Women in the Public Sphere: French and American Perspectives

In the past 5-10 years, while feminists in France were focusing advocating for la parité, many upper-middle class American women were reflecting on the fact that they had left their career to become full-time stay-at-home mothers. What does this tell us about feminism and the situation of women in both countries? Does it mean that French women, having gained all they wanted and needed on the social front, only had equal political representation to gain? And that American women either have a completely different view of motherhood, or that they get so little help from the government and society, that they are left with no other option? Beyond these stereotypical questions, this conference will explore why le modèle social français is envied by some American feminists, and what this American feminism, whether social or political, liberal or conservative, has to offer to the French one.

Béatrice Mousli-Bennett and Eve-Alice Roustang-Stoller

This conference is organized with the support of the D'Alembert Fund and the cultural services of the French Consulate in Los Angeles and co-sponsored at USC by the department of French and Italian, ITS, the Faculty Women’s Club and the Women Student Association.

English is the working language. Translation of papers given in French will be available for the audience.

March 24 – April 21 2006

Intellectual Commons, Doheny Memorial Library 2nd Floor

March 24

Opening, 11 am-1 pm:

Holly Mitchell, Commissioner on the State Commision on the Status of Women.

Emmanuelle Latour, Secretary General of the Observatoire de la parité entre les femmes et les hommes

Women and Democracy, 2:30-4 pm:

Christine Fauré, "La Parité contre l’Histoire" [Parity Against History].

C. Fauré is a sociologist, a Director of Research at the CNRS, and a member of the Observatoire de la parité.

March 28

Work and Family, 1-3 pm:

A panel chaired by John Gaspari, Director of the USC Center for Staff/Faculty Counseling & Consultation.

**Michâlle Mor Barak**, "Global Workforce Diversity: Implications for Work-Family Integration." M. Mor Barak holds at USC the Lenore Stein-Wood and William S. Wood professorship of Social Work and Business in a Global Society and is the Chair of the Social Work in the Workplace concentration.

**Lynne Casper**, "The Stalled Revolution: Gender and Time Allocation in the U.S." L. Casper is professor in the sociology departement at USC.

**April 7**

**Parity and Political Institutions, 2-4 pm:**

A panel chaired by Danielle Mihram, Director of the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching.

**Geneviève Fraisse**, "La Controverse des sexes" [Sexes Controversy]. G. Fraisse is a philosopher, a historian and a Director of Research at the CNRS.

**Amy Mazur**, "The Promises and Pitfalls of Parity: A Political Science Approach". A. Mazur is an associate professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Washington State University and the co-convener of the Research Network on Gender Politics and the State.

**April 21**

**Family Law, 11 am – 1 pm:**

A panel chaired by Vanessa Schwartz, Associate professor of History, USC College.

**Marcela Iacub**, "Histoire du ventre maternel en France 19-20ème siècles" [A History of the Womb in 19th-20th-century France]. M. Iacub is a jurist at the CNRS.

**Christine Littleton**, "Sexual Harassment: Crime, Discrimination or Just Bad Business?" C. Littleton is a professor at the UCLA School of Law.

**Post-Sexuality and Feminism, 2:30 – 4:30 pm:**

A panel chaired by Alice Echols, Associate professor of English, USC College.


**Rhonda Hammer & Douglas Kellner**, "Third Wave Feminisms, Sexualities, and Adventures of the Posts." R. Hammer is a research scholar with the Center for the Study of Women at UCLA. D. Kellner is the George Kneller Philosophy of Education Chair in the UCLA Graduate School of Education.