

FAILURE IS IMPOSSIBLE!



Feminism and Family Studies Section Newsletter
National Council on Family Relations
Number 8, September 1997

Report from the CHAIR

As I write what is my last newsletter column I want to thank you all for your help and amazing support over the last two years. There really is something special about this section.

Once again, I am very excited about our program for the conference this year. We have some excellent symposia, papers sessions, and posters. We also have two **special highlights at the conference**. First, Dr. Charlotte Patterson, from the University of Virginia, will be conducting one of the Research Updates for Practitioners on Gay and Lesbian Parents. The session will be Saturday afternoon and will be co-sponsored by the Feminism and Family Studies Section. Second, we will be honoring Dr. Linda Thompson with a reception following the business meeting on Sunday evening. As many of you know, Linda was a real catalyst in the founding of the Feminism and Family Studies section of NCFR and has truly been a leader in integrating feminist thought and scholarship into the discipline. Linda retired Spring from her full-professor position at the University of Wisconsin. While we all will miss her presence, her influence on our work will be ongoing. We want to take an opportunity at the conference to thank her for her dedication and wisdom and to celebrate with her as she moves on into other ventures in her life.

In addition to the highlights of the conference I want to address a downside or problem that I struggled with this year. As many of you may be aware, the **submissions** were up both to the conference overall and to our section. We experienced a 50% increase from last year. Because the conference has not been extended in time and we are trying to decrease the number of overlapping presentations, there was a somewhat

1996-1998 Feminism & Family Studies Section EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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higher rejection rate this year than in past years. Also contributing to this higher rejection rate was the fact that this year we had numerous symposium proposals which were rated very highly. Unfortunately, in determining time on the program, the national office counted a symposium proposal (which usually includes 3 or 4 papers) the same as a paper proposal. In other words, if a paper is accepted it can be combined with 2 or 3 other submissions to form a paper session. However, when I accept a symposium, no other paper can be added and thus it takes the space of 3 or 4 accepted papers. Because the national office did not distinguish between these two types of submissions when calculating percentage of program time, we actually got under represented on the final program based on our submissions. I brought this up at the Spring Board Meeting and Cindy Winter, Conference Coordinator, once seeing the problem, gladly agreed to start counting symposia submissions as three papers in future years. Unfortunately it was too late to help this year. All of this explanation is to say that I know

some solid proposals were rejected as I was faced with some hard decisions this year. I know the final program we do have is outstanding, but I hope that the rejection rate won't discourage any of you from submitting again to the Feminism Section or NCFR or from attending the annual meeting.

In addition to not wanting to discourage anyone from future submission to the Feminism section, I need to apologize for an oversight on my part. This year I missed the deadline to get the hard copies of the reviewers' comments back to Cindy for her to mail out with the acceptance/rejection letters. I am truly sorry. However, I have saved all the reviewers comments and I will gladly mail them to anyone who would like to see their reviews. You simply need to contact me at LL11@umail.umd.edu or write me at The Department of Family Studies, 1204 Marie Mount Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

Finally, I want to congratulate our winners of the **Award for Outstanding Research Proposal and Paper from a Feminist Perspective**. **Terri Karis** of the University of Minnesota is the proposal winner and **Leslie King** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is the paper winner. I'd like to thank Beth Norrell and her committee for their diligent work over the summer on the many submissions we received this year.

See you in Crystal City in November!

Leigh Leslie
(301) 405-4011
LL11@umail.umd.edu

(That's LL as in Leigh Leslie and 11 as in 10 + 1 ... it's a little confusing when you first look at it, but once you get it you don't forget it.)

Hidden Male Power

What he does, what he has always done whenever I would start something, would be to just walk away. And so I learned very quickly, don't start anything, don't get too accusatory. Because if I do he will leave.....

--a female in therapy

conference preview

Fatherhood and Motherhood in Diverse and Changing World Arlington, VA Nov. 1997

Below is a summary of the sessions that will be sponsored by the Feminism and Family Studies section. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Friday, Nov. 7

8:30-10:00 am. (Session #107) Parent/Adult Child Coresidence: Consequences of a Grown Child in Parental Households for Mid-and Later-Life Parenthood and Family Socialization (Symposium)

--Coresident Households: Prevalence and Diversity, *William Aquilino*

-- Adult Child Coresidency: Adaptation and Response to Social Change, *Barbara Mitchell*

--Reassessing Mid-life Parenthood, Adult Transition, and Family Socialization, *Russell Ward*.

Saturday, Nov. 8

12:30-2:00 pm. (Session #216) Research Update for Practitioners (RUP)

Lesbian Mothers, Gay Fathers, and Their Children. *Charlotte Patterson*

2:15-3:45 pm. (Session #223). Listening Past the Quiet: Voices of Unheard Women. (Papers).

--Hiding the Multiplicity of Childhood/adolescent Sexual Abuse, *Mary Crowley*

--Evaluating Transitional Programming for Homeless Families: A Feminist Presentation in Two Voices, *Laura Nichols & Kathryn Feltey*

--Perceived Family Member Reaction to Women's Disclosure of HIV-positive Information. *Julianne Serovich & Judy Kimberly*

--Contemporary Muslim Women and the Family, *Marsha Carolan, Guiti Bagherinia, Rumaya Juhar, Jackie Himelright, & Monica Mouton*

Sunday, Nov. 9

12:30-2:00pm. (Session #316). **Interrogating Heterosexism: Theoretical, Research, and Pedagogical Perspectives.** (Symposium)

--Research on Sexual Orientation, Human Development, and Family Relations, *Charlotte Patterson*

--Interrogating Heterosexism in the Classroom, *Batya Hyman*

--Heterosexism in the Advisor/ Advisee Relationship: Learning from the Other Authors, *Ramona Oswald*

4:00-5:30 pm. (Session #326). **From Motherhood and Fatherhood to Parenthood.** (Symposium).

--Equal Sharing Couples and Conceptions of Parenthood, *Francine Deutsch & Nancy Karpf*
--Construction Parenthood as a Single Mother, *Maureen Perry-Jenkins, Amy Armenia, Charlotte Patterson, Raymond Chan, & Barbara Raboy*

--Division of Labor Among Lesbian and Heterosexual Couples With Children, *Charlotte Patterson, Raymond Chan & Barbara Raboy*

7:15-9:15 pm. (Session #338). **Feminism and Family Studies Section Member Meeting and Reception in Honor of Linda Thompson.**

Monday, Nov. 10

8:30-10:00 am. (Session #406). **Is Parenting Gendered: A Postmodern Conversation.** (Symposium).

--Cultural Contextualism, *William Allen*

--Radical Feminism, *Carl Auerbach*

--A Centrist Reaction: Is Parenting Gendered? *Anna Dienhart*

--Essentialism, *Alan Hawkins*

--Radical Feminism, *Louise Silverstein*

1:45-3:00 pm. (Session #417). **Women Through the Life Course.** (Papers)

--Moving Beyond Behaviors: The Construction of Adolescent Girls' Relational Beliefs Following Parental Divorce, *Meghan Raymond, Stephanie Jacobs, & Susan Silverberg.*

--Single Mothers by Choice and the Larger Social

Context, *Valerie Mannis*

--The Social Construction of Christmas: Women's Emotional Work, *Brenda Seery*

--Role and Status Change Among single Women During the Retirement Process, *Margaret Manoogian-O'Dell, Marilyn Barlow-Pieterick, & Leslie Richards.*

THINKING AHEAD TO 1998....

Families in a Global Context: Media, Environment, and Peace.

Milwaukee, WI

Do you have a proposal for the Feminism and Family Studies Section?

Section Meeting & Reception

**7:15-9:15pm
Sunday, Nov. 9**

Meet with colleagues

**Honor
LINDA THOMPSON**

National Council on Family Relations
3989 Central Ave. NE Suite 550
Minneapolis, MN 55421



KATHERINE R ALLEN PHD CFLE
FAM & CHILD DEV 307 WALLACE
VIRGINIA TECH
BLACKSBURG VA 24061-0416

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