



## Similarity and difference in the Nordic countries

A recent and important outcome of a joint Nordic Women's Studies project, is a book published this spring on gender and politics, with the title *Likestilte demokratier?* (ed. by Bergqvist et al. 1999).<sup>1</sup> The opening chapter describes a common image of one "Norden" that is often encountered abroad — with politically accomplished women working for peace, welfare and equality. This image can partially be attributed to the high percentage of women within politics and the workforce, and a strong welfare sector of care and service in the Nordic countries. The best known exemplifications of the fact that women are no longer considered exceptions in top level political positions are former Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland and Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, the President of Iceland for 16 years.

The Nordic countries consist of the five sovereign states of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and

Sweden. They represent a total population of 24 million, ranging from Iceland's 250 000 to Sweden's 8 million. Not only geography connect these countries. The Nordic countries are known for being, and indeed are relatively homogeneous. Numerous comparative studies have underlined their historic, socio-economic, cultural, religious and linguistic *similarities*. They all have traditions of strong popular movements, strong support for social democracy, ideas of equality, a close relationship between state and society and a relatively strong welfare state. There is a long tradition of co-operation between the Nordic countries, both on a governmental level and between organisations and citizens.

In earlier research, the Nordic countries have been characterised as "woman friendly welfare states", "caring states" and "state feminism". Women's participation in both politics and the work force is among

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the highest in the Western world. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, are also relatively advanced in terms of legal provisions that protect the rights of homosexuals and lesbians.

Yet the picture painted of the Nordic countries is often incomplete and too rosy; education and the labour market remain gender segregated, a wage gap still exists, and politics is mainly a man's world. Equal opportunity policies are not framed in ways radically different from those of other Western industrialised countries. Sexualized violence as well as discrimination of homosexuals and lesbians are also realities in the Nordic countries.

In the book *Likestilte demokratier*, the focus is mainly on the political mobilization of women, policies of care for small children and the institutionalisation of policies for equal opportunity. Among the important findings is that the Nordic countries *differ* from each other more than we tend to think. This is hardly surprising for those who have

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been active in Nordic milieus for a while. This can be illustrated in a range of policy areas. For example, the criminalization of men who buy sex is an item on the current Norwegian political agenda. In Sweden, a law was passed last year making it illegal for men to buy sex from prostitutes. Denmark did the opposite by decriminalizing prostitution as an occupation (though buying sex from prostitutes less than 18 years old is illegal).

Instead of talking about a single profile of equal opportunities and gender policies in the Nordic countries, the authors of the book draw a many-faceted picture of five different models, one in each country. The more one goes in to detail and the longer one analyses, the more the differences among the five countries become apparent.

The fact that Denmark is different from the other countries concerning policies of equal opportunity has partly to do with its membership in the European Union since 1972. Yet Denmark is also a society with a relatively high degree of liberalism, contributing to the resistance towards regulations and a radical policy of equal opportunities. Equal opportunities debates were put on the agenda by a strong grassroots women's movement in the seventies, but the weakening of this movement have resulted in these issues having lower priority today. Sweden and Norway have the most institutionalized equal opportunities policies, with Finland and Iceland falling somewhere in between. Another example of differences between the Nordic countries is that high percentages of women in government only apply to Norway, Sweden and Finland. On the other hand, public care for small children is better in Sweden and Denmark than in the other countries.

The book charted new territory in that it included analysis of the three autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (both Danish)

and the Åland Islands (Finnish). These islands are very different from one another in terms of gender and political issues. Compared with their mother countries, women in these areas have been politically mobilized much later, as did the establishment of an equal opportunities machinery.

*Likestilte Demokratier* is the outcome of one out of many joint Nordic research projects within Women's Studies since the late seventies. Many disciplinary and cross-disciplinary Nordic research networks have been built up, and constitute informal settings for the Nordic co-operation within the field. *NORA, the Nordic Journal of Women's Studies*, published in English since 1993 is another key player in the Nordic Women's co-operation arena. *The Nordic Association for Women's Studies and Gender Research* was established partly as a publishing association for *NORA* in 1994 and does networking in the field. NIKK, founded in 1995 as an institute with an important co-ordination and networking mandate, has the task of inspiring people and organisations in the Nordic Women's Studies community to take part in and further promote co-operative initiatives. For us, this book is a rich source of knowledge, and provides input to and inspiration for future research, debates and other activities inside and outside of NIKK. *Likestilte demokratier* underlines the need for analyses of both the institutionalized and the non-institutionalized political system. The importance of bringing analyses further by drawing attention to differences between women (in terms of ethnicity and disabilities, for example) and the need for more research on the role of men are emphasized in the book. It also calls for an analysis of the effects of European integration on gender relations and democracy. Similarities between the Nordic countries constitute an important foundation for the various forms of contemporary Nordic collaboration. Differences do not undermine this



## What is NIKK?

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 co-operation for Women's Studies and Gender Research in the Nordic countries
- promotes, initiates, co-ordinates and informs about Women's Studies and Gender Research in the five Nordic countries and internationally
- conducts research projects

collaboration. On the contrary, they constitute important challenges and inspirations for both research and policy making.

*Fride Eeg-Henriksen*

<sup>1</sup> *Likestilte demokratier? Kjønn og politikk i Norden.* Christina Bergqvist huvudred. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 1999. An English edition/translation entitled *Equal Democracies? Gender and Politics in the Nordic Countries* will be published in autumn 1999.



# Men's Studies in the Nordic countries

Men's Studies and gender equality research on men has a tradition in most of the Nordic countries and the field has been developed in various ways through different periods in each country. It began in Denmark in the 1970s, all the 1980s, Sweden dominated the field. In the 1990s, most of the Men's Studies-related activities have been in Norway and Sweden. During the last years some steps have also been taken to promote Men's Studies in Iceland and Finland.

In 1989, Norwegian researchers created a *Network for Studies of Men* which has since been a central promoter of the field. The network publishes a newsletter and edits a website. It has recently published an overview of relevant publications within Men's Studies in Norway (in Norwegian *Mannsforskning i Norge*). This publication demonstrates the growth of the field despite small resources. It can be ordered from the Norwegian Research Council.

At the University of Karlstad in Sweden, researchers are building a database on researchers and research projects in the field of Men's Studies in the Nordic countries.

In addition, all the Nordic countries have a contact person for Men's Studies. See the Addresses p. 35.

## Men's Studies Coordinator

The growing demand for research-based knowledge and information on men and masculinities was the primary impetus for the recent establishment of the new position a Nordic Co-ordinator for Men's Studies. With this position, the Nordic countries have proven themselves as pioneers in the Men's Studies field. One can hope that the region will continue to play a key role in promoting and enhancing this area of study and inquiry on an international scale.



The primary goal of the co-ordinator position is to advance Men's Studies in the region. This includes the need to strengthen the links between Men's Studies and Women's Studies, integrate Men's Studies with relevant areas of Women's Studies and Gender Research, and contribute to co-operation in the Nordic countries and the adjacent areas, throughout Europe and in other parts of the world.

The Co-ordinator will also collaborate with the Secretariat of the Nordic Council of Ministers in carrying out the research-related aspects of the NCM's "Plan of Action" on men and equality. The Plan of Action is part of the activities for implementing the co-operation programme to NCM, running from 1995-2000. Among other things, the plan proposes the creation of expert groups, development of new areas of co-operation and evaluation, book projects, conferences and networks. The Co-ordinator will be based at NIKK from 1999-2001.

## On the global level

IASOM, *The International Association for Studies of Men* is an independent researchers' initiative aimed at developing Men's Studies on the global level. Through an international discussion in 1993, it was decided that IASOM would be based on a revised version of the Nordic network model. The IASOM platform supports studies of men in gender-egalitarian, pro-feminist or critical perspective, as well as "male-positive" focus. IASOM emphasizes dialogue and diverse research based on this platform. IASOM publishes a newsletter and have its own website, edited in Norway. More information about IASOM can be found on its website: [www.ifi.uio.no/~eivindr/iasom](http://www.ifi.uio.no/~eivindr/iasom)

International publications are important for the new field. IASOM supports the new journal *Men and Masculinities* published by Sage with Michael Kimmel as editor.

Other important international tasks for the new Co-ordinator include co-operation with the new *EU Profeminist Men's Network* as well as other groups and networks on regional and international levels.

*Øystein Gullvåg Holter*



# Gendered Traditions and Sexual Acts - a high risk affair

## **NIKK's Living for Tomorrow Project**

The NIKK *Living for Tomorrow* project takes its point of departure from the belief that inadequate engagement with issues of gender is one of the key causes of the limited success of sex education work with youth in the West. The project hopes to stimulate new levels of debate on the problematising of gender issues in preventive sexual health education strategies with young people in Baltic, Nordic and European contexts. The urgency of more effective, more youth-engaging sexual safety work is internationally paramount today. *Living for Tomorrow* took shape in response to the gender issues that lie at the heart of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The project has been designed to raise critical discussions of social and cultural conceptions of masculinity and femininity, along with inter-active methods of participation.

## **The project in brief**

The *Living for Tomorrow* is a three-year development and research project based at NIKK (1998-2001) and carried out in Estonia. The first phase of the project was "capacity building" training sessions, where participants worked to devise new strategies and methods of approaching issues of sexual safety and gender that actively engage young people. These methods provided the starting point for sexual health workshops with Estonian teenagers. In turn, the teenagers will develop information tools and resources that take up issues of gender and sexual health, such as videos, booklets and leaflets.

*Living for Tomorrow* draws on existing research on gender and sexual issues, including Baltic, North West Russian, Nordic and

international research on HIV/AIDS prevention and gender. An important research aspect of the project is the collection of comparative data on young people's attitudes about gender differences, sexual behaviour and health. This all helps to inform the project's processes as well as provide material for future studies and comparative analyses.

The project has been set up with the intention of spawning innovative research and development projects and future gender-focused, collaborative youth initiatives around these topics in the Baltic and Nordic counties and elsewhere in Europe.

## **Challenges of inertia and indifference**

While erratic media coverage lulls us into lack of concern about HIV, UNAIDS data chart that 50 million people have contracted the virus since it was identified and that HIV is currently infecting 6 million people worldwide every year. Infections occur overwhelmingly by sexual transmission (90% heterosexual) and half of all new infections occur among young people aged 15 to 24. Deeply affecting health, the economy, and countless personal lives, the AIDS epidemic is cited as one of the greatest threats to global development today.

In spite of the fact that sex education has expanded since the rise of the AIDS epidemic, the success of safer sex education in Western Europe has been limited. UNAIDS records that North America and Western Europe have shown disturbing lack of progress in prevention. HIV infection rates have remained unchanged for a decade and studies reveal disturbing trends among youths, such as the recent dramatic increase of chlamydia and unexpected levels of HIV infection

among teenage girls in the UK or persistent inadequate condom use among sexually active young Norwegians.

Post-soviet countries struggle with rising HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, vulnerable economies, limited education and health resources and the relative newness of gender-focussed concerns. These circumstances, linked to Nordic prioritising of youth, health and gender equality, newly activated dialogues with Baltic and N.W. Russian neighbours, and the implications of increased business and leisure mobility across now visa-less borders frame the NIKK *Living for Tomorrow* project in important ways.

## **With gender at its heart**

The NIKK project is employing strategies that activate critical questioning of social traditions and expectations about gender differences, such as assumptions about 'natural' masculine and feminine behaviours that normalise high-risk sexual behaviours. It also is working to prioritise less hierarchical, more interactive processes of involvement of young people – with questions of the embodiment of gendered sexuality at the heart of its work. It draws attention to how gender systems are social, cultural and historical and changing, therefore changeable. This locates the possibility and significance of questioning and changing (gendered) sexual behaviours that lead to damage consequences – including AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, abortions and sexual violence.



*Living for Tomorrow's* central ideas are that:

- What we DO sexually depends on what we think and believe about masculine and feminine social and sexual positionings that are 'naturalised' by the cultural influences around us
- 'Traditional' differences between men and women (articulated often in economic, legal, political and sexual division of labour terms) have a consequence of 'naturalising' high risk sexual behaviours.
- In order to change behaviour, information about sexual safety, risk, and pleasure need to be linked to better information and critical analysis and debate about 'traditional' gender positionings.

The project invites participants to examine contexts and expectations that frame sexual behaviours, thus activating new ways of questioning that can offer different conceptions of safety within sexual relationships.

#### **Action processes**

"Capacity Building" Training  
The first phase of the project took place in November 1998, when the Capacity Building training sessions were mounted in Tallinn, Estonia. The 31 participants came from student, sex education, teaching, social work and HIV prevention backgrounds- mostly from Estonia, with some from Lithuania and Russia. Gender researchers, sex educators and drama people contributed. The 6 days of sessions explored research on Estonian youth, critical studies looking at gender and body and sex images in the Estonian media and recent international research on HIV prevention with young people. The participants were engaged in a variety of active learning, participatory activities, such as an interactive problem-solving workshop, discussions with people living with HIV/AIDS and performing "body work" with actors from New York. A video was made from the sessions.

#### **Youth workshops**

A "core group" from the Capacity Building committed themselves to work on the next phase - preparing and implementing workshops with teenagers that would take up gender issues and these participatory strategies. Twenty-five teenagers, half from Russian and half from Estonian families (reflecting the actual population in Tallinn), took part in 8 daylong workshops in Tallinn in Spring 1999. These involved all kinds of active learning activities on sexual information and gender beliefs and assumptions, with energising input from theater groups from the US and UK. The teenagers will make self-filmed videos of daily youth culture and interviews on sexual health with public figures, a sexual safety booklet and a 'sex & gender' English/Estonian/Russian vocabulary leaflet.

#### **Key collaborative processes**

The project is designed and co-ordinated by Jill Lewis at NIKK, with key collaboration with The AIDS Prevention Centre, Tallinn; The Centre for Health Education and Research, Canterbury, UK; AIDS Prevention Lithuania; and Tartu University. Researchers in Norway, Sweden and Finland, Russia, Lithuania, England, the Netherlands, Australia and the US are in advisory dialogue with the project. Input from Women's Studies and gender researchers at universities in Estonia has been crucial. 'Satellite' collaborations with Lithuania and St. Petersburg have been consolidated, keeping alive the project's transferability possibilities. Collaborative articles will be written on various aspects of the project during and following the project. One outcome from these collaborative processes is the 'core group's' decision to form themselves into an NGO to continue *Living for Tomorrow* work on gender, sexual health and Estonian-Russian integration with young people in Estonia.

#### **Opening doors for the future**

*Living for Tomorrow* is taking on huge and complex challenges, bringing people together from different age groups, countries, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, sexual preferences and experiences, and working with ideas about gender to discuss very personal, sensitive and serious social topics. Yet in the face of these challenges, the project has proven enormously fruitful so far. In a cross-cultural, Western/Post-Soviet/Estonian context, the project is attempting to question gender beliefs and behaviours that lead to *damage consequences* in lives and relationships, and help limit HIV infection through sexual health risk behaviours. The project co-ordinators have been amazed at the strong collaborative energies and unexpected learning processes on all sides that the project has generated. These processes seemed to be opening up valuable "doors" of collaboration, dialogue, research links and new ideas. The project is mobilising a sense of the importance of young people's active involvement and agency in sexual safety and gender debates, with important links to the underpinnings of wider concerns for gender equality in the future. For more information on the project, see NIKK's website.

*Jill Lewis*





# New Research Initiatives at NIKK

## Between rhetoric and practice

*Between Rhetoric and practice: Public and private conceptions of modern gender equality politics in the Nordic countries*

Gender equality politics has a comparatively long history in the Nordic countries, which have been quite ambitious in this area relative to most other countries. Over the years, substantial gains have been made in several areas of social life. In conjunction with such advances, major changes in mentality and rhetoric have occurred over a historically fairly short time. In particular, these changes are evident in the ways gender equality is talked about and conceptualised. In this process, sex/gender seems to have lost at least some of its power to structure political and private agendas and understandings. When asked, a large majority of the citizens in the Nordic countries today profess to have very positive attitudes towards greater gender equality. However, correlations between rhetoric and practice are seldom perfect, and the field of gender equality politics is no exception. In this matter, as well as in many others, the Nordic countries are far less similar to one another than the outside observer may at first discern. Many different conceptions of gender actively contribute to varied patterns of rhetoric and practice. We see this as representing an important field of study that feminist researchers in the Nordic countries are at present approaching from various angles.

### **Scrutinizing Nordic gender equality rhetoric**

The Nordic research project *Between rhetoric and practice: changes in public and private conceptions of modern gender equality politics in the Nordic countries* is now in its initial phase. It will look at the varieties of gender equality rhetoric in the Nordic countries, with an emphasis on their contexts and consequences on an individual as well as a collective level, and with a particular focus on how these levels are connected.

The first phase of the project focuses on major political players such as political parties, labour unions, local and central government agencies and other important organisations in each of the Nordic countries. Documents issued by these entities on gender equality, such as legal texts, commentaries, party programs and journal articles etc., will be analysed. The analyses are based on discursive methodology and highlight the different types of ideologies and discourses that inform political actions and debates. Especially important to trace are, for example, variations in the underlying conceptions of gender; variations in the weights and kinds of meanings given to sex and gender; the way these variations may be contextualized. For instance, in the Nordic countries, consensus-oriented ideologies based on 'gender-neutral' conceptions have been prominent in many fields, competing with an orientation towards gender as 'difference'. Rhetorical traditions, habits and 'tricks', and their discursive and practical consequences, will also be analysed. In addition, the project will focus on patterns of gender-political discourses and types of rhetoric compared between the five Nordic countries.

### **From rhetoric to daily practice**

In the second phase of the project we will try to bridge the gap between rhetoric/ideology and individuals' daily practices and ongoing identity formation in relation to meanings of gender and gender equality. Here, emphasis is placed on the different ways people – men and women in all walks of society – make sense of the political discourses and rhetorical messages about the meanings of gender that they encounter in their daily lives as citizens in the five Nordic countries. The preferred methods and materials at this stage will be interviews. The interviews will be conducted with individuals, couples and groups, using the findings in the first phase to generate issues and questions.

The project has gathered a Nordic reference group consisting of Eva Magnusson, NIKK; Maud Eduards, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, Sweden; Harriet Silius, Institute for Women's Studies, Åbo Akademi University, Finland; and Dorte Marie Søndergaard, Department of Psychology, Roskilde University, Denmark. The project group for the activities of the first year consists of Eva Magnusson, NIKK (co-ordinator); Anne Maria Holli, Department of Political Science, University of Helsinki, Finland; Malin Rönnblom, Department of Political Science, Umeå University, Sweden; and Guro Karstensen, NIKK.



## Gender, power and psychology

*Gender, power and psychology in the Nordic countries: A call to disciplinary reflexivity*

Mainstream psychology as an academic discipline and profession - in the Nordic countries and elsewhere - is known among feminist researchers as unusually resistant to feminist criticism, although such criticism has been repeated over the years. This resistance makes psychology a field of special interest for those interested in the sociology and history of scientific ideas and practices, especially as related to gender. To a large degree, this is so because psychology is also an important ideological force in modern society— as seen, for instance, in the growth of the psychological professions and in the big business that popular psychology has become in Western countries. There is therefore every reason to presume that psychology contributes greatly to creating and maintaining gendered identities and subjectivities in modern society. For feminists, there is every reason to continue to investigate this influence from several angles.

NIKK has chosen a particular angle on these questions by way of a new research project in a Nordic context. For several decades, the Nordic countries have had comparatively progressive gender equality politics in most areas of society, which has had at least some influence on academic disciplines as well. It is therefore of particular interest to study the gender assumptions of mainstream psychology, as well as the roles and functions of mainstream psychology in Nordic societies. A key aspect of this is to see in what ways the Nordic countries differ from other countries. Many other questions will be on the project's agenda. It will begin on a fairly small and exploratory scale, proceeding in several stages.

The project's first stage will be epistemological, looking at how the several psychological sub-disciplines conceptualise gender— in theories, teachings and practices. Essentialist versus constructionist conceptualisations will be in focus, as well as their consequences for psychology's 'consumers'. In its second stage, the project aims to develop a feminist sociology of psychology as a science/discipline in a Nordic context. Areas of study will be practices, relations, competition and power in the creation and maintenance of psychology as a discipline, as these issues relate to meanings of gender in psychological theory and practice.

A Nordic reference group has been created, consisting of Eva Magnusson, NIKK (Co-ordinator); Mona Eliasson, Centre for Feminist Studies, University of Uppsala, Sweden; and Hanne Haavind, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo, Norway. Important assistance with and dialogue on this project will be also provided by NIKK's Nordic network of feminist psychologists and researchers in psychology.

*Eva Magnusson*





# NIKK on the Net

NIKK has been online since its start in September 1995. However, during the years, our website has been renewed and expanded regularly. Today, the NIKK website offers a wide range of updated information, both in English and the Scandinavian languages. We highly recommend that you visit our website — an avenue to Women's and Gender Studies in various regions and countries, both Nordic and international. On the website you will find information about NIKK activities, such as our research projects, publications and online databases, an events calendar, as well as links to an array of relevant Women's Studies sites, funding-possibilities etc.



## Research

NIKK both facilitates and carries out Nordic and International Women's Studies and Gender Research projects that have a Nordic dimension. You will find more information about ongoing research-projects on our website.

## Online Publications

Besides our newsletters *News from NIKK* and the Scandinavian *Nytt fra NIKK*, we also put out reports, papers, brochures and other informational material on the net. You can either read them online or you can order paper versions from NIKK or directly from the website.

## IT/Information Projects

NIKK has also been involved in two information projects: European Women's Thesaurus - an EU project and Nordic Virtual Women's Studies and Gender Research Library - a NORDINFO-project.

## Nordic Virtual Library

You can find the Nordic Virtual Library of Women's Studies and Gender Research via NIKK's website. The virtual library is a subject-specific and quality-controlled information gateway to web resources – these could be bibliographical databases, databases of experts, overviews of archive material etc.

This virtual library is a collaborative project between libraries and information services in the Nordic countries that provide information on gender research. Virtual and searchable resources on topics related to the field are easily accessible through the virtual library. Unfortunately, many of these sources are only available in Scandinavian languages although the biggest bibliographical databases are found in English. Through co-operation and input from many different entities, the virtual library has helped to make existing resources more visible, but also to focus on future development needs, such as translation, quality and content analysis.

The virtual library is a good starting point for researchers and others interested in Women's Studies and Gender Research in the Nordic countries. It will be developed further and we hope that many new digital resources are made accessible this way.

## Databases: EDITH & EMILJA

Both EMILJA and EDITH are searchable databases within NIKK's website. EDITH and EMILJA each have a particular focus and target audience: EMILJA is primarily Women's Studies and research based and covers the Baltic countries and North West Russia. EDITH profiles mainly women's organisations (NGOs) and includes the Nordic countries and North West Russia. Though the databases may overlap in respect to some data and the kinds of users they attract, they serve as distinct but complimentary resources.

The online platform lends itself to storing systematised, accessible and comprehensive data that can be easily up-dated and expanded. Users can also perform tailored, advanced searches according to their particular information needs. One can find guidelines and help with using both of the databases on their respective web pages.

## AOIFE

Through NIKK's website you can access the website for The Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe (AOIFE). Among other things, the AOIFE's website includes updated information about AOIFE activities and projects, membership, publications and policies.

## Women's Studies Links

NIKK has a comprehensive list of links to Women's Studies and Gender Research-related websites in various regions and countries, both Nordic and international.

## Funding Sources

NIKK's funding sources site includes useful links to an array of funding sources and grants. Some of them are specifically related to Women's Studies and Gender Research, whereas others have a broader focus. Thus, the links can be of interest for people both within and outside of those fields. If you don't have access to Internet, don't



hesitate to contact us, so that we can send you a paper version of the site.

#### Calendar of Events

The Calendar contains information on events relevant to Women's Studies and Gender Research both within and outside the Nordic countries. In the English version of the calendar, all the Nordic events listed are English spoken ones. The calendar is regularly updated.

#### NIKKs information service – beyond newsletters and the website

NIKK is continually building up more information about the wide field of Women's Studies and Gender Research in the Nordic countries. Therefore, NIKK is also a good place to start if you are looking for information related to these topics. We have a good overview of research milieus, researchers, projects and more. There is an array of different types of activities going on in the field; publishing scholarly journals, conducting international research projects, teaching at many levels and in different languages, to name a few. Through NIKK you can get in contact with the right organisations or people in the Nordic countries. Please don't hesitate to ask us for assistance.

#### Not on the net?...

Not being connected to the Internet does not mean that you are not able to utilise the information NIKK has collected on her website. We can print out pages for you, answer your questions via e-mail or even write letters and handle information requests over the phone.

*Cathrine Tømte and Maria Grönroos*

## NIKK at Women's Worlds 1999



Besides serving as one of the conference co-organisers, NIKK will also be actively involved in the Women's Worlds conference programme. Nearly all of NIKK's staff will be present at the conference.

#### "The Nordic House"

NIKK and the Nordic Council of Ministers would like to invite all participants of the conference to "the Nordic House", where we will provide conference participants with information about the Nordic region with a special emphasis on gender research and gender equality.

"The Nordic House" is a space allocated to exhibit information materials contributed by grass-roots organisations, national research institutions, statistical bureau's and gender equality authorities from the Nordic countries. Representatives from the Nordic countries as well as Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and North West Russia will provide an array of information materials in the Nordic House. For more information on the Nordic House, see the "Nordic House" brochure (available at the WW99 conference). Information co-ordinator Maria Grönroos and consultant Guro Karstensen will be able to answer your questions and distribute information materials and NIKK publications at the NIKK stand of the Nordic House.

#### Workshops - network meetings - posters

NIKK's head of research, Eva Magnusson, will be contributing to a Women's Worlds workshop entitled *Coming to terms: Gender Talk and Gendered Selves*, focusing on practices of gender seen through discursive psychology. NIKK's new Men's Studies Co-ordinator Øystein Gullvåg Holter is involved in several workshops on masculinity and Men's Studies. Information specialists Maria Grönroos and Cathrine Tømte are co-organisers for a workshop on information sources on the Internet.

NIKK houses the Secretariat for AOIFE (*The Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe*). Therefore, NIKK's Director Fride Eeg-Henriksen and Consultants Diana Anders and Elisabeth Lorenzen will primarily be found at AOIFE-related activities during the conference:

- A workshop on European research funding
- Mini-lecture/presentation of *Next Generation Network*
- A workshop on use of Information Technology in Women's Studies teaching
- In addition, AOIFE and its ATHENA project will conduct a series of meetings.

NIKK's three-year research and development project *Living for Tomorrow* will be presented at the poster session, featuring a video of its activities with youths in Estonia.

*Maria Grönroos*



# A Bird's Eye on Women's Studies in the Nordic Countries



Over the last two decades Women's Studies has expanded rapidly throughout the Nordic region. Today the field is dynamic and manifold. Recently, a discussion has started on whether Nordic Women's Studies is characterised by any specific common profile (see e.g. the review of "Is there a Nordic Feminism?" on p. 26-27). Despite the obvious diversity and variation of the form of Women's Studies, certain "Nordic" characteristics may be discerned. A short overview is below of some of the features characterising research orientation, teaching and the institutionalisation of Women's Studies in the different Nordic Countries.

## Research

Nordic Women's Studies, developing from the 1970s onwards, had firm roots in the sex roles and family research of the 1960s. The *sex roles question* spread beyond the academic community and led to a lively public debate. Later these issues were integrated into the political apparatus and developed into an institutionalised policy of gender equality, sometimes called *Nordic State feminism*. Issues on gender equality in the welfare state have been one major focus of Nordic Women's Studies.

Hence, there has been a concentration on areas such as education, working life, politics and caring. However, more recently there is also a growing body of research e.g. on the body, sexuality, identity formation, and cultural and post-colonial studies.

Undoubtedly, the specific *Nordic model* combining gender equality, state interventionism and an advanced welfare state system has given Nordic Women's Studies political recognition. Simultaneously, the relationship between Women's Studies and policies of gender equality has been essential. However, it can also involve pitfalls for Women's Studies. Sometimes Nordic Women's Studies has too easily been seen as equivalent with and regarded as an instrument for gender equality policies.

The orientation and emphasis of Nordic Women's Studies has reflected the anchorage of this research in the specific socio-political reality and cultural traditions of the Nordic countries. The early development of Nordic Women's Studies was also closely tied to grass-roots feminism — a relationship that has been both fruitful and

tension-ridden. Simultaneously, there are inter-Nordic differences with respect to the goals, strategies and alliance policies of the Women's Studies movements in the individual countries. In addition, the development of Women's Studies has reflected the different academic traditions and scholarly orientations in the Nordic societies.

As elsewhere, Nordic Women's Studies has been influenced by the post-modernist and post-structuralist challenges to the paradigms of "modernist" feminism in recent years. Today there is considerable theoretical diversity and breadth of ideas in Nordic feminist thought and it has become impossible to point to any clearly dominating theoretical directions or scholarly agendas.

## Teaching and Education

In all Nordic countries, teaching and education in Women's Studies has been both integrated into the traditional disciplines and departments and organised in autonomous and inter-disciplinary units within the universities. The development has, however, been somewhat varied across the Nordic region. In Norway and Iceland, teaching of Women's Studies as a module, or part of an undergraduate degree has recently started at some universities, whereas the other Nordic countries have longer traditions in this respect.

Nordic Women's Studies has not had the status of a major degree subject for undergraduate or graduate degree programmes, such as in the United States, for example. Students have instead majored in the traditional departments and specialised in Women's Studies as part of their "mainstream" degree. Women's Studies has instead been offered as a minor or subsidiary

NORA  
Nordic Journal of Women's Studies

## What is NORA?

### 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.



subject in many Nordic universities. The situation is, however, currently undergoing some change. For example, at the University of Stockholm, Women's Studies has been granted the status of a major subject and at the University of Jyväskylä, Women's Studies can be included in a so-called Joint Degree. The issue is currently discussed elsewhere in the Nordic countries as well.

### Organisation and Resources

Women's Studies has been institutionalised and has gained a firm foothold in all Nordic countries. Research and teaching in Women's Studies is organised both within special units and integrated within the university disciplines and departments. Today Women's Studies is conducted at practically all Nordic institutions of higher learning, represented by more than thirty university centres and networks. Since the 1980s the field has become increasingly institutionalised via the centres for Women's Studies. Simultaneously, more Women's Studies scholars have been appointed to professorial and tenured positions, and research in the discipline has gradually become recognised in the academic community.

In the Nordic countries Women's Studies has been characterised by a system of public funding and political backing. Specific to the Nordic countries has been national co-ordination bodies for Women's Studies. Early on in Norway and Finland, national co-ordinators were respectively appointed to a unit within the Norwegian Research Council and the Council for Equality between Women and Men in Finland. Recently in Norway, there have been on-going discussions of partially moving national co-ordination tasks to KILDEN – Information and Documentation Centre for Women's and Gender Research in Norway, a semi-autonomous unit funded by the Norwegian Research Council. In Denmark, national co-

ordination has been in existence and funded by the Danish Research Council since the mid-1980s, and in Sweden a national Secretariat for Gender Research was founded in 1998. Thus, the Nordic countries have gradually moved towards relatively similar models of organising of women's and gender studies, combining initiatives on the local university level with co-ordinated support systems on a national level.

Denmark and Finland have national scholarly associations in Women's Studies. Cross-national, national, and local non-governmental organisations in Women's Studies have an important role as counter-forces in societies that in other respects are strongly state-oriented, i.e. where the state has been regarded as a central means towards certain political ends. These NGOs are important also for scholars and students who are not formally associated to Women's Studies centres or other institutionalised units.

Scholarly journals in Women's Studies are published in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and examples on national and local newsletters, electronic discussion lists, web sites etc. can be given from all Nordic countries. Specialised units for documentation and information on Women's Studies and Gender Research have been established in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. They are professionally run libraries, archives, museums, and information service units and, in several cases, advanced producers of Internet-based information.

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of working together. This is also reflected in the lively Nordic collaboration within the field of Women's Studies. This kind of cross-national and regional co-operation, encompassing both Women's Studies researchers, teachers and administrators, is quite unique from an international per-

spective, as is also pointed out in the editorial on pages 1-2.

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This article is based on the Summary of the forthcoming NIKK Report 1/99 "Satsningar och samarbete: nordisk kvinno- och könsforskning under 20 år". Ed. by S. Bergman.

## What is 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.





# Gender and Violence Research in the Nordic Countries

Issues of violence and gender are high on the political and research agendas in the Nordic countries. Reforms and programmes have been initiated with the objective of changing legislation, introducing new protective measures, preventive activities and treatment programmes as well as stimulating debates. Research on gender and violence is being carried out or under planning in most of the Nordic countries, and in some cases, this involves international collaboration. Until now, however, the opportunities for Nordic co-operation and co-ordination of research on these topics have been inadequate. Research has mainly been in the form of projects conducted by single researchers or in small research milieus. This has impeded continuity and collaboration and has meant extra strain on the few researchers active in the field. There is now, therefore, a great need for an overarching and collaborative Nordic research programme.

The Nordic Council of Ministers' (NCM) Research Sector, last year approved of a new overall Nordic research policy strategy which encompasses a procedure for initiating and financing new 5-year Nordic joint research programmes starting in 2000. One of the proposals on the year 2000 budget is for a research programme on gender and violence in the Nordic countries – a joint initiative of the NCM and NIKK. The preliminary draft budget has allocated 3.5 millions Danish crowns per year for this issue. However, the final budget decisions have not yet been taken when this is written. The considerable amount of rallying around these issues and receptivity of politicians at the Nordic level suggests that these topics are becoming a more visible and integral part of political and research policy.

We hope that this will help it to secure funding for the programme in the future.

Some of the suggested themes that the gender and violence programme will explore are:

- Power, violence, sexuality as gender-specific processes
- Parenthood, gender and violence
- Cultural meanings and representation of violence and gender in the media
- Gender, violence and sexuality in minority and multicultural contexts
- Young men's and women's notions and experiences of violence and sexuality
- Masculinity and violence as mutually constitutive
- Evaluations of reform efforts/ programmes on gender and violence
- Public health aspects of gender, power and violence

A committee has been formed to further discuss the possible aims and activities of the programme on gender and violence in the Nordic countries. For information on the proposed programme, contact Eva Magnusson at NIKK (see last page).

*Eva Magnusson and Diana Anders*

## Gender-related Violence Research in Finland

The Academy of Finland has recently agreed to finance a new, targeted research programme on gender-related violence (for 10 million Finnish marks). Research on gender-related violence is virtually uncharted in Finland and the decision is a "historic" one, according to Aili Nenola, Professor of Women's Studies and Chair for the Research Council for Culture and Society at the Academy of Finland. For the first time, gender-related violence is acknowledged as an area of research, not just an area for the police and social authorities to contend with. The three-year programme will start in 2000.

The final report of the National Plan of Action for Promotion of Gender Equality 1997-1999 established that while most practical prevention projects are successful, there is still a need for more theoretical work to frame such projects. Finnish research on gender-related violence should not be seen merely as an addition to existing research from other regions, but as a means of offering new perspectives and interpretations of established theories and methods. In Finland, women and men are equally represented in the workforce; women have a relatively high degree of economic independence and high levels of education, yet violence against women still abounds. This suggests that simple socio-economic explanations of the causes of violence against women are not adequate.

*Liisa Savunen*  
National Co-ordinator of  
Women's Studies, Finland



## News from the Nordic Region

### Denmark

#### Gender Barriers in Higher Education

The *Gender Barriers in Higher Education and Scholarship* project is an inter-departmental research initiative from 1996 to 2001. The main question raised is:

Why is the number of tenured women in Danish academic research still relatively low?

The problem is elucidated from various perspectives in the four sub-projects:

Project 1 follows university students in Danish and chemistry from the beginning of their education through their scholarly training. The potential significance of gender in the intersection with the educational environment, organisational culture, pedagogy, communication in the various fields, and choice of academic career is investigated.

On the basis of anthropological field work, project 2 seeks to clarify which concepts and cultural baggage motivate the choice of a academic career, and whether gender has any significance for those who choose not to pursue an academic career.

In project 3, the world of academia is subject to critical examination, and the central question is: What is it that creates and maintains gender inequalities in the world of academia?

In project 4, the self- and public perception of the profession is investigated, through the analysis of texts on research and descriptions of professionals such as physicians, theologians and jurists.

The projects are closely followed by a work- and follow-up committee, consisting of members from the councils of research, politicians, scholars, and interest organisations, who gather for a yearly conference.

The purpose is to continuously realise the research results through political initiatives.

*For more information:*

Hanne Nexø Jensen, *Institute of Political Science, University of Copenhagen*, Fax: +45 3532 3399, E-mail: [tbe@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:tbe@ifs.ku.dk)

#### Gender, Empowerment and Politics

The *GEP Project* is a research program on gender, power and politics. The program considers the changing political significance of gender. The purpose is to research the interplay between changes in gender relations and gender conceptualisations, and changes to the European models of welfare and democracy. An important issue is the changed status of women in Danish democracy in the past 30 years, from political dis-empowerment to political engagement, changes which have had wide-ranging consequences, not just for women, but for the society as a whole. The program focuses on "empowerment" and processes of marginalisation based on gender and class. Moreover, there is an emphasis on tendencies towards differentiation among women and men that stem from generational differences and resource inequities.

*For more information:*

Project Co-ordinator Birthe Siim, *Aalborg University*, Fax: +45 9815 3298, E-mail: [joan@i4.auc.dk](mailto:joan@i4.auc.dk)

#### The FREJA-Program

In 1997, former Minister of Research, Jytte Hilden, earmarked 78 million Danish Crowns for a research program with the purpose of drawing on the younger generation of scholars. At the same time, the aim has been to promote the visibility of women scholars in the world of research. *The Freja-program* received 327 applications

for a total sum of 2.2 billion Danish crowns. The assessment of the applications revealed a large number of very good or excellent projects. As the funds available to the program committee only covered 3.5 % of the sum applied for, many projects were rejected.

### Norway

#### KILDEN

*Norwegian Information and Documentation Centre for Women's and Gender Research*

KILDEN is an Internet-based service for and about feminist research in Norway. It collects relevant information from many sources and in many forms, systematises it and distributes it in Norway and abroad. KILDEN is the Norwegian word for 'source'. KILDEN was established in 1998 and is financed by the Norwegian Research Council.

Its primary target group consists of researchers in the field of feminist research, but KILDEN also serves the central and local authorities in their policy research, academic communities (including administrators and students), media and the general public needing information or interested in Norwegian feminist research. KILDEN collaborates closely with feminist research communities and seeks to enhance close interaction with users through Internet activities, courses and active public profiling. KILDEN employs four people in three positions, in addition to a part-time editor of the periodical *Kvinneforskning* (Feminist Research). KILDEN's work is divided into the following areas:

#### News magazine

KILDEN is an Internet-based news resource for Norwegian feminist research, including presentations, reviews of and/or links to confer-



ences and seminars, projects, researchers and units. An important part of this is the calendar of events.

### Overview of feminist research

Our main focus during the start-up phase has been on databases and establishing an overview of resources for feminist research. KILDEN collaborates with feminist research centres that have compiled local expert catalogues, but also collects data independently. KILDEN will provide separate overviews or provide links to other relevant overviews of people, projects, centres, networks, studies, archives, compilations, discussion groups, literature, periodicals, grey material and funding options within Norwegian feminist research. KILDEN assesses the quality of, and also provides recommendations for existing services.

### The periodical *Kvinneforskning*

One of the main tasks of KILDEN is to publish the periodical *Kvinneforskning* (Feminist Research). In addition to the hard-copy edition, parts of the periodical are available on the Internet.

### Internet support and courses

KILDEN is an Internet-based service; hence a natural part of our operations is to provide training in the use of the Internet on different levels. We offer various types of courses and guidance:

- Using the Internet, beginner and advanced course
- Information technology based research methods
- Criticism of Internet resources
- Developing Internet-based information/web sites

Please also see the presentation of KILDEN on the web, *Addresses* pgs. 32-36.

## Sweden

### Call for more female researchers

During a visit to the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research on International Women's Day, the Swedish Minister of Education, Thomas Östros called for an increase in, and greater support for female researchers. He made particular reference to gender inequality in higher education and the low representation of women with Doctoral degrees and in top-level academic positions. The Minister stressed the importance of long-term strategies to encourage more women researchers, making it easier to combine family and work life.

### Gendered Research Policy

The Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research wrote an official statement in response to a recent report on Swedish research policy plans. Contributors to the statement were primarily Women's Studies and Gender Research representatives. The general consensus was that an integrated gendered perspective in all research policy areas is needed.

In Sweden, a special committee has the task of integrating gender research into all research Councils, which are organised by thematic areas. One general concern expressed by others that had composed similar statements was that gender research runs the risk of becoming isolated from other research areas with such a scheme. Though there has not been an evaluation of the committee's work as of yet, other "mainstreaming" experiences have shown that integrating gender perspectives requires long-term strategies that can be adapted to suit the various research areas. Thus, the Secretariat maintained that a separate body that supports and monitors the integration of gender in the separate councils is, in fact necessary. The Secretariat stressed that the individual Councils themselves should provide financial resources to implement gender research initiatives

within their research areas. They also emphasised that co-operation between the Committee and the respective research Councils should be further developed. The lack of an overall gender and equality perspective and the bias towards research in the natural sciences and technology in the named report was pointed out repeatedly in the statement.

### Gendered Power?

The Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research co-ordinated two seminars to discuss the results of a study that examined the distribution of economic power and resources between men and women in Sweden. Thirteen volumes of the study were published (1997-8) and a final report was issued in 1998.

The primary questions in focus at the first seminar held in January were : How should power and gender be researched in a state-run study? What are the political and scientific implications from this kind of study? Inga Persson, Professor of Economics involved with the study, remarked that it had helped provide insight into the processes and relations between the sexes, as well as illustrate the great breadth of gender research in Sweden. During the second seminar, researchers involved in the study made presentations on different aspects of the study to politicians and members of research councils. Comments on the study from seminar attendants suggested general support for further research and sharing of knowledge on these topics. Proposals for policy changes linked to wage differences did not receive support from the bodies that would be responsible for implementing such changes (trade unions and employers organisations).

*Lena Olson  
Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research*



## Centre presentations

### Iceland

#### Centre for Women's Studies, University of Iceland

The Centre for Women's Studies (Rannsóknastofa í kvennafræðum) at the University of Iceland in Reykjavík was established in 1991. A group of feminist researchers at the University initiated the Centre, the only one of its kind in Iceland. The Centre is an interdisciplinary institution and its main aims are to encourage, support and co-ordinate feminist research and disseminate research findings. The Centre is independent of the University's faculties and is directly under the University Senate. The board consists of an interdisciplinary group of six feminist researchers appointed by the Senate and the faculties. Because board members come from faculties across the University, we have good ties to various parts of the University.

The Centre has only one permanent staff member. In addition, there is a three-year research position funded by the Icelandic Research Council, which will end in the Fall of 1999. Although the Centre is small, it has been quite visible and many of the Centre's activities have been popular both within the university and among people in the community. Our Thursday lunch seminars, which are held every other week during the academic year, have been particularly well-liked and have attracted large groups — usually

between 50 and 80 people. The same has been true for public lectures, conferences and workshops offered by the Centre. In March, the Centre conducted a half-day seminar to celebrate the 50-year publication anniversary of Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*.

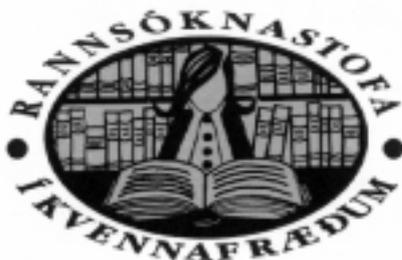
The Centre has been active in publishing the writings of Icelandic feminist researchers. Most of these have been in Icelandic, but we have also published a book containing abstracts in Women's Studies which is partly in English. So far, our publications have primarily been in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The Centre initiated a *Gender Studies Program* at the University of Iceland. This is an interdisciplinary program, which started in 1996 and is operated jointly by the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. The program is independent of the Centre but there is good co-operation between the two.

The most urgent activity for the future is to strengthen the Centre's role in initiating and co-ordinating feminist research on the national level and internationally. In order to do this we need more staff at the Centre and increased funding for feminist research, both of which the Centre is currently working on.

NIKK has been an important source of Nordic and international information and Cupertino for us. It is particularly important for a small Centre like ours to have the support and strength of a Nordic institute like NIKK.

*Rannveig Traustadóttir,*  
Associate Professor,  
Centre for Women's Studies,  
University of Iceland



### Latvia

#### Centre for Gender Studies, University of Latvia

The Centre for Gender Studies was founded in January 1998 at the University of Latvia. The Centre *Dzimtes Studiju Centrs* (DzSC) is the first educational and research centre in Latvia approaching various women's and gender issues including: feminist and gender theories, women and power, women and religion, gender and culture, women and history, women in the political sphere, etc. We aim at developing an interdisciplinary educational and research programme, bringing together contributions from a wide range of disciplines across the Social Sciences and Humanities.

The Centre participates in the ongoing process of networking Women's Studies and Gender Studies programmes in and around Southern, Central and Eastern Europe. We extensively take advantage of opportunities opened by the programme Gender and Culture at CEU, Budapest.

The Centre is a member of AOIFE and a partner in its ATHENA network, and is a contributor to Femina Baltica Network. We have developed continual connections with Women's Studies scholars in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Our four-year co-operation with Kristiina Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Helsinki is a good example of a long-term productive and fruitful exchange program. Our co-operation, for example, has resulted in the successfully conducted Nordic-Baltic Research Workshop for postgraduate students *Gender and Multiculturalism* in June, 1998 (Latvia, Yurmala). Our co-operation with Nordic and Baltic partners has resulted in the organisation of the Baltic-Nordic Conference on Women's Studies and Gender



Research: *Mapping the Situation* in October 1998, with more than 80 participants from the named regions. The Centre was honoured to host this conference in Riga.

The Centre is also involved in publishing activities. We are in the process of launching the publication of an anthology of feminist theories in Latvian. We are also launching a quarterly newsletter to link issues related to research and women's practices in the country. We are starting to publish a Latvian-Nordic collection of articles as an introduction of Women's/Gender Studies.

In Spring of the 1998, we initiated the course *Introduction to Gender Studies*. An excellent and highly competent team of university lecturers participated in this course. In the 1998 Fall term we launched a course entitled *Feminist Theory in the USA*. For the Spring Term, 1999, three courses have been planned: Gender, Religion and History, Gender in Sociology and Psychology, Feminism and Philosophy.

Our students as well as women-activists from Latvian NGOs have the opportunity to work in the resource room of the Centre. We collect publications in Women's Studies, Gender Research and on women's issues in all languages. In our resource collection you can find publications in Latvian, Lithuanian, Estonian, English, Swedish, French, Finnish, German, Spanish, Russian, Slovenian, Ukrainian and other languages. We are most interested in creating a multi-language resource collection for our students and educators, so as to have a wider vision of Women's and Gender Studies/research communities world-wide.

Director: Irina Novikova

Co-ordinator: Elizabete Picukane

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## Gender perspectives and Equal Opportunities in EU-Research

In December 1998, negotiations on the European Union's Fifth Framework Programme for Research, Technology and Development (RTD) came to a close and the final programme was adopted by the Commission. The Programme runs from 1999-2002 and is co-ordinated by the Commission's Directorate General (DG) XII. It is organised in to seven "Specific Programmes", including the four Thematic Programmes (Quality of life and management of living resources, User-friendly information society, Competitive and sustainable growth, Energy, environment and sustainable development) and three Horizontal Programmes (Confirming the international role of community research, Promotion of innovation and encouragement of participation of small and medium-sized enterprises - SMEs, and Improving the human research potential and socio-economic knowledge base). The inclusion of gender perspectives and moves to increase the number of women participants in the Programme's various areas are evident in the Fifth Framework. This was not the case in the previous Framework Programme, where such perspectives and objectives were for the most part absent.

### Nordic and European WS/GR Mobilise

It is likely that the positive changes concerning gender dimensions and women's participation in the Fifth Framework Programme came about primarily as a result of the active and collective efforts of individuals and groups from the Women's Studies/Gender Research (WS/GR) and Equal Opportunities (EO) fields, as well as female researchers in other fields throughout Europe. Over the course of the last few years, they have pushed to make women's and gender issues higher

priorities in the Programme. People working in WS/GR in the Nordic countries played a significant role in both initiating these efforts and bringing them to bear. It started in 1995, when the Danish Association of Women's Studies and Gender Research prepared a proposal, calling for a separate interdisciplinary Women's Studies and Gender Research Programme and for the integration of these themes in the various Specific Programmes of the Fifth Framework Programme. The Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research (NIKK) expanded the Danish proposal in to a broader, Nordic initiative. In 1996, the idea was carried further when NIKK suggested that AOIFE<sup>1</sup> and WISE<sup>2</sup> (European associations in which NIKK was represented) continue this work as a joint European initiative. The two associations subsequently sent a formal request to the Commission in 1997 to employ the named double-strategy in the Fifth Framework; specifically, to create a separate, interdisciplinary programme entitled "Women, Men and Social Transformation", as well as incorporate a corresponding gender dimension throughout all the parts of the Programme. Since then, AOIFE and WISE and others have pursued these goals and built upon these efforts in various ways— such as by appealing to their national EU representatives and submitting studies and communications that underline the need for greater focus on women in the Programme.

### Key Actions: Opening doors to women and gender issues

The concrete results of the work of these Women's Studies groups are most visible in the key action "Improving the Socio-economic Knowledge Base" within the



Specific Programme "Improving The Human Research Potential and The Socio-Economic Knowledge base". Within this key action, the gender dimension is explicitly mentioned as a priority for project proposals. The External Advisory Group for this activity has two people from Nordic Women's Studies and Gender Research: Harriet Silius from Finland (nominated by AOIFE) and Lena Sommestad from Sweden. This key action has a budget of 1280 million euros (7% of the total programme budget).

Other key actions will address gender dimensions "in a broader sense", in that in their calls for proposals, it will be stated that the topic "merits consideration from a gender perspective".<sup>3</sup> Examples of this are: "Quality of life and management of living resources", "The city of tomorrow and cultural heritage", "Cleaner energy systems, including renewables" and "Economic and efficient energy for a competitive Europe", and "Sustainable mobility and intermodality".

A special "Gender Watch System" has been formed by DGXII under the key action for "Improving the Socio-economic Knowledge Base" and in connection with the "Women and Science" initiatives described below. This new system will monitor levels of female participation in the Programme, collect statistics on women in European research and science, facilitate dialogues with the scientific community and member states and keep them informed of its findings and progress.

#### **Women and Science: A central focus**

A milestone in the events leading up to the Fifth Framework (in terms of its gender implications) was the "Women in Science" Conference<sup>4</sup> in Brussels in April 1998, organised by the European Commission and its DGXII. The under-representation of women in research and science was the topic of conference presentations and discussions. The confer-

ence provided a catalyst for women/experts from around Europe to rally around a topic that the Commission itself had identified as a problem area that should be dealt with more aggressively in the context of the Fifth Framework Programme. The conference resulted in the EU "Communication on Women and Science- Mobilising Women to enrich European Research" (COM 1999 17.2.99). Among other things, the communication describes various policies and activities in the member states related to women and research, as well as provides suggestions for future policies that help to promote research "by, for and about women".

Another outcome of the "Women and Science" Conference was the construction of a new database of organisations and networks for women and science. Once the database is completed, key persons from these organisations and networks will subsequently be invited to attend a meeting in July 1999, where strategies for bringing more women into the Fifth Framework and European research will be discussed. Professor Rosi Braidotti at Utrecht University and on behalf of AOIFE, assisted DG XII in supplying contacts for the database and meeting. These networks will work with the newly formed a small administrative "Women and Science Sector" made up of women from DGXII that will help facilitate and implement 'Women and Science'-related initiatives.

An activity worth noting and linked to the "Women and Science" issue, is the European Technology Assessment Network's (ETAN) new pilot action. It is entitled "Addressing the gender balance in research policy", established with the purpose of defining and evaluating policy options and formulating policy recommendations for promoting women and science in the different EU countries.

#### **Women's Participation: New targets, new expectations**

The Women and Science Communication referred to above outlined goals for increasing the number of women in European research programmes and policy and specifically, for the Fifth Framework Programme. For example, a target is set to appoint women to 40% of the positions on the project assessment and peer review panels, to award 40% of the Marie Curie fellowships to women under the Fifth Framework and have women represented in 40 % of the European Research Forum. Considering the EU's track record in terms of gender imbalances in the area of RTD, this has been viewed by many as quite an ambitious undertaking and as a reflection of the Commission's increased willingness to address the problem. So far, there are 27% women in the Fifth Framework External Advisory Groups of the Specific Programmes. It has been decided that "gender impact studies" will be conducted in late 2000 to evaluate each of the Specific Programmes in terms of their gender implications. These will be used to both give feedback on the Fifth Programme at mid-term and to inform gender policy in the next Framework Programme.

These new goals, areas of focus and initiatives intended to improve the number of and attention to women in European RTD are not limited to the Fifth Framework Programme. The Commission has made "establishing equality between women and men" a specific task of the Community and as an objective affecting *all* Community tasks (otherwise referred to as "mainstreaming"). To this end, a Group of Equality Commissioners and a Group of Gender Mainstreaming Officials in each Directorate General have been established (1997). The aims and work of these groups are outlined in the "Progress report from the Commission on the follow-up of the Communication: 'Incorporating equal opportunities for women and



men into all Community policy and activities” (COM 1998, 122, Final).

**Between Optimism and Realism**

The initiatives mentioned here give cause for hope and mark a new level of attention to women and gender in EU research policy and projects. The European Union’s main priorities to “strengthen the technical and industrial base of Europe” are reflected in the corresponding bias towards industry and technology in their programmes and policy for RTD. The increased emphasis on the social sciences, humanities and environmental affairs from the Fourth to the Fifth Framework -for example, questions of citizenship and cultural identities -can be seen as a relative progress in this context. None the less, some still point out that the Fifth Framework Programme’s bias towards industry and technology overshadow these new developments and regret the fact that more national RTD monies are being channelled to EU programmes. Another “reality check” for many inclined to apply to the Programme and benefit from some of some of its new priority areas is the amount of time and resources it demands. Both preparing EU applications and carrying out EU-funded activities/projects require a great deal of administrative work and reporting and organisational structures must be in place to support that work.

Though a somewhat daunting process, obtaining EU subsidies is not impossible, and the European WS/GR community needs to recognise the importance of using the EU’s immense infrastructure and influential presence to its best advantage. EU support opens up opportunities in terms of networking, visibility, impact and access to resources on an international scale. It will be interesting to see how the measures and foci of the new Programme will affect the number of women who participate (both in projects and in decision-making and

advisory capacities) and the kinds of projects that are ultimately approved.

One sees more and more the necessity of regional/international WS/GR co-ordinating bodies such as NIKK and AOIFE in making an impact on European research initiatives and policy. They serve as contact points for experts and organisations throughout Europe needing tips and information on European RTD, as well as provide a platform on which these individuals and organisations can join forces to advocate and make claims on research on, by, and for women in Europe.

*Fride Eeg-Henriksen and Diana Anders*



1. *Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe (AOIFE). The Secretariat of AOIFE has been located at NIKK since 1997 and NIKK’s Director is represented on the AOIFE Council.*

2. *Women’s International Studies Europe (WISE) is based at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. NIKK was a member of the WISE Provisional Executive Board in 1995-6.*

3. *COM(99)76 final: “Communication on Women and Science: Mobilising women to enrich European research”.*

4. *Women and Science: proceedings of the conference. Brussels, April 28-29. 1998. Ed. by Colosimo & Dewandre. European Commission, 1999.*

# Gender Issues in Academia

International as well as national efforts to promote women in academia and in sciences and technology are clearly on the increase on the eve of the next millennium. News on developments in the Nordic countries, recent conferences on the field as well as some recent UNESCO, EU and Nordic Council of Minister’s activities were reported in *News from NIKK 2/1998*. The UNESCO World Conference on Science, to be held in Budapest June 26 - July 1, 1999 will also address gender issues in Science.

**Women in Science - Quality and Equality**

To include gender perspective in the UNESCO World conference, UNESCO organised in 1998 several consultative conferences on different continents. The European conference *Women in Science-Quality and Equality* was held in Bled, Slovenia in November 1998. The conference gathered about a hundred participants from 34 European and Eurasian countries. The participants - one man and one woman from each country - were a heterogeneous group in terms of professional backgrounds, and did not easily find a common language. The group consisted of natural scientists, social and human scientists, and science policy representatives.

The aim of the conference was, on one hand, to discuss the role of women scholars in solving key global problems such as population explosion, poverty, environmental problems and violence. Increasing participation levels of women could, according to the organisers, help to change population explosion to reproductive health, transform environmental problems to sustainable development and could assist



the movement from violence into peace and co-operation. On the other hand, the aim was also to discuss obstacles women encounter, especially in the fields of natural science and technology.

As both of these themes are so extensive, they did not easily fit in into the three-day conference programme. Discussions of global issues remained on a rather general level. Views on why promoting gender equality in academia and sciences is important clashed in interesting ways; the organisers stressed the global problems perspective, whereas several participants were more interested in pragmatic issues such as sharing information on the problems women encounter in academia and on attempts to improve gender equality in science.

There is at least a wide consensus in international agreements and policies that gender issues have to be increasingly taken into account in solving urgent global issues. Also, it is widely recognised that women's expertise is currently under-utilised in searching for solutions to these problems. This is obviously one reason why more women are needed in scientific work and in decision making positions in academia, but by far not the only one. One can argue that women need not promise to save the world in order to be entitled to scientific careers.

Formal obstacles in women's scientific careers have been removed in most parts of the world, but there is still a long way to go towards real gender equality in academia. This discrepancy between de jure and de facto gender equality is understood and conceptualised very differently in different parts of Europe. In Western European countries these issues have been on the agenda - at least in feminist circles - for over twenty years, whereas in Eastern Europe the discussion is beginning and

essentialist and biological views on the construction of gender inequalities are often taken for granted. On the other hand, in Eastern Europe, the proportion of women in academia has traditionally been visibly higher than in the West.

In some Western European countries promoting gender equality has already become an integral part of national science policies - the Nordic countries, UK, Germany and the Netherlands belong to this group. UNESCO has recently started a project on promoting gender equality in higher education in Eastern Europe, and with the 5th Framework Programme for Research and Development, the European Union has put gender issues on its science policy agenda.

The conference recommendations included gendering statistics (at both the national and international level) so that they would describe more accurately gender divisions and inequalities in science and research; increasing the proportion of women in decision making positions in academia and science policy; launching projects to attract more girls into science and technology; funding more research on women in academia; and supporting networking of women in sciences and research both nationally and internationally. It was strongly emphasised that gender issues should be mainstreamed, and not marginalised to one gender session only at the Budapest conference. The governments appointed both women and men to the national delegations to the Budapest conference - in the UNESCO Higher Education World Conference in Paris 1998 only 20 % of the delegates were women. An official conference report is not available yet, but a report by Professor Mary Nash, who acted as a Conference Rapporteur, is available by request: [nash@trivium.gh.ub.es](mailto:nash@trivium.gh.ub.es)

*Liisa Husu*  
*University of Helsinki, Finland*

## What is EQ-UNI list?

### European Network for Gender Equality in Higher Education

The University of Helsinki launched a new European electronic discussion list in February 1998. The EQ-UNI list, the *European Network on Gender Equality in Higher Education* is an outcome of the *First European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education*, which was held in Helsinki in September 1998. A book based on the conference (*Hard Work in the Academy. Research and Interventions on Gender Inequalities in Higher Education*, Eds. Paul Fogelberg, Jeff Hearn, Liisa Husu and Teija Mankkinen) is to be published by the Helsinki University Press in Summer 1999.

The purpose of the EQ-UNI list is to discuss and share information on gender equality in higher education in Europe from practical and theoretical points of view. The emphasis of the list is on identifying strategies and good practices for the enhancement of gender equality in higher education. The list already has over 200 subscribers from 20 countries.

To subscribe, send an email **SUBSCRIBE EQ-UNI** to the email address **MAJORDOMO@HELSINKI.FI**

The list moderators are Liisa Husu ([liisa.husu@helsinki.fi](mailto:liisa.husu@helsinki.fi)) and Marja Nykänen ([marja.nykanen@helsinki.fi](mailto:marja.nykanen@helsinki.fi)) from the University of Helsinki.



NEWS

aoife

NEWS

Association of Institutions for Feminist Education and Research in Europe

## What is AOIFE?

AOIFE stands for the *Association of Feminist Education and Research in Europe* and has its Secretariat located at NIKK. The association is made up of institutional members, of which there are currently 80 from over 20 European countries. Since it was founded in 1996, it has been actively promoting Women's Studies and Gender research by means of European co-operation and networking. Several activities and projects are underway and AOIFE plans to submit applications to the European Commission's Fifth Framework Programme for Research, Technology and Development.

To learn more about AOIFE and its activities, visit the AOIFE website <http://www.worg.uio.no/www-other/nikk/AOIFE/homedaa.htm> or contact the AOIFE Secretariat: [aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no](mailto:aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no) (contact information same as NIKK- see last page).

## What is ATHENA?

ATHENA is AOIFE's primary project thus far, and stands for the *Advanced Thematic Network in Activities in Women's Studies in Europe*. In 1998, ATHENA was approved as an official network of the EU Socrates programme. Some 50 institutions/universities from around Europe are involved in this 3-year project (1998-2001). The two themes of the project are European Curriculum Development and Use of Information Technologies (ITC) in Women's Studies Teaching. Some of the outcomes of the project will be a *report* on degrees in Women's Studies and professional outlets for students, an *evaluation report* of European Women's Studies teaching books, an advanced European Women's Studies *text book*, an online *database* containing course information and tools for designing ITC courses, as well as a manual on the use of ITC in Women's Studies.

For more information on ATHENA, visit its website [http://www.let.uu.nl/womens\\_studies/athena/what.html#Whatis](http://www.let.uu.nl/womens_studies/athena/what.html#Whatis) or contact Esther Vonk at ATHENA Central Coordination, Utrecht University, International Office Women's Studies, Trans 10, 3512 JK Utrecht, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 30 253 6013, Fax: +31 30 253 6695, [athena@let.uu.nl](mailto:athena@let.uu.nl)

## New AOIFE/ATHENA Newsletter!

As you may have noticed, AOIFE news is no longer featured in *News from NIKK*. The first issue of a separate *AOIFE/ATHENA Newsletter* will be available in June 1999. If you are interested in ordering a copy of the new publication, please contact the AOIFE Secretariat: [aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no](mailto:aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no) (contact information same as NIKK- see last page).

## New staff member

As of June 1999, Elisabeth K. Lorenzen will fill the position as NIKK's International Consultant until the end of 2000. She is 25 years old and Danish, and will be receiving her interdisciplinary degree combining Economics, Social Science, Languages and Cultural Studies (including Women's Studies) from University of Southern Denmark (Odense) before coming to NIKK. She has experience with both administrative and political work and has worked as a co-ordinator for Danish student political activities (responsible for equality issues). Elisabeth will be replacing Diana Anders. Among other tasks at NIKK, she will serve as the Co-ordinator for the AOIFE Secretariat and assist with the *Living for Tomorrow* project.



# Simone de Beauvoir

## — a pioneer of modern feminism

### Reflections on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Second Sex*

“On ne naît pas femme, on le devient”. The phrase echoed throughout the four-day celebration of Simone de Beauvoir’s work as a philosopher, novelist, activist and feminist, held in Paris in January on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *The Second Sex*. More than 300 researchers from five continents met and discussed her works. The conference was formally opened by Sylvie le Bon de Beauvoir and was organised by Christine Delphy and Sylvie Chaperon.

Different aspects of *The Second Sex* were illuminated, such as its reception and social impact in different countries, its national and international political aspects, its challenging interrogation of sexuality; Simone de Beauvoir as a philosopher and her relationships with Sartre and others.

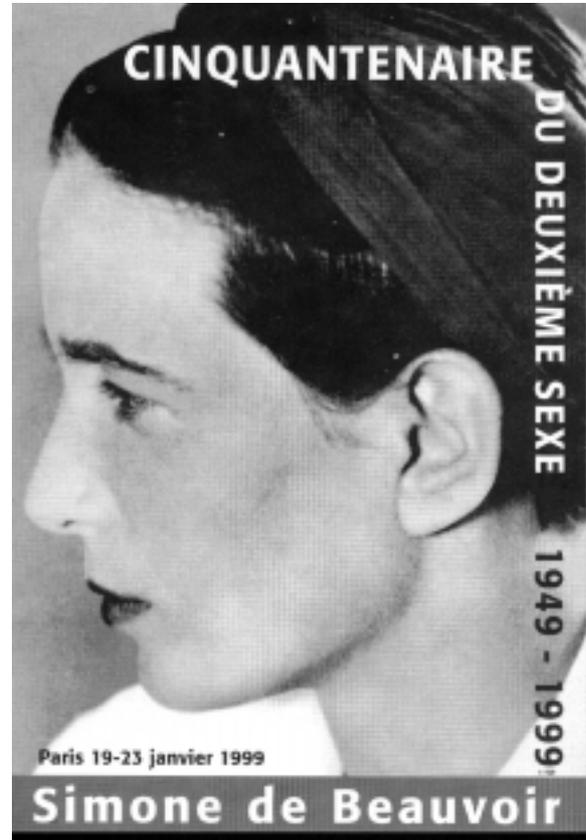
As analysis and testimony surfaced from philosophers, literary critics, sociologists and activists from many parts of the globe, what was particularly striking was the courage, radical contestations of traditional thought, Western politics and normative conventions of daily life that de Beauvoir’s feminism engaged with. She offers a fierce and inspirational example for generations to come!

*The Second Sex* has been translated into several languages and has circulated in most parts of the world, but not all. Svetlana Ajazova informed us that *The Second Sex* was banned in Russia until the start of Perestrojka in 1990. Another participant, Grace Okafor from South Africa, surprised everyone when she explained that it is still nearly

impossible to get a copy of *The Second Sex* in many parts of Africa.

Another striking point is that not all versions or translations are complete, not even the American version. In the Nordic countries there have been Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish translations of *The Second Sex*. However, only the Danish version is complete. Both the Finnish and the Swedish versions are missing key sections on sexuality, and the Norwegian version is neither complete nor true to the original. Some steps have been taken recently to produce new Norwegian and Swedish versions.

Coming from Norway, one of the Nordic countries, I was impressed to find that two of the keynote speakers in the first plenary session were Sara Heinämaa from Finland and Eva Lundgren-Gothlin from Sweden. Both focused on philosophical origins of *The Second Sex*. Another Nordic contribution was the release of a film documentary of an interview of Simone de Beauvoir from 1983. The Danish journalist Else Lidegaard introduced the film, which was unique in scope, since this interview was the most recent and covered so many aspects of Simone de Beauvoir’s concerns. She died three years after the interview took place, in 1985.



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Second Sex* in Paris was an important start for the year marking Simone de Beauvoir. One hopes that this year, with all the different seminars and conferences in her honour, will spark interest in *The Second Sex* for new generations of feminists. Simone de Beauvoir is one of the most important feminists of our century and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *The Second Sex* is an ideal opportunity to revitalise her work — a corner stone of modern feminism.

Cathrine Tømte



# Nordic Co-operation on Gender Equality

Equality between women and men is a crucial part of the Nordic welfare state model. The objective of equality is that women and men should have equal rights, obligations and opportunities in all fields of life. Economic independence is the foundation of equality between women and men.

In the Nordic countries, the active involvement of men is considered necessary in order to achieve equality between women and men. Furthermore, for gender equality to become a reality, the distribution of the workload between women and men in the family and in society must be changed.

The responsibility for Nordic co-operation on issues of gender equality has been vested in the *Nordic Council of Ministers* (the ministers responsible for Gender Equality issues). The *Nordic Executive Committee on Gender Equality* carries out the preparatory work for the Council of Ministers and implements its decisions.

Co-operation on Gender Equality is based on projects and reports commissioned by the Council of Ministers. The Nordic Council of Ministers has adopted a *Co-operation program in the Equality area 1995-2000* where the main goal is to promote the further development of a Nordic approach and a common Nordic Platform within the framework of broader European and international co-operation. Gender Equality aspects must be implemented in all areas of society also in the areas covered by the Nordic Council of Ministers' own programs and projects.

The Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research (NIKK) has been established in 1995 to co-ordinate Nordic activities within the research field.

## Integration of Gender Equality

In the co-operation program mentioned above, the Nordic Ministers for Equality have decided to promote the development of methods that will make the equality process more efficient. In particular, the Council of Ministers wants to focus on methods utilised to facilitate the integration of gender equality into all policy areas and at all social levels. Models and strategies supporting mainstreaming should be designed and tested locally, regionally, nationally and at the Nordic level. Proposed methods range from gender sensitive statistics to gender-related research and equality education. In order to further such strategies and methods, the Equality ministers decided to launch a Nordic project on mainstreaming which started 1997.

The purpose of the project is to devise methods to make decision-makers to be "gender sensitive" by incorporating gender and equality aspects into all work. This work includes the processes of planning, consequential analysis and budgeting. Furthermore, efforts will be made to tools that can efficiently evaluate and measure how decisions affect the daily lives of women and men.

In order to incorporate gender equality perspectives into different policy areas, it is crucial that those in charge have insight into, and are familiar with the aims of the gender equality policy. It is a prerequisite that senior management has sufficient knowledge to be able to oversee policy implements.

The mainstreaming approach will also be implemented at the Nordic Council of Ministers itself, and will primarily involve cross-sector co-operation that supports gender equality.

Marianne Laxén  
Nordic Council of Ministers

## Publications by the Nordic Council of Ministers

*Gender Equality Nordic News*. A newsletter published in English, Scandinavian and Finnish language by the Nordic Council of Ministers. See also: [http://www.norden.org/ligesidste\\_uk.htm](http://www.norden.org/ligesidste_uk.htm)

*Gender Equality, the Nordic Model*. Free of charge.

*Men and Gender Equality. New Challenges*. TemaNord 1998:558.

*Men on Parental Leave: how men use parental leave in the Nordic countries*. TemaNord 1998:569. Free of charge.

*Programme for Nordic Co-operation on Gender Equality 1995-2000*. TemaNord 1995:535. Free of charge.

*Shelters for battered Women and the needs of immigrant Women*. TemaNord 1998:507.

*The Nordic Countries - A Paradise for Women?* Nord 1994:16.

*Towards New Masculinities. Report from a Nordic conference on men and gender equality*. Nord 1995:26.

*Women and Men in the Nordic Countries. Facts and figures 1994*. Nord 1994:3. Short summary available free of charge.

*Women in Leading Positions - Gender Distribution in the 100 Biggest Private Enterprises in the Nordic Countries*. TemaNord 1996:585.

*Women, Work and Economics. Conference Report*. TemaNord 1998:560.

To order, see [http://www.norden.org/Pub/agent/\\_/index.html](http://www.norden.org/Pub/agent/_/index.html) or send e-mail to [tsh@nmr.dk](mailto:tsh@nmr.dk) or [mkn@nmr.dk](mailto:mkn@nmr.dk)





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## Barents Region Crisis Centres Network

NCRB stands for the *Network for Crisis Centres in the Russian Barents Region*, and in the Barents region as a whole (1999-2001). The crisis centres involved are located in Murmansk, Apatity, Polyarnye Zori, Archangels and Petrozavodsk. Two centres in St. Petersburg are also associated with NCRB. Collaborative twin-institutions in North Finland, Sweden and Norway will be partners in the project.

This joint Nordic and North West Russian development and research project, led by Aino Saarinen (former Head of Research at NIKK) at Oulu University, and Natalya Gutsol at Kola Science Centre, started this Spring. The project has links to *Femina Borealis*, an autonomous network for research and activism, including its administrative unit, Northern Feminist University at Steigen, Norway and *Information Technology, Transnational Democracy and Gender*, a Nordic and international network for research funded by NorFA (for more information see next page). The project managers will be Pirkko Carpenter, Oulu and Olga Liapuonova, Archangels. The NCRB reference group represents relevant players and researchers in the field.

NCRB is entering into evolving, new type of political formation in the northernmost of the European East-West frontier regions, the Barents Euro-Arctic Region administered by the Barents Council and Barents Regional Council. Its long-term normative, social and political outcomes are as follows:

- increased awareness of sexual and reproductive problems related to violence against women and children

- using information technology to increase the crisis centres ability to collaborate and communicate across different borders and boundaries
- empowering women through new and various information technologies, related to forms of participation locally and transregionally
- contributing to further development of social justice, the welfare state and political democracy in the northernmost parts of Europe

The immediate contributions to these long-term goals will be in the form of information, innovation and collaboration networks for the crisis centres. Concrete examples of this are:

- a training and exchange programme for officials, volunteers and political activists
- a database on crisis centres, their services and activities and the rights of women and children and a network for communication between the institutions and their clients
- political actions that help to put the issues onto the political and juridical agendas
- a resource strategy for the crisis centres for 2001-2003

Serving as an umbrella-type research community, NCRB aims at inspiring dialogues across the "Western theories vs. Eastern realities" divide. Plans for a joint research course, a research network and for research meetings including a workshop at the Women's Worlds 99 conference are on the agenda. Project ideas include:

- women's mobilisation trans-regionally as part of the "Third Wave" of women's movements
- varying forms of feminist interventions and crisis centres practices

- equality and sexual education at schools
- women's health-related problems

NCRB will also produce a joint publication and arrange a closing conference in Spring 2002. The funding of the project has been raised from national, Nordic, Barents and EU-sources.

*Aino Saarinen, aino.saarinen@oulu.fi and Natalya Gutsol, gutsol@isc.kolasc.net.ru*

### Minorities & mixed families

The Minorities & Mixed Families Networks is a project founded in 1998, which will create Nordic-Baltic-Russian networks combining academic research with non-governmental activities focusing on minorities and mixed families from women's and young persons' perspective. The goal of the networks are to create a dialogue between researchers and activists, old and young persons, women and men. The themes will focus on politics of identity, culture and traditions, mixed families and citizenship. The MinMix Networks will arrange academic research courses, lectures, NGO seminars, and joint workshops. The activities of the networks will support democratic development in the Baltic countries and North West Russia.

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## Femina Baltica

Femina Baltica Baltic-Nordic Women's Network was started in 1998 as a project including women's organisations on all levels in the countries around the Baltic Sea. In 1999, Femina Baltica is arranging four conferences in Tallinn, Estonia, Siauliai, Lithuania, Riga, Latvia and Åbo/Turku, Finland. The themes for these conferences include for example, violence against women, women as decision-makers in the municipality, gender research, women and economic power. Carita Peltonen is the coordinator and project director of Femina Baltica.

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*cpeltone@saunalahti.fi*

## 100 Days of Women's University in 2000

The International Women's University "Technology and Culture" programme is a German initiative to organise an international women's university for 100 days during the world exhibition in Hanover in the year 2000.

The university programme will encompass seven fields of research: intelligence, information, the body, water, city, labour and migration. It will have an international profile, interdisciplinary approach, and diversity in teaching methods and research approaches. The research and study programme is offered to 1000 graduate and advanced students from all over the world.

*For more information:*

*International Women's University Association, Blumenstrasse 6, 30159 Hannover, Germany, Tel: +49 511 120 8660, Fax: +49 511 120 8691.*

## Information technology, transnational democracy & gender

**– a Nordic Network for research in 1999-2000**

The idea for the *Information technology transnational democracy and gender network* was born at NIKK. The network receives funding from NorFA - The Nordic Academy for Advanced Studies, and the co-ordinators are Christina Mörtberg, Sweden, Aino Saarinen, Finland and Gro Hanne Aas, Norway.

Our aim is to produce situated knowledges about gender, technology and politics in transformation. We want to build critical knowledges and understandings of information technology in the contradictions and tensions between equal access and dominating discourses of technology. We also want to contribute to the debates on the democratisation of the transnational political institutions from below. The focus will be on the construction of civil society and the strengthening of political leadership, including their gender, cultural and regional dimensions.

The first workshop of the network took place in april 1999. The participants from Estonia, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Lithuania gathered at Luleå University of Technology in Sweden to discuss the topic *Understandings of technology*.

In the context of the network a research course will be arranged in Tallinn in August on "Information Technology and Gender. Comparative and Cross-disciplinary Perspectives". More information can be found in the Calendar 1999-2000.

*Gro Hanne Aas  
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## International PhD-Program

The Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies (NOV) is an advanced training institute for research and postgraduate studies. The NOV is an inter-university research structure, which consists of six major partners (University of Amsterdam; Free University of Amsterdam; Leiden University; Catholic University of Nijmegen; Tilburg and Utrecht University). The bulk of top research in Women's Studies in the Netherlands is conducted under the auspices of the NOV. The NOV received official accreditation by the Royal Dutch Academy of Science in 1995.

The NOV offers various forms of training for PhD-candidates. To accommodate individual needs the following options are available:

- A. Full PhD-training in Women's Studies resulting in a doctorate degree from a Dutch university. Enrolment for this four-year program is on a year-to-year basis until degree is completed.
- B. Intensive International PhD-program concentrating on two thematic areas: "Body Issues" or "Work and Care". This four-month program runs from February-May, beginning in 1999. Tuition fees 5.000 Dutch guilders.
- C. Individual coaching sessions by selected supervisor(s). No specific period or time limitations are attached to this option.

Tuition fees 200 Dutch guilders per session. Following single courses of the NOV curriculum.

*For more information:*

*Prof. Dr. Rosi Braidotti, Director NOV, Trans 10, 3512 JK Utrecht, The Netherlands, tel: +31 30 253 6001, fax: +31 30 253 6134, e-mail: novphd@let.uu.nl  
<http://www.let.uu.nl/nov/>*



# Calls for Papers

## NORA

*Nordic Journal of Women's Studies*

NORA is a channel for feminist research from all disciplines. Emphasis is placed on showing a Nordic profile in feminist research, with regard to both content and theoretical and methodological approaches. 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. NORA acknowledges the need to communicate across borders, challenging academic, linguistic and national limitations and boundaries. Considering the diversity of women's experiences within the Nordic countries and the broad spectrum of viewpoints and approaches that characterises modern research on women and gender, NORA encourages papers that have a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective and are theoretically self-reflective.

Manuscripts for NORA must be in English and should normally not exceed 8000 words. All papers deemed appropriate for NORA will be reviewed anonymously by two evaluators. Equal consideration is given to all manuscripts in English from any country. Authors should submit the manuscript in electronic form by e-mail or diskette.

*For contact information see Addresses pgs. 32-36.*

## Talking Gender & Sexuality

*November 5-6, 1999  
Aalborg University, Denmark*

In the 1990s there has been much debate about the best way to approach the study of language and gender. The traditional divisions between the deficit, the cultural difference and the dominance models have been disputed. One consequence is that the profound theoretical challenge to how we understand and account for gender - as a dynamic, performative engagement which is never complete - matches with the rich set of tools that have been developed for analysing the complexities of everyday language use, agency and identity in talk-in-interaction. Also, a new domain has opened up that is ripe for analysis: the relationship between sexuality and social interaction and language use.

Attendees of the symposium are invited to present parallel session papers, to organise panel sessions or to conduct workshops on the theory and/or practice of analysing verbal and non-verbal social interaction in a diversity of settings in which participants constitute themselves as gendered and sexed persons or communities. Presentations of research on the following settings are welcome: everyday conversation, institutional language, language in the media, computer-mediated communication, and dialogue in popular culture, fiction and written texts.

The language of the symposium is English. Abstract submission deadline: August 1, 1999.

*For further information, see the Calendar 1999-2000.*

## Feminist Theory

*Feminist Theory* is a new international interdisciplinary journal being published by SAGE Publications in April 2000. The journal is being launched to provide a forum for critical analysis and constructive debates within feminist theory.

The journal will be edited by Gabriele Griffin (Kingston University, UK), Rosemary Hennessy (State University of New York, Albany, USA), Stevi Jackson (University of York, UK) and Sasha Roseneil (University of Leeds, UK).

*Feminist Theory* will be genuinely interdisciplinary and will reflect the diversity of feminism, incorporating perspectives from across the broad spectrum of the humanities and social sciences and the full range of feminist political and theoretical stances.

The journal will be published three times a year starting from April 2000.

If you are interested in submitting a manuscript contact:  
The Editors, *Feminist Theory*, Centre for Women's Studies, University of York, Heslington, York, YO1 5DD, UK, Tel: +44 1904 433672/433671, Email: sfj@york.ac.uk

*If you would like to receive further information about subscribing contact:*

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SAGE Publications, 6 Bonhill Street,  
London, EC2A 4PU, UK  
Email: jane.makoff@sagepub.co.uk*



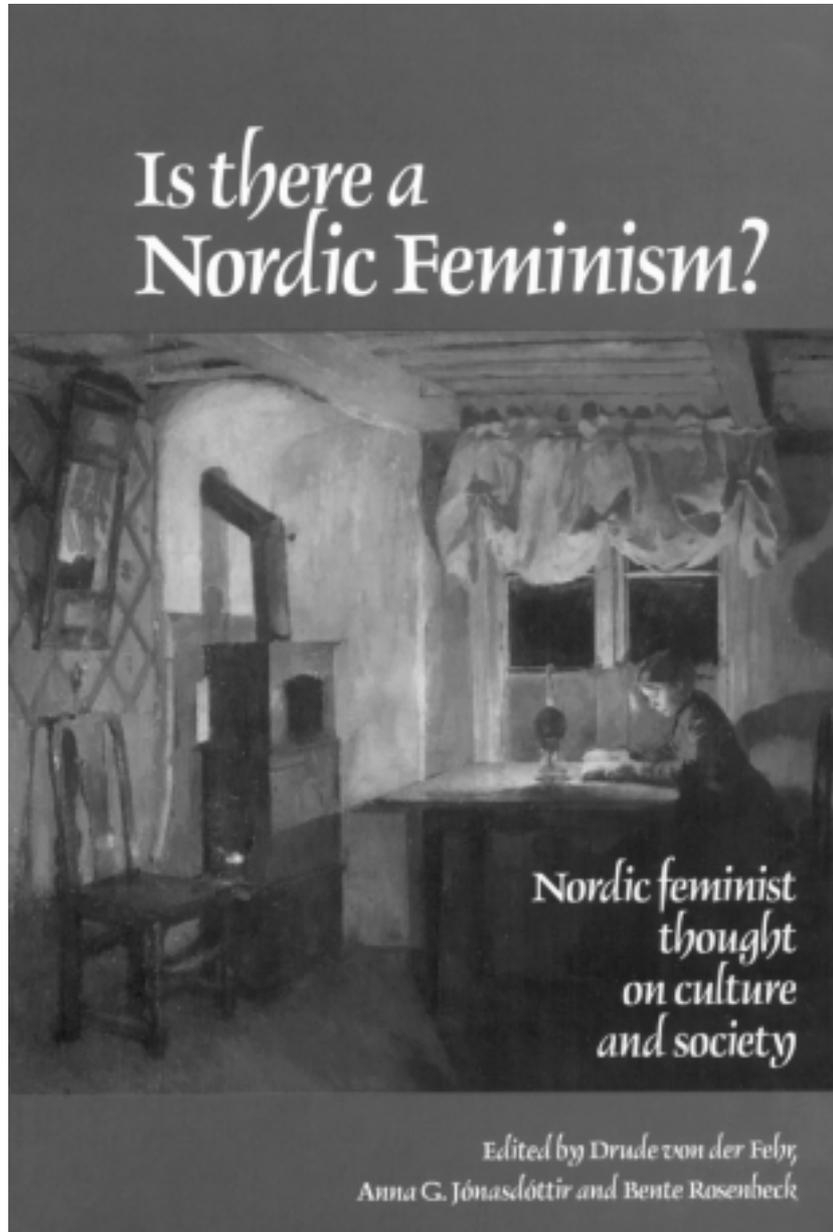
# Is there a Nordic Feminism?

## - a review

*Is there a Nordic Feminism? Nordic feminist thought on culture and society.* Edited by Drude von der Fehr, Anna G. Jónasdóttir and Bente Rosenbeck. London: UCL Press, 1998.

In this volume, feminist scholars from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden contribute chapters on Nordic culture and society. The work is informed by disciplinary perspectives of politics, sociology, history, cultural studies and literature.

This ambitious collection of eighteen essays poses many questions, beginning with, 'Is there a Nordic feminism?' For the less well informed on Nordic scholarship, I would suggest reading chapter 1 and then 18 as it is here that the co-editors seek to answer this fundamental question. Nordic women are described as finding themselves in a time of changing conditions and changing modes of living, identified in the text as 'break-ups'; that is, profound and sudden shifts in cultural and societal processes affecting contexts, concepts, knowledge of women's experiences and gender relations. Chapter 18 provides a brief historical account of ideas and actions that encapsulate the Nordic profile. The sub-question, is there a distinctive profile characterising Nordic gender and Women's Studies? is answered empirically through a description of Nordic feminist research, disciplinary and other academic networks, organisations, and products. Also relevant is the desire expressed by the editors to place a emphasis in the future on Nordic comparative studies while taking advantage of the geographical proximity of Nordic countries to the Anglo-Saxon and continental intellectual thought.



What of its contents? The book is organised around three themes. The first is women's political strategies examined from different historical, national and text oriented perspectives. The second is contested spaces, while the third discusses questions of individually based identity, rationality and subjectivity. The editors define the central

problematic as women's shifting struggle, strategies and negotiations with men and male-dominated preconditions for the organisation of social processes in society, including its cultural premises. They see a shift in the focus from achieving women's participation and visibility to a focus on equality and difference.



Again, for the reader with limited knowledge of Nordic feminist thought, the historical chapters in each of the three sections provide a context, however limited, for later chapters on the three themes. They also provide the most accessible material on women's lives. Part 1, 'Politics in ambiguous times', explores very different issues, from women's historical political strategies to a revolt by women in the Swedish Parliament in the 1970s, to the Icelandic women's alliance, to Icelandic nationalist discourse, and lastly a rereading of Camille Paglia's *Sexual Personae*. Collectively these chapters do not provide an overview of Nordic feminist thought on politics so much as an overview on the wide range of questions and issues arising from politics that are currently being explored by Nordic feminists.

Part 2, 'Organisations and contested spaces', moves from a historical study of the literary salon in the 18th century in Scandinavia to that of the female authored one-act plays of the late 19th century, to modern day concerns of change in public organisations, sexual harassment and the gendering of work, to attraction and love at work. The later draws on a study of hospital staff, in particular male and female medics. While these chapters cover many aspects, the lack of engagement with issues of violence and with women's voices is a noticeable exclusion. The one chapter on sexual harassment and the gendering of work weaves together the gendered character of work for both women and men. Kjersti Ericsson seeks to explain the double vulnerability of women to gender exploitation and to alienation from organisations that defend worker's rights. These last two chapters come closest to considering the problem of violence and abusive relationships between women and men, but there seems to be a curious avoidance of fully exploring the meanings that could be attached to or obtained from their data.

Part 3, 'Identity and subjectivity - between equality and difference', moves between chapters on gender and the subject, on emotions and feelings, on a cultural contextual psychology for understanding the construction of gender, to an historical account of the film actress Asta Nielsen. In concluding this engaging account the author leaves hanging in the air the question, why are the childlike Mary Pickford and the vamplike Theda Bara, but not the eroticized Asta Nielsen, recognised in film history? By now, as I draw towards the end of this book, (there are other similar examples of interesting unanswered questions in other chapters) - the image is of a tasty dish, whisked away before a bite can be taken. The reviewer, the non-specialist in Nordic feminism, is left interested, somewhat puzzled (read hungry) waiting for the next offering on Nordic feminist thought.

Also in Part 3, Hildur Ve attempts a bridging exercise by engaging with some of the larger issues posed by post modernist thought in relation to earlier sociological analyses. In exploring past and current theoretical constructions in feminist thought, she begins with the post modernist deconstructions of feminist concepts and of analytic methods that were valuable in understanding and criticising the ideological basis of male dominance and power in the 1970s and 1980s. She then explores social responsibility and autonomy, identity and identity construction from various sociological points of view. To limit the theoretical drive towards autonomy and fragmentation she argues for the recognition of responsible rationality as a dimension of women's identity.

The many excellent questions raised in this volume, the range of scholarship, the different issues and theoretical perspectives make this an important contribution to feminist scholarship. One's impatience, experienced from time to time, arises from a desire that the authors

push on with their analysis by engaging more fully with the difficult questions they themselves raise. This is a small complaint and one that arises from the recognition of the value of this substantial work.

*Jalna Hanmer*  
Leeds Metropolitan University, UK

See also: *Forum for gender & culture - Danish KVINFOs e-zine for a review of the same book by Robin May Schott - www.forum.kvinfo.dk*

## What is WISE-L?

*WISE-L* is the electronic discussion list of the European Women's Studies network, *Women's International Studies Europe*, *WISE*. It is a list for all practitioners of Women's Studies including teachers, students, scholars, writers, administrators, activists, etc. It is a forum for information on research projects, funding sources, fellowships, job openings, conferences, calls for papers, teaching methods, course syllabi, useful texts, bibliographies, student and staff exchanges, Women's Studies program development, European or national policy issues, and political and theoretical debates concerning Women's Studies. For a Users Guide see [http://www.helsinki.fi/~kris\\_ntk/wise-l/](http://www.helsinki.fi/~kris_ntk/wise-l/)

For more information on *WISE* see

<http://women-www.uia.ac.be/women/wise>



# New publications

Akpinar, Aylin

*Male's honour and female's shame: gender and ethnic identity constructions among Turkish divorcées in the migration context.*

Uppsala: Dept. of Sociology, 1998. Diss.

Bóasdóttir, Sólveig Anna

*Violence, power, and justice: a feminist contribution to Christian sexual ethics.*

Uppsala University, 1998. Diss.

Dryler, Helen

*Educational choice in Sweden: studies on the importance of gender and social contexts.*

Stockholm: Swedish Institute for Social Research, 1998. Diss.

Einarsdóttir, Thorgerdur

*Through Thick and Thin: Icelandic men on paternity leave.*

Reykjavík: Committee on Gender Equality, 1998.

*Excavating women: a history of women in European archaeology.* Díaz-Andreu, Margarita & Stig Sørensen, Marie Louise. London, 1998.

*Feminism and Latvian literature.*

Ed. Ausma Cimдина.

Riga: Latvian Women's Studies and Information Center, 1998.

*Gender and folklore: perspectives on Finnish and Karelian culture.*

Eds. Satu Apo & Aili Nenola & Laura Stark-Arola.

Helsinki: SKS, 1998.

Granqvist, Lena & Persson, Helena

*Career mobility in the private service sector: are women trapped in "bad" jobs?* Stockholm, 1998.

Gulden, Ann K. Torday

*Milton's Eve and the Pursuit of Wisdom in Paradise Lost.*

University of Oslo, 1999. Diss.

Hedlund, Eva & Göthberg, Marianne *Rape and sexual abuse: a guide to victim care.* Stockholm, 1998.

Johansson, Eva

*Beyond frustration: Understanding women with undefined musculoskeletal pain who consult primary care.* Umeå: University, 1998. Diss.

Johansson, Perry

*Chinese women and consumer culture: discourses on beauty and identity in advertising and women's magazines 1985-1995.*

Stockholm: Institute of Oriental Languages, 1998. Diss.

Jonung, Christina

*Occupational segregation by sex and changeover time.*

Lund, 1998.

Kilbom, Å, Messing, K, Bildt

Thorbjörnsson, C

*Women's Health at Work.*

Stockholm: National Institute for Working Life, 1998.

Korac, Maja

*Linking arms: women and war in post-Yugoslav states.*

Uppsala, 1998.

Lehtinen, Ullailiina

*Underdog Shame. Philosophical essays on women's internationalisation of inferiority.*

Göteborg: 1998. Diss.

Lie, Merete

*Computer dialogues: technology, gender and change.*

Trondheim, 1998. Diss.

Polk, Merritt

*Gendered mobility: a study of women's and men's relations to automobility in Sweden.*

Göteborg: 1998. Diss.

Rees, Teresa

*Mainstreaming Equality in the European Union: education, training and labour market policies.*

London: Routledge, 1998

Sakaranaho, Tuula

*The complex other: a rhetorical approach to women, Islam, and ideologies in Turkey.* Helsinki, 1998. Diss.

*Shifting bonds, Shifting Bounds: Women, Mobility and Citizenship in Europe.*

Eds. Viginia Ferreira, Teresa Tavares and Sílvia Portugal.

Oeiras: Celta 1998.

Simonton, Deborah

*A history of European women's work: 1700 to the present.*

London, 1998.

Sjørup, Lene

*Oneness: a theology of women's religious experiences.*

Leuven, 1998.

Sundman, Kerstin

*Between the home and the institutions: the feminist movement in Madrid, Spain.*

Göteborg: 1998. Diss.

Wistedt, Inger

*Recruiting female students to higher education in mathematics, physics and technology: an evaluation of a Swedish initiative.*

Stockholm, 1998.

*Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers.*

Azza Karam et al.

Stockholm: IDEA, 1998.

*Women and European employment.* Ed.

Rubery, Jill.

London, 1998.

*Women and Socialism - Socialism and Women. Europe Between the Two World Wars.*

Eds. Gruber, Helmut & Graves, Pamela. New York: Berghahn Books, 1999.

*Women's Active Citizenship. Studies in Social Policy.*

Ed. Ahponen, Pirkkoliisa.

University of Joensuu, Department of Social Policy, 1999.

*Women's work and wages.*

Eds. Persson, Inga & Jonung, Christina.

London, 1998

## Forthcoming

Gordon, Tuula, Holland, Janet & Lahelma, Elina

*Making Spaces: Citizenship and Difference in Schools*

London: Macmillan.

*Work and Family - Report on New Perspectives of Equality in the Nordic Countries.*

Ed. Laura Kalliomaa-Puha. Papers of the seminar "Arbete, lön och familj - nya utmaningar för jämställdheten i Norden" in 1998.



# Calendar 1999-2000

*The calendar includes events both within and outside the Nordic countries. In the Nordic countries listed, English is used as conference language or in some of the presentations. The calendar is regularly updated at NIKK's web site, address on last page.*

## 1999

07-18.06 New Brunswick, USA

### **Challenges of the New Millenium. 7th Women's Global Leadership Institute.**

Deadline for receipt of application has expired. Info: Inst. Coordinator, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Douglass College, Rutgers University, 160 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555, USA, tel: +1 732 9328782, fax: +1 732 932 1180, cwgl@igc.org

17-19.06 Ottawa, Canada

### **Conference on Feminist Economics.**

Arr. by The International Association for Feminist Economics and Carleton University Info: Jean Shackelford, jshackel@bucknell.edu or Frances Woolley, frances\_woolley@carleton.ca <http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/jshackel/iaffe/>

17-20.06 Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **American Women's Studies Association meeting, including International Task Force meeting.**

Info: sarker@malcalster.edu

18-19.06 London, UK

### **Women and Political Action: Debating Ways Forward for Feminists.**

Info: Angela Kennedy & Jeanne Gregory, Gender Research Centre, Middlesex University, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SF, UK, tel: +44 181 362 5552, fax: +44 181 962 6404, j.gregory@mdx.ac.uk & a.kennedy@mdx.ac.uk

20-26.06 Tromsø, Norway

**Women's Worlds 1999** - The 7th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women. Info: Women's Worlds 1999, Kvinnforsk, University of Tromsø, NO-9037 Tromsø, Norway, tel: +47 77 64 58 99, fax: +47 77 64 64 20, womens.worlds.99@skk.uit.no <http://www.skk.uit.no/WW99/ww99.html>

02-04.07 Wales, UK

**Engendering Material Culture: 5th Women in Archaeology Conference.** Engendering Material Culture Conference Centre for Cross-Cultural Research. Info: Laurajane Smith & Ann McGrath, Australian National University Canberra, ACT 0200 Australia, lj.smith@unsw.edu.au & ann.mcgrath@anu.edu.au

08-10.07 Paris, France

**Aphra Behn** - Colloque international. Info: Bernard Dhuicq, 23 rue de Magnitot, 95420 St Gervais, France, fax: +33 1 34 67 25 43, bduicq@club-internet.fr <http://www.manhattan.edu/special/conferences/behn/>

10-30.07 Skopje, Macedonia

### **The Image of the Other. The Perception and the Representation of the Others.**

Summer School. Info: Suzana Milevska, Open Society Institute, Ruzveltova 34, P.O.Box 378, 91000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, tel: +389 91 136 514, ssimage@soros.org.mk

12-13.07 Mannheim, Germany

### **Frauen in Wissenschaft und Forschung**

- Strategien der Förderung zwischen Institution und Autonomie. Symposium. Info: Caroline Kramer, Zentrum für Umfragen, Methoden und Analysen e.V., P.O.Box 122155, 68072 Mannheim, Germany, tel: +49 621 124624, kramer@zuma-mannheim.de

13-16.07 Oxford, UK

### **Women Organizing in China.**

Workshop. Abstract deadline has expired. Info: Joanna Child, Centre for Cross-Cultural Research on Women, University of Oxford, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St.Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, UK, tel: +44 1865 273644, fax: +44 1865 273607, cccrw@qeh.ox.ac.uk

12-14.07 Edinburgh, Scotland

### **2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference on Women & Health.**

Info: Pamela Warner, Medical Statistics Unit, Dept. of Public Health Sciences, University of Edinburgh Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH 9AG, Scotland, UK, tel: +44 131 650 3248, fax: +44 131 650 6909, conference@bps.org.uk <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~pamew/ICWH2.htm>

21-24.07 Manchester, UK

### **Beyond Boundaries. Sexual Diversity and Human Rights.**

Info: Gail Hawkes, Dept. of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University, Geoffrey Manton Building, Rosamond Street West, Off Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6LL, UK, tel: +44 161 2473464, fax: +44 161 247 6321, g.hawkes@mmu.ac.uk <http://www.miid.net/diversity>

24-25.07 Manchester, UK

### **Feminist Forerunners: The New Woman in the National and International Periodical Press, 1880 to the 1920s.**

Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Ann Heilmann, Dept. of Humanities & Applied Social Studies, Crewe and Alsager Faculty, Manchester Metropolitan university, Alsager Campus, Hassall Road, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2HL, UK, fax: +44 161 247 6374, A.Heilmann@mmu.ac.uk

05-06.08 Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **Colloque Simone de Beauvoir.**

Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Instituto Interdisciplinario de Estudios de Género, Puán 480 1406, 4to. piso, of. 417 Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, tel: +54 1 432 0606/0218/3525 (int. 161), fax: +54 1 432 0121, iiege@filo.uba.ar

05-08.08 Los Angeles, USA

### **Victoria Redressed: Feminism and 19th Century Studies.**

20 years after the publication of *The Madwoman in the Attic*. Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar will be among the keynote speakers. Info: Hilary Schor, Dept. of English, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0354, USA, fax: +1 213 741 0377, <http://www.popcultures.com/calls/call0301.htm>

14-30.08 Utrecht, The Netherlands

### **Diasporic Identities and Mediated Cultures: Gender, History and Representations.**

NOISE European Summer School. Deadline for applications has expired. Info: Esther Vonk, International Office Women's Studies, Utrecht University, Trans 10, 3512 JK Utrecht, The Netherlands, tel: +31 30 2536013, fax: +31 30 2536695, noise@let.uu.nl



# Calendar 1999-2000

18-21.08 Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

**Will Europe Work?** 4th European Sociological Conference. Specific topic streams incl. Gender perspectives. Info: Bernard Kruithof, SISWO, Plantage Muidergracht 4, 1018 TV Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: +31 20 5270646, fax: +31 20 6229430, kruithof@siswo.uva.nl <http://www.qub.ac.uk/ss/ssp/esa/conf99.html>

21-26.08 Tallinn, Estonia

**Information Technology and Gender Comparative and Cross-disciplinary Perspectives.** Nordic-Baltic Research Course organised by the NorFA network *Information Technology, Transnational Democracy and Gender*. Deadline for application has expired. Info: Christina Mörtberg, Div. Gender & Technology, Luleå University of Technology, SE-971 87 Luleå, Sweden, tel: +46 920 72117, fax: +46 920 91866, Christina.Mortberg@arb.luth.se

26-29.08 Jyväskylä, Finland

**Desiring Subjects and Agency.** Summer School on Politics and Art. Deadline for abstracts 15.06. Info: Eeva Jokinen, tel: +358 14 603102, ejokinen@dodo.jyu.fi & Tuija Virkki, tel: +358 14 602970, tumany@dodo.jyu.fi

August 1999 Accra, Ghana

**The GASAT (Gender and Science and Technology) - 9 International Conference.** Info: conference coordinator/chair Georgina Quaisie, Desk Officer, Science, Technology and Maths, Education, Ghana Education Service, PO Box M45, Accra, Ghana, gquaise@africaonline.com.gh <http://www.gac.edu/~simpson/gasat/homepage.htm>

13-24.09 Bremen, Germany

**Informatica Feminale.** Sommerstudium. Info: informatica\_feminale@informatik.uni-bremen.de

16-17.09 Oslo, Norway

**Spaces, Visions and Voices- Gender and the institution of Art.** Info: Helle Granum, tel: +47 22 85 89 50, hellepg@sfk.uio.no

17.09 Oxford, UK

**A European Conference on Promoting Sustainable Diversity in Higher Education Across National Boundaries.** Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Equal Opportunities Action Group, c/o OCSLD Helena Kennedy Building, Headington Hill Campus, Oxford Brookes university, Oxford OX3 0BP, UK, tel: +44 1865 484609, fax: +44 1865 484622, smanfredi@brookes.ac.uk

21-24.09 Vatnahalsen, Norway

**Poststructuralism.** National Research Course. A joint project of the centres for women's studies and gender research in Oslo, Trondheim and Bergen and the second in a series of planned courses within women's studies. Info: Kari Melby, tel: +47 73 59 17 28, kari.melby@hf.ntnu.no & Beatrice Halsaa, tel: +47 22 85 87 43, beatrice.halsaa@sfk.uio.no

30.09-02.10 Minsk, Belarus

**Writing Women's History and History of Gender in Countries in Transition.** Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: European Humanities University, Centre for Gender Studies, 24, pr. Skoriny, Minsk, 220030, Belarus, tel/fax: +357 17 239 3383, gender@ehu.unibel.by

07-09.10 Minneapolis, USA

**Challenging Rhetorics: Cross-Disciplinary Sites of Feminist Discourse.** 2nd Biennial International Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference. Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Hildy Miller, Associate Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Writing, 227 Lind Hall, 207 Church St. SE, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA, tel: +1 612 626 7639, fax: +1 612 626 7580, mille299@tc.umn.edu <http://cisw.cla.umn.edu/>

10-14.10 Uppsala, Sweden

**Gender, Property and Economic Change.** European Graduate School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER). Seminar. Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Maria Ågren, Dept. of History, Uppsala, St. Larsgatan 2, SE-75310 Uppsala, Sweden, tel: +46 18 181548, fax: +46 18 181528, maria.agren@hist.uu.se

14-17.10 Wageningen,  
The Netherlands

**Gender and Rural Transformations in Europe. Past Present and Future Prospects.** Info: Margreet van der Burg, Gender Studies in Agriculture, Hollandseweg 1, 6706 KN Wageningen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 317 483374, fax: +31 317 485477, Gender.Conf@alg.vsl.wau.nl [http://www.sls.wau.nl/crds/congr\\_gs.htm](http://www.sls.wau.nl/crds/congr_gs.htm)

15-16.10 Berlin, Germany

**The Military, War and Gender Relations; 1914-1949.** The objective of the colloquium is to present research in progress and to promote a discussion between military historians and scholars working in the field of women's and gender history of central issues in the gender history of war and the military in the 20th century. Info: Marcus Funck, c/o Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung an der TU Berlin, Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7, Sekr. TEL 20-1, 10587 Berlin, Germany, tel: +49 30 31426974, fax: +49 30 3142698, mafunccd@sp.zrz.tu-berlin.de

25-29.10 Havana, Cuba

**Women on the Eve of the 21st Century. 3rd International Workshop.** Deadline for abstracts 24.07. Info: Norma Vasallo, Cátedra de la Mujer, Universidad de La Habana, San Rafael No 1168 esquina Mazón, Zona 4 Código Postal 10400, Ciudad Habana, Cuba, fax: +537 335774 & +537 335960, cmujer@psico.uh.cu

29-31.10 Uppsala, Sweden

**Reconsidering the Canon: Feminist Work on the History of Philosophy.** Deadline for abstracts has expired. Info: Sharon.Rider@filosofi.uu.se & Katarina.Sjokvist@filosofi.uu.se & Lilli.Alanen@filosofi.uu.se

05-06.11 Aalborg, Denmark

**Talking Gender and Sexuality.** Symposium. Deadline for abstracts 01.08. Info: Paul McIlvenny, Dept. of Languages and Intercultural Studies, Kroghstræde 3, Aalborg University, DK-9220 Aalborg, Denmark, tel: +45 9635 9169, fax: +45 9815 7887, paul@sprog.auc.dk <http://www.sprog.auc.dk/~paul/conf99/>





# Calendar 1999-2000

18-29.11 Yukon, Canada

**Northern Women: Different Lives, Common Threads.** A Circumpolar Women's Conference. Info: Amanda Graham, Yukon College, P.O. Box 2799, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5K4, Canada, fax: +1 867 668 8828, <http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/~agraham/womensconf/>

10-12.12 Gregynog, Wales

**Identities in Action!** Interdisciplinary conference which aims to gather diverse perspectives on the ways in which concepts of identity, alienation and belonging, and modes of language and discourse, reveal themselves in cultural and political undertakings. Info: Daniel Chandler, [dgc@aber.ac.uk](mailto:dgc@aber.ac.uk) & Meic Llewellyn, [mml97@aber.ac.uk](mailto:mml97@aber.ac.uk) <http://www.aber.ac.uk/~dgc/identact.html>

## 2000

January Southampton, UK

**Gender, Nation, Nationalism in 20th Century Europe.** Deadline for proposals has expired. Info: Jane Freedman, Dept. of Modern Languages, University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ, UK, [jf@lang.soton.ac.uk](mailto:jf@lang.soton.ac.uk)

04-06.02 Toronto, Canada

**Mothering in the African Diaspora: Literature, History, Society, Popular Culture and the Arts.** An international conference. Deadline for abstracts has expired. 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.** Deadline for abstracts 27.09.1999. Info: Carolina Sanchez-Palencia & Juan Carlos Hidalgo, Departamento de Literatura Inglesa y Norteamericana, Universidad de Sevilla, C/. Palos de la Frontera, s/n, 41004 Sevilla, Spain, fax: +34 954551552, [csanchez@siff.us.es](mailto:csanchez@siff.us.es) & [jhidalgo@siff.us.es](mailto:jhidalgo@siff.us.es)

12-15.04 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Gender and Technology.** 3rd European Social 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)

26-29.05 Ontario, Canada

**Simone de Beauvoir - L'engagement d'une oeuvre et d'une vie.** Colloque international. Propositions de contributions avant 1.10.1999. 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)

08-11.06 Vancouver, Canada

**Women Work and Computerisation: Charting a Course to the Future.** 7th International Federation of Information Processing. Info: Deborah Kirby, WWC2000, c/o School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Canada, [dkirby@sfu.ca](mailto:dkirby@sfu.ca)

29.07-03.08 Tampere, Finland

**VI ICCEES (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 22854434, fax: +358 9 22854431.

Late August/early September 2000 Oslo, Norway

**Conflict and Cooperation in Sites of Cultural Co-existence:** Perspectives from Women's History conference by the International Federation for Research in Women's History/Federation Internationale pour le Recherche en Histoire des Femmes in conjunction. Info: Ida Blom, Dept. of History, University of Bergen, P.O.Box 25, NO-5027 Bergen, Norway, tel: +47 55 58 23 02, [ida.blom@hi.uib.no](mailto:ida.blom@hi.uib.no)

Early September 2000 Zürich, Switzerland

**2nd European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education.** Info: Office of Equal Opportunity, Prof. K. von Salis, Geological Institute, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland, [katharina@erdw.ethz.ch](mailto:katharina@erdw.ethz.ch)

28.09-01.10 Bologna, Italy

**4th European Feminist Research Conference.** Info: [aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no](mailto:aoife-secretariat@nikk.uio.no)

04-08.10 Zürich, Switzerland

**Knowledge, Power, Gender. Philosophy and the Future of the «Female Condition».** The 9th Symposium of the International Association of women Philosophers. Info: <http://www.iaph.org>



# Addresses

## Nordic

### **Nordic Institute for Women's Studies and Gender Research - NIKK**

See last page.

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

Att: Gerd Bjørhovde  
Faculty of Humanities  
University of Tromsø  
NO-9037 Tromsø, Norway  
tel: +47 77 64 42 64  
fax: +47 77 64 56 25  
gerd.bjorhovde@hum.uit.no

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

*Editorial address:*  
Division: Gender & Technology  
Luleå University of Technology  
SE-971 87 Luleå, Sweden  
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nora@arb.luth.se  
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P.O. Box 2959 Tøyen  
NO-0608 Oslo, Norway  
tel: +47 22 57 54 00  
fax: +47 22 57 53 53  
subscription@scup.no  
www.scup.no/journals/en/j-123.html

## Denmark

### **National Co-ordination & National Journal Kvinder, køn og forskning**

Hilda Rømer Christensen  
Institute of Sociology  
University of Copenhagen  
Linnésgade 22  
DK-1361 Copenhagen K  
tel: +45 35 32 35 01  
fax: +45 35 32 39 40  
sochrc@pc.ibt.dk  
www.forskraad.dk/saerforsk/kvindeforsk/  
index.htm

### **The Association for Women's Studies and Gender Research in Denmark**

Department of Feminist Studies University of Southern Denmark - Odense University  
Campusvej 55  
DK-5230 Odense M  
tel: +45 65 50 31 89  
fax: +45 66 15 78 92  
lisbeth@sigma.ou.dk  
www.ou.dk/hum/studier/kstudier/fkkd/  
index.html

### **KVINFO - The Danish Centre for Information on Women and Gender**

Christians Brygge 3  
DK-1219 Copenhagen K  
tel: +45 33 13 50 88  
fax: +45 33 14 11 56  
kvinfo@kvinfo.dk  
www.kvinfo.dk

### **The Women's History Archives**

Statsbiblioteket  
Universitetsparken  
DK-8000 Århus C  
tel: +45 89 46 23 00  
fax: +45 89 46 22 20  
el@kumsb.dk  
www.statsbiblioteket.dk/sb/samlinger/  
kvindehistorisk\_samling.html

### **Women's Museum in Denmark**

Domkirkeplads 5  
DK-8000 Århus C  
tel: +45 86 13 61 44  
fax: +45 86 19 22 35  
kvindemuseet@post5.tele.dk  
www.kvindemuseet.dk

### **Center for Gender and Women's Studies in Copenhagen**

University of Copenhagen  
Njalsgade 80  
DK-2300 Copenhagen S  
tel: +45 35 32 88 11  
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kvik@coco.ihl.ku.dk  
www.nordisk.ku.dk/konsforskning/  
index.htm

### **Department of Feminist Studies in Odense**

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tel: +45 65 50 33 88  
fax: +45 66 15 78 92  
nly@litcul.sdu.dk  
www.ou.dk/hum/studier/  
kstudier/center.html

### **Feminist Research in Roskilde**

Roskilde University Centre  
P.O. Box 260  
DK-4000 Roskilde  
tel: +45 46 74 25 55  
fax: +45 46 75 54 90  
kathe@ruc.dk

### **FREIA - Feminist Research Centre in Aalborg**

Aalborg University  
Fibigerstræde 2  
DK-9220 Aalborg Ø  
tel: +45 96 35 83 10  
fax: +45 98 15 32 98  
line@i4.auc.dk  
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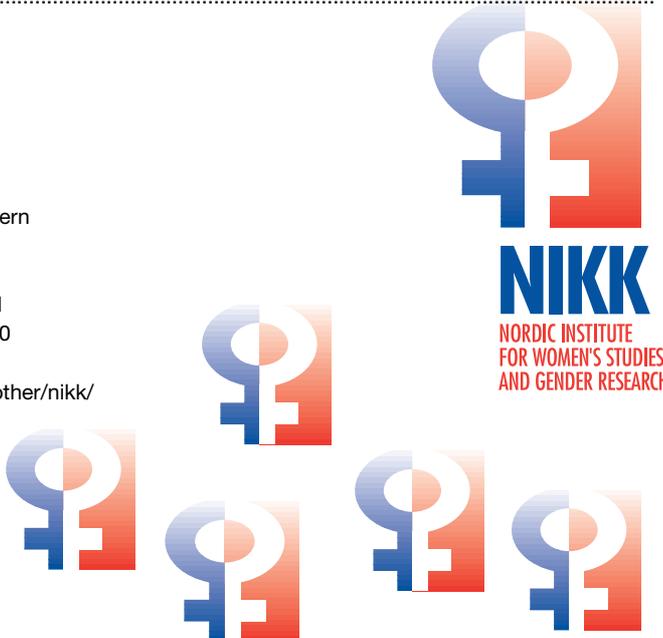
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