

Editorial

2009 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Women's Studies Association in New Zealand. Although there has been a great deal of change over the past quarter century, many of the issues that prompted feminists in New Zealand to establish the Women's Studies Association still remain on today's agendas. As we reflect back over the achievements of the Association over this period we also look forward and think about the possibilities and challenges that face the Association if it is to continue to live up to its agenda of being a feminist organisation which promotes radical social change through the medium of women's studies. As part of commemorating this significant milestone, the Editorial Group of the *Women's Studies Journal* invited contributions from past and present members reflecting on the achievements and possibilities for the Association. The response has been somewhat underwhelming and hopefully more a reflection on the demands on member's time and energies than any indication of the current state of the Association. Although this has meant the planned Commentary section of this issue has not proceeded, we are very pleased to include a commemorative article on the life and work of Rosemary Seymour who founded both the New Zealand Women's Studies Association and the New Zealand *Women's Studies Journal*.

Rosemary's Seymour's contribution to the establishment of women's studies in New Zealand is inspirational and it is fitting that the article is written by Kay Morris Matthews whose doctoral research focused on the emergence and development of women's studies in New Zealand. It is fitting too that Kay has taken a biographical approach tracing the various pathways through Rosemary Seymour's life and feminist activism. Rosemary Seymour's legacy lives on in the Rosemary Seymour Archives housed at the University of Waikato Library and in the Rosemary Seymour Research and Archive Awards annually awarded by the Women's Studies Association.

Saira Bano's article is concerned with the political participation of women in decision and policy-making institutions. Using the case of Pakistan as her main focus, Bano traces the ways in which increased numerical representation has facilitated the empowerment of women more generally. She also questions the extent to which women are the 'subjects of change' or the 'agents of change' and considers various obstacles in the prevailing social and economic regimes as well as in political structures which impact on women's participation in the political realm.

A particular political site of intervention for women is in the area of problem gambling. Phillida Bunkle has contributed a paper based on several international conference presentations and explores the growth of machine gambling for women in New Zealand since the 1990s through an understanding of the effects of equal chance discourse. Lorna Dyall responds to the 'one woman' interpretation of the increase in problem gambling by specifically addressing the issues for Māori women in particular, questioning the interpretation of gambling research in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and how that is used in the development of policies to reduce gambling. What has been ignored in research interests, and of critical interest for Māori, is the development of a framework that attends to pohara wairuatanga. Lorna's response then, raises a number of questions that need to be considered in the development of strategies to eliminate

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gambling-related harm that are culturally specific.

You may have noticed that WSJ 22:2 Special Issue on Pacific Knowledges has not yet been published. There have been unanticipated delays with processing this issue but the guest editors are still endeavouring to continue with this important contribution to feminist scholarship in the Pacific.

This is the final general issue of the Journal to be produced by the current editorial group who will complete their six year editorship of the *Women's Studies Journal* at the end of this year following publication of the Special Issue on Feminisms in Practice. There have been a number of changes during this time, notably the shift to an electronic-only publication of the Journal. We would like to take this opportunity to wish the incoming Editorial Group well in their endeavours to meet the ongoing challenges of supporting informed academic feminist scholarship.

Robyn Andrews, Jenny Coleman, Leigh Coombes, Mandy Morgan, Sita Venkateswar.

Call for Contributions

Women's Studies Journal 2010

Submissions are invited for the 2010 general issue of the *Women's Studies Journal* (WSJ). We welcome articles about women by women from a feminist perspective.

The WSJ publishes articles that address women's experiences, explore gender as a category of analysis, and further feminist theory and debate in areas that have relevance to Aotearoa/New Zealand and the Pacific within a broader context of international concerns.

We also welcome proposals for a Special Issue to be published in November 2010. For further details please contact Ann Weatherall (Ann.Weatherall@vuw.ac.nz).

Guidelines for submissions and further information about the *Women's Studies Journal* can be found at: <http://www.wsanz.org.nz/journal/index.html>