Recherches féministes

Summaries of articles

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

The *doxa* pertaining to gender relations
Monique Haicault

The latest theorisations of gender relations have passed over symbolical aspect. My theoretical and problematic choice is a non-dualist conception of material and symbolical dimensions. It is developed here through an analysis of the *doxa* pertaining to gender relations. The *doxa* is conceived as a combination of meanings, beliefs, assertions, which use every system of signs (language, body, icons, sounds) and all means of communication to legitimate the asymetry between genders. It imposes a "ready to think" stereotypical interpretation on any situation and through "doxic adhesion" constitutes an efficient mean of domination.

Becoming Managers : Career Paths of Women Graduates in Business Administration
Irène Lépine

The purpose of this article is, first, to establish a typology of career paths of women who obtained an undergraduate degree in business administration. Then, these career paths are analysed in relation to different features : the professional goals these women set for themselves, the organisational environments and the personal lives of respondents themselves. It is found that there is much diversity in patterns. In order to understand the variations as well as the dynamics of these careers, the interaction between other sets of variables is analyzed. With such an analysis, it is possible to understand the interactions between these diverse components and their influence in the dynamics of career development for the women in question.

Girls' Success in School and Boys' Dropout Pattern : A Political Stake for Women
Pierrette Bouchard et Jean-Claude Saint-Amant

This article is part of a research program linking secondary school dropout patterns and gender stereotypes in addition to identifying certain successful educational practices. It first analyses various positions in the debate pertaining to school dropouts by distinguishing between school success, educational success, and social success, the latter being the correspondance between formation acquired in school and the place occupied later in society with the power to intervene in it. For this purpose, the authors examine theories of social and sexual reproduction as welll as those of family and, especially, school socialization. They show that, nowadays, secondary schools are seen as dysfonctional because, momentarily, they do not permit boys to succeed in greater numbers than girls. Boys are expected to reproduce unequal gender relations, including those pertaining to school progress and diploma attainment. The article also shows how certain stereotypes inculcated in boys are in contradiction with requirements for school achievement. As for girls, they have developped strategies permitting greater scholastic success. Will that be sufficient to ensure them social success or will school be transformed to meet the needs of patriarchy.

Violence toward Women in the Conjugal Environment : Fear Persists.
Francine Ouellet, Marie-Christine Saint-Jacques et Jocelyn Lindsay

The purpose of this article is to describe some results of an evaluative study about a group treatment program for violent husbands. The authors compare the results of men and women about the declarations of violence, acted or suffered, one year after the end of the intervention program. In addition, they analyze the verbal content of women's discourses; this material comes from qualitative interviews with the wives of violent husbands. The main results are the following: 1) women acknowledge about three violent actions, while their husbands are confessing one; 2) they comment about the behavior and attitude changes they perceive in their husbands after the group treatment has ended; 3) and psychological violence becomes the main aspect of their verbal comments, in which fear is an unavoidable consequence. The victimization process is used as a theoretical frame of analysis which permits to understand this fear.

An Awkward Situation : Men in Women's Studies
Margrit Eichler in collaboration with Louise Vandelac

This paper is part of a larger study on Women's Studies Professors. It examines the response male professors gave when reflecting on their own role in women's studies. The employment situation of male professors teaching women's studies is superior to that of female professors as a group, they experience fewer problems in teaching these courses than do women, and most problems (for both female and male professors) originate from men, not women. In examining the motivations of men in teaching such courses, we found four distincts types : 1) men who are emotionally committed to the cause of women, 2) men with a generalized interest in social justice issues, including for women, 3) men who are intellectualy stimulated by feminist scholarship, and 4) pragmatically oriented men who see the field as a growth area. The ironic conclusion is that those men who are most aware of and sensitive to the dynamics of men teaching women's studies are least likely to do so on a continuing basis, while those who are least supportive of feminist goals claim the right to do so.

Women and Political Representation as Seen by Male and Female Québec Parliamentarians.
Manon Tremblay et Réjean Pelletier

The aim of this article is to analyse the preceptions of Québec Parliamentarians with regard to the idea that female legislators have the responsibility to represent women. We interviewed 24 female and 24 male members of the Québec National Assembly and representatives of the Province of Québec in the Canadian House of Commons, in order to determine if they agree with such an idea and whether women and men use the same arguments to justify their point of view. It appears that a clear majority of female legislators recognize their particular responsibility to women; at the same time, a majority of male legislators disagree that their female colleagues have the responsibility to take on such a role. Half of the female respondents reinforce their position by arguing that women represent a social minority, while the same number of male respondents advocate a conception of political representation that does not accomodate distinct social identities along gender lines.

Feminism and Postmodernism. A Bibliography
Huguette Dagenais et Gaëtan Drolet

This bibliography contains over 150 references to articles, books and theses from social sciences and the humanities relating explicitly feminism with the notion of postmodernism.