

Editorial

With this issue, *Atlantis* enters its third decade of publication. As one of the few women's studies journals in North America with such a long history, it remains a crucially important site for the voices of feminist scholars--a place we need to protect in a time of shrinking resources. But no matter how distinguished its past, *Atlantis* needs a fresh approach for the coming years, one that connects its previous achievements to its possible future. Mount Saint Vincent University will continue its institutional support of the journal, an extension of the Mount's century-long commitment to the higher education of women. But it is our task as editors and contributors to ensure that *Atlantis* reaches as broad as possible a spectrum of those committed to feminist work--an increasingly diverse and demanding audience.

The increasing remoteness and apparent irrelevance of much contemporary feminist theory has exercised us as it has other women, for example, a group of prominent feminist theorists who admit in the most recent issue of *Signs* (21:4, Summer, 1996), that they no longer read feminist theory or the journals, like *Signs*, that publish it. Our issue, "Connecting Practices, Doing Theory", edited by a collective of women from the University of Victoria and the greater Victoria community, addresses this problem in various ways. The most important of these is the creation of linkages among groups of women whereby activists' work can inform theory and an expanded definition of what counts as

theory can help feminist scholars contribute more creatively to the political work of women outside and inside the academy. A major effort of this issue's editorial collective was to present the contribution of women who may not ordinarily have access to, or time for, publication. In this transformed model of feminist scholarship, several of the women in the collective were building on their work in hosting the "Praxis&Nexus" conference in January, 1996. This was a remarkable gathering of women from across the country and around the world, where passionate debate energized the 500 participants to seek new and more effective ways of building bridges, especially between community activists and feminist academy-based scholars.

This is a beginning, but the work will need to expand and change. The editors, from our opposite corners of the continent and aided by the managing skills of Cecily Barrie at the Mount Saint Vincent office, have taken on the challenge of organizing an *Atlantis* that functions as a useful and accessible instrument of feminist scholarship. We are joined in this task by a panel of women from different regions of the country, who bring to our collective task diverse experiences, knowledge, and backgrounds.

Editors and editorial panelists will work in alternating groups to organize collections of work on both general and special focus topics. We are planning three special issues in the future: one on the challenge to women from the neo-conservative

right; another on sexualities; a third on nationalisms. We also hope to include special features on Women's Studies in Canada. We look to our readers and potential contributors for direction and future partnerships because none of us now on the masthead will continue in these positions for more than a few years. It is our intention and that of our publisher that this work should pass to other women, other groups, so that *Atlantis* can be continually renewed with fresh outlooks, original kinds of collaboration, and renewed commitment to the work and lives of all women.

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