

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF ARTS

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT 1979

19/1980

1. (i) General

For the first time in 1979, its fourth year of existence, the Women's Studies Programme offered two full-year advanced level courses, instead of only one. Both were primarily concerned with the position of women in various societies, and both were trans-disciplinary. But each was quite distinct from the other because each drew upon a different range of the established disciplines, and each focussed upon a different range of scholarly issues. Lectures given by specialists from within and outside the university provided the disciplinary backbone in each course. Lectures and tutorials by the Programme's staff integrated the approaches and material drawn from the different disciplines.

The lecturer in charge of Women's Studies was appointed in March 1979. As in the previous three years, she continued to be attached to the History Department. She conducted the day-to-day administration of the Programme, taught in both courses, and continued to perform the expanding informal function of being a source of information for staff and students in courses other than Women's Studies, and for people outside the university. She has initiated the compilation of an index of material in print, for which the Faculty of Arts provides research assistance, to aid students' research, to assist her own construction of reading lists for the courses, and to act as a source of references for people outside the Programme seeking advice.

The Women's Studies Committee has continued to assist the lecturer in charge. Following circulation of a paper by the Dean of Arts on future developments in the Faculty, the Committee composed a reply recommending the allocation of a full-time tutor to the Programme, recognition in the Weighted Student Units allocated to the Programme of the post-graduate supervision carried out by the lecturer in charge, and the establishment of an honours course in Women's Studies. The Dean of Arts has undertaken to pass this reply on to the Development Committee in due course.

(ii) Courses

Women's Studies A drew mainly upon the disciplines of anthropology, biology, history and philosophy. It concentrated upon such issues as the biological basis of gender differentiation, the sexual division of labour, and the parallel dualisms in western thought of body and mind, female and male. Research groups in this course, during the second half of the year, conducted a wide-ranging examination of women and culture, and a detailed inquiry into the sexual division of labour in Canberra now.

Women's Studies B drew principally on the disciplines of history, political science, psychology and sociology, and focussed upon questions about the psychological basis of gender differentiation, socialisation, productive and reproductive work, and the political formations representing the position of women in various societies. There were five research groups in this course concerned with issues raised in consideration of socialisation and menarche, law, public policy, and planning.

Three of the research groups were co-ordinated by the lecturer in charge, two by the part-time tutor, one by a member of another department, and one by a group of lawyers from outside the university who taught a half-year of weekly two-hour classes without any remuneration because the Programme's part-time teaching funds were not sufficient to offer any.

#### (iii) Enrolments and Examination Results

At 24 April 1979 there were 33 enrolments in Women's Studies A, 29 in Women's Studies B - plus 1 student enrolled in a M.A.Qual. through the CCE, and 5 enrolments in Women's Studies which had not formally specified which course. There were 23 examination enrolments in Women's Studies A, 30 in Women's Studies B. The nine students who withdrew during the year did so either because their paid employment did not allow them sufficient time to carry out the work required by the course, or for personal reasons, most of them relating to the need to get paid employment, or their health.

Assessment was cumulative: marks were given for assignments set during the year and totalled at the end. All students had more than one examiner.

As in previous years, the students' commitment and industry were reflected in good results: more than half of the students gained credit or better.

#### (iv) Student Participation

There were two student representatives on the Women's Studies Committee, one elected from each course. Otherwise, the main forum for staff-student consultation was informal, occurring in lectures, tutorials and individual discussion.

#### (v) Work of Graduate Students

One Ph.D. scholar, Peter Howarth, supervised by the History Department, the Sociology Department and the lecturer in charge of Women's Studies, has almost completed his first year of work on feminist literary theory and contemporary French feminist writers. He is at present in Paris, on a French Government scholarship.

One M.A. Qualifying student, Beth Earley, enrolled through the Centre for Continuing Education, has completed the required portion of her work in Women's Studies satisfactorily.

#### (vi) Staff

Lecturer in charge      Dr Susan Magarey, B.A.(Adel.) Dip.Ed.(Adel.),  
M.A.(A.N.U.), Ph.D.(A.N.U.)

Part-time tutor      Ms Sara Dowse, B.A.(Syd.)

The following staff members of A.N.U. gave teaching assistance to the Women's Studies Programme in 1979:

Dr D. Darroch	Sociology, R.S.S.S.
Ms D. Gollan	History, S.G.S.
Dr J. Holman	Psychology, S.G.S.
Dr G. Lloyd	Philosophy, S.G.S.
Mr K. Lycos	Philosophy, S.G.S.
Dr H. Ware	Demography, R.S.S.S.

The following post-graduate students at A.N.U. gave teaching assistance to the Women's Studies Programme in 1979:

Ms D. Bell	Prehistory and Anthropology, S.G.S.
Ms K. Robinson	Anthropology, R.S.S.S.

The following people from outside A.N.U. gave a lecture in the Women's Studies Programme during 1979:

Sister L. Barclay	Woden Valley Hospital
Dr V. Brown	Department of Health Education, Canberra C.A.E.
Dr M. Edwards	School of Administrative Studies, Canberra C.A.E.
Ms R. Faggetter	Vice-master, Ormond College, Melbourne University
Ms L. Honcope	Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office, Canberra
Ms V. Hornel	Office of Women's Affairs, Canberra
Ms D. Manson	Manager, Black and Blue Inc., Pty, Ltd, Sydney
Ms M. Power	Department of Economics, Sydney University
Mr B. Prior	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Ms J. Ryan	Master teacher, School Without Walls, Canberra
Dr J. Scutt	Institute of Criminology, Canberra
Sister Y. Stephenson	Royal Canberra Hospital
Dr A. Summers	Political correspondent, <u>Financial Review</u>
Ms M. Thornton	Barrister, Sydney
Dr M. Tomkinson	Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra.

The lecturer in charge was invited to spend a week in Perth in March 1979, to give lectures in courses offered by the History Department, University of Western Australia; the School of Social Inquiry, Murdoch University; the History Department, Western Australian Institute of Technology; and a post-graduate seminar in the History Department, U.W.A., and in the School of Social Inquiry, Murdoch University.

Dr Magarey was invited to Perth again in May 1979, to give a lecture entitled "What Future Has The Family?" to the 'Prospect 2000 Conference' organised by the Western Australian Division of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. At the same time, she was invited to be the respondent on a phone-in programme on the ABC in Perth.

In July 1979, Dr Magarey gave a short paper on 'Historical Perspectives on the Family' to the national conference entitled 'Living Together: Family Patterns and Lifestyles', organised by the Centre for Continuing Education at ANU.

The part-time tutor was invited to address the Graduation Ceremony at the Newcastle College of Advanced Education in May 1979; to present the section on 'The Public Service' in a course on Policy Making at the Canberra College of Advanced Education in June; and in July, to participate in a meeting about the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relations sponsored by the Human Resource Centre, Department of Social Work, La Trobe University and the Victorian Psychological Society.

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ANALYSIS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

1 <u>Subject or Unit</u>	Percentage of Number Enrolled								Percentage of Number Sitting													
	2 <u>Enrolled as at 30.4.79</u>		3 <u>Sitting</u>		4 <u>Wastage</u>		5 <u>Failure</u>		6 <u>Sitting</u>		7 <u>High Dist- inction</u>		8 <u>Dist- inction</u>		9 <u>Credit</u>		10 <u>Pass with Merit</u>		11 <u>Pass</u>		12 <u>Fail</u>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Women's Studies A	33	(100)	23	(70)	10	(30)	0	(0)	23	(100)	0	(0)	4	(17)	6	(26)	-	(-)	12	(52)	1	(4)
Women's Studies B	30	(100)	30	(100)	0	(0)	0	(0)	30	(100)	1	(3)	13	(43)	5	(17)	-	(-)	8	(27)	1	(3)