Women's Studies Interest Group, Spring 1992

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Is Sex Natural?
A Lecture by Dr. Steven G. Smith

Friday, May 15, 1992
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
UAH University Center, Room 126

Millsaps College philosopher Dr. Steven G. Smith will explore the concept of "gender thinking" in WSIG's spring program. Feminist theorists of the last twenty years or so have hotly debated whether it is more important to emphasize women's status as human beings and thus their equality with men, as opposed to valuing mothering and roles involving women's difference from men. Professor Smith's question goes to the heart of the matter—whether "human nature" can be defined outside of being male or female.

Feminists have long realized that what is "natural," including human nature, has typically been conceived with men as the norm. Our ideas about gender—what makes men men, and women women, and what is appropriate for those roles—are very obviously affected by social conditioning, and these ideas vary greatly in different cultures and at different historical periods. Steve Smith's latest book, Gender Thinking (just out from Temple University Press) is a comprehensive study of the idea of gender. He examines, not gender roles (masculinity, femininity), but gender itself, seeking to define the structures that "gender thinking" forms. Because gender and sex-linked traits are so common in western society, people readily accept them as "natural." Noting that "our gender system distorts everyone's humanity and is particularly unjust to women and the feminine," Smith challenges the degree to which gender thinking is "natural" at all.

Steven Smith is the author of numerous articles and three books on philosophy. Smith holds a Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University and an M.A. in Religious Ethics/Philosophy from Vanderbilt University. He is currently Associate Professor and Acting Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, where he has taught since 1985.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND
For Further Information: 895-6190

Open House and Reception

UAH WOMEN'S STUDIES
RESOURCE CENTER
Morton Hall Room 216A

Friday, May 15, 1992
Open House: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Reception: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
(following Dr. Smith's lecture)

Stop by and enjoy some refreshments and see what the Women's Studies Resource Center has to offer.

Women's Resource Center Opens

The WSIG Women's Resource Center is currently building its information library. We would like to provide interested faculty and students with information on meetings, conferences, events, and publications dealing with women's studies and women's issues. If you have any materials you would like to share with the Women's Resource Center, contact Susan Fillipelli (Department of Communication, 895-6645).

One of the first resources we'd like to develop is an archive of essays, articles, stories, poetry, novels, videos, films (we'll take just about anything) dealing with women's studies, feminist thought, women's issues, and women's lives. Any items you are willing to donate will be gratefully accepted. One way we to build our files in a hurry is for interested students and faculty to copy articles from their own files and bring them to the resource center. We will archive them and they will become the foundation of what we hope will become a rich resource for our students and faculty. Materials can be dropped by either the Resource Center (216A Morton Hall) or Susan Fillipelli's office (308A Morton Hall). You can also mail materials to our campus mailbox (WSIG, Morton Hall, UAH, 35899). Come by and see us!
Calendar of Conferences

May 19, 1992, Rutgers Institute for Research
Women's Tenth Annual Celebration of Our Work
Conference: "Charting the Way/Doing the Building:
Women and Leadership."
Contact the Institute for Research on Women, Douglass
College Campus, 27 Clifton Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ
08903 (908) 932-9072.

May 29-31, 1992, North Carolina at Chapel Hill
"What Difference Does Difference Make? The Politics of
Race, Class, and Gender" Sponsored by Duke University-
University of North Carolina Center for Research on
Women.
Contact: Division of Continuing Education, CB# 1020 The
Friday Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1020 phone - (919) 962-1124, FAX
(919) 962-2061.

June 11 - 12, 1992, Boston College
"Women's Studies at Catholic Colleges and Universities"
Contact: Melissa Kesler Gilbert, gilbert2.husc3.bitnet.

November 6-9, 1992, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.
"The Politics of Caring II, Health and Health Care Policy:
Women's Strategies for Change."
Contact: Jennie P. Perryman, Planning Committee, Chair,
Emory University, 1364 Clifton Rd. NE, Box 7, Atlanta, Ga
30322, Tel. (404) 727-3181, FAX: (404) 371-8200.

November 6-7, 1992, Morehead State University,
Morehead, Kentucky
"Families: A World Perspective"
Send inquiries and abstracts to: Program Committee,
Families: A World Perspective, UPO 1384, Morehead State
University, Morehead,Kentucky 40351-1689, Telephone
(606) 783-2004, FAX: (606) 783-2678.

May 7-9, 1993, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada,
"Women and Texts in Pre-revolutionary France"
Send one-page abstract by 15 September 1992 to Hannah
Fournier or Jean-Philippe Beaulier, MARGOT Project,
Dept. of French, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont.,
Canada M2L 3G1. Phone (519) 885-1211 ext. 2249 or 3554.

Grants and Seminars

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation announces the third bi-
annual competition for the Corinne Guntzel Memorial
Grant. The grants of $250 to $500 are intended to support
projects and research in women's history. Proposals may
relate to the teaching of women's history in schools and
colleges, to publication of scholarly materials, or to
programs with a focus on social activism. Send proposals by
September 1 to Guntzel Grants, c/o Harlene Gilberg, 5338
East Lake Road, Romulus, New York 14541. Awards will
be announced on November 12 (Elizabeth Cady Stanton's
birthday).

The Ohio State University Press offers an annual prize of
$2,500 for the best book-length manuscript (250+ pages), in
any discipline, in the contributions of women, their lives and
experiences, and their roles in society. Original works of
interpretive scholarship from the humanities, social
sciences, and the natural sciences are welcome. Manuscript
submissions for the 1993 prize must be postmarked by
October 1, 1992. Send one copy of the manuscript, cover
letter, and author vita to: Charlotte Dihoff, Helen Hooven
Santmyer Prize Committee, Ohio State University Press,
180 Pressey Hall, 1070 Carmack Road, Columbus, Ohio
43210-1002. Further information on this is located in the
WSIG Resource Room, Morton Hall, Room 216.

Calls for Papers/Books of Interest

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor
seeks published papers and ongoing research on the "glass
ceiling" and other upward mobility studies on women in
corporate structures. Material will be used to augment a
resource library on the glass ceiling and in the development
of programs to implement the Secretary of Labor's Glass
Ceiling Initiative. For further information contact: Dora
Carrington, Administrative Officer, Women's Bureau (202)
323-6606; or write, Women's Bureau, Box GC, U.S.
Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.,
Room S-3311, Washington, D.C. 20210.

The original print run of Women and Politics, 1980-1990: A
Selected Bibliography has sold out and is now being
reprinted. International in scope, though with a Canadian
focus, it covers the extensive literature on women in politics
and related areas of feminist theory that have been
published in English since 1980, with additional references
to work in French on women in Quebecois society. For a
copy of this publication, send 6 dollars (Canadian or
American) for each bibliography (postage and handling
included) to:
Department of Political Science, Occasional Papers Series,
York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ontario,
CANADA M3J 1P3. Send certified cheques or money
orders only, payable to York University.
Summer Courses in Women's Studies

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>HY 202-01</td>
<td>U.S. Women's History</td>
<td>Ann Boucher</td>
<td>TTh</td>
<td>1015 - 1245</td>
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<tr>
<td>CM 340-02</td>
<td>Women and Media</td>
<td>Susan Kray</td>
<td>TTh</td>
<td>3:30-6:00</td>
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Honors Forum Presents

Images of Southern Womanhood:
Angels, Queens, and Mothers in Monuments to Confederate Women

a lecture by
Dr. Elise Lawton Smith
Assistant Professor of Art History
Millsaps College
Jackson, Mississippi

WHERE: UAH University Center, Exhibit Hall A
WHEN: Thursday, May 14, 12:15-1:30 p.m.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Call 895-6450

E-Mail Networks

For those who use E-mail, here are the addresses of some networks of interest to Women's Studies:

WMST-L, for the academic and professional side of women's studies, especially with issues having to do with teaching, research, and program administration. Send message to LISTSERV@UMDD saying SUBSCRIBE WMST-L <your full name>.

WISENET, for women in science, mathematics, and engineering. Send message to LISTSERV@UICVM saying: SUBSCRIBE WISENET <your full name>.

FEMAIL is a moderated list that "exists to provide a shared communication channel for feminists around the world." Both men and women may join. Send subscription requests to FEMAIL-REQUEST@LUCERNE.ENG.SUN.COM. [note the plural: REQUESTS].

WOMEN is an unmoderated list that describes itself as a "general purpose list, intended to be a connection between all women's groups and areas of interest for women and their friends." Send subscription requests to WOMEN-REQUEST@ATHENA.MIT.EDU. [REQUEST not plural].

Gender Neutral Degrees

In response to a student's complaint, Concordia University will now offer a Magisteriate instead of a Masters, and a Baccalaureate instead of a Bachelors.
Mark Your May Calendar!

Thursday, May 14, 12:15-1:30 p.m.,
"Images of Southern Womanhood: Angels, Queens, and Mothers in Monuments to Confederate Women,"
UC Exhibit Hall A

Friday May 15,

11:00-1:00 p.m., Open House,
Women's Resource Center,
Morton Hall Room 216A

3:00-4:30 p.m., "Is Sex Natural?"
UC 126

4:30-5:30 p.m., Reception, Women's Resource Center, Morton Hall 216A

About WSIG

WSIG is an open group of UAH Faculty, Students, and Staff interested in promoting Women's Studies at UAH. All interested persons are welcome to participate through joining committees, participating in programs and study groups, or other ways that seem appropriate. Formed in fall 1990, WSIG has mainly focused on coordinating women's studies efforts around campus, bringing people together to share information and expertise.

The WSIG newsletter is intended as a regular open forum for exchange of information. We would like to include information about activities and opportunities related to women's studies on UAH's campus and in the region.

Please send your newsletter contributions to the WSIG, Box 1950, or give them directly to Nancy Finley, Sociology Department, or Rose Norman, English Department.