

MAY 2004 NEWSLETTER

A 'See You At The Conference' Newsletter by Ann Braithwaite

Hi everyone, and welcome to this short 'see you at the conference' newsletter! Here we want to give you all a 'heads up' on what this year's conference holds in store for you all, and whet all of your appetites for the end of the month in Winnipeg. If you haven't registered yet, you still can, so don't let the opportunity to get together for a few days with your friends and colleagues from around the country pass you by! Come join us for 3 days of exciting papers, discussions, debates, ideas, insights, arguments, reminiscences, passion, and excitement, all in beautiful spring in Winnipeg.

First, check out the conference homepage on the CWSA/ACEF homepage at www.yorku.ca/cwsaacef -- where a preliminary conference schedule is available. Remember, it isn't the final schedule yet—that won't be available until the actual conference—but it will give you a good idea of the papers, workshops, talks, films, and assorted events we've got planned for you all. There's also a handy 'conference at a glance' sheet that provides a ready view of this year's very full schedule (again, it's preliminary).

The conference opens on Saturday, May 29, at 10:30 in the morning, with the annual national coordinators' meeting. This year's meeting is being hosted by Women's Studies at the University of Winnipeg, and organized by Barbara Crow and Susanne Luhmann. They've organized a really exciting day of topics for us, including morning and afternoon break out sessions on specific topics, larger whole group discussions, and a lunch break generously provided by the University of Winnipeg crowd. In addition to the morning discussions among similarly-sized programs, some of the topics to be discussed in the afternoon include defining/disciplining Women's Studies, growth in/growing WS, the activist vs. the academic agenda of WS, and overcoming the social sciences/humanities divide in WS. Sounds really exciting! We hope you can make it – or send someone from your program in your stead if you can't. If you're on the coordinators' listserv, you should have received an email about this day already; if you haven't, contact Barbara Crow for more info, and to get yourself on the lunch list. (Contact Fiona Green at f.green@uwinnipeg.ca if they have any dietary needs besides vegetarian/non-vegetarian by may 20th the latest, so she can take those into account as she orders lunch).

Then we move into full conference mode, with three days – from Sunday May 30 till Tuesday June 1 – packed full of a variety of events to suit all conference tastes! The conference opens with one of our key events – a really exciting plenary talk entitled "Critics or Allies? Challenges for Transnational Feminisms in an Age of Globalization and Empire," by Sedef Arat Koc, who teaches at Trent University. And you can have coffee and a continental breakfast along with the talk! Some other conference highlights include: multiple concurrent sessions everyday on both of the conference themes—Transnational Feminisms and The State/s of Women's Studies—in addition to open call panels, video screenings, a number of workshops on both themes and professional development sessions, a lunchtime discussion about the direction and future of CWSA/ACEF, sessions on teaching Women's Studies core courses, caucus group meetings for junior faculty and graduate students, poetry readings and a performance piece, an always open 'gallery' and meeting space, a film festival enticingly called 'Sugar and Splice,' a 'women's walking tour' of Winnipeg followed by dinner at a local Indian restaurant (pre-register for this one), the AGM, a special session we've called "SSHRC-ing Feminist Scholarship"—on the proposed

changes to SSHRC's funding structure, and—of course—the annual book award prize and celebration of Canadian Women's Studies publishing, where the winner of this year's award has agreed to give a short talk on her book!. Whew... and all that in only 3 days!

So don't miss it! Come on out to Winnipeg, meet all your friends and colleagues in Women's Studies across the country, make new ones, refresh your minds, get new ideas, and remember what makes our discipline such an exciting and thriving place to be! See you all in a few weeks!