

Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University

The Women's Studies program at Simon Fraser University was developed in the early 1970's. Credit courses were offered for the first time in 1976 and by 1984 students could take a minor in Women's Studies at the undergraduate level and a Master of Arts in Women's Studies at the graduate level. Six tenured faculty members teach in the program, each having a half-time appointment in Women's Studies and a half-time appointment in another academic department. A number of women from the community with special expertise also teach in the program from time to time.

One of the central aims of SFU's Women's Studies program is to assert and document women's contributions in all areas of human endeavour, including the private world of home, family and community and the public world of politics, professions and power. The broadly interdisciplinary program is corrective and supplemental to the traditional disciplines as presently taught.

With the added strength of a permanent chair in Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University will make significant new contributions to the understanding of issues facing women today. Now, more than ever before, the Women's Studies program will have the resources to serve its community throughout B.C. and the Yukon.

The 1970's saw the emergence of feminist scholarship on an unparalleled scale in Canada...The next decade will test just how far feminists have been able to convince their contemporaries of the merits of women's cause. The future of women's studies and academic feminism in general will depend on that support.

Veronica Strong-Boag
Mapping Women's Studies in Canada

We can enrich our personal lives, our communities and the world by investing in the long-term exploration of women's lives and in the search for solutions to the inequities that exist for women. Women's Studies serves us personally, locally, nationally and globally by offering a framework and context for this exploration.

You can help the Women's Studies program at Simon Fraser University maintain a permanent faculty chair.

Contribute to the SFU Women's Studies Endowment Fund Campaign.

Women's Studies:

- Women as subject.
- Standpoint of women.
- Making women visible.
- Taking women seriously.
- Documenting women's existence.
- Transforming knowledge.
- Creating solutions.

Simon Fraser University Women's Studies Program.

Faculty

Margaret Benston, Ph.D. (Washington)
Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Computing Science
(Women, Science and Technology)

Meredith Kimball, Ph.D. (Michigan)
Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Psychology
(Women and Achievement, Women and Therapy, Female Roles,
Older Women)

Kaja Silverman, Ph.D. (Brown)
Associate Professor of Women's Studies and Fine Arts
(Feminist Film, Film Theories)

Mary Lynn Stewart, Ph.D. (Columbia)
Associate Professor of Women's Studies and History
(Women in Canadian History)

Veronica Strong-Boag, Ph.D. (Toronto)
Associate Professor of Women's Studies and History
(Women in Canadian History)

Susan Wendell Ph.D. (U.B.C.)
Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Philosophy
(Feminist Theory, Pornography)

Associated Faculty

Barbara Blakely, D.Min. (Chicago Theological Seminary)
Chaplain at SFU, Adjunct Professor
(Women and Religion)

Anita Fellman Ph.D. (Northwestern)
Adjunct Professor
(Women in North America, Housework,
Women in the Professions)

Andrea Lebowitz M.A. (Wisconsin)
Lecturer in English
(Feminist Literary Criticism)

Arlene McLaren, Ph.D. (L.S.E.)
Assistant Professor of Sociology
(Women, Family, and Education)

Barbara Todd, Ph. D. (Oxford)
Adjunct Professor
(Women in Canada and Britain)

Eleanor Wachtel, B.A. (McGill)
Journalist, Adjunct Professor
(Women and the Media)

Something exciting is happening with Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University...



*with your help
it could go
on forever!*

Women's Studies are Necessary!

Inequalities between men and women in income, education, political power and occupational opportunity have been clearly documented in modern western society. These inequities have also occurred in other societies and in other periods of history. In order to rectify this discrimination, Women's Studies programs use systematic and academically rigorous methods to investigate, understand and describe the experience and achievements of women in past and present societies.

Creating a framework in which women's work is ignored, dismissed or seen as irrelevant is part of our training. Changing that training means changing our view of the world and of women in the world, of women's work and lives ... it means creating a perspective from which women speak...

Helga E. Jacobson
Women in Community Studies and Research: The Practice of Exclusion



Women's Studies challenges practitioners to think beyond traditional role stereotypes, traditional disciplines and established institutions. Current theoretical frameworks are examined and documented for the ways in which they are inadequate for the study of women. Where necessary, new frames of reference are presented to provide a more accurate understanding and interpretation of women's lives and experience.

Women's studies addresses women's lives and experience in their own terms, creates theory grounded in the actual experience and language of women.

Barbara Du Bois
Passionate Scholarship: Notes on Values, Knowing and Method in Feminist Social Science

The work of Women's Studies faculty and students radiates out to the community informing interested citizens, activists and policy-makers of innovative women-oriented perspectives and presenting new knowledge about women. In addition to providing a fuller picture of society as a whole, these studies indicate ways of improving the status of women locally, nationally and internationally.

Women's studies... must dare to reinvent the world of knowledge, of thought, of symbols and images; not, of course, by repudiating everything that has been done, but by subjecting it to exact scrutiny from the position of women as subject.

Dorothy E. Smith
An Analysis of Ideological Structures and how Women are Excluded: Considerations for Women's Studies



The rate at which Women's Studies have created knowledge and transformed methodology in history, politics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, literature, the arts and natural sciences continues to increase exponentially. This growth is part of the movement toward full and equal membership for women in all societies.

The time to invest in Women is NOW

The Canadian government, as part of its investment in the international attempt to provide educational opportunities for women, has given seed money to several Canadian universities for each to begin an endowment to maintain full-time senior faculty positions (faculty chairs) in Women's Studies. The Women's Studies program at Simon Fraser University has received \$500,000 with which to begin such a fund. An additional \$500,000 is needed to ensure that interest income rather than capital expenditure will cover the cost of maintaining such a position. SFU is committing its resources to raising the full amount necessary to permanently endow this full-time faculty chair in Women's Studies.

The Women's Studies Chair will benefit:

Community

The SFU Women's Studies program will be more visible and responsive to the educational and research needs of women throughout B.C. and the Yukon.

Research

Significant long-term research on women's issues will be developed.

Women

The value of women's studies will gain more recognition in and out of the university setting.

You can invest in the development of knowledge of women.

You can invest in women

Contribute to the SFU Women's Studies Endowment Fund Campaign

Your tax deductible donation, made payable to Simon Fraser University, may be sent to the Development Office, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S6.

For further information please call Joy Leach, Director of Development, SFU. (604) 291-4581.

Thank-you.

