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The July ASAA conference provided another excellent opportunity for women working in Asian studies to strengthen networks and make new contacts. It was wonderful to see such a large and enthusiastic group at the Women's Caucus General Meeting. It's important that we are able to get together as a group in between "Women in Asia Conferences". For those who weren't there the minutes are published at the end of this issue. Important new developments regarding the "Women in Asia" series published by Allen & Unwin are in the wind.

There were a large number of papers on women in Asia as well as a number on masculinity at this anniversary conference. The high quality and large number of papers in this area shows the strength of women researchers in

the Australian Asian Studies arena. A limited number of copies of the Conference Handbook are available (\$30.00) from Professor Robin Jeffrey, Politics, La Trobe, Bundoora, VIC 3083. Make cheques payable to "ASAA Conference."

We would like to welcome Alison Tokita to the position of VIC state contact. She replaces Barbara Hatley who has served in this role for the past several years. Many, many thanks, Barbara.

Louise Edwards (ACU-Qld)
Anne Cullen (Griffith)

NEXT ISSUE

**COPY DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 2
1996**

WOMEN'S CAUCUS EMAIL NETWORK

If you have email facilities and want to be on the list please send a message to Louise Edwards at ACU or Mina Rocas at UCQ.

L.Edwards@mcauley.acu.edu.au

or

m.roces@janus.ucq.edu.au

¶ The ASAA Women's Caucus would like to thank Australian Catholic University and Griffith University [FAIS] for their support in the publication of this bulletin. We would also like to thank Lyndsay Farrelli of ACU's Visual Arts Program for designing the logo for *Women in Asia*

I spent years reading anthropologists auto-critique of the discipline's conventions before I went to do ethnographic research on contract and temporary workers in China in 1992. Hence, I was duly self-conscious about my role as a privileged, powerful intruder who would (if I could) select field research methods, research sites, and subject informants. I was aware that I would have to work very hard to break down perceptions of myself as the alien representative of a totalised "western" culture, but hoped that if I succeeded, it would be possible to engage in a collaborative dialogue with workers. I was committed to the idea of producing an appropriately apologetic text which would acknowledge that it was no more than a reframing of my personal reading of the public performance of various subject-positions, dialogues in which the actors themselves were struggling to establish an intersubjective understanding, and strategically delivered private confidences.

A previous attempt at anthropological research in China had also prepared me to meet with more practical obstacles. I anticipated meeting vigilant gate-keepers in the form of public-security officials. I knew I would be forced to listen to aging party secretaries and union officials' speeches on the prevailing political-economic orthodoxy. As a female graduate student, I couldn't expect to be taken particularly seriously by males well-placed in institutional and enterprise hierarchies.

What I hadn't anticipated was that the cultural polarities and power relation between ethnographer and ethnographic subjects that I wanted to breach would be reconstructed elsewhere, between I and local self-appointed curators and translators of everything "China" on the one hand, and workers on the other. And the active agency in this "we/they" reconstruction was not dominant western ethnographer, but rather, local modernist.

Take, for example, my neighbours, an old electrician and his two daughters, a college teacher and a factory clerk: they were aghast when I told them I wanted to conduct long-term research amongst piece workers in a local electronics firm. "Those people! Many of them come from the countryside. They aren't educated, they have very poor attitudes, they're really backward. They wouldn't know how to answer your questions correctly. We will introduce you to some people we know who will be able to tell you about workers..."

When Talal Asad (1986) wrote that the majority of ethnographies are written in the "strong language" of controlling interlocutors, were my neighbours really the sorts of people he had in mind? From

GUEST COLUMNIST

THE POLITICS OF TALKING ABOUT, TALKING FOR, TALKING WITH, CHINESE WORKERS

SALLY SARGESON

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

whence does the strength of their language derive, and what motivated their intervention between the ethnographer and the worker-subjects? My neighbours believed that it was not only legitimate, but in fact necessary, that they, the worldly, urban, and literate, assumed the authority to speak about, and on behalf of, those who were less

sophisticated, of rural origin, and hence, possibly illiterate. They had a duty to represent "primitive" workers in a proper, progressive light. Cultural historians might trace the source of this speaking authority back to the functional importance of literacy in allocating scholars to positions within the Imperial bureaucracy, and the moral-political superiority of scholar-bureaucrats in Imperial society. Others might point out that it is a commonplace that urbanites everywhere deploy specific forms of knowledge and cultural expertise which helps assert their predominance over rustics.

But in addition to the sense of superiority which they undoubtedly derived from their literacy and urban sophistication, I was intrigued by the extent to which my neighbours' authoritative stance seemed to be founded upon their identity as the "chosen people" of the contemporary state. For invariably, the most enthusiastic cultural curators I encountered were themselves the direct beneficiaries of modernist projects of the state. As its beneficiaries, they also became its propagandists. They tended to be those who had lifelong employment in state enterprises, institutions, media organs, and mass organisations. They were involved in expanding the sphere of those organisations, and training their workforces in the modern arts of rational administration, such as state-of-the-art accounting methods, or Japanese style production line management. They were those whose lives fitted most neatly into state statistical bureau categories, and in conversation they referred to those same categories as definitive and meaningful—even though they occluded most of the workers they were supposed to be telling me about. Their speech utilised a modernising vocabulary usually employed only by government spokespeople. It was a vocabulary which, in positing a subject-group to be managed, is integral to rule: "We should raise workers' understanding of contractual law", "They are all thieves, those immigrant workers. We have to improve public order".

As native beneficiary-participants of the modernising state their public brief required that they attempt to ensure a favourable representation of "the Chinese worker". If they could not restrict the foreign researchers' interaction with workers who

might not conform to their ideal representation, they could at least provide exegesis and objectively logically account for the relative backwardness of these people on the social-evolutionary scale. Their conversations evoked a China which, like their imagined west, was homogenous, ordered, and quintessentially modern. But it was a China in which there were problems with certain "premodern" elements: people who were still irrational, superstitious, devious, dirty, did not control their fertility. The tropes of opposition and hierarchy which characterised Orientalist analyses had re-emerged in a modernist discourse within the Orient. And like Orientalism, this modernist discourse is part of a technology of oppression. My experiences in the politics of trying to speak with Chinese workers led me to consider (but not answer) some difficult questions: Aren't anthropologists who continue to focus upon the west/rest distinction as the main site of difference and domination in the world actually contributing to the maintenance of essentialist cultural stereotypes? In privileging the "collective representations" of cultural curators and translators, aren't we often helping to sustain micro-regimes of domination and exploitation in our research sites? But if we reject the interpretations offered by these curators, are we committing the same old sin of pretending to an exterior, and therefore objective and superior, perspective? In short, shouldn't there be a bit more political acuity to anthropologists' navel-gazing?

NEW JOURNAL

PROVINCIAL CHINA: RESEARCH, NEWS, ANALYSIS

Editorial Committee:

Peter T Y Cheung, University of Hong Kong
Jae Ho Chung, Seoul National University
David S G Goodman, University of Technology, Sydney

Provincial China will carry sections on statistics, theoretical perspectives and discussion, news of projects in progress and professional activities, conferences, and workshops, information about sources, documents and materials and generally ideas and information about provinces. Research articles and notes for publication should be submitted in electronic form (either email or on disc) as well as in hard copy. All submitted material will be sent to outside reviewers for comment.

Provincial China will continue to be published twice a year. material for publication in the October 1996 issue should be at UTS by 1 September.

For subscription information and contributions
Contact:
Institute for International Studies
UTS PO Box 123
Broadway, Sydney 2007
NSW.
email : p.china@uts.edu.au

Women in Asia (July, 1996)

RESEARCH PROFILE

—Kalpana Ram—

Macquarie University

Kalpana has recently moved to Macquarie from ANU to take up a five year ARC Fellowship. Her research during this time will focus on women in India with two main projects being:

- (i) The construction of the female reproductive body in the interface between religion, medicine and science in South India—Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) Middle class women's involvement in the constitution of nationalism and gender through classical dance.

She can be contacted on
FAX: (02) 850-9391
EMAIL: KRAM@bunyip.bhs.mq.edu.au

[Brisbane readers will be pleased to note that Kalpana will be guest speaker at Griffith some time towards the end of the year—ed]

ALiTrA

AUSTRALIAN LITERARY TRANSLATORS' ASSOCIATION

ALiTrA is an organisation dedicated to the promotion and development of literary translation in Australia. It publishes a regular newsletter which features information on grants, translation support schemes as well as articles and literary translations by Australian translators.

Members include translators from a wide range of languages. Currently the Asian language translators within ALiTrA include those working in Chinese, Indonesian, Tamil, Bengali and Japanese.

Membership of this professional body is \$25.00 per year and can be sent to Simon Patton (address below).

Contributions of translations, news or articles for the newsletter are welcomed and can be sent to:
Simon Patten

ALiTrA
182 Annandale Street
Annandale NSW 2038
FAX (02) 660 5580
For general information about ALiTrA activities contact:
Simon Patton (02) 660 5580
Judy Armstrong (03) 387 6885

When I began my doctoral research I was interested in women's lives and gender relations among the Sasaks of rural East Lombok. During a preliminary fieldtrip I discovered that this district of the province of Nusa Tenggara Barat had the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the province, and one of the highest in Indonesia. This led me to focus my village level research around the subject of maternal and infant health, including the government's medical interventions designed to reduce mortality. In researching and writing about this subject I have tried to offer a multi-level analysis of the 'problem' of maternal and infant mortality in rural East Lombok, using secondary sources in addition to carrying out ethnographic research in one village of that district.

My objective has been to reveal the ways in which the dominant health development discourses construct the 'problems', and represents Sasak people, particularly 'uneducated' Sasak women. At the local level my research focused on the interface between Sasak women and those delivering preventative and curative services. This included both 'traditional' and 'modern' practitioners, the latter delivering medical interventions designed by health planners in Jakarta, to reduce fertility, and maternal and infant mortality rates (i.e. contraceptives, preventative and curative health services). I argue that at the national, provincial and local level, social, economic, political and cultural factors effect the delivery of medical interventions, and people's responses to them. My analysis of health development in rural East Lombok is political in four ways. First, I take a political economy perspective, delineating important structural features at the national, provincial and local levels which largely determine the distribution of resources, creating the material conditions for the poor health status of a large section of population of East Lombok. Second, I discuss the politics of knowledge, describing the ways in which development discourse constructs poverty, population control and health as technical problems, thereby depoliticizing them. Third, I argue that the national and provincial health development discourse are political in their representation of Sasak people, who are portrayed as backward, ignorant and passive, and therefore in need of government intervention. Fourth, I offer an alternative representation of specific aspects of Sasak culture, most particularly local understandings about, and responses to illness, healing and infant mortality, and the place of women in Sasak society. In doing so, I open a space for the expression of subordinate

POSTGRADUATE PROFILE
HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
IN RURAL
EAST LOMBOK
JOCELYN GRACE

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

discourses which have been either ignored, or distorted through ethnocentric, androcentric and class bias, creating the justification for discursive practices which act to homogenize the cultural landscape of Indonesia.

In the last part of the thesis, I offer a practical analysis of health

development, critically examining Indonesia's health development policies and their implementation in rural East Lombok. I draw attention to factors which undermine the efficacy of the family planning and primary health care programmes in achieving their explicit goals of improving the health of women and infants. These include the lack of adequate training of the local 'modern' practitioners who deliver the majority of curative services, and the physical and economic difficulty, for many of the poorer villagers, of accessing these services. While lack of education is also an important factor in limiting the utilization of the government's preventative and curative services, it is important to understand how this factor operates. I argue that lack of formal education is important because of the resulting social and cultural distance between those delivering and receiving health services.

Despite the rhetoric of 'community participation' in the Indonesian family planning and primary health care programmes, in fact, both are planned and implemented in a 'top-down' fashion. Terms such as 'external motivation' are euphemisms for a fundamentally authoritarian, social engineering approach to health development. 'Community participation' has been redefined in the national discourse to mean compliance with central government directives. I believe that the low level of formal education among the Sasaks of rural East Lombok, has acted as a 'buffer zone', reducing the effectiveness of the structures of governance which extend from Jakarta into every village. It is through primary education that the language and rhetoric of the nation state are acquired, creating a receptivity to the government's developmentalist discourse, and the moral, social and cultural norms which it encompasses. This 'buffer zone', however, also reduces the willingness and ability of 'educated' health department staff to inform 'uneducated' people about the nature and benefits of the biomedical interventions available to them.

In both the family planning and the primary health care programme, the government's approach has emphasized 'motivation' rather than information. I argue that this approach is less than effective because

people do not necessarily believe that what they are told to do by the government, or a local representative of it, is to their benefit. The little health education which is delivered through Health Posts in rural East Lombok, is not designed to inform, but to direct women. Even voluntary health workers have very little understanding of what preventative intervention are for, let alone how they work. The lack of effectiveness of these programmes to bring about a rapid reduction in maternal and infant mortality is attributed, by provincial level health officials, to the ignorance and lack of education of the Sasak population. I argue, however, that the poor quality and inaccessibility of services at the local level, due to lack of funding, commitment and poor management, have as much to do with it as the cultural and social gap between those designing and implementing these programmes, and those being 'targeted' by them.

GENDER STUDIES: NEWS AND VIEWS

A Bilingual English-Chinese Bulletin Published by
the Gender Research Programme of Chinese
University of Hong Kong
Editorial Board: Eleanor Holroyd, Eva Hung, Susan
Ma, Marie Wong, Yip Hon Ming

Gender Studies: News and Views welcomes any essays,
reports, reviews as well as information on gender issues in
English and Chinese. Please send your contributions,
preferably in a form on files on diskette together
with a hard copy to:

Gender Research Program
Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies
CUHK, Shatin, N.T. Hong Kong

FEMINIST COLLECTIONS

This quarterly newsletter is published by the University of
Wisconsin's Women's Studies Librarian. This substantial
publication features reviews of new periodicals, notices of
interest, bibliographies as well as articles, book reviews and
editorials.

Feminist Collections can be obtained from
Phyllis Holman Weisbard,
UW System Women's Studies Librarian
430 Memorial Library
728 State Street, Madison
Wisconsin 53706 USA
Tel: (608) 263-5754
Email: wiswsl@maccc.wisc.edu

Subscriptions US \$7.50 individuals
Plus \$5.00 surface mail or \$15.00 airmail.

THE AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES NETWORK

- The network offers a forum for discussion and debate of development issues
- It provides members with up-to-date information and notices of forthcoming events
- It helps members to inform each other about their work
- It gives extensive, often annotated, listings of written and other information and education resources
- Membership is open to anyone interested. Members come from fields as diverse as health, economics, agriculture, administration and human rights.

If you wish to join this growing group of development workers, professionals, academics, educators, administrators and policy makers, please contact:

Australian Development Studies Network
ANU
Canberra ACT 0200
Australia
Tel: (06) 249 2466
Fax: (06) 257 2886
Email: devnetwork@ncds.anu.edu.au

Subscriptions Annual:
\$25.00 Ordinary
\$15.00 Students
\$50.00 Institutions/Libraries

This fee entitles you to membership which includes subscription to *Development Bulletin* and *Briefing Papers*.

Volume 36 (January, 1996) of *Development Bulletin* was a special issue on "Gender and Development" and includes articles, book reviews, conference information, recent publications and much more. The *Bulletin* appears four times a year and invites contributions (short articles—usually 2,000-5,000) words, reports and announcements.

Under the New Order regime in Indonesia, a certain ideology about the nature of Indonesian womanhood has prevailed. The ideal woman is the good wife and mother, a practitioner of family planning and a member of the state sponsored

women's organisations, like the PKK, the Prosperous Family Guidance Movement, in which her efforts can be mobilised for national development, or, if her husband is a civil servant or soldier, one of the so-called wives' organisations, supporting her husband's work. Much of what is taught and written about Indonesian women has tended to reinforce this ideology.

In an attempt to present a more varied picture of the experience and views of Indonesian women, this year Barbara Hatley and I have begun a project, supported by a large Australian Research Council grant, to focus on some major controversies concerning Indonesian women. We have selected a number of themes which have been used by different groups in Indonesian society to define the nature of women in that country.

The themes chosen are the following: education of girls, prostitution and concubinage, child marriage, citizenship, women's role in revolution, polygamy, motherhood, work, and body etiquette. At different times in the twentieth century the state, political parties, women's organisations, religious groups and others have engaged in heated exchange of views on these subjects. Our interest is in how these views address questions like: what is the nature of Indonesian women, what do they want, who has the right to answer such questions and with what consequences?

In our work, we hope to uncover the diversity of ideas and representations about Indonesian women in the twentieth century. My task will be to concentrate mainly on the political angle, highlighting debates about

RESEARCH REPORT

CONSTITUTING INDONESIAN WOMANHOOD IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

SUE BLACKBURN

MONASH UNIVERSITY

policy, while Barbara Hatley will explore the different ways in which these themes are presented in literature, the media and the arts. Naturally we are particularly interested in the self-representations of women themselves,

since they have been neglected in Indonesian history. We are assisted by some of our Ph.D. students who are working on topics concerning Indonesian women. The grant is for three years, by the end of which we hope to be able to write a book.

Of course we are keen to hear of the work of any others in this area. Our scope is rather wide (too wide?) and will undoubtedly overlap with the topics of a number of researchers. We welcome an exchange of ideas, particularly those which help us to gain some feel for the range of regional, religious and ethnic differences among Indonesian women. Please contact me at the Politics Department, Monash University, Clayton, Vic. 3168, email sblackburn@arts.cc.monash.edu.au My colleague Barbara Hatley is in the Department of Asian Languages and Studies.

WORKSHOP ON SE ASIAN WOMEN

The third annual workshop on Southeast Asian women organised by the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash University, will be held on Friday 4 October at Monash University, Clayton campus. The Workshop will have parallel sessions on different themes relating to women in Southeast Asia, including politics, history, health, development, literature, anthropology. It will run from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Offers of papers (including a brief abstract) on any subject related to Southeast Asian women should be sent to Dr Susan Blackburn, Politics Department, Monash University, Clayton 3168
tel. (03) 9905 2384
fax (03) 9905 2410 by 10 September.

Monash University
Centre of Southeast Asian Studies

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT THE DEPARTMENT
OF SINOLOGY
FREE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN
GERMANY
ANNETTE WIEDENBACH

This profile is intended to introduce the main subjects of research and the main achievements in the field of women's studies with a China focus at the Department of Sinology at the Free University Berlin (FU). The institute can be considered the only department in Germany where research on gender and women in China are the main topic of research and teaching. Research is conducted on the situation of Chinese women in the broader context of social history as well as on the development of a theoretical approach to "gender studies" in China itself. Here the institute works in close cooperation with the Center for Women's Studies at Beijing University with which it frequently exchanges information and research results. In addition, there are exchanges with other academics at different universities, e.g. Li Xiaojiang at Zhengzhou University in Henan. As can be seen, the academics at the department, namely Prof. Mechthild Leutner and Nicola Spakowski, strive to establish a dialogue with Chinese women academics with different research topics to avoid a eurocentric approach to studies on women in China.

These efforts have had several results. In 1991, for example, several scholars of the department organised a "Conference on Women" (Frauentagung 1991) which was the first conference on women with participants from both West and former East Germany as well as Chinese academics. It was the first stocktaking of women's studies concerning China. The results and papers were then edited and published as *Frauenstudien* (Cheng et al, 1992). Furthermore the conference produced the *Newsletter Frauen und China* (Newsletter on Women and China) edited and published semi-annually by academics at the departments of Sinology at the Humboldt University, Berlin and the FU. It is the only forum for studies on women with a China focus in the German speaking area. However, the range of subjects and topics of research has gradually broadened and the "Newsletter" also carries articles and abstracts on masters and PhD theses written in German speaking countries as well as book reviews, conference reports and miscellaneous information. Frequently, Chinese scholars publish their research results.

Another project on women's studies, only recently finished, focussed on Chinese feminism since the mid 1980s in the PRC and 1970s on Taiwan. The resulting book includes introductory texts by Prof. Leutner, N. Spakowski, Heile Frick and others as well as exemplary Chinese articles in translation or paraphrase. The third section is an annotated bibliography about women's studies in China (Frick et al 1995). Gender studies are also conducted within a broad realm of socio-historical research. Thus, the current research project on "Childhood in China in the Twentieth Century goes beyond the investigation of the situation of adult women in China.

As a consequence, all these projects find entry into teaching subjects. Thus, a teacher offers courses with subjects like recent feminist theories in the PRC and Taiwan from the 1980s or the problems of women in the process of transformation in China. Courses like these occasionally inspire students to write their final theses on these subjects, which are in some cases published. (See for example Sausmikat, 1996; Diedrich, 1995).

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Diedrich, Therese (1995), *Frauen in Politik und Wirtschaft Taiwans: Karriere versus Tradition?* (Women in Taiwan's Politics and Economy: Career versus Tradition?) Muenchen.

Frick, Heike, Mechthild Leutner, Nicola Spakowski (eds) (1995), *Frauenforschung in China: Analysen, Texte, Bibliographie* (Research on Women in China: Analysis, Texts, Bibliography) Muenchen.

Sausmikat, Nora (1996), *Nichtstaatliche Frauenforschung in der VR China: Eine Diskussion der Frauenwissenschaft Li Xiaojiangs* (Non-governmental women's studies in the PRC: A Discussion of Li Xiaojia's Approach to Women's Studies) Muenchen.

For more information on the programme contact:
Prof. Mechthild Leutner
Freie Universität Berlin
FB Philosophie und Sozialwissenschaften 11
Podbielskiallee 42
14195 Berlin

Frauenforschung in China: Analysen, Texte, Bibliographien.

1995 312 pages ISBN 3-597-10648-X
(Berliner China—Studien, Band 28)

Copies available from:
Minerva Publikation, im K.G. Saur Verlag GmbH & Co. KG
Ortlerstrasse 9, D-81373, Munich
Price: DM 56

The Harvard Project of Asian and International relations (HPAIR) Conference on *The Challenges of Globalisation: Creating Common Ground in the 21st Century*, was held in Seoul from 30 May-2 June 1996, in conjunction with the Seoul National University.

This HPAIR conference marked the fifth international gathering of university students from around the globe to realise the HPAIR vision: to promote greater cross-cultural understanding; and encourage lasting friendships among people Harvard University has identified as the future leaders of the world. The theme of this conference was centred on the Challenges of Globalisation, and was intended to explore the concept of "globalisation" as it has dominated both socio-economic and political discourses in academia in recent years.

Indeed "globalisation" was the key theme of the many interesting and impressive addresses presented during the four days. Of particular note was the address by the President of South Korea, Kim Young Sam delivered to the HPAIR delegates in the Green Garden of the Blue House on Thursday May 30, 1996. Other speakers of note were Cho Soon, the first elected mayor of Seoul who delivered the Welcoming Address in conjunction with Choi Song Hwa, Vice President of Seoul National University. The initial Keynote Speech was delivered by Carter J. Eckert, Professor of Korean History from Harvard University, who provided delegates unfamiliar with South Korea an enlightening history lesson from which they were able to contextualise the rush of information we were about to receive over the next few days on South Korea, and her vigorous political and economic pursuit of *Segehwa*—globalisation policies. Other panel speakers were drawn from Korean and Western academic, business and government sectors. The Conference was finalised by another Keynote address delivered by Roderick MacFarquhar, the Leroy B. Williams Professor of History and Political Science at Harvard University which posed some questions for the process of *globalisation* in the coming century.

The conference was primarily designed for undergraduate participation, and as such was held within a rigid framework of discussion, workshop and tutorial sessions. Attendance was mandatory, as

HPAIR CONFERENCE
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
KOREA
BY ANNE CULLEN
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

delegates discussed four main pre-determined issues of Globalisation: Free Trade Areas, International Law, Multi-national Organisations and redefining Cultural Identity. The *Challenge of Globalisation* was realised by the HPAIR delegates as they sought to reach common ground on protocols to be ratified by the HPAIR delegates regarding these four key

discussion areas of the conference. The political, economic and social differences between conference delegates as representatives of their own national priorities were stark reminders of the greater complexities of globalisation as protocol amendments (often reflecting western economic and political priorities), were argued and "resolved" on the final day of the conference.

But to me at least, something was missing from this conference. Globalisation, to my mind, promotes the reshaping of all people's lives, the issues covered in this conference certainly pointed to this phenomenon. However, fundamental to the Globalisation process should be issues of equity: equity of the economies of nations from the North and South, East and West; equity for all the workers within these economies; equity for all citizens and nations within the notions of International Law; and even equity across the lines of gender. It was here that the commitment of this conference to the Globalisation process floundered for me. Not one of the 20 Welcoming, Keynote or Panel speakers were women. Young women did constitute a reasonably equitable proportion of the delegates—but were their specific curiosities about Globalisation being addressed? Only if their interests were in economics or high politics.

It has been suggested to me that I was a touch sensitive to this issue in the cultural context of the conference. This may be true. As the only woman there who was also a mother, I did feel a little like an endangered species. But this only served to heighten my awareness of the importance these types of conferences in setting the agendas of the future generations of men and women confronted with the future challenges of establishing the global village. Unfortunately, under the HPAIR model presented at this conference, *The Challenges of Globalisation* was *Creating Common masculine Ground* in the 21st Century.

Women's Caucus Meeting at the ASAA Conference

La Trobe University,
12 July 1996.

1. Newsletter.

As editor, Louise Edwards reported on the Newsletter. Over the last two years three issues per year have been produced. 250 copies are mailed out, and the subscription list has been culled to include only those who have paid, except for some extra copies sent for exchange purposes, e.g. to the Office of the Status of Women and to women's groups overseas. Louise invited suggestions of people who should be sent complimentary copies, and welcomed flyers to be inserted in the Newsletter. At present the Newsletter costs are covered by subscriptions. Louise reported that she had approached the ASAA for funds to help expand and improve the Newsletter and had been offered \$500.

State contacts for the Newsletter (these contacts provide news and distribute copies in their state):

ACT: Kathy Robinson, ANU

QLD: Helen Creese, Uni of Queensland

VIC: Alison Tokita, Japanese Studies, Monash

SA: Lesley Potter, Geography, Adelaide University

WA: Tamara Jacka, Murdoch

Tas: Nerida Cook, Uni of Tasmania, Launceston

NZ: Pauline Keating, Victoria Uni, Wellington

2. Next Women in Asia Conference

Jan Elliott (History, University of NSW) and a group in Sydney have volunteered to run the next conference, possibly at the end of 1997.

Those who had run the 1993 conference offered assistance.

3. Nominations for ASAA Council

A number of people indicated they were willing to run for the Council.

4. Women in Asia Publication Series

Susan Blackburn, convenor of the editorial committee of the WIAPS, explained that the series had published six titles since 1991 but because publication costs had exceeded income, ASAA had incurred a large debt for the series. The editorial committee is going to resign and would have to meet some of the debts themselves.

There was some discussion about whether such a series was still needed. Some people indicated they were prepared to be on a new editorial committee.

5. Other business.

There was discussion of other activities which might be undertaken by the Caucus. It was pointed out that ASAA had a web page, and that it was desirable for the Caucus' Newsletter to be included on that page.

A bulletin board might also be useful, and Helen Jarvis undertook to look into the technicalities of becoming more active electronically.

CHINA BOOKS

China Books stocks a wide range of materials relating to China. These are useful for research and teaching in language, literature, history, politics, philosophy, medicine and business. Materials in Chinese and English are available.

China Books publishes a quarterly newsletter with information on its latest publications. To be included on this list contact:

Ian Fox
China Books
2nd Floor
4 Tattersalls Lane
Melbourne 3000
PHONE/FAX (03) 9663 8821
Phone: (03) 9663 8428

Queensland Customers should note that China Books has a branch in Brisbane central.

3rd Floor, Bowman House
Cnr Adelaide and Edward Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone and Fax (07) 229 3227

CROSSING CULTURAL FRONTIERS:

THE COMMUNICATION INDUSTRIES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

JOINT CONFERENCE

THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY & UNI OF CANBERRA

AT: Hyatt Hotel, Canberra April 28-29, 1997

CONFERENCE THEME:

Impact of the new communications industries and technological changes on regional cultures

The conference aims to—

identify business opportunities and business operating environments in the Asia-Pacific Region

identify the cultural environment in which communications investments operate

examine how to minimise the negative impact and maximise the benefits of these emerging technologies

Speakers and participants will come from:

Australia, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, China and the Philippines.

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