

# Women's Studies

## University of Nebraska—Lincoln

# Newsletter

Spring  
1982

In the last ten years 350 Women's Studies programs were established across the country. Their common aims tend to cover the following:

1) To include the achievements and expenses of women traditionally neglected in the teaching of the widest possible range of subjects from English and Philosophy to Mathematics and Biology.

2) To integrate women's studies into the curriculum throughout the university system, what is being popularly referred to as "humanizing the current curriculum."

3) To increase Women's Studies faculty in areas not currently represented, such as the sciences, architecture, and music.

4) To strengthen the Women's Studies program in such a way that important traditional courses are added to the curriculum and, at the same time, courses which include subjects historically neglected. A course on the history of Mexican Woman and an anthropology course which focusses on a biocultural perspective on la Chicana are currently being considered by two recent program members.

5) Perhaps most importantly, the Women's Studies program continues to affirm the commitment to the struggle against all forms of discrimination inside and outside the academic community and to incorporate feminist philosophy into the classroom. This includes such things as a cooperative approach (to the learning process) between student and teacher, one which is attentive to the authority role traditionally assumed by instructors. It also includes operating from an anti-sexist perspective and being sensitive to issues involving race, class, and lesbianism.

At UNL, the Women's Studies program is a multidisciplinary academic program with courses in such areas as history, psychology, sociology, political science, philosophy, and literature. And our list of instructors within the Women's Studies program is as varied as the classes offered are.

### ENGLISH

#### Moira Ferguson

Moira Ferguson is an English instructor and the current chairwoman of the Arts and Sciences Women's Studies Program. She received her B.A. from the University of London, Birkbeck College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Since the inception of the Women's Studies Program in 1976, Moira Ferguson has been the program coordinator and chief advisor. She proposed (with the exception of Sex Roles) and taught the following courses: Survey of Women's Literature; Twentieth Century Women Writers; Feminist Theory and Literature; Sex Roles in Literature; the Senior Seminar in Women's Studies; and A History of Early Feminist Literature.

Her informal activities have included organizing International Women's events on campus, giving speeches and papers on a variety of subjects from literature to abortion rights, acting as a liaison person with the Women's Resource Center and with other departments on this campus and elsewhere. She has served on the National Coordinating Council for the National Women's Studies Association as the Midwest Representative and has been the Nebraska representative on the Regional branch of the NWSA. She currently serves on the Reprints Advisory Board of the Feminist Press. Among her publications are a co-authored book on Mary Wollstonecraft and an article on the participation of women in national liberation struggles in the Third World; at present, she is completing a book on the origins and history of early feminist literature.

#### Dorothy Zimmerman

Dorothy Zimmerman received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in Urbana.

As an instructor at UNL, she has taught two English courses, Continental Women Writers and Twentieth Century Women Novelists.

Her current research projects include Eighteenth Century French Salon women and Nineteenth Century French Feminists, 1830-1851.

#### Linnea Johnson

Linnea Johnson received her B.A. in English from UNL in 1970, her M.A. in Writing/Women's Studies at Goddard College, 1974, and then returned to UNL to receive her Ph.D. in English in 1981.

Some of the classes she has taught include Women and Poetry, Survey of Women's Literature, and 20th Century Women Writers. She is also currently working with suffrage papers from Nebraska, circa 1881. She just finished an introductory biography on Gwendolyn Brooks for a 1982 or -83 anthology.

Her special life experiences in Women's Studies include:  
--currently working with other community women on organizing a Lincoln feminist newspaper.

--currently working on establishing a feminist bookstore in Lincoln.

--involved feminist childrearing and living a feminist life, speaking to and listening to other women, formally and informally. Involved with various YWCA projects--classes, readings, and the like.

--1970-1972--worked with Chicago Women's Liberation Union

#### Linda Pratt

Linda Pratt received her B.A. from Florida Southern College and 1965 and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University in 1966 and 1971. As an English professor at UNL, she has taught Women in Contemporary Poetry, 19th Century Women Writers, and in the spring of '83 will teach Victorian Women Writers.

#### Barbara DiBernard

Barbara DiBernard is also a member of the English department staff at UNL, where she teaches upper level classes in 20th Century Women Novelists.

She received her B.A. in English at Wilson College, in Chambersburg, Pa. in 1970, her M.A. at State University of New York at Binghamton, 1975, and her Ph.D. in English at the college in 1976.

She is currently researching the novels of Margaret Atwood.

### Julia Penelope

Julia Penelope is an English instructor and chairwoman of the Arts and Sciences Linguistics Committee at UNL.

She received her B.A. at City College of New York, 1966, and her Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Austin, in 1971. Classes taught by her include 20th Century Lesbian Novelists and Feminist Literary theory. She is currently doing research on the subject of language and power.

## SOCIOLOGY

### Jane C. Ollenburg

Jane C. Ollenburg received her B.A. in sociology from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1976, her M.A. from UNL in 1979, and her Ph.D. from UNL is expected in August, 1982.

As an instructor, Ms. Ollenburg has taught Women in Contemporary Society, and is currently studying women and crime, and the development of a Marxist Feminist Criminology.

Her special focus in Women's Studies is the incorporation of feminist theory in the methodologies and research practices of the sociological discipline.

### Helen Moore

Helen A. Moore is also an instructor in the sociology department at UNL, and is the director of the Bureau of Sociological Research.

She received her B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, where she taught classes in crimes, by and against women. She has also taught Sociology of Women at the University of Redlands in Redlands, California.

At UNL, Ms. Moore teaches Women in Contemporary Society and Women and Work.

She is currently researching the structural effects of Balkanization on women's attitudes toward work in the labor market and in the home through an Andrew Mellon foundation grant. She is also studying the effects of alcohol, "telescoping," and the addiction of Nebraska women.

Ms. Moore's special life interests in Women's Studies include supervision of student interns in areas directly affecting women and women's issues: Commission on the Status of Women; Rape Crisis; Legal aid; Friendship House for abused women.

She also recently took training in Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Line Intervention, and will be working on the line, as well as applying skills and information for use in Women's Studies courses on campus.

## PSYCHOLOGY

### Natalie Porter

Natalie Porter received her B.A. in psychology from Duke University and her Ph.D. from the University of Delaware in clinical psychology.

Ms. Porter is currently leading a feminist psychotherapy discussion group for graduate students in clinical psychology.

She is also currently studying androgyny and social interaction: looking at the nonverbal and verbal behaviors associated with leadership in small groups and its relationship to androgyny.

She has served on the Executive Committee of Women's Studies at the University of Delaware and on the Committee for the Status of Women there also. She received the University of Delaware President's Award for research on women and a national award given by the American Psychological Association for outstanding research for a study called "Are Women Invisible as Leaders?"

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Susan Welch

Susan Welch has been a member of the political science department at UNL since 1970. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

She teaches Women and Politics at UNL, and is currently studying changes in the types and levels of public employment of women and minorities, and the impact of gender on candidate success. She also has special interests in race differences in attitudes toward abortion and public policy.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

### Pat Riddle

Pat Riddle teaches women's health at UNL. She received her M.S. in Physical Education at the University of Illinois at Champaign, and her Ph.D. in Health Education also at Champaign.

She is currently studying the relationship of athletic participation to social maturity, University students (particularly women's) beliefs about weightlifting and exercise, and the influence of coaches on health of athletes.

## ANTHROPOLOGY

### Daniela Weinberg

Daniela Weinberg received her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology and the University of Michigan in 1970.

At UNL, she taught an Anthropology course on Women's Culture, and says she includes women's studies materials in almost all her courses.

Her current research interests are complex societies, specifically psychotherapy systems as reflections of U.S. culture, and anthropological studies of the workplace.

Of her personal experiences in Women's Studies, Daniela Weinberg says, "The bulk of my political activism has taken the form of one of the most subversive activities possible, teaching anthropology to people. My ultimate wish for my students is that they take charge of their lives by understanding how culture works and what it does to people."

## ART

### Janice McCullagh

Janice McCullagh is an instructor in the art department at UNL. She received a B.F.A. from Drake University, an M.A. from the University of Iowa, and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

She will be teaching a summer reading course called Modern Women Artists.

## PSYCHOLOGY (con.)

### Theo Sonderegger

Theo Sonderegger is a professor in the UNL psychology department. She received a B.S. from Florida State University, an M.A. in physical chemistry and in experimental psychology, and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from UNL. She is a licensed and certified clinical psychologist in Nebraska and California. She teaches Psychology of Women, and believes in integrating the contributions made by several psychological content areas, such as physiological, experimental, social, personality, and abnormal, in understanding the behavior of women. She is also firmly committed to developing the potential of women students, particularly those resuming their education. Her philosophical approach can be described as "why not?" and she feels that psychology can provide steps toward this goal.

ETHNIC STUDIES

Minerva Gonzalez-Miles

Minerva Gonzalez-Miles is a native of Mexico City, Mexico. After graduating from National School for Teachers, in Mexico City, Ms. Gonzalez-Miles received a scholarship from the Institute of International Education and attended New Paltz State College in New Paltz, New York. A few years later, she earned a B.S. and M.S. in Education from Western Connecticut State College in Danbury, Connecticut. In 1980, the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida, awarded her a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and Communications.

Ms. Gonzalez-Miles teaching experience ranges from elementary school in Mexico City, junior and senior high school in Connecticut and Florida, to college and university teaching in Ohio and Nebraska. As an assistant professor for the Center for Curriculum and Instruction and Ethnic Studies Department at UNL, Dr. Gonzalez-Miles coordinates the bilingual education teacher training program and teaches courses in bilingual education. Her present research activities focus on employment and civil rights issues as they affect Mexican-American women in the United States.

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This is UNL's first Women's Studies program newsletter. As members of the Women's Studies department, we feel it is important to have strong lines of communication between faculty and students, as well as with the general public.

We welcome readers' suggestions as to what format our next newsletter should have, and we also welcome any articles, book reviews, poetry, or other interesting items pertaining to Women's Studies.

Submit articles for the newsletter to Moira Ferguson's office in Andrews Hall. Your input would be very much appreciated. Thanks.

Phyllis Schroeder, editor