

RWS Joins the International Network of Women's Studies Journal

The Review of Women's Studies is a founding member of the International Network of Women's Studies Journal (INWSJ).

INWSJ was organized during the International Workshop of Editors. "Writing Women In: Developing Research Knowledge Tools for the New Millennium" convened at the Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada on September 6-12, 2001. The moving spirit behind INWSJ is Dr. Marilyn Porter, a professor of sociology at Memorial University in Newfoundland, Canada, and the editor of ATLANTIS. She acts as the coordinator of the network. Helping her are Claire Moses, Caroline Andrew, Tahera Aftab, Lilian Abracinskas, Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng and Chang Pilwa.

During the workshop the following were agreed upon by the participants:

1. Feminist principles will guide the network's operation. This means respect for all kinds of feminist knowledge (grassroots, creative, academic and policy oriented); a commitment to equality, mutual support, and the struggle for a fair, non-racist and just world;

2. The incorporation of sensitivity to issues of language in network practices. A space must be created for women whose voices are silenced because of the dominance of English on one hand, and on the other, the rendering of their respective languages as unofficially the functioning of national official languages which renders them voiceless in formal discourse, hence unable to speak for themselves but merely spoken for.

3. Consideration must be made to have a balance between the North and the South in terms of membership. Future members will be scrutinized by the founding members. No one country should be overly represented.

Ways of collaboration among members were explored. These could be 2-way exchanges of published materials, skills (computer technology, editing, refereeing, book reviewing), personnel (guest editor, book reviewer, translator, referees). Or collective work such as the production of the network's journal that will be electronically published; the publication of anthologies and primers; translation of feminist writings from dominated languages into English and vice-versa.

INWSJ has five work groups, namely:

1. The IT Group that will explore possibilities of the publication of the journal of the network expected to be available on-line by 2002;
2. The Fund raising Group that will amass the necessary funds for fleshing out the bones of plans;
3. The Language and Translation Group whose initial project is the holding of a conference on the politics of language as well as the production of an anthology on "Sexual-Textual Politics";
4. The Anthology Group that will work on the publication of anthologies on specific topics. The first volume is on "Women, Power and Democracy";
5. The Core Coordination Group that will work on long-term as well as short-term plans of the network.

INWSJ will meet again on July 18-20, 2002 at Kampala, Uganda where the 8th Interdisciplinary Congress of Women's Studies will be held.



Photo: Corine Van Hellemont

Founding members of the *International Network of Women's Studies Journal*



“Before it was taboo to talk about these things, except in hushed, embarrassed whispers, so to speak. There were times when the surge of blood signified disaster, ‘incompleteness,’ filth. The laundry line is a metaphor for display and cleansing: the title, an allusion to festivities, celebration, sharing. Maybe this has less to do with discarded blood cells and stained pads than with acceptance, with loving ourselves back. Attaining self-respect is a pipe dream if we ourselves are uncomfortable with our own bodies.”

Lisa Cariño Ito
BANDERITAS
Mixed Media
2000
12 in. X 192 in.



“She is in the state where she has empowered herself and has won back her self-esteem. She is able to move freely without being afraid of what others will say or think. She is able to break free from limitations set in the real world. She feels confident about herself even though she doesn’t have the ideal body that women are pressured to possess. I wanted to represent women in a perfect state of mind. It might be something uncommon in reality, but hopefully, women will become more self-motivated, courageous and confident.”

Marianne Orellana
BREAKING THE LIMITS
Oil on canvas
2000
22 in. X 28 in.