

For readers not quite familiar with the various discussions underway, it is a tough slog. This text is most useful within a critical frame of lesbian/gay studies, feminist studies/theory, and/or women's studies.

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***Lesbian Lifestyles, Women's Work and the Politics of Sexuality.*** Gillian A. Dunne. University of Toronto Press, Toronto and Buffalo, 1997; x + 231 pages; ISBN 0-8020-7951-2; \$18.95.

*Lesbian Lifestyles* is a life-history based study that explores the relationship between a woman's sexuality and her work choices and experiences. The author interviewed 60 British women from a variety of class and racial backgrounds. Dunne's analysis of the respondents' narratives concludes that questioning and resistance of heterosexual, feminine gender norms - in terms of sexuality and education - results in the need for financial self reliance. This need leads these women into non-traditional and/or highly skilled fields of employment.

Although the introduction to *Lesbian Lifestyles* displays the author's awareness of the largely uncharted subjectivity of personal memory, the text seems to ground its analysis on some problematic assumptions as to how individuals remember. In particular, the interviews appear to have been conducted through a chronologically organized line of inquiry (early childhood to present). Such an inquiry, ultimately, cannot display any factual revisions or thematic/emotional associations that may have links to both the respondents' past and present experiences.

Dunne does make excellent use of previous studies that explore the relationship between family, and work choices and opportunities amongst heterosexual women in both Britain and North America. In doing so she reveals the need for her own and similar future inquiries into the relationship between gender and sexuality, and

individuals' educational and work choices. This is an accessible and well-organized volume that proceeds thematically and makes sufficient use of respondents' words for readers to get a feel for the tone of the original interviews.

Throughout the text Dunne ably directs readers' attention to the various class perspectives of her respondents and offers compelling analysis of instances where other variables such as educational success or feelings of difference appear to most dramatically inform respondents' views. Unfortunately, attention is not likewise given to the various racial and ethnic perspectives of respondents. Only the remarks of non-white respondents are explicitly marked. This inconsistency is a reading distraction and analytical short-fall.

*Lesbian Lifestyles* is valuable, both for its accomplishments and failings, as methodological background reading for researchers utilizing oral history (or other participatory styles of interviewing) or working in the general area of gender and sexuality. As well, resulting from the relative accessibility of Dunne's text, chapters of the book are ideal excerpts for use in undergraduate courses on "women and work," "gender and sexuality" and related inquiries.

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***Madonna: Bawdy & Soul.*** Karlene Faith. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, Ontario, 1997; xv + 217 pages; appendix: Selected Works of Madonna, Frances Wasserlein; ISBN 0-8020-8063-4; \$19.95.

Karlene Faith's highly readable postmodern critique of pop icon, po-mo (and pro-mo) artist, Madonna, displays both the appreciations of fandom and the rigors of feminist cultural studies scholarship. The reader, therefore, is offered a rare, balanced view which takes seriously Madonna, the artist and person, and which also acknowledges both the political limits and possibilities of her work.