

# Margaret Lowe Benston LECTURE SERIES IN Social Justice

Sponsored by the  
Department of Women's Studies  
Simon Fraser University

Thursday, September 28, 2000



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY

**Two free public lectures by  
Dr. Heidi Hartmann**, Economist  
and Director and President,  
Institute for Women's Policy  
Research, Washington, DC

Dr. Hartmann is the author of  
several publications including  
*Women's Access to Health Insurance*  
and *Combining Work and Welfare:  
An Alternative Anti-Poverty Strategy*.  
The Institute for Women's Policy  
Research is a public policy research  
organization dedicated to informing  
and stimulating the debate on  
public policy issues of critical  
importance to women and their  
families.

In recognition of **Dr. Margaret Lowe Benston's** dedication to building a more just and equitable world through her research, teaching and community activism, her family, friends and colleagues have established the Margaret Lowe Benston Endowed Lecture Series in Social Justice. In her memory, the lecture series builds bridges between the University and its communities. Each program focuses on a specific topic connected with social justice. The series features one main public event annually or bi-annually. The invited speakers are those community activists/scholars who have distinguished themselves in a particular social justice cause.

## Women and the Workforce— Pay equity or family equity?

Full-time women workers earn about 75 percent the wages of full-time men workers. Warring intellectual factions in the US point to different explanations for this wage gap: persistent pay discrimination against women and jobs typically held by women on the one hand versus women's voluntary choices to specialize in family care on the other.

If women are choosing family responsibilities over work advancement, is the pay gap a public policy problem or should public policy focus on getting men to do more family work or just leave things as they are? Dr. Heidi Hartmann will review some of these arguments, providing her perspective on the policy gaps in the US and the steps needed to achieve greater equity for women.

### Burnaby Mountain Campus

Halpern Centre  
Thursday, September 28  
12:30–1:30 pm

## Women and Poverty— From the welfare poor to the working poor

Reform of the US welfare system in the 1990s, touted as a huge success by nearly all the candidates for president in the United States this year, has actually simply transformed the nexus of women's poverty, from the welfare system to the low wage labour market.

Dr. Hartmann will analyse the low wage labour market from women's perspectives and review several research and action projects being conducted at the Institute for Women's Policy Research designed to improve women's economic status, reduce their poverty, and enhance their sense of economic security.

### Harbour Centre Campus

515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver  
Fletcher Challenge Canada Theatre  
Thursday, September 28  
7:00–8:30 pm

As seating is limited, reservations are required. Call 291-5100 or email [cs\\_hc@sfu.ca](mailto:cs_hc@sfu.ca)

*Admission is free to both public lectures*