

Editorial

This issue of *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal* is a "General Issue." It is our intention to produce roughly equal numbers of "Special Issues," which will provide an opportunity to examine particular topics in depth, and "General Issues," which will represent a broad array of feminist contributions. Each kind of issue has its merits, and its challenges, and we hope that readers will enjoy both.

Volume 22.2 will also be a General Issue, followed by Volume 23.1, which is a Special Issue on sexualities and feminisms guest edited by Janice Ristock and Catherine Taylor. Volume 23.2 will be another Special Issue, entitled "Sexual Economics," guest edited by Marjorie Cohen. This issue will be dedicated to the life and work of pioneering feminist economist and Women's Studies professor, Michèle Pujol, who died of cancer on August 2, 1997. Readers and potential contributors will find the Call for Papers for this issue on page 151.

This is the third issue under the new structures and with the new editors and editorial panel. The learning curve has been steep and continues. In this issue you will notice that two items published in our last issue, Marjorie Cohen's article, "What Women Should Know about Economic Fundamentalism" and Sandy Shreve's poem "For The Love Of These Oranges (Mary Pratt)," are corrected and reprinted. This correction is a result of our having published the penultimate version of Marjorie Cohen's article, and inadvertently switching around a word in a line of Sandy Shreve's poem. We are grateful to the two authors for their grace and forbearance.

We think, however, that it would be instructive for our readers to hear how the mistakes came about. Many of you will be facing similar situations, and may profit from our experience. It is barely two years since we began the process of rebuilding *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*, developing new structures and ways of doing things--with a new editorial team learning to work together, and with a new managing editor trying to

co-ordinate all our activities until they come together in each new issue. We are attempting to create a new model of a national journal "without walls." This means that we have deliberately built an editorial team from across the country, in an effort to transform publishing practice and to make our "office" more open and accessible. In order to achieve the necessary connections we are using new electronic tools to enable us to work together across the huge geographic distances between us. Christine St.Peter and Marilyn Porter, the editors of this journal and of this issue, live as far apart as it is possible to be in Canada -- in Victoria, British Columbia and St. John's, Newfoundland. All this is co-ordinated by Cecily Barrie, the managing editor, working at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We do this using e-mail and associated technology, and we are still learning how to build new editorial procedures that incorporate the new technologies. In practice this has meant a dozen messages a day between the various groupings involved with the different issues; different versions of the articles flying in cyberspace, by fax and by mail between the editors and the *Atlantis* office and room for a myriad of mistakes.

We cannot promise our readers, our reviewers and our contributors that we will make no more mistakes. But we can promise you that we will do our best to make amends if we do slip up, and that we will learn from them, developing new and better procedures as we go. And we hope that we will learn from you, and you from us, and that between us we will develop new tools and procedures that will help us make and disseminate the best feminist scholarship in Canada.

You will notice in this issue that we are also learning from our successes. Where we have found something that works, we are attempting to build it into a regular part of *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*. In some cases, these innovations also represent our commitment to representing a variety of forms of feminist knowledge. While the

bulk of *Atlantis* issues will consist of refereed articles, we will also be presenting knowledge in other forms. For example, from time to time we will be publishing interviews with significant women, with something to say on a topic of interest to feminists. The interview in Volume 21.2 with Barbara Doran, filmmaker, will be followed by another in Volume 22.2 with Jagwega Sebrechts, the Canadian-born president of the Women's College Coalition in the United States who will discuss with Pat Baker the benefits of women's colleges and women-focused educational settings for the professional, educational and personal development of women. And in a variation of the interview form, we will be publishing a conversation between aboriginal filmmaker Christine Welsh and historian Sylvia Olsen in which each woman discusses the experiences of her respective role in the creation of the new film *Kuper Island: Return to the Healing Circle*.

We will offer another "Community Voices" by collecting similar "voices" from different communities--in an upcoming example where Franco-Ontarian women talk about their situation, problems and actions.

In the present issue readers will discover a new feature that we are calling "Women's Studies in Focus" which will look at Women's Studies as a topic in its own right. The focus here is "Field-Based Learning in the Practicum Course." Full of pitfalls and possibilities, these courses need careful preparation if they are to prove useful. Here you will find teachers, students and one of the practicum hosts sharing their reflections on course development, on pedagogical problems specific to the courses, and on strategies they have devised to make these courses work both for the students and for the community agencies involved as hosts. In subsequent issues we plan other discussions of Women's Studies issues and we welcome our readers' suggestions for topics of interest.

We are also proud to present two very different, but fine, examples of feminist knowledge presented in creative forms. Lorna Crozier is a justly famous Canadian poet and we are delighted to publish three of her new poems in which we find her rewriting the myths of the women in Genesis: Lilith, Eve and Sarah. We are also able to publish a

chapter from Lillian Bouzane's forthcoming novel, which is centred on Matthee Caboto, and provides a woman's eye view of the events of 1497, when the English/Italian male colonisers made their fateful first appearance in North America.

Among other contributions to this issue, Lori Beaman and Larry Glassford both deal with the appearance of feminists in unexpected places. Lori Beaman's research centres on groups of women in evangelical churches in Atlantic Canada. She reveals a much more nuanced approach to women, religion and feminism taken by these women, as they, like everyone, wrestle with the apparent contradictions in their lives. Larry Glassford has dissected the history of the Conservative Party in Canada, finding some surprisingly progressive friends of feminism in its ranks, engaged in discussions and actions to enhance the position of women in the party and in Canada.

Deborah Barndt's paper describes, in practical detail, her work in developing what she calls "glocal education". Using food as a focus, she shows how she can apply principles of community education to recover immigrant women's traditional understanding of the role of food in their lives and the ways in which their control over it has been eroded by the globalisation of the food industry.

In her article, Judith White gives us a clear history of the division of responsibility for social and health services in Canada between federal and provincial governments. In the context of the current debates about devolution of powers to the provinces, White argues that we should consider what impact these changes would have on women, and suggests how women (and other affected groups) should be included in the process to ensure that standards are preserved.

Ruth Panofsky offers a comprehensive overview of the life and work of Helen Weinzweig, a woman who began a distinguished writing career two decades ago at the age of 45. The fiction and drama of this Jewish-Canadian writer remains little known among her compatriots, but Panofsky demonstrates the originality and ingenuity of Weinzweig's difficult experimental style and the importance of her bleak but deeply ethical vision of contemporary life.

Susan Heald's article challenges feminist organizers and researchers to critique "taken-for-granted assumptions" about what it means to speak or write about a "self" or an organization or a culture. Using the tools of post-structuralist theory, she argues that we need to examine the ways our work has been limited by simplistic descriptions of "experience," and the unexamined belief that language can be "transparent." She then subjects her theory to the test by revisiting and critiquing two different research projects of her own.

Our final academic article is Marjorie Cohen's examination of the policies implicit in economic fundamentalism which are not inevitable because of the logic of capitalism, but are policies that have been actively promoted by the corporate sector in its own interests.

Editing any journal is an invigorating process, but a feminist journal has the added dimension of entering (if we are to do the job properly) all the debates and discussions going on among Canadian feminists. Our readers are much more than merely passive recipients. We need more readers, of course, but we also hope that you--the reader--will feel you are a real part of the growing project of *Atlantis*.

Christine St. Peter and Marilyn Porter