity as a member on this research team, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

All the best for a fabulous AAG in NYC and a great 2012!

Deborah Thien
Past Chair, GPOW

GPOW at the Annual Meeting of the Association American Geographers (AAG), New York City, February 24-28, 2012.

<http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting>

<http://meridian.aag.org/callforpapers/program/SearchAction.cfm>

GPOW Sponsored Sessions

Author Meets Critics - Mary Thomas, "Multicultural Girlhood: Racism, Sexuality and the Conflicted Spaces of American Education"

Authors Meets the Critics: Information and Communication Technology Geographies: Strategies for Bridging the Digital Divide by Melissa Gilbert and Michele Masucci

Bodies, Borders, and Territory I-IV

Critical Geographies of Young People - Globalization, Space and Time II: Mobilities and Time-space

Doing feminist geography after the postcolonial turn

Dress(ing) in Public: Dress, Ideology and the Female Body (I-II)

Emotional and affective methodologies: feeling, thinking and knowing (Session 1-2)

Feminist research methods and 'the everyday')

Food security, food sovereignty, & food justice: the Geographies of Food

Gender, Development and Transnationalism 1

Gender, the Environment, and Work of the United Nations

Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group Business Meeting

Geographies of Craft and Crafting I-V

Geographies of Family

Geographies of Gender and Economics

Geographies of Gender and Health

Geographies of Gender and Rural, Small, Domestic, and Intimate Spaces

Geographies of Gender in Latin America

Geographies of Gender in Varied Counties: Canada, Sweden, Ghana, Turkey, and the

U.S.A.

Geographies of Gender, Empowerment, Politics, and Participation

Geographies of Love I-IV

Geographies of Media 7: Visualising the Visceral I, Film as a Research Output

Geographies of Media 8: Visualising the Visceral II, Texting the Film

Geographies of sexualities - after the 'cultural turn'

Geographies of Voluntarism and Philanthropy: Spaces of Giving I-III

Qualitative GIS Symposium II-VIII

Relational masculinities I-II: embodiment, homespaces and the family

Rethinking the Terrain of Geopolitics I: (In)Security, Violence, and the State

Rethinking the Terrain of Geopolitics II: Borders, Scales and Subjects

Rethinking the Terrain of Geopolitics III: Peace, Reconciliation, and Memory

Rethinking the Terrain of Geopolitics IV: Dispossession, Corpratization, and Crisis

Sex, Love, Labor and Spaces In-Between: New Books on the Filipina/o Diaspora

The normalcy of difference

Towards a Feminist Framework on Resource Extraction

Wangari Maathai: Environmental Justice and the Contributions of an Activists' Life

GPOW Sponsored Events

The Geographic Perspectives on Women (GPOW) Specialty Group business meeting on Sunday, February 26, 2012, from 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM in Harlem Suite, Fourth Floor, Hilton NY.

GPOW Book reception on Monday, February 27, 7-9 pm at Bluestockings, a feminist/activist bookstore and fair trade cafe on the Lower East Side.

AAG Awards Luncheon on Thursday, February 28, from 12:00 pm - 2:15 pm in the Trianon Ballroom, Hilton NY.

News from GPOW Members



Destiny Aman (*left in the coolest fieldwork photo of the Lake Tahoe area*) received an AAUW American Fellowship and a Joint Fire Sciences Program Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award.

Claudia Radel has an exciting list of publications, relevant to many GPOW members: Radel, C. 2011. Outcomes of conservation alliances with women's community-based organizations in southern Mexico. *Society & Natural Resources*. DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2011.555879.

Radel, C. 2011. Becoming farmers: Opening spaces for women's resource control in Calakmul, Mexico. *Latin American Research Review*. 46(2): 29-54.

Radel, C., B. Schmook, and S. McCandless. 2010. Environment, transnational labor migration, and gender: Case studies from Southern Yucatán, Mexico and Vermont, USA. *Population and Environment* 32(2): 177-197, Special Issue: Human Migration and the Environment.

Calling all past recipients of GPOW awards!

GPOW needs your help to improve our institutional memory. Currently, we have all GPOW award winners (2006-2012) listed on our website. We would like to add earlier recipients of our specialty group awards to this list. Please contact Tiffany (t.mullermyrdahl@uleth.ca) to help us continue to build our specialty group history.

Update to Teaching Resources Link

Amy Trauger has renovated and added to our collection of syllabi, reading lists, films for classroom use and other helpful information. Here is the valuable link:

<http://atrauger.myweb.uga.edu/gpow/genderandgeographycourses.pdf>

Highlights from GPOW Book Event at the 2011 AAG, Seattle, WA



Tiffany serving as bartender!



Tamar Rothenberg and Ann Oberhauser



New friends meeting over books and drinks



Sarah de Leeuw, Friend and Deborah Thien

Student bonding

