



Gender, Power & Revitalising Feminism

Feminism Now in academia, services and activism

A forum by the Southgate Families@Flinders research network for

International Women's Day 2010

Tuesday March 9th 2.45pm – 6.00pm, Hetzel Lecture Theatre, State Library of SA

Chair: Professor Fran Baum

**ARC Federation Fellow, Director Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity and
South Australian Community Health Research Unit (SACHRU)**

Feminism has pushed the boundaries of critical thinking and equitable practice and action in many aspects of our lives and culture. Key to the influence of feminism has been its specialisation over several decades in academia, women's organisations and activism. While each has developed its own capacity, these forms of feminism have progressively lost their connections to each other and to broader social movements, making them vulnerable to many forms of attack from entrenched dominant interests. This forum will explore potential spaces for revitalising feminism through reconnecting thinking, practice and activism.

The forum will be of interest to women and men in communities, services and education institutions who are concerned about gender, power and social justice. This event follows the Families@Flinders forum in August 2009 entitled *Gender & Power as Social Determinants of Health & Wellbeing* in which academics and women's services managers and practitioners explored the ways that service systems reflect and reproduce gender and power inequities.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Zora Simic – Contemporary feminism: moving beyond the branding 'problem'

Associate Professor Barbara Baird - Thinking critically about gender: The legacy of the Howard era.

Short presentations from leaders in women's services and activism in South Australia

RSVP to Southgate.admin@flinders.edu.au by the 5th of March 2010.

An entrance fee of \$5 will be collected at the door.

Supported by:



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Profile of Keynote Speakers:

Associate Professor Barbara Baird

Barbara Baird is an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at Flinders University. Her research focuses on histories and cultural politics of sexuality and reproduction in Australia and the shaping of these by discourses of race and national identity. She is currently writing a book about the politics of gender and sexuality during the Howard era.

Dr Zora Simic

Zora Simic is a lecturer in Australian history at the University of New South Wales, where she is also convenor of the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Zora wrote her PhD thesis on Australian feminism's 'wilderness years', the period from 1919 to 1969. In 2008, Melbourne University Press published a book she co-wrote with Monica Dux on contemporary feminism, *The Great Feminist Denial*.

Profile of Other Presenters:

Dr Elspeth McInnes AM

Elspeth is senior lecturer at the University of South Australia and has vast experience in representing women's interests at a national level as current Policy Officer for National Council of Single Mothers and their Children (NCSMC), former Executive Officer and Convenor of NCSMC, and as former Board member and Vice President of the Australian Council of Social Services. As the successful recipient of a number of research and other grants related to women's issues, she has a research focus on the needs and interests of mothers and children after separation from violent relationships. She publishes and presents widely.

Dr Anne Morris

Senior researcher at Southgate Institute/SACHRU at Flinders University, Anne worked previously as consultant, researcher, manager and practitioner, with a particular interest in women's issues and services, and violence against women and children. During 2006-7 she was visiting scholar and researcher at the Child & Woman Abuse Studies Unit at the London Metropolitan University, UK. Her PhD was on developing services to address maternal alienation, the deliberate undermining of the mother-child relationship by perpetrators of violence. She is co-founder of the national coalition, WEAVE (Women Everywhere Advocating Violence Eradication), and Co-Chair of Status of Women for International Council of Jewish Women. She has published many articles and regularly presents at national and international conferences.

Helaine Costello

Helaine is a lecturer and coordinator of Certificates II, III, IV in Women's Education at the Elizabeth Campus of TAFE SA. She has worked in TAFE for 25 years and in Women's Education for most of that time. She has been involved in numerous rewrites of the Women's Education curriculum and has witnessed the impacts of many changes in government policy on both the teaching of Women's Ed and the women who study there. She is Co-convenor of Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE) for South Australia, and sits on the Status of Women Committee for the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW).

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Sandra Dann

Sandra Dann has been the Director of the Working Women's Centre since 1998, apart from managing the Women's Information Service in 2000/2001. Sandra comes from a background in secondary and TAFE education and union activism in NSW. Sandra has overseen research, projects and training on issues relevant to working women, most notably outwork, discrimination, workplace bullying, gender, return to work after injury and the impact of domestic violence on women and their workplaces.

Sandra is co-Chair of the South Australian Women's Services Network and represents WWC on a number of committees, including the Security 4 Women Secretariat. She is President of HETA Incorporated, which provides training and workforce support to people with disabilities, Vice President of the Industrial Relations Society of South Australia and Chair of the Voice of Women (Australia) Organisation which supports the work of Suraya Pakzad for women and girls in Afghanistan. In 2005 Sandra completed the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program and is now a fellow of the Leadership Institute of South Australia.