

Andrew, Caroline and Milroy, Beth Moore, eds. *Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1988. Pp. 214. Cloth

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[See table of contents](#)

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character of Hamilton. S. M. Taylor uses factorial ecology and census tract areas to examine social change from 1961 to 1981 at the city-wide and inner-city levels, and A. F. Burghardt evaluates government reorganization into regional units. The issues of a one-tier or two-tier system, the extent to which nearby dependent centres should be included, and how power might be distributed created "an animosity of profound proportions between city and suburb. Hamilton's continuous campaign to absorb its neighbours exacerbated this distrust."

Part III, on how Hamilton works, examines seven modern themes. L. G. Reeds considers agriculture from soil capability to farming output over the 1941-81 period and introduces the complex issue of safeguarding the "Niagara Fruit Belt." M. J. Dear is concerned with social welfare in Hamilton, focusing on lodging homes and psychiatric patients (the latter upon discharge gravitate to the inner city, where their experiences "effectively dash the hopes and optimism of many patients as they re-enter the community").

The steel industry as the driving force of the economy is covered by W. P. Anderson — from Hamilton becoming the centre of Canada's steel production to its recent decline. This article ties in with an appreciation of energy flows by S. C. Lonergan. Four energy conservation projects are considered, their importance being that Hamilton exhibits one of the highest energy intensities in manufacturing of any region in Canada. M. Webber and R. Fincher indicate how slow economic growth during the 1970s and industrial decline during the 1980s have fostered a pro-development lobby of business and local government to strengthen the local tax base. This approach has led to expensive and controversial expressway and trunk sewer proposals, despite expert evidence to the contrary. Does new development follow government expenditure on urban infrastructure or should Hamilton become a smaller and less specialized urban

centre? How may financial resources be best spent and controlled when the economy is in decline or subject to slow growth? Is growth, or aiming for growth, necessarily the answer? L. J. King and G. Ozornoy then raise the question of how a university should relate to the society and community within which it functions. Note is made that we live in a post-industrial society with an emphasis on producing, processing, and distributing information. Service industries have expanded and challenges exist for universities in their educational, research, community service, technological transfer, and town-gown relationships.

W. G. Peace and A. F. Burghardt attempt a conclusion, noting the drastic changes in the image of Hamilton as a steel city and asking the reader to visit to note the progress and appreciate the problems. In all, a worthwhile but diverse book about the urban condition.

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Andrew, Caroline and Milroy, Beth Moore, eds. *Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1988. Pp. 214. Cloth.

Feminist research on urban society and space has shown considerable growth in the last ten years. Important contributions, both theoretically and methodologically, have been made on gender relations within the city, complemented by comprehensive analysis of the women's sense of the city. Numerous case studies illuminate our understanding of women's experiences of the urban environment. Although important in terms of the number of publications, feminist literature on urban space has not met the expectations of many social scientists, in part because of its relative lack of insight into the specificity of place and also because of its consignment to the fringe of mainstream

social science. The collection of articles under review is a contribution to both these areas. It introduces a new chapter in feminist literature, focusing on gender in Canadian urban settings and illustrating the "historically specific reciprocal relation between women and cities."

This collection originated in a conference organized by the Institute of Urban Studies of the University of Winnipeg in August 1985. One object of the meeting was to bring together people interested in the analysis of gender relations in an urban context and to present an overview of the state of research in this area. The conference attracted social scientists from a variety of disciplines using various approaches. They shared this common concern to explore the ways in which gender relations operate in Canadian urban environments. This book differs from others that deal with women and the city in that it takes a Canadian perspective. All eight articles deal specifically with Canada and aspects of the Canadian urban experience. The authors illustrate how the characteristics are central to the study of gender relations in the urban environment.

In a rather standard but effective introductory article, Caroline Andrew and Beth Moore Milroy provide some justification for this Canadian perspective. They refer to the viable residential component close to the core of Canadian cities, to Canadian tradition with respect to resource towns, and to the particular institutional and policy framework that exists in Canada. They argue for particular theoretical influences on Canadian researchers, for example the metropolitan thesis in historical research. Most of their essay deals with the key themes of such Canada-oriented analysis of gender relations, referring to categories common to much of contemporary feminist scholarship, namely "production," "reproduction," and their inter-relationship. They conclude on the overall concern of the authors not only to illuminate situations but to change them.

Their task of providing a comprehensive introduction to the following articles was not an easy one. The book spans a wide range of theoretical approaches, different methods and topics, and various conclusions about the practical implications of feminist research. Articles deal with analysis of the impact of economic restructuring on gender roles and on the way the city is spatially organized as well as with the design and implementation of urban structures responding to the needs of women. The methods are varied, ranging from a feminist reading of published statistical data to examination of letters produced by women active in urban reform. Action research also receives some attention.

Among these articles, an essay by Suzanne Mackenzie and another by Damaris Rose and Paul Villeneuve are highly significant parts of the book. They investigate how city structure changes with restructuring in the labour market and in gender roles. The first essay considers two such periods, both marked by an "urban crisis" and a "woman crisis," namely the late 1800s and the mid 1900s. The second article deals specifically with the contemporary period in inner-city Montreal neighbourhoods. The other articles are more policy-oriented. William Michelson's essay is a contribution to the understanding of the impact of major economic changes on the lives of women in the urban community and how these women have experienced these changes. The author is concerned about elements of urban structure that act either to facilitate or to hinder the lives of working women. This concern is prominent in Gerda Wekerle's article on the origins and evolution of women's housing cooperatives in Canada and is the background of Fran Klodawsky and Aron Spector's discussion of single-parent family housing as an issue in Canadian cities. Denise Piche's article deals with the related, although different, question of bringing women into the planning process. It is based on the early stages of a project using action research. The focus is on women's experiences during their leisure

times and on creating spaces for women in the city as well as in the planning process.

The last article of the collection consists of another essay by the editors. They raise a number of important questions related to "gender-specific approaches to theory and method." The main problems faced by feminist research are outlined and an agenda for further inquiry is offered. The commitment to develop methods sensitive to women and to ensure that findings reach those engaged in policy and practice is presented as an essential element in feminist research. In many respects, however, the content of their article does not differ much from previous publications on similar matters. Despite references to *Women and Environments*, it lacks the Canadian perspective that makes the rest of *Life Spaces: Gender, Household, Employment* a significant contribution to feminist studies.

Finally, the book furnishes an annotated bibliography. According to the editors and their collaborator Susan Montonen, it brings together the principal contributions in print about gender relations and the Canadian environment dating from the early 1970s. As is true of most edited bibliographies, it is far from exhaustive. It provides nevertheless an excellent starting point for researchers concerned with the gender relations within community environments in Canada.

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The History of Urban Planning in America
Schaffer, Daniel, ed. *Two Centuries of American Planning*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988. Pp. 329. Illustrations, maps, and index. \$48.50 (U.S.) cloth, \$14.95 (U.S.) paper.

Fogelson, Richard E. *Planning the Capitalist City: The Colonial Era to the 1920s*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. Pp. x, 286. Index.

Fisher, Irving D. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the City Planning Movement in the United States*. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1986. Pp. 205. Illustrations, maps, index.

As Daniel Schaffer observes in his introduction to the collection of essays comprising *Two Centuries of American Planning*, the American planning profession, especially urban planners, is under attack from many quarters at present and is torn by internal divisions. In one of the essays making up Schaffer's volume, Howell Baum explores the roots of the current "conceptual crisis" in the planning profession, finding them in attacks both from above by policymakers, such as former president Ronald Reagan, who are wedded to the market mechanism, and from below by minority groups who see redevelopment destroying their neighbourhoods. Planners need, Baum concludes, to rethink their ideas and actions. Perhaps as part of their reformulation, some planners and scholars are turning to history, looking anew at the development of urban planning in the United States. The past few years have witnessed an outpouring of books and articles on the history of American urban planning and the establishment of new academic groups to further its study — the Planning History Group within the Organization of American Historians and the Society for American City and Regional Planning History for example. The three works under review suggest some of the approaches currently being taken to this historical examination of urban planning.