



FEMINISM AND FAMILY STUDIES SECTION NEWSLETTER
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS
Katherine Allen, Editor
Number 2 May 1990

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Katherine Allen

In this issue, we discuss exciting plans for the November 1990 NCFR Annual Conference. Our most pressing concern is fundraising for the Jessie Bernard Endowment Fund for Outstanding Research From a Feminist Perspective. As you recall, 2 years ago, our members voted to establish this special annual award to give \$500 for the most promising feminist research proposal. We need \$10,000 to endow this award, as Section Chair Karen Polonko and Secretary/Treasurer/Endowment Fund Chair Rosemary Blieszner report.

Also in this issue, Deborah Godwin of the University of Georgia has prepared some excellent tips on publishing. We welcome your suggestions, as well, for publishing work of an explicitly feminist nature. Marcie Parker, of the University of Minnesota, has reviewed two feminist books. Finally, Recorder comments from 5 FFSS sessions at the 1989 NCFR Annual Conference are included.

FROM THE SECTION CHAIR. Karen A. Polonko

Jessie Bernard, Mirra Komarovsky, and Matilda White Riley have agreed to be part of the panel, moderated by Harriet Presser, Immediate Past President of the Population Association of America, titled "The History, Struggle, and Development of Women in Academe and Feminist Research". This event will be held Monday evening, November 12, 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. followed by an informal reception between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m.

Although their schedules are overwhelmingly full, they are willing to make this enormous investment in time and energy in part because they do know of the work of our Feminism and Family Studies Section in NCFR and want to help us. They will address issues such as what it was like to be at the forefront of women in the traditionally male segregated world of academe; what were the obstacles and facilitators experienced by women in their cohort for getting research that challenged traditional views of families, marriage, and motherhood funded and published; and what their assessment is of change over time in the development and impact of Women's Studies and Feminist Scholarship. I strongly believe that by addressing these issues, they will help to educate and sensitize as well as empower many.

There is a generalized sense of excitement among members in and outside of the Feminism Section regarding how much it means to have these particular women of lifetime honor together to share an evening with us. Please help us to make this event a great success. Tickets will be \$25 for non-students and \$10 for students. However, before any funds go to the Endowment Fund, proceeds from the tickets must first cover travel and lodging expenses for our distinguished panelists, as well as expenses associated with the evening event, such as publicity and invitations, and a minimum hotel charge for coffee and cookies, or cheese and crackers of \$6 to \$7 per person! Yes, this is the cheapest refreshment, and the hotel will not allow us to bring the food ourselves!

The financial reality is that even with a strong attendance, without outside contributions and additional donations from members, we could break even with no proceeds left over for the Endowment Fund. For example, if 200 non-students and 100 students attended, proceeds from the tickets alone, after covering expenses, would leave about \$500 for the Endowment Fund. While all of us involved agree that the most important aspect of this event is how much we can learn from these women of lifetime honor, it would also be nice if we could report to you and our panelists that the evening was also successful in raising a large portion of the \$9,200 still needed for the Endowment Fund. Please purchase your ticket early and consider buying tickets for your students and mentors. If you are not going to the conference, you can still make a donation. I know that our Section members are the type to give time and money to many worthwhile and pressing causes. But, we implemented this Fund 2 years ago with a great deal of excitement, reflecting our commitment to fund feminist scholarship. In 2 years, with over 300 Section members, we have raised less than \$1,000, which is considerably short of our commitment. Please consider giving a generous donation this time on top of the price of the ticket. Also, if you know of possible sources of outside contributions, please let Endowment Fund Chair Rosemary Blieszner know. There are also ways to creatively use frequent flyer tickets for our panelists; if you are willing to donate a frequent flyer voucher, please contact Rosemary. Thanks to these distinguished and very generous women, we have a vehicle (which we probably won't have again for quite some time) for raising the money needed for the Fund while simultaneously learning and being empowered. However, each one of us needs to take an active part in sharing the responsibility for making this intellectually and emotionally moving event a success.

The 1990 program for our Section will complement and enrich our other activities in promoting feminist scholarship. My Section report in the June NCFR Newsletter will provide more details. I am very happy to report that Pepper Schwartz has accepted our invitation to be our Distinguished Lecturer. She will speak on "Missing Voices: Homosexuals and Lesbians - Their Families and Children" on Monday, November 12. We have 4 paper sessions, 2 round table and 11 poster sessions, and 2 distinguished round table sessions. These sessions are very strong and reflect top quality work. The topics covered range from the methodological implications of feminist scholarship, to lesbian families, gay step-families, peace, abortion, the distribution of paid and unpaid labor, and sexual aggression.

As you have probably noticed, our Section is down from 8 paper sessions in 1989 to 5 in 1990 (including the distinguished lecture). The total number of abstracts submitted to NCFR increased this year (510 to 589). In addition, there was a 19% cut in total paper sessions (this affected all Sections). Since submissions to our Section stayed the same (44) and allocation of sessions for all Sections was based solely on number of submissions, we were cut back to 5 sessions. Obviously, program time is an important vehicle for promoting feminist scholarship, and we probably need to attend to the issue of submissions at our annual business meeting.

A special thanks to our Section members who reviewed the abstracts for the program and to those who agreed to serve as presidors, discussants, and recorders. We are counting on the hard work and dedication of all our members to make this 1990 conference the best ever!

 FUNDRAISING FOR THE JESSIE BERNARD ENDOWMENT FUND. . . . Rosemary Blieszner

Fundraising activities are underway for the Jessie Bernard Endowment Fund. First, our main effort will be Monday evening November 12 at the 1990 NCFR Annual Conference, featuring the Panel and Reception by Women of Lifetime Honor. We need each and every one of our members, supporters, and friends to attend this historic event. When NCFR sends the Conference Registration Forms, please purchase tickets (\$25 for non-students; \$10 for students) for yourself, your mentors, your students, and your friends.

Second, we are asking you to make an additional contribution to help endow this research award. We need a show of support for establishing the fund in the form of significant contributions made as soon as possible. Our goal is to reach the \$10,000 mark by November. Please send your donations to NCFR, marked "FFSS--Jessie Bernard Endowment Fund". A form is attached at the end of this newsletter for your convenience.

Third, if you have a suggestion for a creative way to assist with fundraising, please call me (703-231-5437). We are open to any suggestions for meeting our goals. For example, Katherine Allen has given a frequent flyer voucher to fund the trip of one of our distinguished panelists. Three more vouchers would finance the travel of our remaining guests.

Graham Spanier has offered to sponsor the attendance of 20 students at the fundraising event November 12. At \$10 a ticket, his is a generous contribution of \$200. Graham noted that if students, in turn, would consider giving a \$10 donation, we would reap a total of \$400 from this contribution.

Karen Polonko, Katherine Allen, and I are organizing a phone tree for calling NCFR members who are not FFS Section members, and asking for contributions for the Endowment Fund. Please let me know if you, too, would be willing to telephone from 1 to 5 of your friends and colleagues on this behalf.

We appreciate your generous gifts of time and money. We will recognize our supporters in the panel/reception program as benefactors (gifts over \$500), sponsors (gifts from \$100 to \$500), and contributors (gifts up to \$100).

 PUBLISH OR PERISH? YOU SAY YOU'D RATHER PERISH?. . . . Deborah D. Godwin

In our "publish or perish" world, it has become more important than ever to publish our work in respected outlets (in my experience, that means peer-reviewed journals). We may disagree with the disproportionate importance that is placed on publishing (and particularly one's quantity of publications) in some academic institutions. But, unless and until we are in a position to change the rules, we must play by them, if we want to keep our jobs, receive raises and promotions, get plum assignments, and increase our control over our work lives. So here are some suggestions that may help in getting published.

1. Start with a good idea. There is no substitute for this. "How do I know what a good idea is?" you ask? I'll be darned if I know; I just know what I think is a good one when I see it. But, if you have doubts about your idea, ask your colleagues. Give the idea the "so what?" test.

2. Then, do good work. In writing the manuscript, there are several specific suggestions. Whether it is a review, theory, essay, empirical, or policy paper, be very clear about the objective(s) of the paper. Then, be very clear about how you are meeting each objective. Admit and explain whatever limitations your work has (and there are always some!) before your reviewers spot them. Pay attention to the mechanics of the paper. Many a paper containing ideas that deserved publication has been dismissed because the reviewers and/or editor can't see beyond the poor mechanics.

3. Select an appropriate journal. Before I begin writing a paper, I typically select a top priority journal to submit to first, as well as another one or two journals as "reserves". Write the manuscript for your first choice journal. Read or re-read recent issues of that journal. Pay attention to the editorial policy of the journal. Look for the topics covered, types of papers encouraged, the organization and format of the papers in recent issues. I don't believe you should slavishly imitate the previously published papers, but if you have a question or concern about how to proceed with your paper, often looking at such will help.

4. Ask colleagues (preferably who have some experience with the journal to which you are going to submit) to look at the first drafts of your manuscript and make suggestions before you submit it to a journal. Not only can they help you with suggestion #1, but if you're not so experienced at suggestion #2, this step can be invaluable.

5. If you get a revise and resubmit response, do it (if you think you can comply with the reviewers' comments and suggestions). Return a list of the reviewers' suggestions along with your response to them. If you disagree with a reviewer's comment or suggestion, say so and say why. Don't just ignore it and hope the editor won't notice. Keep revising and resubmitting as long as the editor is encouraging. I remember one manuscript that was in the ninth version when it was accepted.

6. If you get a reject response to your manuscript, send it to your second choice journal. But, meantime, take advantage of the critique you received and revise the manuscript before sending it to another journal.

7. If you are just starting or having trouble getting your foot in the door of a given journal, offer to serve as a reviewer of manuscripts for them (editors are always looking for good, prompt reviewers). Then, when you get your first paper to review, do a "bang up" job. Chances are that when you next submit to that journal, the editor will remember your good work on the reviews and give you the benefit of the doubt. But, don't count on this to get a poor paper accepted!

Someone once said that success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration. I believe that is true of publishing. But, we also produce alot of perspiration doing other activities that should be equally important. When we are in a position to change the over-emphasis in academia on publishing as the definition of success, let's do it. Let's stop evaluating everyone with a "cookie-cutter" approach and recognize the equally valuable contributions of faculty in teaching, advising students, affecting public policy, running committees, working with alumni, planning curricula, and serving departments, universities, communities, professional organizations, and our disciplines.

 BOOK REVIEW. Reviewed by Marcie Parker

Feminism, Children and the New Families, Sanford M. Dornbusch & Myra H. Strober, Editors, 1988, Guilford Press, 72 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012 (1-800-365-7006; 212-431-9800), paperback: catalogue #2514, \$18.95; hardcover: catalogue #2078, \$40.00; free instructor's copy on orders of 10+.

This book is the result of a project entitled "Public Policy Implications of Perceived Conflicts Between Children's Interests and Feminists' Interests". A grant from the Ford Foundation enabled the editors to assemble Stanford University faculty and visitors to discuss the issues. Represented were sociologists, economists, psychologists, attorneys, anthropologists, historians, and psychiatrists. The grant enabled two groups--those studying feminist ideology and changing gender roles and those studying development in childhood and adolescence--to explore public policy implications. The book focuses on two-earner, single-parent, and step families. Gay and lesbian families and cohabitating couples were reluctantly left out, due to the dearth of social science research in these areas.

The editors take the view that there does not need to be a conflict between the interest of women and children; in fact, these interests are more often similar rather than dissimilar. They suggest that if families are to survive, they must be beneficial to and meet the needs of all members. The survival of the family cannot involve a reduction in the concern for women's development and well-being. Dornbusch and Strober find few conflicting interests among men, women and children as they form new families; policies to assist the new families serve the needs of all family members.

The book is divided into Part I, "Feminism and Families" (gender roles; public opinion on change in women's rights and roles; wives and work; Black and White differences in marriage and family patterns; child care; and the state and institutionalization of relations between women and children), and Part II, "The New Families" (two-earner families; the psychological effects of maternal employment on children and families; the social and economic consequences on women and children of divorce law reforms; divorce and children; single-parent families; and step families). A final section offers public policy alternatives, suggesting that new public policies are needed: 1) to enable adults to perform nontraditional tasks more effectively and to help them in reconciling work and home responsibilities, 2) to develop new arrangements for child care, and 3) to assist in the difficult transitions between different family forms after divorce takes place.

The audience for this excellent, thought-provoking book should be extensive including feminists, educators, students and scholars interested in families and children, the general public, and policymakers in the public and private sectors (including corporations, unions, educational institutions, and philanthropic organizations). The book would also be welcomed by foreign scholars interested in current and future trends in American families. A central purpose of this book is to bring policymakers the research they need to develop enlightened policy decisions. The authors believe that too often, policies which affect families are based upon outmoded stereotypes or even fantasies about what the "real American family" is like. This book seeks to substitute social science analysis for such stereotypes.

 BOOK REVIEW. Reviewed by Marcie Parker

Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process. The second edition of this handbook provides a detailed overview of a feminist alternative to the traditional, patriarchal power model. A key idea of the book is that self-help mutual aid groups are the basis of the feminist movement and can lead to the personal liberation of women and to the empowerment of professionals working in traditional women's fields such as nursing. This book shows us how support groups can be made more effective and more widespread.

One way to begin the discussion of a book is to list its chapters. In this case, the authors have described a feminist model to replace the traditional masculine model for organizing and running meetings. Wheeler and Chinn focus on such questions as: the differences between patriarchal power and feminist alternatives; how to build principles of unity and determine the purpose, common beliefs and values of the group, expectations of members, and the group's message to the world; how to protect the integrity of the group; use of the rotating chair, active listening, decision making by consensus and other strategies for successful meetings; the importance of being specific about feelings and observations; and responding appropriately to both appreciation and criticism. In addition, this second edition features a new chapter on dealing with such situations as whether to have an open or closed group, changing expectations and commitments by group members, asking a member to leave and ways to end a group. Another new chapter examines ways to extend the feminist process to classrooms, committees and other patriarchal settings.

So much for the simple description of this slender volume. I will now do something which I never do in reviews: I will give you an idea of how moved I was by this powerful volume. I believe that special material calls for special ways of being described. I cannot tell you how overwhelmed I was to read this book. It examines in detail the differences between a lateral consensual feminist model compared to the hierarchical patriarchal model. Reading this book helped me realize how and why organizations could be different. The book also helped me to examine many of my own behaviors and ways of relating to others both in my personal and professional life. The focus of this book is on PROCESS and not the content of meetings. This process integrates all our aspects: the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical. The book integrates theory, research and practice and is loaded with detailed specific examples of how to make the feminist model a reality.

Perhaps a few quotes will enable me to share with you the power of these ideas. Wheeler and Chinn write that: "We believe that at this point in history, it is critical for women to come together and create woman-centered interactions and realities. We see small group interactions among women as an ideal place to enact feminist values in a loving and supportive environment. . . . Central to Feminist Process is the belief that a group decision reached by consensus is stronger and more acceptable to all individuals than one achieved by a majority, where (sometimes large) minority preferences are not taken into account. A consensus decision is also stronger than any decision made by an individual, no matter how well informed that individual." And finally a quote which shows us that we are entering a new era, a new culture: "Since feminist groups do not 'work' like typical groups, women who are new to the group are essentially in a foreign land, in the midst of a new culture that may be

totally unfamiliar. The words that are spoken may be that of the predominant culture, but meanings of words take on a new character that existing members often take for granted. Women who have not heard the language spoken before find themselves in a muddle trying to figure out what is really going on."

Every page, every paragraph and even every sentence of this book causes us to stop and think deeply--each idea presented could be the basis for hours of deep consideration of the implications. There is one three-page section, for example, with a detailed point-by-point comparison of patriarchal power compared to the feminist alternative. The book is very clearly written and flows nicely. The authors, their friends and students have spent a great deal of time and thought in developing the views presented here. Included are real-life dialogues and examples from meetings to show us the differences between the patriarchal and feminist systems. The back of the book includes illustrative notes and suggestions for further reading as well as an invitation to write to the authors with observations, ideas and suggestions.

This book would be great reading for all of us who function in groups and meetings (corporations, classrooms, community service agencies--any institution). I think it should be required reading in our elementary schools, in an effort to instill these gentle, respectful, caring, supportive principles early on. Short of quoting the entire volume, it is difficult for me to communicate to you the impact that these principles could have for all of us as we strive to solve the pressing political, social, economic, food, housing and healthcare problems throughout the world.

Peace and Power (Summer 1989) is published by the National League for Nursing (1-800-NOW-INLN) as publication #15-2301 for \$9.95. The book, 64 pages long, is paperback. I recommend it highly but alert you to the fact that you will probably find yourself reconsidering many of your own personal and professional behaviors. I couldn't put the book down.

(Marcie Parker is a graduate student in Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota; she also works full time in a corporate setting).

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Katherine Allen

The next FFSS Newsletter will come out in July 1990. Please send materials to me by July 1: Family & Child Development, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0416, 703-231-6526. Special thanks to the Department of Family and Child Development, Virginia Tech, for supporting the cost of this newsletter.

Congratulations to Jane Gilgun for receiving tenure and promotion in the School of Social Work, University of Minnesota. Congratulations to Kristine Baber for receiving tenure and promotion in the Department of Family Studies at the University of New Hampshire.

Please send your syllabi to the Feminist Teaching Materials Committee, Donna Sollie, Chair, Family & Child Development, Auburn University, 203 Spidle Hall, Auburn, AL 36849-5604.

The information and articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the National Council on Family Relations.

.FFSS RECORDER COMMENTS FROM THE 1989 NCFR ANNUAL MEETING.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE.Barbara Katz-Rothman
RECREATING MOTHERHOOD: IDEOLOGY AND REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN A PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY, November 6, 171 Attended
Alexis Walker, Recorder

The science and technology a society develops reflects its cultural values. These values are identifiable from its language; e.g. reproduction (making babies is a form of production); harvesting eggs. This language does not reflect the experience of women as mothers. Patriarchy means the rule of fathers. Paternity is the defining relationship. Essential concept: the seed; the part of men that grows into children. Modern science, recognizing the genetic contribution of the egg, has extended to women some "fatherhood" rights over their children. In this culture, women's relationship with children is not based on motherhood per se but on their seed.

The technology we have developed is based on this focus on the seed. There is an increased focus on genetic determinism; genes are seen as the irreplaceable part of procreation. Technology substitutes for nurturing tasks but not for the seed (e.g., formula for milk; C-Section for birth; neonatal intensive care instead of late pregnancy). This kind of ideology reduces mothers to background, environment, site, and leads to comparatives with other environments. The idea is that the essence of the person is there at union of egg and sperm; we just need a convenient site. Technology encourages us to dismiss the significance and importance of pregnancy/gestation over the seed as experience for the potential child and mother.

Pregnancy as a physical relationship: Until the late 1800s, the fetus was seen as beyond the influence of the environment. Now, the fetus is seen as inadequately protected. The body can't be trusted to protect the fetus. Thus, the mother's job became guarding the nest. The mind of the mother is important; what to feed the fetus; how to protect and nourish it; what to learn. The emphasis was on compliance; following doctors' orders. Because what women eat and do can harm their children, we learned that mothers (not doctors) can be hazardous to pregnancy. Babies need protection not by their mothers but from their mothers. Doctors (and increasingly lawyers) have stepped in as mediators in the relationship between mothers and their fetuses. Throughout history, mothers most consistently have sacrificed for their babies, protected them, cared for them. Women are not the natural enemies of the fetus. But people don't always take perfect care of themselves, in pregnancy or in other times. To provide protection and help for babies; the best way is to provide protection and help for mothers.

Social relationship: Physical relationship occurs in a social and class context. Mother holds the fetus within her. It's not just a chemical or mechanical relationship. The mother responds socially to the experience of carrying her fetus. Any mother is engaged in a social interaction with her fetus as pregnancy develops; she gives social meaning to her experiences, responding not just to the physical experience but to the social and emotional overlays of meaning given to that physical experience, e.g., negotiating sleep in late stages of pregnancy. Mothers find ways of soothing the fetus to sleep when they want to sleep. Fetus is not yet a social being. Women's experience in the development of a social being is continuous. We deny the continuity

that women experience and violate it; we destroy the relationship that was there. We destroy the continuity that developed between mother and fetus when babies are separated from mothers at birth; a social artifact created out of the way we manage maternity. We act in every way as if the baby were foreign. We can deny this continuity but we live with the consequences of doing so. Babies are soothed by being rocked (as they were in the mothers' body), by singing (which parallels the way babies heard their mothers' voices), by being held tightly (as they were in the uterus), by being held close to the heart (which they heard throughout the pregnancy). If a fetus is nurtured in an artificial environment, what would that baby be like: without being rocked, hearing the sound of the mother's voice, without being held tightly, and without being rocked? How would you soothe such a baby? It would be the living reification of our ideology. We need to develop a technology that reflects and not destroys our social connections.

 WOMEN'S CONCERNS IN THE MID AND LATER YEARS, November 7, 51 Attended
 Alexis Walker, Recorder

Presider Dorothy M. C. Balancio introduced the panelists and discussant. The first paper, "Relationships Between Parents' Midlife Concerns and Adolescents' Emotional Autonomy", was presented by Shelley MacDermid. It focused on the midlife concerns of parents when either one or both was employed and the oldest child was making the transition to adolescence. Data were gathered from 140 primarily middle-class families and focused on midlife crisis, the centrality of parenting concerns, and resolution of midlife concerns. Significant results were found only for mothers and were consistent with the view that mothers' midlife development may be more strongly linked to family issues than fathers'. There was no evidence to suggest that family issues were less important to men or women who were more involved with their jobs. Job involvement interacted with child gender, however, such that parents of girls tended to report more intense midlife concerns than parents of boys, regardless of their involvement in work.

The second study, "Relationship Quality and the Costs and Benefits of Caregiving", funded by the National Institute on Aging, was presented by Alexis J. Walker, Laura L. Jones, and Sally S. K. Martin. Both caregivers and care receivers were interviewed and the focus was on both positive and negative outcomes of the caregiving situation. Three outcomes-of-care-receiving factors were identified, interpersonal costs, emotional costs, and care receiving benefits, and five outcomes-of-caregiving factors were identified, interpersonal costs, exhaustion, time costs, necessary life changes, and caregiving benefits. Mothers who shared a residence with their daughters and mothers who reported lower interpersonal costs reported more intimacy in their relationships with their daughters. Daughters who reported lower emotional costs and lower exhaustion and more caregiving benefits reported more intimacy in their relationships with the mothers. Discussion highlighted the positive outcomes of caregiving.

The third paper, "Dilemmas for Adult Daughters with a Parent's Admission to a Nursing Home", by Mary Ann L. Johnson, was a longitudinal study of 16 daughters who had made the decision to place their elderly parent in a nursing home. The study focused on perceptions of the experience of placement as well as the dynamics of feelings over time. A number of dilemmas were faced by

these daughters including lack of control over the decision, exhaustion of other options, and balancing needs of self and family with parent's needs. All of the daughters wanted to avoid hurting their parent although both process and feelings were affected by early relationship history.

The final study, "Loneliness in Widowhood Among Elders: The Importance of Intimacy and Self-Esteem", funded by the AARP-Andrus Foundation, was presented by Rosemary Blieszner and Mina P. Grossman. It included both men and women aged 60-91. Half of the sample had been widowed for a short time (6-30 months) and half for a longer time (3-5 years). The study concluded that loneliness for both men and women was caused by their loss of attachment and loss of the feeling of security and affectional bonding associated with the marital role. While women experienced a sense of freedom following widowhood, men countered their feelings of loss by providing guidance to others, thereby enhancing their sense of worth. Widows were less lonely if they were satisfied with their lives and had close relationships and a sense of mastery. Widowers compensated for the loss by adopting the role of caregiver.

Discussant Maxi Szinovacz pointed out how each of the studies exemplified feminist methodology. In particular, there was a focus on gender similarity as well as gender differences. In addition, none of the studies used models of development that were based on the exclusive study of men.

 WORK AND FAMILIES: UNDERSTANDING THE ALLOCATION OF PAID AND UNPAID LABOR IN FAMILIES, November 7, 40 attended
 Vicki L. Loyer-Carlson, Recorder

Constance Shehan served as Presider. Elizabeth Bergen's findings from "2703 couples in an income pooling relationship (married or cohabitating)" support the notion that women's labor force participation is affected by the presence of children and the women's families' need for money. Conversely, family composition or economic situation has little affect on men's labor force participation. Men are influenced by a healthy market--opportunity structure and individual characteristics such as their own health and age. Women's labor-force earnings can "buy" her out of some domestic labor, but only wife's increased marital power (gained by wage-earning) stimulates the marital bargaining which increases the husband's domestic labor activity.

Of the women who participate in the labor force, 15.5% are employed in shift work. The primary advantage of blue collar shift work (working between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.) for many female workers, according to presenter Irene Padavic, is the increased wages that these women can earn. After questioning 328 working women, who would economically benefit by changing from day work to shift work, and interviewing 30 of these women in depth, Padavic found a general overall preference for day work. Single mothers with flexible child care arrangements (i.e., family-based child care), however, had a stronger interest in such work than did married mothers or single mothers without flexible child care.

Finally, children's domestic labor participation and the effects of such participation on children's perceived self-competence, feelings of stress, and their relationship with their parents was examined by Maureen Perry-Jenkins and her colleagues Susan McHale, Todd Bartko, and Ann Crouter. These investigators interviewed 152 dual and single earner families. Interviews

were conducted both in the families' home and via the telephone. Fourth and fifth grade boys' self-concepts, feelings of stress and relationships with their parents were greatly influenced by the congruence between their domestic labor participation (high or low, feminine, masculine, or undifferentiated tasks) and their fathers' gender-role attitudes. For the same age girls, however, high participation in domestic labor enhanced self-esteem regardless of her mothers' gender-role attitudes.

Discussant Patricia Thompson reconceptualized the role of the discussant, challenging the authors to reexamine their work in feminist critique. Recognize that the emancipation of some women from domestic labor is still the exploitation of other women who are hired at low wages to complete those tasks. Finally, according to Thompson, the role of the discussant in a feminist framework is to promote the growth of the authors; it is not hierarchical, but empowering.

 WORK AND FAMILIES: FROM HYPOTHETICAL RESPONSES OF UNDERGRADUATES TO THE REALITIES OF CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, November 8, 23 attended
 Jay Teachman, Recorder; Edith Lewis, Presider; Suzanna Smith, Discussant

Karen Morgan and Rick Morgan, "Dual Earner Couples on the Move: Undergraduate Responses to Hypothetical Vocational Situations" used an experimental method to examine factors associated with job choices college undergraduates make involving change in geographic residence. They found that men, more than women, are likely to choose jobs that pay more but are less secure. However, married women are more likely than single women to choose jobs with greater pay over jobs with greater security.

Kristine Baber, "Elaborating on Understanding Motherhood: The Experience of Delayed Childbearing Women", used a qualitative approach and a sample of women who had delayed childbearing, the author investigated the phenomenon of delayed motherhood. The findings indicate that most women delay childbearing in order to fulfill educational and career aspirations. In addition, despite being more mature and financially secure, the mothers in the sample reported problems in juggling the joint responsibilities of jobs and parenthood.

Linda Tiedje and Carol Emmons, "Child Care Arrangements: Effects on Employed Women", used a sample of married professional women with preschool children, the authors examined the effects of child care arrangements on mothers. The major finding was that child care was not a significant stressor for most of these women. Additional findings indicate the complexity of child care arrangements and their tendency to change substantially over time.

 EDITOR'S NOTE: In the July 1990 issue of this newsletter, the Recorder comments from the remaining 3 FFSS sessions at the 1989 NCFR Annual Conference will be published. Thanks to our recorders, presenters, discussants, and presidors for your contributions to feminist family scholarship.

PLEASE SEND IN TODAY!!!!!!

Here is my contribution for the NCFR Feminism and Family Studies Section
Jessie Bernard Endowment Fund

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT _____ (make check payable to NCFR, attn: FFSS Endowment Fund)

Mail to: National Council on Family Relations
3989 Central Avenue N.E. Suite #550
Minneapolis, MN 55421

