

military. She has no job or local ties and has to reestablish herself somewhere else. The Armed Forces are still reluctant to divide husbands' pensions so she is likely to be poor as well.

This is a fascinating study of life in the military, particularly its effects on the families of military men. Newspaper photographs of teary goodbyes or excited hellos only reveal a superficial aspect of the family lives of soldiers. Harrison and Laliberte describe what lies behind the public image. It describes the significant work women do to maintain and sustain the work of their husbands, as they maintain households and families with all that that entails, support the husband in his work role, and sustain the institution--in this case the Canadian Armed Forces--for which he works. While military wives are the case study, the book also adds to the information on the valuing of domestic labour.

This book describes the lives of military families in the 1990s but it has a quaintly 1950s ring when we look at the descriptions. However, the authors are aware of the beginnings of "organizing" many military wives, asking for things civilian populations take for granted--the right to protest the placing of a traffic light, to have some say about where the family is located, to have necessary and trustworthy community services, to be free of arbitrary decision making, and to have family needs enter into consideration of career progression. And, should one's marriage fail, the right to a share of the matrimonial assets, including pension, resulting from collaborative work.

*No Life Like It, Military Wives in Canada* is an impressive piece of research and analysis which merits attention from both scholarly and general readers. It is a fascinating piece of family sociology. It draws on the best of feminist scholarship and advocacy research. One hopes that it supports and sustains the infant movement for rights for military wives.

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***Ethnographic Feminisms: Essays in Anthropology*** Sally Cole and Lynne Phillips (eds). Carleton University Press, Ottawa, 1996.; illustrations; xi+300 pages; ISBN 0-88629-248-4; \$21.95

In this unprecedented collection the editors have brought together papers that address the "awkward" relationship between anthropology and feminism in an attempt to counter the marginalization of feminist anthropology. In an introductory chapter they describe how the project arose out of their experiences as members of the graduate student feminist caucus in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto in the 1980s and their subsequent engagement with feminist anthropology as professors. In keeping with the reflexivity of the editors (and many of the papers) this reviewer hastens to locate herself as a former member of the same feminist caucus (a couple of years after the main period of involvement of the editors).

Despite its University of Toronto genesis, the collection is far from parochial. The preoccupations of the Toronto-trained feminist anthropologists mesh easily with the contributions of the other researchers. Particularly striking in this regard is the contribution of a group of graduate students at Laval whose reflections on fieldwork and writing directly engage with the concerns of the earlier Toronto feminist caucus.

The collection is divided into three sections. The first looks at fieldwork and global feminism and includes reflections on fieldwork and cholera in Latin America (Lynne Phillips), feminism and China (Ellen Judd), practising feminist anthropology in variety of third world contexts and in Quebec (Marie-Andr e Couillard) and the global aspects of breastfeeding (Penny Van Esterik). Each of these papers combine ethnographic insights with reflections on research, writing and feminist politics.

The second section focuses on women's work including an analysis of Navajo women's weaving (Kathy M'Closkey), domestic commodity production in Canada (Max Hedley), industrial homework in Ontario (Belinda Leach) and the

politics of bank workers in Canada (Patricia Baker). These pieces are firmly located within a political economy tradition and include more ethnographic description and analysis than reflexivity or experimental writing.

In the last section entitled "experiments in ethnography", there are papers on the politics of feminist ethnography (Sally Cole), an experimental 'three voices' discussion on the gendering of masks (Rae Anderson), Laval graduate students' reflections on research (Clara Benazera, Elizabeth Houde, Marie-Hélène Bérard and Renée Ménard), a discussion of voice and text in feminist anthropology (Judith Abwunza) and a reading of the discourses surrounding the Montreal Massacre (I.P. 'Trish' Wilson).

The vibrancy of the collection comes from its rich mixture of theoretical perspectives. Canadian and international research, anglophone and francophone feminist anthropology, and the "intergenerational" representation provided by the inclusion of the work of a number of graduate students. Although the papers differ in their degree of sophistication, the shared themes of feminism, work, politics and representation provide overall coherence. Introductory and concluding essays by the editors moreover provide a framework for diverse feminist anthropologies to coexist in an extremely productive way.

The book is eminently suitable for courses on feminist anthropology (it includes an introductory essay for each section, a set of discussion questions, and a useful bibliography of feminist anthropology). Several of the chapters would be ideal for additional courses in women's studies, sociology and qualitative methods. The fact that this collection has already warranted a second printing reveals the need for such a courageous and pioneering contribution.

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## Recent Explorations in the History of Canadian Working Women Women Socialists

*The Feminist Challenge to the Canadian Left, 1900-1918.* Janice Newton. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, 1995.; illustrations; viii+257 pages; ISBN 0-7735-1262-4.; \$17.95. *Earning Respect: The Lives of Working Women in Small-Town Ontario, 1920-1960.* Joan Sangster. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1995.; illustrations, appendices, tables; xi+333 pages; ISBN 0-8020-0518-7;. *Labour's Dilemma: The Gender Politics of Auto Workers in Canada, 1937-1979.* Pamela Sugiman. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1994.; illustrations; ix+294 pages; ISBN 0-8020-2895-0; \$19.95.

The sexual division of labour is well entrenched in the organization of industrial capitalist society. Much debate among historians and feminist scholars has centred on the origins and implications of the gender division of labour for women across class lines. Until recently women's historians focused their research on identifying and describing the ways in which work was divided between women and men. In so doing they contributed greatly to our understanding of sex segregation in the labour process, political movements and reproductive work. The expansion of research in the field of women's labour history in the United States and Canada, however, has laid the groundwork for historians to begin asking *why* the gender division of labour was so prevalent in certain industries at specific historical junctures. As we learn from Janice Newton, Pamela Sugiman, and Joan Sangster the division of labour is best understood as fluid. In that regard these authors address common themes. How have women made change in politics, in the labour movement, at work and at home despite the constraints they faced? How have they articulated their views of a more equitable society; and consequently, how did they help to shape the movements within which they were participants?

In *A Feminist Challenge* Newton stresses