

Summaries

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—● **The Druidess Existence**

A Renewed Perception of the Occidental
Concept of Femininity

MANON B. DUFOUR

The Celtic civilization had defined a sacred conceptualization of femininity. The christianization of druidism changed cultural and celtic values significantly, but it did not completely ignore them. In order to carry on that historical-mythological spirit, we examine the conceptual transformation of the Druidess Morrigan's archetype into its christianized version Morgane the fairy. In this conceptual transition a few sexual-ideological elements which are symbolically associated with the feminine, are truly decisive. We shall determine to what extent the religious interpretation of sexuality may have had an influence on the contemporary perception of the concept of femininity in western societies.

—● ***The Subjection of Women,*
of John Stuart Mill**

SOUAD CHAHERLY-HARRAR

This article proposes to consider *The Subjection of Women* of John Stuart Mill as a philosophical work which illustrates the methods and the principles presented in Mill's most important and famous book : *The System of Logic*. By examining the problem of the social, economic, political and moral subjection of women, Mill reveals the links between theory and practice, the logic of science and the logic of art, as well as the description of the poor living conditions of women, and the moral evaluation that prescribes what we ought to do to change them. In spite of the relative improvement in women's condition, *The Subjection of Women* remains a timely book and a classic philosophical writing that treats the problem of inequality between men and women with sincerity and great faith in reason to educate our feelings and our thoughts.

—● **The Saint-Jean-Baptiste National Federation
and its Civic Instruction Courses**

A New Way to Political Citizenship
for Québec Women

YOLANDE COHEN and CHANTAL MAILLÉ

In this text, authors present an analysis of the civic instruction courses that were offered to Québec women by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste National Federation between 1921 and 1926. They explore the social and political context surrounding this project and the course contents. Two hypothesis have structured their analysis: first, these courses were developed to give Québec women the knowledge and expertise necessary to use their newly acquired right to vote in an efficient manner in the federal elections, because this

level of government was perceived to be a potentially strategic power base for women. According to the second hypothesis, this project aimed at providing tools and resources to enable women to challenge the widespread preconception of women's ignorance with regard to politics.

—● **Women's Knowledge of the
the New Reproductive Technologies**

GENEVIÈVE DAUDELIN

This article describes the partial results of a research about the social representations of women concerning their use of the New Reproductive Technologies (NRTs). According to this study, women's knowledge appears to be more diversified and more complex than the writings about the subject would suggest, and it is not confined to a simple reproduction of the medical or technician discourse. The author has identified five different representations. The NRTs are understood successively as «means of control», «excess», «means of assistance and of reification», «means of expression of individuality» and finally «hardship».

—● **An Analysis of the Work of Admissions Clerks
during the Restructuring of Health Care**

KAREN MESSING, ANA MARÍA SEIFERT and DIANE ELABIDI

In Québec, the restructuring of the health care system has decreased the length of hospital stays. This has led to a rise in the number of admissions and increased responsibilities for the admissions clerks, who are responsible for making contacts with patients and for patient records. We have used collective and individual interviews and 30 hours of observation, to record verbal exchanges, the content of telephone communications, interruptions, and other work requirements. The «invisible» demands of this job are common to women's work in the service sector, where they must handle client relations in a context of dwindling resources, under conditions which make solidarity difficult to attain. To facilitate the communications necessary for this type of emotional work (in the terms of Hochschild) planning and changes in worksite design would be necessary. Thus far, these measures have not been taken into consideration in the management of this service.

—● **Voluntary Employment Equity Programs,
Ten Years Later**

MARIE-JOSÉE LEGAULT

Since 1986, private companies have been legally able to set up employment equity programmes. There are incentives but in no way does the Québec government compel them to do so. Thus, the provincial approach differs from the federal one. Corporate managers set up programmes on a voluntary basis. In 1987, the government implemented a pilot project to encourage seventeen private enterprises to undertake the experience with supervision and financial aid from appropriate sources. Few additional private enterprises were

added to these first volunteers. Programmes are implemented where companies must comply to regulations.

Ten years later the author returned to these volunteer companies to assess the situation and noted that many difficulties had been encountered and were still present. These referred specifically to the progress of women in non-traditional sectors of employment such as manufacturing and the trades, and problems related to their long term integration.

—● **Killing as a Survival Strategy: Narratives of Canadian, Belgian and French Women**

SYLVIE FRIGON

In this article, we examine the issue of female conjugal homicide from the woman's perspective. The paper is divided into three parts. The first part presents the socio-legal aspects involved by analysing the legal relevance of the «battered woman syndrome» (BWS). In the second, we present our methodological and epistemological standpoint. Finally, we explore the voices of women and professionals in Canada, France and Belgium on two major themes: 1) the factors leading to the act and 2) the reactions of women after the crime.

—● **Conjugal Femicide, an Unrecognized Phenomena**

An Analysis of the Journalistic Coverage of Three Montreal Newspapers

GHISLAINE GUÉRARD and ANNE LAVENDER

This research note reports on the journalistic coverage of «conjugal femicide». The authors have analyzed the articles written in 1993 in three Montreal daily newspapers, *The Gazette*, *Le Journal de Montréal* and *La Presse*. Based on narrative and discourse analysis of each article separately and then as a whole, the authors argue that these crimes are treated as separate incidents which has the effect of negating the phenomenon of conjugal femicide. The authors discovered, as the literature on news coverage on violence against women suggests, that the coverage of this ultimate act of violence depersonalizes women, often blames them for the crime, negates the responsibility of the perpetrators and creates fear in all women. The authors also argue that the news coverage, while not responsible for the crimes themselves, contributes to maintaining the situation by not giving the matter proper treatment. The research note suggests ways in which the coverage of these events could be changed and also recommends the adoption of the expression, «conjugal femicide», which would help bring about awareness of the phenomenon by giving it a name and thus an existence.