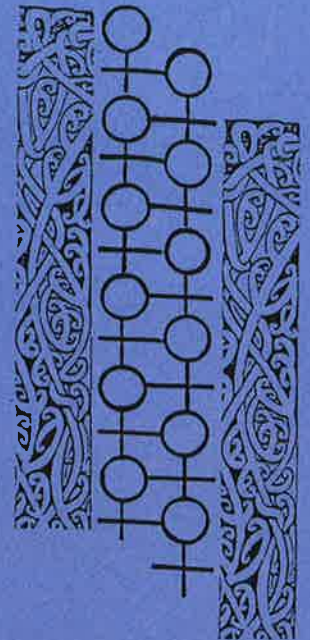


*Janne*

**AOETEAROA NEW ZEALAND  
WOMEN  
& POLITICS  
NETWORK NEWSLETTER  
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**Aotearoa / New Zealand  
Women and Politics  
Network**

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**The idea** was born out of meetings of women at the NZ Political Science Association Conference.

**The aim** is to promote communication between women teaching, researching or interested/ involved in politics/public policy (in paid or unpaid work).

Over **300 copies** of this newsletter have been circulated, newsletters are published three times a year.

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Please contact Bronwyn Hayward if you are interested in editing the next issue of Women & Politics.

This issue was compiled and edited by Karyn Taylor-Moore.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

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### Which Suffrage Year Was That?

**Anne Else**

Last year we marked the centenary of New Zealand's becoming the first independent country in the world where women gained the right to vote in national elections. Thanks to a long campaign by interested women, the centenary received national recognition, and some Government funding.

In the end there were two Suffrage Years. The first, the one experienced by many New Zealand women, was a year of successful celebration. Enthusiastic women formed 66 local committees and produced a vast range of events and activities, from mountain climbs to lecture series. Many of these events were free. Writers and researchers unearthed a wealth of new knowledge about women's lives, and published it in *tasting form*. A survey in October 1993 showed that nine out of ten women - and four out of five men - had taken part in at least one suffrage year activity, even if it was simply watching a television programme. Maori women

and women at home full-time were the most likely to have gone to events outside the home.

Recognition of Kate Sheppard, the leading suffrage campaigner, went up from 4 percent in 1992 to 39 percent in 1993; with prompting it rose to 83 percent. Among 12-14 year old girls, 78 percent had learnt at school about how women got the vote, and 65 percent about women's involvement in politics and government. Nine out of ten people thought that celebrating women's suffrage had been a good idea, and nearly 60 percent thought the year would bring lasting benefits - greater equity and equality of opportunity, removal of barriers to improving the status of women, more available information about women and women's history, and a renewed energy and momentum to continue working for increased choices and opportunities for women. Again, Maori women were the most positive about lasting benefits and thought the year would encourage women to work collectively for change.

The provincial papers on the whole reflected this celebratory tone. They covered local events, featured local women, and wrote largely positive editorials.

The major dailies and the glossy magazines, especially in Wellington and Auckland, told a different story. All too often, *their* Suffrage

Year was dominated by gleeful headlines trumpeting the shocking news of disagreements among women (do men never disagree?); by campaigns against causes espoused by feminists (such as dealing with sexual abuse); by a spate of tirades about political correctness (often reprinted from the right-wing press overseas); and by outright attacks on Suffrage Year and feminism in general, and on one prominent feminist in particular (her crime: obtaining enough funding to carry through a major publishing and television project covering women's lives over the last 100 years).

The final insult came in editorial comments decrying the 'series of controversies' which 'served to diminish the positive side of the celebrations' and portraying the year as 'stranded in trivia and lesbian lunches'. This is a perfect example of what Susan Faludi calls the media loop - 'an endless feedback loop that perpetuates and exaggerates its own false images'.

In my more optimistic moments I can see the virulent backlash of the year unleashed from some quarters as the dying thrashings of doomed dinosaurs. Opposition from women was more problematic. Politically, the celebrations took place at a difficult time for women, who had suffered the most from a decade of new right policies bent on

dismantling the welfare state and putting every aspect of life at the mercy of 'market forces'. Between 1987 and 1992 unemployment among women almost tripled, from 3.9 to 9.4 percent. Among Maori women it jumped from 11.1 to a staggering 21.8 percent. By 1992 one in four families with children had a sole parent, the vast majority of them women, and over 80 percent of these families reported an income of less than \$15,000 a year.

So it was understandable that some women - including some feminists - objected to any money being spent on commemorations. They saw the Government grant of \$5 million as an obscene election year bribe which ought to have been spent on helping the victims of the new right and of male violence. They implied that for any women who cared about their sisters, rage over suffering must take precedence over celebrating suffrage. Ironically, the same line was taken by some of those intent on discrediting feminists. In their book too, celebration was simply selfish.

But to take this attitude was to play right into the hands of those responsible for the evils besetting women. Why should New Zealand women give up the first chance they ever had to claim national recognition for a major victory, just because male violence and female poverty continue, and because women MPs have proved they can be as thoroughly enthralled by

the new right as men? Why should girls at school be denied a unique opportunity to learn about their fiesty foremothers? And, perhaps most importantly, why should feminists pass up this ideal chance to set the record straight on how important feminism has been in the past, and still is today, in the long battle for equity and justice?

The fact that in November we voted for MMP and elected 21 women to Parliament - the highest proportion ever achieved under a first-past-the-post system - owes something to the raised consciousness engendered by the suffrage centenary celebrations. While it is now abundantly clear that women MPs cannot be relied on to work for the interests of most of their sex - which in the long run equal the interests of human society - critical mass is still a worthwhile goal.

Women everywhere have demonstrated much clearer opposition to the new right than men, because they understand much better how closely interwoven the fabric of society is - and what happens when it is torn apart by new right 'reforms'. A hundred years after enfranchisement, despite their continuing subordination, women in countries such as ours have more power than they realise - as voters, consumers, and providers of essential services. Feminism's task now is to work out how that power can be called on to complete

the project of emancipation which the suffragists so bravely began.

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## A Personal Reflection

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### **Margaret Clark**

Professor of Politics, Victoria University

When I think of Suffrage Year I think of going to innumerable book launches, and buying innumerable books. This I think will be Suffrage Year's most durable legacy. Local publishers and local writers took the opportunity to immeasurably enrich our knowledge of ourselves and our past. New Zealand history and historiography can never be the same again.

Both Women's Studies at Victoria University, which I currently chair, as well as my home Department of Politics, rose to the occasion.

Women's Studies gained research funds from the Suffrage Trust and several publications resulted. A local history project, coordinated by Rosemarie Smith, produced many research guides and newsletters, and culminated in a major publication *The Ladies Are At It Again*.

Maori aspects of the project were coordinated by Tania Rei. Her book *Maori Women and the Vote* was launched in the Beehive just before Christmas by The Hon. Mrs Whetu Tirakatene Sullivan, Member for Southern Maori, and by Sandra Lee, Member for Auckland Central. For me it was a moving and fitting end to Suffrage Year.

Elizabeth McLeay of the Department of Politics organised a conference on Women and Politics. From this resulted both a special edition of the journal *Political Science* and a Victoria University Press monograph jointly edited by Elizabeth McLeay and Helena Catt, entitled *Women and Politics in New Zealand*.

Wearing both my hats I organised a weekly lecture series on "Women and the Election". This focussed on a series of issues likely to be of particular relevance or concern to women, and featured women speakers both from within the university and women active in the political process.

It was a busy year. It was a positive year. And we have so many new books to prove that women have public as well as private lives.

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## CONFERENCE REPORTS

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### REPORT ON THE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALASIAN POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES

**Jennifer Curtin**

Public Policy Program  
Australian National University  
Canberra

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#### **NZPSA - 23rd-25th August, 1993 University of Canterbury Christchurch**

Reverend Dr Dame Phyllis Guthardt, Pro-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury, formally opened the New Zealand Political Studies Association Conference on Monday morning with a very interesting and entertaining speech on the qualities of Christchurch, and the important influence of politics in her own life. Such an opening was most appropriate considering 1993 was the centenary celebration of women's suffrage. While an important year both for women and for the discipline of political science, no papers or sessions dealt specifically with women's fight for the vote. However, a number of papers did reflect contemporary issues and ideas relating

to suffrage, in particular Elizabeth McLeay's *Walls and Windows: Women and the Political Agenda* and Rian Voet's *Feminism and Citizenship*.

**Other papers which looked at various aspects of women and politics were:**

John McCrystal (Politics Department, University of Auckland) - *Civic Feminism: Mary Wollstonecraft and the Virtuous Individual*.

Jindra Tichy (Politics Department, Otago University) - *Monogamy vs Polygamy*.

Jennifer Curtin (Public Policy Program, Australian National University) - *The Feminisation of Trade Unions: An Introduction*.

Gabriele Winter (Sociology Department, University of Canterbury) - *Changing Social Policy Discourses and the Construction of Femininity in Australia and New Zealand/Aotearoa*.

**A number of women gave papers on other topics:**

Kate McMillan (Politics Department, University of Auckland) - *The State and Non-Maori Ethnic Minorities in New Zealand*.

Cairine Meier (Politics Department, University of Otago) - *The Place of International Non-governmental Organisations in International Relations*.

Helena Catt (with Raymond Millar) - (Politics Department, University of Auckland) - *How Important were Images of the Parties, Leaders and Candidates in the Tamaki and Wellington Central By-Elections?*, and *Down to the Wire: Media Coverage, Public Opinion Polls and the Use of Elite Opinion in the Final Week of Two Election Campaigns*.

Simone Hindin (Politics Department, University of Canterbury) - *Weak Mediators of International Conflicts*.

Janet Bedggood (Communications Studies, Auckland Institute of Technology) - *New Zealand Media as the Fourth Estate: A Comparison of Print Media Coverage of the Employment Contracts Bill*.

The topics discussed at the NZPSA Annual General Meeting were: the need to have more women as plenary speakers; that more encouragement be given to women within Political Science to give papers; and a general agreement that a separate women's stream was not always desirable. Those interested in Women and Politics also met to discuss the network newsletter and the resources available for the teaching of women and politics. It was decided that the newsletter be produced bi-annually, with the next issue due out mid-1994. With respect to teaching resources, those who taught in or around the area of women and politics shared their ideas and listed the relevant texts, but noted that, in many cases, resources were still limited.

The next NZPSA Conference is to be held at Otago University, although as yet it has not been decided whether this is to be during the May or August vacation.





*Analysis of Victorian and New South Wales Initiatives .*

Marli Hutchesson (University of Melbourne) - *Ethnic German Migration to Germany Post Unification .*

Carol Johnson (University of Adelaide) - *Shaping the Future: Women and Australian Political Discourse .*

Barbara Jolly (with Ian Holland) (Griffith University) - *Policy Networks and Environmental Policy .*

Glenda Mather (University of Adelaide) - *Education as a Commodity: Discourse and Practice in the South Pacific .*

John McCrystal (University of Auckland) - *Civic Feminism: Mary Wollstonecraft and the Virtuous Individual .*

Philomena Murray (University of Melbourne) - *European Union: A History of Failure ?*

Margaret Nash (Monash University) - *Theorising Japanese Foreign Policy .*

Jacinta O'Hagan (ANU) - *How the West was Lost: The Absence of 'The West' from International Relations Theory and its Implications .*

Gillian Robinson (Deakin University) - *The Greek Polis and the Democratic Imaginary .*

Tracey Rowland (La Trobe University) - *The Intellectual Heritage of Vaclav Gavel .*

Beth Russell (Monash University) - *Australia and International Environmental Policy .*

Marian Sawyer (with James Jupp) (University of Canberra) - *Building the Coalitions: The ALP and Special Appeals .*

Marian Simms (ANU) - *The End of Pragmatism? The Coalition Parties in the Early 1990s .*

Rosaleen Smyth (Deakin University) - *Projecting Australia Abroad: The Public Diplomacy Activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade .*

Pam Stavropoulos (University of New England) - *Why Roger Scruton is not a Conservative .*

Kylie Stephen (University of Queensland) - *The Sexual Politics of Rape Law Reform .*

Leigh Summers (University of Melbourne) - *A Gentle Reminder: Women, Dissatisfaction and the Marriage Guidance Council .*

Ros Taplin (Macquarie University) - *International Environmental Regimes: Theoretical Perspectives and Insights from the Global Climate Change Regime Process .*

Rose Verspaandonk (La Trobe University) - *Mobilising Ayn Rand and Camille Paglia for an Individualistic Feminism and The Pursuit of Equity: The Australian Socio-Economic Tradition meets the 1990s.*

Mary Walsh (University of Queensland) - *Is the Subject of Political Theory Sexed ?*

Kathleen Weekley (University of Sydney) - *Notes of the Theoretical Roots of the Crisis of Philippine Communism .*

Liz Young (University of Tasmania) - *Kakadu: The Assumptions and Problems with Accordism .*

A Women's Caucus lunch was held on the first day where women academics and the accessibility of tenure was discussed. While across disciplines in Australia there has been a steady increase in the number of female academic staff at all levels, female staff are still predominantly at lecturer level and below. Of the Political Science departments represented at the Caucus lunch, it appears there are few women teaching in these departments and even fewer with tenure. The issue of encouraging more women to take on post-graduate study in political science was also discussed, with particular reference to cuts in

funding for scholarships. On the same evening a women's dinner was held; a purely social event which was enjoyed by all.

The 1994 APSA is to be held around the same time at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales.

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## **REPORT OF THE SUFFRAGE AND BEYOND CONFERENCE**

**Melanie Nolan**  
History Department  
Victoria University

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In September 1893 New Zealand women won the right to vote in national elections. New Zealand female suffrage was an example and an inspiration to women around the world. Universal suffrage for everyone over the age of 21, regardless of sex, race or whether or not they owned property, is an international landmark. New Zealand's centenary will be followed by one in every other country.

"Suffrage and Beyond", an international historical conference to commemorate the centenary of female suffrage, was held at Victoria University in Wellington, on 27th-29th August 1993. The Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs and the History Department of Victoria University provided

administrative support. The conference was also associated with the New Zealand branch of the International Federation for Research in Women's History and the IFRWH's endorsement assisted the Committee in its applications for funding. Indeed, it was the best funded history conference in New Zealand to date, attracting the sponsorship of the Bank of New Zealand, the 1993 Suffrage Centennial Year Trust and a range of cross-cultural trusts, including the Australia-New Zealand Foundation, the British Council, the New Zealand-United States Education Foundation, the New Zealand-Japan Foundation and the Swiss Council/Pro Helvetia. The Governor General, Dame Catherine Tizard, launched the conference at Government House.

Auckland University Press is publishing a selection of sixteen papers out of the 55 conference presentations. It will be edited by Melanie Nolan and Caroline Daley, the conference organisers, and will be launched in time for the September 1994 Women's Book Festival. The editors have arranged the papers in six thematic sections: New Zealand, the Australasian Regional Experience, Protracted Struggles, Comparing Suffrage, After Suffrage and Beyond Suffrage. They have prepared a general introduction and prefaces discussing the issues covered for each theme.

The first day was devoted to papers on New Zealand which provided the basis for the first section in the book. The conference opened with Patricia Grimshaw, Professor of History at Melbourne University, revisiting her early work *Women's Suffrage in New Zealand 1972*, in a paper about writing from the margins which put her book and New Zealand's women's suffrage in a comparative context. Dame Mira Szaszy, a leading activist concerned particularly with land and fisheries issues and a founding member of the Maori Women's Welfare League, spoke of the suffrage campaign from the perspective of Maori women. Raewyn Dalziel, Association Professor at the University of Auckland, a pioneer in teaching women's history in New Zealand, gave an account of the impact of New Zealand women's enfranchisement abroad.

Secondly, papers addressed the Australasian and Pacific regional experience. The right to vote came early to the South Pacific: Pitcairn Island women could vote in 1838 and Cook Islands women in 1893, before New Zealand women. All white Australian women had the vote at state and federal level by 1908. Aboriginal women in Queensland and Western Australia though did not gain citizen's rights to vote until 1967.

A large contingent of Australian historians attended the conference and they examined the limits of citizenship rights for Australian

women, both the colonisers and the colonised. Susan Magarey, Director of the Women's Studies Centre at Adelaide, examined the reason why South Australian women did not want to be Members of Parliament. While a number of papers discussed racism and colonialism this was the central theme of two papers; Ann Curthoys, Professor of History at the University of Technology, Sydney, and Jackie Huggins, a Brisbane historian and writer committed to documenting Aboriginal history and currently engaged in establishing a Black Women's Writing Trust. The rest of the region was left to Penelope Schoeffel Meleisea, Director of the New Zealand Institute for Social Research & Development, who surveyed the diverse experiences of women with politics and leadership issues in the Pacific Islands region.

Compared to the general antipodean experience, many other regions had protracted suffrage campaigns, some which began earlier and others which did not emerge until much later. A third group of papers addressed issues from campaign beginnings right through to 1993. Jane Rendall, Senior Lecturer in History and the Centre for Women's Studies at the University of York, spoke about the languages of British Suffragists, 1866-1874 in a paper on *Citizenship, Culture and Civilisation*. Karen Offen, historian and independent scholar, affiliated with the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University,

spoke on *Women, Citizenship and Suffrage in the French Context, 1789-1993*. Yikiko Matsukawa and Kaoru Tachi from the Japanese Yamaguchi and Ochanomizu Women's Universities, respectively, discussed the history and background of the women's suffrage movement in Japan before World War Two. Asuncion Lavrin, Professor at the Howard University, Washington DC, who has recently completed a major study on feminism and social change in South America, discussed suffrage in that region, *Arguing a Difficult Cause*. During discussion Margrit Siegenthaler-Reusser pointed out that although Swiss women did not win the vote until relatively late, women made up a higher proportion of members in the national parliament than Britain, the United States and Australasia because of Switzerland's proportional representation system.

Fourthly, while most papers were implicitly comparative, there were a number of papers which set out to compare national suffrage campaigns. Nancy F. Cott, Professor of American Studies and History at Yale University, compared the American and German feminist movements. Ellen Carol DuBois, Professor of History at the University of California, gave a paper comparing campaigns internationally from an 'international socialist-feminist viewpoint'. Sandra Stanley-Holton, a research fellow at the University of Adelaide, discussed "*nsurgent*

*Women*": *Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Network and the Origins of Suffrage Militancy in Britain and the United States*.

The conference theme was broad, "Suffrage and Beyond", and many papers dealt with a fifth theme, the period and issues after suffrage was won. Marilyn Lake, reader in History and Director of the Women's Studies Centre La Trobe University, Melbourne, spoke about the meaning of economic independence in citizenship debates in a paper entitled *Between Old Worlds and New*. Johanna Alberti, author of a study of feminists 'beyond suffrage' in war and peace, who teaches in a number of universities in Newcastle, England, gave a paper *Keeping the Candle Burning: Some Feminists Between Two Wars*. Martin Pugh, Professor of History, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and author of a study on women and the British women's movement 1914-1959, discussed the impact of women's enfranchisement in Britain. Jo Vellacott, Honorary Fellow at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University, Canada, drew out the links between the women's suffrage and women's peace movements.

Finally, a number of papers dealt with wider theoretical and normative suffrage issues. For example, Carole Pateman, Professor of Political Science, University of California, gave a paper on *Questions which have not been*

*asked: Womanhood Suffrage, Women's citizenship and political scientists*. Her paper reflected the tone of the conference which was comparative and exploratory; it shied away from being celebratory. The conference reflected the resurrection of political history world-wide. These new political scientists and historians are well aware of the limits of suffrage victories.

Not surprisingly, one theme in particular which was predominant in conference discussion and in the book is the issue of ethnocentrism. There are perhaps three different ways in which suffrage historiography in the past has displayed ethnocentrism. Suffrage accounts have been dominated by the American and British model. This model has established a stereotype of suffrage history in terms of timing and nature. Countries which did not gain suffrage by 1920 or 1928, the dates of women's suffrage in the United States and Britain respectively, are considered 'protracted' struggles. This overlooks the fact that worldwide most women did not receive suffrage rights until after 1940! Second, the model suggests that militant campaigns are a reflection of 'mature' feminism. The hard-fought United States and British campaigns are considered the norm. This overlooks all the countries and states, including Australasia, which had successful mass movements that were peaceful and quick. The concentration on the militants has led to erroneous suggestions that suffrage

was a 'gift' rather than something women struggled for Downunder and elsewhere. Third, of course, suffrage history has overlooked the position of indigenous women. As papers on Pacific Island, South American and Aboriginal women's experience showed, women's political concerns were often 'beyond suffrage'. Suffrage history is particularly neglectful of women's experience in non-Christian countries, as the Japanese speakers revealed. The margins fought back at this conference, challenging ethnocentrism in a number of its guises.

The conference also promoted networking. In addition to the Aotearoa/New Zealand Women and Politics Network, a number of historians who are officials of national committees affiliated to the International Federation for Research in Women's History attended the conference: Karen Offen (IFRWH Secretary-Treasurer), Raewyn Dalziel (NZ), Patricia Grimshaw (Australia), Jane Rendall (Britain and the IFRWH board), Andree Levesque (Canada). they led a general discussion sharing local news and discussing the IFRWH functions more generally.

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## TEACHING NEWS

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### **Women and the Teaching of New Zealand Politics**

**Elizabeth McLeay**

Department of Politics

Victoria University of Wellington

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Since 1990 I have taught an Honours (fourth year) course entitled 'Government and Politics in New Zealand'. I decided at the outset to assume that students at this level would have some knowledge of New Zealand's political structure and, therefore, it would be more satisfactory (for all of us) if the course specialised in a particular aspect of our political system. A focus on political representation seemed appropriate for the following reasons.

a) Since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on the Electoral System, Towards a Better Democracy (1986), there had been much academic and public concern about the operation and legitimacy of our electoral reform, concern which of course finally expressed itself in the 6 November 1993 vote for the Mixed Member Proportional system.

b) A concentration upon representation would allow us to look at the relevant normative and empirical political theory and, additionally, other political systems, thus enabling us to study New Zealand in a broad political perspective.

c) The course would build upon my own long-standing interests.

d) A major theme of the course would be the question of 'descriptive' (or 'typicality') representation; thus Maori representation - a subject of much public and academic debate - and women's representation, could both be addressed. Also the decline of working-class representation in the New Zealand Parliament could be studied.

The first part of the course focussed primarily upon the theoretical and comparative literature; social cleavages and different electoral systems and institutions; arguments and theories about the role of the representative; issues of fairness and equality in representation; different sorts of electoral systems; representative versus direct democracy; descriptive representation; and interest group representation. The second part centred upon students' own interests in New Zealand politics and included such topics as: Maori representation and sovereignty; women's representation; candidate selection; working class representation; bicameralism; select committees; MP/constituency relationships;

the role of the New Zealand MP; and, of course, the relative advantages and disadvantages of FPP and PR.

The usefulness of the course for teaching and learning about women in politics? The question of women's political participation and representation was a constant theme. I feel that this was at least in part due to our concentration upon the more theoretical aspects of representation in the initial part of the course, particularly issues of democratic fairness and equality and the whole debate on whether interests have to be represented in legislatures in order for those interests to be pursued by political decision-makers, an intense debate in feminist political argument. This approach meant that the empirical aspects of the course were guided by normative questions and issues thrown up by comparative political theory and data. Thus the themes of fairness, equality and the representation and participation of interests fed into the empirical research of the students into such aspects as candidate selection, the work of women MPs and the relative strengths and weaknesses of different sorts of electoral systems for women's political representation.

I shall not be teaching an Honours course in 1994 and when I return to Honours teaching in 1995 I shall almost certainly teach a completely (or mainly) different course. I feel as though I have had enough of political representation and

electoral systems for a while. At the end of the teaching year I can always think of how the course could be improved and this course is no exception. In particular I feel we should have done more work on parliamentary processes. Nevertheless, I feel that my four years teaching political representation in New Zealand taught me a great deal, stimulated debate and argument amongst my students and, very importantly, made gender issues a central theme of a 'mainline' course in politics.

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**Department of Political Science  
and Public Policy  
University of Waikato**

Ann Sullivan

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Kia Ora. Here is a brief review of the developments in our department for the year 1993-94.

The major new development in the Department of Political Science and Public Policy at Waikato has been the offering of a Public Administration and Public Policy Programme which allows students to graduate with a major in Public Administration and Public Policy. At graduate level we now offer a Masterate in Public Policy.

The number of women academic staff in the department has been reduced by 50 percent with the departure of Marilyn Waring. Currently the department has fourteen full-time academic staff as well as some people teaching on a contract basis. We are in the process of advertising two full-time positions for the Public Policy Programme and one of those new appointments will be required to teach the course 'Public Administration and Public Policy: Women'.

To date our department's record on appointing women academic staff is poor even though women are very visible as students in the department. Approximately 49 percent of our undergraduate students are women although at graduate level the percentage of women decreases to approximately 30 percent of all graduates.

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**Department of Political Science  
University of Canterbury**

John Henderson

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This year at Canterbury a number of things are happening.

Christine Dann is teaching Pols 217, Gender and Politics. At mid-year we anticipate that Dr Joanna Goven will take up her new appointment in the department. This year she will teach the Pols 101 section on History of Political Theory, she will also give occasional lectures in Christine's course and Jim Ockey's Honours course on Politics of Development: Comparative Military Regimes. Next year I envisage that Joanna will teach a Pols 200 Gender and Politics course as well as following her speciality in Eastern European politics at the Honours level.

We presently have five women tutors, all tutoring the Pols 101 course - Elizabeth Ashton, Jo Bawden, Olive Brown, Allison Houston and Nicola Jones. Allison and Nicola will be leaving for overseas universities to study for Ph.Ds later this year. We have 21 women Honours students and 5 Masters students working on the following theses:

Elizabeth Ashton - *Public perception of the Treaty of Waitangi*

Johann Bawden- *National and ethnic identity in New Zealand*

Catherine Campell - *Reagan politics towards Blacks*

Allison Houston - *The factors influencing decision-making strategies of mediators in international conflict*

Fiona McNab- *Political opinion and gender*



Christine Dann is continuing to work on her Ph.D. thesis on an analytical history of the New Zealand Green Movement.

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## BOOK REVIEW

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**The Ladies Are At It Again!  
Gore Debates the Women's Franchise  
By Rosemarie Smith**

Wellington: Women's Studies  
Victoria University, 1993, 95pp

**Reviewed by Rian Voet**

*The Ladies are At It Again* offers an interesting example of how one might combine history, political ideas and women's studies in a research project. Rosemarie Smith has kept the research proposal small in order to devote her attention to as many interesting and relevant aspects as possible. The book therefore covers only two years, 1892 and 1893 and focusses only on Gore, with just over 1,600 inhabitants, during its debate over women's franchise. Through examining newspapers and periodicals, archives, directories and Government publications the author uncovers a wealth of material and insight into the lives of the people of Gore at that time. The extensive

quotes from newspapers and the beautiful pictures and drawings at the side of the pages almost makes the readers feel like they themselves were in the Gore of the early 1890's.

Apart from this, the book also offers an alternative historical perspective, next to liberal, socialist, economic and Victorian values-in-crisis perspectives; namely one in which gender is a central issue. As Smith herself puts it: "The debate over whether women should have the vote was underpinned by much deeper issues about what it is to be male, female and human. This is what the good people of Gore were getting so worked up about". (p. 67)

Nevertheless there are also some negative points to be mentioned. First, the work is over-structured. The book is divided into five parts. Chapter One offers sociological facts about Gore in 1892, Chapter Two describes the franchise debate, Chapter Three deals with its aftermath: the events of 1893. Then there is a short afterword in which the uniqueness of this historical perspective is explained. Finally, there are four appendices with more detailed information about the women involved, a sample of newspaper correspondence, a list of signatories to petitions and the population profile of Gore 1892.

So different is the approach of these five parts they almost appear to have been written for different publics: One for the sociologist, one for the historical empiricist, one for the historical theorist and one for the auditor. This makes one wonder whether a little more anarchy and hotch-potch would not make a more interesting confrontation between all these facts and resources. For instance, the letters written by "Woman" and the responses by W. Domigan which are put in an appendix, are too interesting to be left without further analysis about the kind of ideological conflict that is going on.

The sociological facts offer an important background, but it would have been more enlightening if we were told in what way these sociological facts matter in one general essay. Overall, the book may have made more intensive reading if Smith had concentrated on only a few of the women involved - for instance on two of her great grandmothers in Gore - and had told one story in which the five parts could have been combined.

A second negative point is that relatively little attention is given to the analysis of political ideas. The construction of gender is merely described and shown, not reflected upon, explained or evaluated - a missed chance to make the book more than a photo album. One would say that this particular book is published

in 1993 because it is important to look back after 100 years of suffrage to what those women in 1892 and 1893 expected from and wanted to do with the suffrage. This is important because through this we may come to a judgment about what went wrong and right with women in politics. In this sense Smith does not offer an alternative historical perspective; like most historians she suggests that judging is for the reader, describing is for the historian.

Finally, a third and minor point. For a work that has so many promising aspects, it is heartening that Smith says in her foreword: "It is far from perfect, but research had to stop at some point". Such modesty is quite unnecessary.

Smith says she hopes her book will inspire others to explore the hidden histories of women in their communities. This is what I hope too; yet I also hope that it may inspire others to reflect upon these histories and evaluate what kind of political ideas New Zealand women have to offer us now or why our current feminist political ideas are richer than theirs. After all, in the 1970's *The Ladies Were At It Again*. Why did they need to return, and should they return again?

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## ADS & NOTICES



### Women Power & Politics

International conference to advance the rights of women and their role in politics.  
8-11 October 1994  
Adelaide Conference Centre  
Marks the Centenary of votes for women in South Australia  
For information write to:

Conference Secretariat  
Festival City Conventions Pty Ltd.  
P.O. Box 986  
Kent Town SA 5071  
Australia

Tel: (61) (08) 363-1307  
Fax: (61) (08) 363-1604

### ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SCHEME

To facilitate academic exchanges in the UK and internationally. Part of the UK Women's Political Science Caucus.

Contact:  
Halen Afshar  
Department of Politics  
University of York  
4015DD  
United Kingdom

### SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

A Voluntary non-profit group established in New Zealand to carry out social research on issues of concern and to act as a forum for discussion.

Contact: SROW  
P.O. Box 13078  
Johnsonville  
Wellington

## THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S RESEARCH & POLICY ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

The Australian Institute for Women's Research and Policy Activities and Services. This organisation focusses on links between business and academics on women's policy.

Address for contact:

The Director  
Australian Institute for Women's Research and Policy  
Faculty of Humanities  
Griffith University  
Queensland 4111

Tel: (61) (07) 875-5578  
Fax: (61) (07) 875-5333



## Ecopolitics VIII Pacific Visions

8 -10 July 1994

Lincoln University

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Betty Shore  
Centre for Continuing Education  
P O Box 84  
Lincoln University  
Canterbury New Zealand

Telephone: (64) (03) 325-2811  
Fax: (64) (03) 325-3840

The Reconfiguration of the State:  
Some Contemporary Issues

Friday 8 July, 1994

New Zealand Politics Research Group  
Victoria University of Wellington

Member \$30  
Non member \$45

Post to:

New Zealand Politics Research Group  
Department of Politics  
Victoria University of Wellington  
P O Box 600  
Wellington



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
FEMINIST ECONOMISTS**

A non-profit organisation advancing feminist inquiry of economic issues and educating economists and others on feminist points of view on the economy.

Prue Hyman  
Economics  
Victoria University of Wellington  
PO Box 600  
Wellington NZ

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO  
HAMILTON  
NEW ZEALAND**

**SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC  
POLICY**

Applications are invited for a Senior Lectureship and a Lectureship in the Department of Political Science and Public Policy from individuals with experience in teaching and research in Public Administration and Public Policy.

Each of the appointees is expected to teach two undergraduate and one graduate course. Academics with an interest in the core areas of Public Administration and Public Policy; and/or Public Policy and Women; and/or Health Policy and/or other areas of expertise are invited to apply.

The Waikato Programme combines a strong emphasis in political and economic analysis and strategic policy making skills. Biculturalism, issues relating to gender equity and aspects of human rights are other features of the Programme.

The Department has an academic staff of fourteen. It offers undergraduate majors in both Political Science and Public Policy, and MSocSc and DPhil degrees in Political Science, Public Policy and Strategic Studies are offered. Approximately 60 graduate students and 14 doctoral candidates are enrolled in the Department.

The Department has a Newspaper and Computer Document Archive and a Survey Research Unit.

The current salary range for Lecturers is NZ\$37,440 - NZ\$49,088 and for Senior

Lecturers is NZ\$52,000 to NZ\$67,080 per annum.

Enquiries of an academic nature may be made to the Chairperson of the Department, Professor Dov Bing, Telephone (064) 07-856-2889, fax (064) 07-856-2158. Information on the method of application and conditions of appointment can be obtained from Personnel and Management Services, The University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand, Telephone (064) 07-838-4003, Fax (064) 07-856-0135, e-mail rgtywp4@waikato.ac.nz. Applications quoting reference number A94/13 should reach Personnel & Management Services by 23 May 1994.

Places for appointees' children may be available in the creche run by the Campus Creche Society (Inc.). Equal opportunity is University policy.

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
AUCKLAND  
NEW ZEALAND**

**LECTURESHIPS IN WOMEN'S  
STUDIES**

(2 Positions)  
(Vacancy UAC.408)

These two positions have been created to add staff to the programme in Women's Studies offered in the Faculty of Arts. The programme currently has 2 academic staff and an administrative secretary. A professorial position is being advertised. Until an appointment is made the programme is coordinated by Dr Maureen Molloy working with an Advisory Board.

The University seeks applicants who will be able to contribute to core papers and to develop specialist papers at higher stages. Core papers at first year are Women, Gender and Society and Representing Women: Images and Words; at second year a core paper on Feminist Theories is offered. At third year, a core paper Feminist Research and Scholarship will commence in 1995. Special consideration will be given to applicants with an interest in feminist

theory, cultural and literary studie, the position of women in New Zealand and the Pacific, and social policy.

Applicants should have a PhD degree or equivalent with a record of research in women's issues. Teaching experience at university level would be an advantage.

Commencing salary will be established within the range of \$NZ37,440 - \$NZ49,088 per annum.

Further information, Conditions of Appointment and method of Application should be obtained from the Academic Appointments Office, telephone (064) 09-373-7999, Extn 5790, fax (064) 09-373-7454. Three copies of applications should be forwarded to reach the Registrar by 30 May 1994.

Please quote Vacancy Number UAC.408 in all correspondence.

The University has an EEO policy and welcomes applications from all qualified persons.

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**NEW BOOKS**  
(To be reviewed in next issue)  
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**Walking Backwards Into the Future**  
A Collection of Essays Commissioned by Women's Electoral Lobby 1993, WEL, Hamilton.

Authors include: Prue Hyman, Helena Catt, Jane Richie, Helen Clarke, Penny Jamieson, Shona Hern, Dorothy Stafford, Sue Bradford, Margaret Wilson and Margaret Shields.

For copies please contact WEL, P.O. Box 9581, Hamilton.

**Women and Politics in New Zealand**  
Edited by Helena Catt and Elizabeth McLeay  
Victoria University Press, 1993

Authors include: Jennifer Curtin, Heather Devere, Bronwyn Hayward, Elizabeth McLeay, Raymond Miller, Jean Drage, Jacqueline Owens, Peter Aimer, Jack Vowels, Stephen Levine, Nigel Roberts, Helena Catt

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**NEW MEMBERS**  
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**Jill Pettis**  
MP for Wanganui  
Parliament House  
Wellington

**Jill White**  
MP for Manawatu  
Parliament House  
Wellington

**Janice Monk**  
Executive Director  
SIROW  
(The South West Institute for Research on Women)  
Women's Studies  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85 721  
USA

**Mai Chen**  
Russell McVeagh McKenzie Bartleet & Co.  
Barristers, Solicitors & Notaries Public.  
The Todd Building  
Cnr Brandon St & Lambton Quay  
P.O. Box 10-214  
Wellington  
Tel: (04) 499-9555  
Fax: (04) 499-9556  
Mai was formerly a Senior Lecturer in law at Victoria University

**Joanne Whittle**  
2/14 Elizabeth Street  
Christchurch  
Joanne is working with the Waimakariri District Council on implementing Agenda 21 goals (from the 1992 Earth Summit).

**Tania Ivey**  
 Womens Rights Officer  
 Canterbury University Students Association  
 Canterbury University  
 Private Bag  
 Christchurch

**Madeleine Hawkesby**  
 43 Conference Street  
 Christchurch  
 Madeleine is studying politics at Canterbury University.

## **Raranga Wahine**

**THE 14TH CONFERENCE OF THE  
 WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION (N.Z.)**

**Wellington 1994**

### **Conference Inquiries**

Contact Ali Carew, Phone / Fax (04) 562 8880  
 or Wellington Women's Studies Association  
 P.O. Box 5043, Wellington.

*Extracts From: Rosemarie Smith's book The Ladies Are At it Again:*

*(To the Editor)*

Sir, Kindly allow me a few words concerning the debate upon the Women's Franchise which took place in the Oddfellow's Hall on August 10th. I feel in duty bound to express my gratitude to those would-be lords of creation, who manifested such tender interest on our behalf, when warning us of the evils that would surely attend the assertion of our rights at the ballot box. One extremely sympathetic speaker said that if we were allowed to vote, the men would then show us no kindness. Was this statement a declaration of the speaker's intentions? If so I wonder that such a creature should be recognized as a man. Allow me to tell him that we do not want kindness from such men, and our experience of them leads us to believe that we should never get it if we did. (...)  
 Of course, if women showed no better acquaintance with politics than some of the speakers showed with regard to the subject in hand the other night, I would certainly not allow them to vote. (...) I am, &C. WOMAN

*Southern Standard, 19 August 1892*

## **TOWN HALL, GORE**



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(Graduate of the Women's Medical College, Philadelphia), will lecture on

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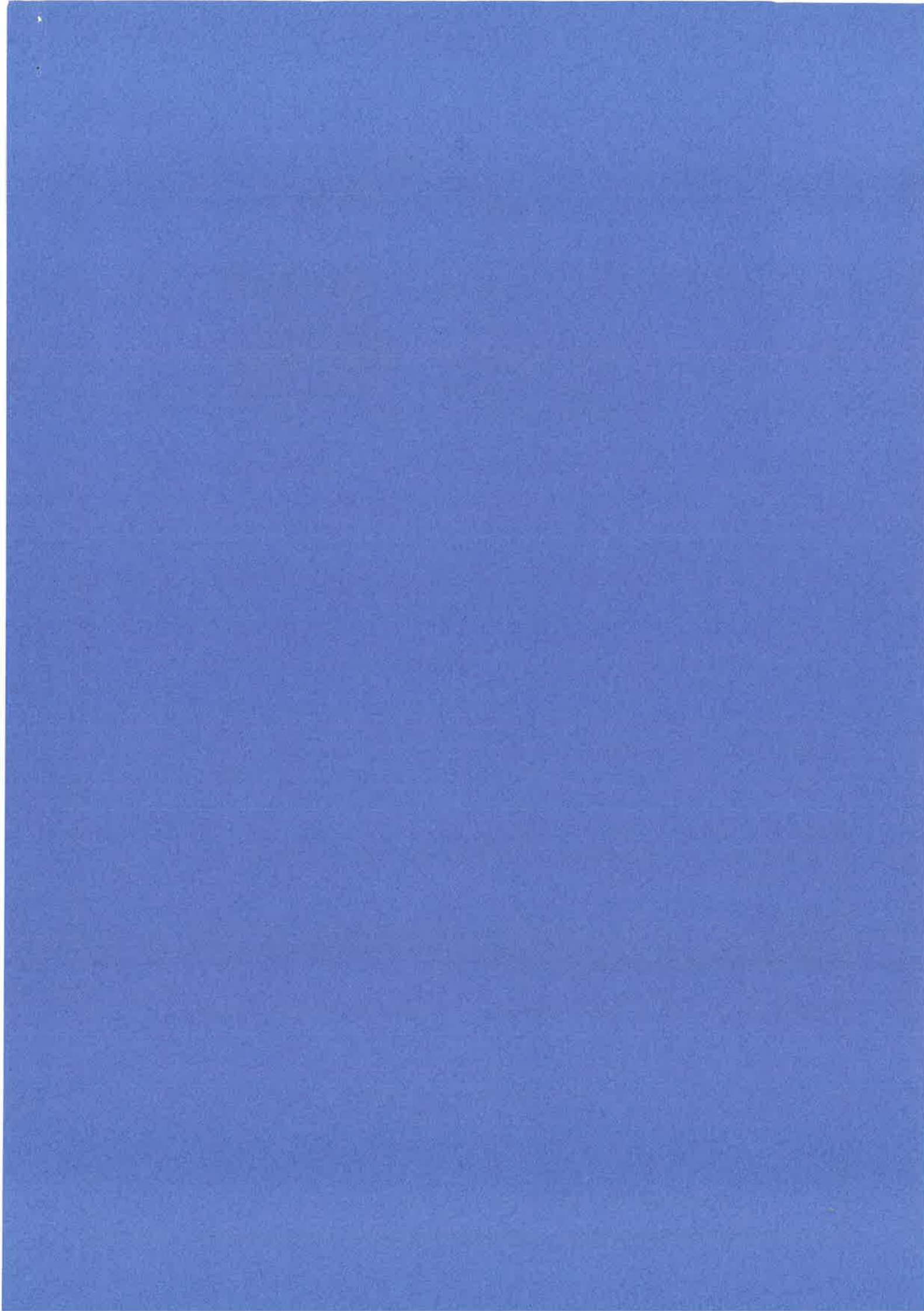
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Compiled by the Gender Theory Group, Curtin University of Technology, this directory is now being distributed through the Women's Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, Nepean.

At the cost of \$10.00 including postage, the directory can be ordered from

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