

Summaries of articles

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

A Forbidden Game: Sexual Harassment in Sport

Sandra L. Kirby and Lorraine Greaves

In this study, we address the problem of sexual harassment and abuse amongst Canada's high performance athletes. Research done in Canada and the United Kingdom has shown that sexual harassment and abuse remain serious problems in sport. For example, in 1993, Canadian athletes appeared on national television to talk about their sexual abuse experiences in three popular sports: rowing, volleyball and swimming. These revelations sent shock waves through the Canadian sport system. National sport organizations quickly began to look for ways to address sexual harassment and abuse by creating ways to protect their athletes. Results of this national study clearly indicate that sexual harassment and abuse are major problems for participants in organized sport in Canada. We conclude with an analysis both of why such violence occurs within the context of sport and of its persistence in modern sport.

Female Chief of Political Parties and Editorial Caricatures: The 1993 Canadian Federal Election

Manon Tremblay and Nathalie Bélanger

This article proposes an analysis of editorial cartoons representing Kim Campbell and Audrey McLaughlin. The study primarily argues that the leaders of the Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party of Canada in the 1993 federal election were depicted in a stereotypical manner (ie., judged as members of the private realm, according to private values and norms) in editorial cartoons, even though these women were in the forefront of the political scene. To assess this hypothesis, the authors have analyzed editorial cartoons published in nineteen Québécois, French-Canadian and English-Canadian daily newspapers during the 1993 federal election campaign. The body of work for content analysis contains 238 editorial cartoons. The main conclusion of this study maintains that Kim Campbell and Audrey McLaughlin were not stereotyped according to private realm values in editorial cartoons of the daily written press. The article further insists upon a few essential nuances to better grasp the validity of these results.

Women in Micro Computer Maintenance

Clevi Elena Rapkiewicz and Natacha Djani

This paper is concerned with a study on the self-perception of a group of women who, after a long period of unemployment, are presently learning computer maintenance in a French firm in the framework of a project carried out by an association which supplies formation and provides professional insertion. This association was convinced that so-called female qualities for relationship could facilitate women's entry into this employment position. We shall show that, instead of incorporating in their speech the value of their qualities for public relations, the women embody their supervisors' representation. However, combining their preceding experiences and newly acquired knowledge the women come through all right in computer maintenance.

Women's Discourse on Their Health as an Essential Knowledge for Intervention

María De Koninck

Feminist approaches confront political and ethical issues when it comes to international health interventions. Most meaningful in this regard is the case of maternal mortality. The disparity between developed and so called developing countries is striking and creates a sense of urgency while there is no consensus on what actions could be most effective in reducing the gap. In this article, the author refers to fieldwork done in West Africa and uses data based on interviews with women, relating their experiences of pregnancy and childbirth, to promote qualitative research strategies as a starting point for the definition of actions aiming to reduce the number of maternal mortalities. Using examples drawn from these women's words, she underlines how their discourse can be helpful in conceiving actions likely to bring about change and reminds us that the appeal of technical solutions should not be a reason to forget that the present situation has social roots.

Feminism and Litterature in Quebec: Best-sellers Written by Women, 1960-1977

Denis St-Jacques, Marie-José des Rivières and Chantal Savoie

This article presents an analysis of best-sellers written by women, including Quebec authors as well as French and American writers, from 1960 to 1977. During this period, works by feminist authors, such as Simone de Beauvoir, Germaine Greer and Louky Bersianik obtained a great deal of success, alongside publications with a more «literary» bent, namely the fictional works of Anne Hébert, Antonine Maillet, Marguerite Duras or Françoise Sagan. In the latter group, a recurring criticism of marriage and constraints imposed by the family accompanies a claim for personal autonomy, which values work outside the home without sacrificing a personal need for emotional fulfilment. The female psyche is thus redefined in publications which are aimed at a wide audience.

Documentation as a Tool for Feminist Research: a Tunisian Expérience

Faouzia Hmila

The author presents the realizations and difficulties of a Tunisian research and documentation center on women (CREDIF) in the area of documentation and offers several useful references on women in Tunisia.

«Femmes du Tiers-Monde», a Tool for North-South Cooperation

Thérèse Tréfeu and Colette Galland

The authors present the different steps and realizations of this project put together at ORSTOM, in France, thus showing its usefulness and relevance for North-South cooperation among francophone feminist researchers.

Feminist Documentation in French: in a Disadvantaged Position inside Scientific and Technical Documentation?

Gaëtan Drolet

After a brief overview of the main characteristics of feminist documentation published in French, the author offers precise information pertaining to pertinent data bases and Internet sites, including several site addresses, some in French.