

West of England

and South Wales

# **Women’s History Network**

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2012

**Co - Chairs:** **Secretary: Treasurer:** **Newsletter editor:**

Kath Holden and June Hannam Fiona Reid June Hannam Jane Howells   
**Committee:** Tracey Loughran, Kate Mahoney, Diana Russell, Elaine Titcombe, Stephanie Ward, Deborah Smith

**Associate Committee:** Mitzi Auchterlonie, Linda Martz, Lyndy Pooley, Fiona Hackney

### **Forthcoming Events:**

###### STUDY DAYS: ALL WELCOME (no charge)

###### Saturday 1 December 10 am – 1 pm St Matthias Campus UWE, Rm MO30

**Women, Family and the Poor Law from C18 – C20th:**

papers and discussion + book sale\*

**Programme**

Jan Chivers 'Women and Life-cycle Poverty in Bath, 1770-1835'

Moira Martin 'Remaking the Family: poor law policy and the family ideal'.

Megan Doolitte 'The Workhouse in the Slum: London 1880-1910'

**Saturday 23 February 10 am Cardiff University**

**Making Spaces, Finding Voices: Women’s Words and Worlds**

papers and discussion + book sale\*

**NEW feature of study days** - a ‘bring and buy’ bookstall to boost regional network funds. BRING some no-longer-wanted books, BUY something new to read (but take home those unsold!)

**20th REGIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

BRLSI, Queen’s Square, Bath, 15 June 2013

**CALL FOR PAPERS:   
Women and Protest in Historical Perspective**

The conference aims to explore women’s collective action to achieve change over a wide variety of issues and contexts; these might include peace; food and the cost of living; suffrage; social questions; industrial action.

**Proposals (200 words) for papers should be submitted to June Hannam at** [**June.Hannam@uwe.ac.uk**](mailto:June.Hannam@uwe.ac.uk) **by Ist March 2013**

**21st Conference of the Women’s History Network Women, State and Nation: Creating Gendered Identities Cardiff University, 7- 9th September 2012**

At the beginning of September, the 21st Conference of the Women’s History Network was held at Cardiff University. Organised by the committee members of the regional branch of the Network, including Dr Stephanie Ward (Cardiff University) and Dr Fiona Reid (University of Glamorgan), the conference sought to explore and understand the way in which gendered notions of femininity and womanhood could be considered within the context of nation and state. Such broad based themes were chosen primarily not only to encourage wider discussion, but to allow for the consideration of differing historical perspectives. This was aptly demonstrated by the range of papers during the course of the three days, which stimulated a great deal of debate amongst the delegates. Papers presented throughout these parallel sessions covered topics including female agency, historical fiction and cultural identity. In particular, the relationship between citizenship and conflict was a continual theme throughout the conference. One session covering aspects of women’s lives during World War I demonstrated that contemporary ideas of nation and gender became closely entwined during the conflict.

Throughout the course of the weekend, three plenary speakers gave an intriguing insight into their research. On the Friday, Dr Padma Anagol, Senior Lecturer in History at Cardiff University, gave a talk on the role of women in the development of the Hindu Right in colonial India. She has written extensively on gender, feminism, imperialism and religion in both modern and colonial India. At the end of the following day, Professor Mineke Bosch from the University of Groningen gave a thought-provoking lecture on suffrage activism and its implications for feminism and conceptions of gender. Focusing on the pioneering first female Dutch doctor Aletta Jacobs, Bosch explored the transnational nature of the suffrage movement. The final speaker, Professor Elsa Barkley-Brown, working at the University of Maryland, gave a fascinating paper outlining various depictions and representations of African-American women within a political context. I am sure all delegates would agree that we particularly enjoyed the link with the present first lady Michelle Obama!

Overall this was truly an international conference, with speakers coming from as far afield as the United States, Australia, India and Hong Kong. Closer to home, speakers from throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland demonstrated the current strength and diversity of women’s history. Of course we cannot forget the conference dinner which was held at Brown’s Bar in the heart of Cardiff’s city centre. It gave the speakers and delegates a chance to reflect on the issues and debates raised, whilst enjoying pleasant company and good food. *Tom George*

**West of England and South Wales Annual Conference, June 30h 2012 'Women and local activism after the vote was won'**

This year's conference, on the subject of was held on 30th June, 2012 in the beautiful setting of the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute. Professor Karen Hunt, Keele University, in a stimulating plenary lecture on women's politics and local activism in the inter-war years, raised many of the themes that were then taken up in the workshop papers. These included papers on women and local government in different regions,  citizenship and local activism, and peace politics before and at Greenham Common. In a room decorated by a large dinosaur and overlooking Queen Square, delegates were able to explore these subjects in depth and felt that the day had been a stimulating one for all concerned. *June Hannam*

**2012 Prizes and Bursaries**

The 2012 winner of our local network bursary for research in women’s history was **Kate Mahoney** of Cardiff University. It was awarded for expenses in doing oral history interviews for her MA Dissertation on the interaction between second-wave feminism and psychology in Britain between 1960 and 1980.

The 2012 winner of the National Women’s History Network Clare Evans prize is **Rachel Ritchie** from Brunel University with her essay 'Beauty isn't all a matter of looking glamouress': attitudes to glamour in the Women's Institute and Women's Cooperative Guild magazines during the 1950s’*.*

**Katie Barclay** (University of Adelaide) is author of the winning entry of the 2012 Book Prize Love, Intimacy and Power: Marriage and Patriarchy in Scotland, 1650-1850 (Manchester University Press, 2011).

**CALL FOR PAPERS 'Infertility in History, Science and Culture'**

Committee member Tracey Loughran is co-convening a symposium in Scotland next summer at Edinburgh University on 4-5 July 2013. The symposium aims to bring together researchers working on this fascinating and under-explored field in order to better understand historical and contemporary representations and experiences of infertility across different cultures and from different perspectives. Abstracts of 250 words, for papers of 20-30 minutes, should be sent to [LoughranTL@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:LoughranTL@cardiff.ac.uk) by 25th January 2013.

###### Women’s History Network National Conference

**29 Aug – 1 Sept 2013 Sheffield Hallam University**

**Women’s Histories: the local and the global**

**For further details visit *www.womenshistorynetwork.org***

**Across the Atlantic**

In USA, the National Women’s History Museum aims to build the first ever national museum in Washington, D.C., dedicated exclusively to women’s history. It will be centrally located near the world’s most prestigious museums and monuments in the capital. They are currently campaigning for the necessary legislation to establish a building on or near the Mall in Washington. Meanwhile their website has fascinating online exhibitions, and educational resources. www.nwhm.org

**Time in London in the early evening?**

Research seminars at the Institute for Historical Research are held at Senate House, University of London. They are free and open to all, visitors are welcome, and presenters include independent researchers as well as academics. At www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars there are programmes for 65 subject areas! Obvious titles such as ‘Women’s History’ and ‘Gender and History in the Americas’ might be of interest, but it is worth exploring others too: religion, garden history, locality & region, public history ....

**The Women’s Library has a new home at the London School of Economics, and will become the ‘Women’s Library @ LSE’ from 2013**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE REGIONAL NETWORK**

The network is offering a **bursary** of up to £500 to any postgraduate student writing a dissertation or thesis in women's or gender history.

Research **grants** of up to £100 are available towards expenses that lead to a paper or publication on any aspect of women’s history. Independent researchers as well as registered students are eligible to apply.

Applications will be considered through the year. There is no closing date but we advise you to apply as early as you can. For both schemes please contact June Hannam, june.hannam@uwe.ac.uk

**NEWSLETTER:** Please send contributions and suggestions to Jane Howells, 7 St Marks Rd, Salisbury SP1 3AY mail@sarum-editorial.co.uk

**AREA CONTACTS:**

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**REGIONAL NETWORK WEBSITE http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/swhisnet/index.html**