

pian novels underlines one of the recurring themes in the volume: that the domination of nature and the domination of women are closely intertwined. Feminist utopias thus paint a hopeful vision of the future founded on the liberating values of feminism and a respect for our organic ties with nature.

Machina Ex Dea certainly lives up to its promise to offer an interdisciplinary exploration of the relationship of women to technology. What ultimately emerges is a wholistic, feminist perspective brimming with fresh insights about women as producers, consumers, and victims of technology. Rothschild's conclusion wraps all the essays up into a neat thematic package. While emphasizing that there is no "party line" on either feminism or technology, she also stresses that all contributing authors are united in challenging and changing the male bias in technology studies. Rothschild then maps out future directions for feminist research in this area. Undoubtedly the immediate concerns about the impact of technology on women's work will receive the greatest attention. But Rothschild's call for more research on the subjective side of the problem—how women actually experience and feel about technology in their lives and work—seems especially central to any program of change. By ending with a research agenda Rothschild confirms the scholarly bent of the book, despite earlier remarks about seeking a broad readership. The book is highly appropriate for undergraduate or graduate courses in women's studies, especially women's history. Yet the wealth of information and ideas packed into these pages should be communicated to a wider audience. As Rothschild points out in her introduction, through a better understanding of technology from a feminist perspective, women can begin to control it. *Machina Ex Dea* represents a step in this direction.

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Dual Career Couples. Edited by Fran Pepitone-Rockwell. *Beverly-Hills, California: Sage Publications, 1980. Pp. 294.*

Based on the premise that as more women gain access to higher education they will thereby increase their chances for employment advances, this book views the dual-career couple as a new emerging family form. An increasing number of American wives are opting for committed "careers," as opposed to "jobs" to earn money. The dual-career couple implies equity between husband and wife, which is more in tune with the ideological and economic changes of the 1970's and 1980's than the "two-person career couple," with the wife-homemaker supporting her husband's career.

The book is divided into three major sections, with an introduction and an epilogue written by the editor. The first section deals with a review of earlier studies on dual-career families, social and political factors influencing the increase in two-career families, and socialization factors in the intellectual development of women. While the review of the literature is excruciatingly thorough, dealing with "three generations" of dual-career research, the article connecting the American civil rights movement with the women's movement is too brief and only touches on dual-career couples. The assumption that the civil rights and women's movements have increased women's desire to have careers was underdeveloped on the four short pages devoted to this topic. The chapter on the intellectual development of women should have been better edited to fit in with the theme of the book. As a reprint from another volume, it refers to earlier chapters of that book, which is confusing. There is no reason why it could not have been edited to be more relevant to dual-career couples and to make it sound like it belongs in the Pepitone-Rockwell collection.

In the second section, six articles discuss various aspects of marriage and family issues of

dual-career couples. Because some are written by psychologists and others by psychiatrists and sociologists, the level of writing and style is uneven. While a few chapters read like research reports, others sound like advice columns.

The third section on career issues consists of four chapters examining how dual-career couples co-ordinate their careers, how they are affected by equal opportunity laws, how husbands and wives differ in salaries and job performance, and problems related to looking for two jobs at the same time. As with section two, the articles vary in style and focus.

Despite the difficulties of creating a unified and uniform book of readings, several important themes permeate the various chapters. The most consistent one is that the expectation of equality in the dual-career couple is usually unfound. Most of the wives in the studies experienced a disproportionate amount of "role-strain" compared to their husbands. They did most of the housework and childcare, and often fell back on traditional roles when they had young children or in times of crisis. Guilt about "abandoning" the family to work for pay was prevalent among the wives, and sometimes led to overcompensation in doing more housework or providing more assistance to the husband's career. Priority was usually given to the husband's career, and moving with his job usually meant further disadvantages for the wife's career. With increasing time, even the wife with the doctorate and equal qualifications to her husband often fell behind her husband in terms of salary and promotion. Several authors suggested that unequal distribution of household labour was part of the cause, but the attitudes of wife and husband about job commitment and life priorities were also attributed to causing this inequality. Although institutional barriers to equality were mentioned in the book, the focus was on socio-psychological factors.

In addition to inequality of dual-career marriages, these couples also experienced a higher divorce rate than more traditional couples. Although this issue was not pursued in any detail, the implications were that the strain of two careers, the difficulties of finding two jobs in the same place, and the high rate of childlessness among dual-career couples (making it easier to divorce) are related to the high rates of divorce. Although the issues of commuting and temporary separations for work reasons were mentioned in the book, I was hoping to find some research material on this since it seems to be more prevalent now than in the past. The last article implied that commuting long distances was related to high divorce rates, but provided no research to back this up.

A third theme in this book was the fact that organizations and employers are reluctant to hire dual-career couples, despite laws prohibiting discrimination against a person because of sex or marital status. Although the article by Bryson and Bryson (Chapter 12) tells us that dual-career couples are more productive than single-career individuals, they often experience difficulty finding employment in the same place. Employers anticipate subjectivity, marital problems on the job, or losing two employees at the same time if they leave. Although anti-nepotism rules have been abolished because they tended to discriminate against wives, many organizations and employers have retained informal policies preventing the hiring of husbands and wives in the same organization. What this means is that husbands are generally hired, while the wife is marginally employed, forced to commute, or unemployed.

A fourth theme throughout the book is that despite the problems experienced by dual-career couples in finding employment and maintaining equality within their marriages, there is a growing commitment to this combination of work and marriage. The benefits for the dual-career couple and the employers are emphasized

by the subjects of the studies as well as the authors. Women who work for pay report greater self-esteem, more marital satisfaction, and greater feelings of well-being. Their husbands also report happier marriages and fewer psychiatric problems than husbands married to housewives (p. 15.). From the employer's point of view, dual-career couples (especially the husbands) are more productive on the job and experience more job stability. But what is not adequately answered is the reason for the continued bias against this set-up.

Because the book focuses on socio-psychological aspects of the dual-career couple, it does not give adequate attention to the economic, social and political context of the issue in explaining the continued lower status of wives despite career commitment, and the negative reactions of employers to dual-career couples. Changes in organizational policy tend to cost money and cause controversy. Changes in domestic labour patterns tend to cause more work for women, and work for which they receive few social rewards. Changes in the pay structures for women employees cost money, and will be fought against by managers and owners despite the inequity of the present system. The practice of institutions hiring "two for the price of one" continues, despite a social awareness of discrimination against women. For example, in the university setting, hiring the husband means that the wife can be relied on as a form of cheap labour to teach part-time. A more complete analysis of dual-career couples would contain more research on the social, political and economic context in which these couples live and work.

In the epilogue, Pepitone-Rockwell emphasized that "fluidity of priorities ... is the cornerstone of the dual-career relationship." In this emerging family form, it is essential that priorities change at different stages of the marriage or the career. We can no longer afford to blindly give priority to family or career throughout life, without being flexible to the changing situation.

But in focusing on psychological concerns, one gets the impression that these couples are living in a social vacuum. All they need is to manage their time properly and eliminate guilt, and the problems subside. However, there are economic, political and organizational factors beyond the control of these couples which influence their success or failure.

Although the articles are uneven in style and sophistication, the book makes a valuable contribution to the field of family studies and women's studies. Despite increasing commitment to career, women's search for equality is elusive. Traditional husbands, old-fashioned employers, more difficulty finding jobs than their husbands, lower salaries and promotion than their husbands, and ambivalence about career commitment still hold women back from employment equality with men. As the dual-career couple becomes more widespread in North America, organizations as well as individuals will have to change their assumptions and priorities to accommodate this new family form. Individual men and women can change some aspects of their own relationship and job commitment, but they have little influence over laws, institutional policies, or the attitudes of the community in this new form of family.

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Silenced. Makeda Silvera. *Toronto: Williams-Wallace Publishers Inc., 1983. Pp. 132.*

Makeda Silvera's recently published paperback about the plight of West Indian domestics working in Canada is not a pleasant story, but it is a difficult book to put down. She reports on the experiences of 10 domestic workers, largely in their own words, so simply and undramatically that one is moved by the fact poignancy of their situations. The women in her study are Black (one is from Guyana) and working class or