

**AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
WOMEN
& POLITICS
NETWORK NEWSLETTER
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1992**



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AND WOMEN**

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Aotearoa / New Zealand Women and Politics Network

The idea was born out of a meeting of women at the NZ Political Science Association Conference

The aim is to promote communication between women teaching, researching or interested/involved in politics/public policy (in paid or unpaid work).

200 copies of this newsletter have been circulated, (aim: 3 newsletters p.a.)

Send your address, interests, notices or commentary (800 words max) to

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Next Issue
Nov/Dec 1992

What Can Electoral reform do for women?

Helena Catt
Auckland University

Our grandmothers and great grandmothers fought for the right to vote. On the 99th anniversary of their success we have the chance to take the next step in gaining full political representation.

The referendum has two questions:

1. choose between keeping the present (First past the Post) voting system or changing to another voting system.

2. which of the four options would you prefer if the system were to change. The options are: Supplementary Member (SM); Single Transferable Vote (STV); Mixed Member Proportional (MMP); or Preferential Voting (PV).

The answers that we give to these questions will affect

women's representation. Women constitute over half of the voting population so their voices should be strongly heard and there should be many more women MPs.

In general, countries that use First Past the Post have low levels of women MPs. Prospective women candidates are entirely reliant upon selection meetings for "winnable" seats, recognising that women are electable.

Voters (men as well as women), also fare badly under the present first past the post electoral system. Almost half the votes cast in the 1990 general election in New Zealand were for candidates that lost, and so these voters have no say in the present parliament. If you like the wrong party or live in the wrong place, then your vote has little chance of being effective under the present system.

An increase of women candidates would be more likely under MMP and STV and possible under SM. In each of these systems, political parties select a list of candidates rather than one individual per area. Parties will want an appealing list so will ensure that women are prominent (they could also use

a quota system).

Some systems also offer voters the chance to choose women. With STV, voters rank all candidates, so may choose to give priority to women. Under MMP the votes for party and local MP are separate, so voters could back a woman in their electorate regardless of party.

All of the alternatives give voters a greater say than they have at present. The two systems that ask voters to rank candidates (PV and STV) ensure that votes cast for an unpopular candidate are not wasted but can still be used to help choose the MPs. Under preferential voting (PV), at least half the voters will have shown some preference for the winner and under STV most of the voters will have helped elect one of the MPs.

Under MMP and SM all list votes count unless they are cast for a very small party; with MMP they determine what share of all MPs each party gains; with SM they determine a quarter of the MPs.

Given the unique opportunity to change the way in which we choose our MPs, it is vital that people vote and that they make an informed decision. On suffrage day vote to increase women's representation.



Electoral Reform and Maori

Anne Sullivan
Lecturer in Politics
University of Waikato



The implications of a change to the electoral system must be taken seriously by Maori.

The present system guarantees Maori representation in Parliament by way of the four Maori seats. While the four Maori seats are not entrenched in the 1956 Electoral Act and could be overturned by a simple majority, separate Maori representation has continued since 1867 and it is highly unlikely that either of the two major political parties will abolish Maori seats unless there is an overwhelming call from Maori to do so.

None of the electoral options provide Maori with guaranteed representation and unless a guarantee is given to Maori then the question must be asked whether electoral reform is in the best interests of Maori.

Guaranteed Maori representation does not ensure that sufficient attention will be paid to Maori interests but it does prevent increased alienation for Maori (Mulgan, 1989: 136).

One of the major strengths of proportional representation (PR) is the potential for increased representation in Parliament of minority groups

because parliamentary seats are allocated to political parties more or less in proportion to the total votes they receive in the election.

Hence proponents of PR argue that Maori would have increased representation in Parliament because Maori are over 12% of the total population (403,185 in 1986) and could therefore gain a number of parliamentary seats if Maori voted en masse for a Maori party. This reasoning does however have several inherent problems.

Approximately 39% of the Maori population are children who cannot vote and almost a third of the total Maori population is between the ages of 15 and 29 (Dept Statistics, 1990:157). This age group, no matter what ones ethnicity, tends to have a high proportion of non-voters.

Futhermore, Maori enrolled on the Maori roll, traditionally have a voter turnout of around 75% (for a variety of reasons, some of which are 'political', but others are much more basic such as confusion over re-enrolment procedures, lack of access to appropriate polling booths, and problems with special voting procedures).

There is little likelihood of Maori gaining Parliamentary representation in proportion to the Maori population percentage, with any of the proposed electoral options.

The Royal Commission on the Electoral System (1986:101) suggested that under the most favoured form of PR (MMP), a party primarily representing Maori interests would only need to receive 25,000 votes to gain one seat in parliament, or 58,000 votes to have four seats in Parliament (using the Sainte Lague method of allocating seats). It is implied that it would not be difficult to gain the required number of seats because the estimated

number of Maori eligible to vote in 1984 was 161,560 and 77,564 were enrolled on the Maori roll (R.C.E.R., 1986 B-82). However, in the 1984 election, Mana Motuhake was only able to win a total of 9,789 votes (Dept of Statistics, 1990:70). While it is quite possible that a Maori party could increase its electoral support, there is no evidence to support claims that Mana Motuhake would do any better under proportional representation.

To suggest that Maori would vote for a Maori party en masse under PR is patronising to say the least. Such a claim denies Maori the right to have a diversity of opinion and ignores the complex nature of tribalism and tribal politics.

Maori cannot be classified by the Pakeha as a pan-group of people who are only going to vote for one particular party, nor should it be assumed that the majority of Maori want a Maori party. Historically, Maori have tended to vote for the Labour party, a trend that has continued despite the introduction of a Maori party in 1980.

The Royal Commission on the Electoral System (1986:100) argues that MMP, would provide added incentives for major political parties to take "proper account" of Maori concerns because if they don't, Maori would have even more reason to vote for a Maori party.

Ever since Ratana aligned with Labour in the 1930s, the safest Labour seats have been the four Maori seats but unfortunately it is difficult to discern where Labour has taken "proper concern" in their policies relating to Maori. Labour has not even had a Maori elected to Parliament in any of the General Electoral seats. **Why would a change to PR suddenly improve the situation?**

The Royal Commission on the Electoral System (1986:102) also suggested that political parties would be more accountable to Maori under MMP, and inclined to have Maori candidates high up on the party lists, as well as in 'winnable' constituency seats, because every vote would count since seats would be allocated in close proportion to a party's share of votes.

It is difficult to see why increased accountability to Maori would occur when the majority of voters would be non-Maori, and if a conflict of interest was to occur it is unlikely that the Maori wishes or issues would take priority.

Furthermore, if a Maori is selected by any of the non-Maori parties then primary accountability for that person is to the party and the electorate. Accountability to the general Maori population would be difficult because the candidate is chosen by the party, not the Maori people. The effectiveness of the candidate on Maori issues would be limited because the candidate would have to pay a substantial amount of attention to non-Maori issues.

The four electoral options that voters are being asked to choose from do not provide any guarantees for Maori representation in Parliament.

The Royal Commission on the Electoral System failed to recommend Maori be guaranteed Parliamentary representation under its preferred option of MMP. The existing First-past-the-post system does guarantee four Maori parliamentary seats. It is not an ideal situation, many are disillusioned and frustrated with party control over those four MPs.

Furthermore, the recent economic policies of both Labour and National governments have



had particularly negative impacts on Maori and compounded that disillusionment. Consequently many people would like a change to the electoral system for a variety of reasons.

It is my belief that Maori should firstly be demanding guaranteed representation under any electoral system because it cannot be assumed that any of the reform options will maintain or increase the number of Maori seats in Parliament. **Once those guarantees are given, then I believe the general arguments for Mixed Member proportional Representation (MMP) would provide Maori with the potential to increase Maori representation in Parliament.**

If guarantees are not forthcoming, serious consideration must be given to the worth of electoral reform for Maori. The current system fails to adequately or equitably represent Maori interests, but it does provide a means for limited Maori participation.

Department of Statistics New Zealand
Official 1990 Year Book Government
Printer Wellington

Mulgan R., 1989 *Maori Pakeha and Democracy* Oxford University Press

Royal Commission on the Electoral System., 1986 *Report of the Royal Commission on the Electoral System "Towards a better Democracy Government"* Printer, Wellington.

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VOTER'S CHOICE

Electoral Change
in New Zealand?

Helena Catt
Paul Harris
Nigel S. Roberts

Get the facts
on the options
in the September 19
voting referendum

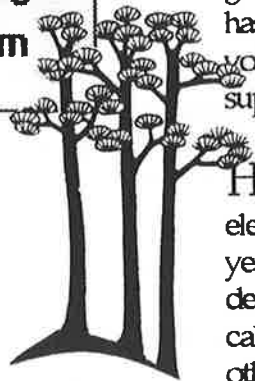
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Women, Greens & Electoral Reform

Christine Dann
Speaker, Green Party,
New Zealand



The Green party of Aotearoa/New Zealand supports electoral reform, and favours the Mixed member proportional (MMP) system recommended by the Royal Commission and promoted by the Electoral Reform Coalition.

As a 'minor' party which nevertheless attracted 7% of the total vote in the 1990 general election, and up to 13% in the subsequent public opinion polls, the Green party favours an electoral system other than our current 'first past the post' system, which consistently delivers the government benches to the "bums" of a party which rarely gets a majority of total votes cast, and excludes minority parties and independents.

The two baseline democratic principles of majority rule and minority voice are thus poorly served by the first past the post system, whose defenders are currently reduced to claiming that its main advantage is that it delivers 'stable government' - which is a laugh when one considers that New Zealand has had no fewer than five different prime ministers in the past eight years - a record which even the most "tin pot unstable banana republic" would find hard to beat.

There is of course no connection between democracy and stability, so this line of argument is irrelevant in any case. Any party which supports greater democracy in political decision-making has to support a more democratic way of making votes count, and this is the Greens intention in supporting MMP.

However the Greens are aware that support for electoral reform has grown dramatically in recent years, not out of an abstract desire for greater democracy, but rather as a result of the two so called major parties coming to resemble each other so closely that the choice under 'first past the post' is a classic Hobson's choice: Rogemomics or Ruthenasia. Both parties have lost membership so heavily that donations from big business are now necessary to keep them afloat, and are anxiously protected accordingly.

In contrast, the Greens and other small parties which have banded together to form the Alliance offer a genuine political alternative, free of big business influence, including a policy on implementing MMP as New Zealand's voting system. MMP would obviously enhance the Green position, by seating at least six and possibly more Green MPs in Parliament.

But would it enhance the position of women?

Greens argue that it would, citing the German example as evidence. Under the MMP voting system (which has been used in Germany for nearly fifty years without notable 'destabilising effects) voters choose an electorate MP from one list and a preferred party candidate from another list.

The German Greens had merely to make every odd-numbered candidate on their party list a

woman, and by thus putting a woman at the head of each list dramatically improve the chances of a woman being elected.

The success of this strategy, reflected in the rise in female MPs representing the Greens, resulted in pressure being exerted within the large Social democratic party to set a quota of 40% of SDP candidates being female, which will further increase female representation in German politics. Operated in this way the MMP system can definitely deliver more female representatives.

It would be desirable to have more female electorate MPs too, but this depends on those parties putting forward candidates having a commitment to encouraging and promoting female candidacies.

The Green Party does this by requiring 'gender balance' within the party i.e. two party co-convenors, 1 male and 1 female, 4 party speakers, 2 male and 2 female etc. In a small party, which despite these efforts to support and promote women still has only around 30% female membership, achieving gender balance can be difficult in practice, but the commitment in principle is there, and women certainly achieve prominence in Green parties faster and with less fuss than they do in more traditional parties.

While it is possible in theory to reform traditional parties, as has to some extent happened in the Labour Party thanks to years of pushing by 'strident' women, the point must be made that parties which are founded on a commitment to gender equity and the promotion of pro-woman policies, along with a corollary and equally important commitment to participatory decision-making by those most affected, are in a better position to promote not just women candidates but also more female participation in all levels of the political process. The green party is such a party.

In New Zealand today a vote for electoral reform is a vote for Green political representation - and a vote for the Greens? Alliance is a vote for electoral reform. Green representation will mean more women in positions of political power, and more pro-women policies seeing the light of Parliamentary day. Therefore a vote for electoral reform is a vote for women.

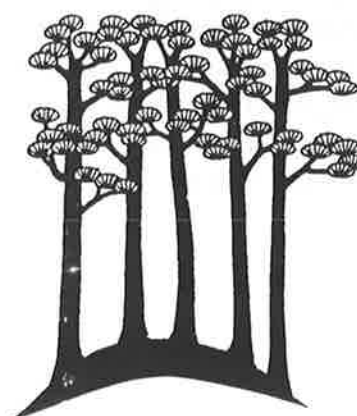
Conference Alert !

"Women and Politics" Dec 1992

The 1992 annual conference of the New Zealand Politics Research Group will be held on **Thursday 3 December, Stout Research Centre Victoria University, Wellington.**

For further information

Elizabeth McLeay, Department of Politics, Victoria University, PO Box 600 Wellington, NZ.
Helena Catt, Department of Political Studies, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland



Is 'PR' fair?

**Rt. Hon. Helen
Clark
Deputy Leader of
the Opposition, NZ.**

I do not support change to the present electoral system, and particularly strongly oppose change to the mixed member proportional system (MMP) recommended by the Royal Commission on the Electoral System.

The only claim being made in support of a change to proportional representation which merits serious scrutiny is the claim that it is "fairer" than the present system of First-past-the-post.

The first-past-the-post system requires that a candidate in a geographically-based electorate poll the greatest number of votes to be elected. By definition, minor parties' candidates are less likely to poll the greatest number of votes than those of major parties.

That does not mean, however, that the electoral system is unfair to minor parties. Rather, the question can fairly be asked, why should parties which cannot gain the greatest level of support in any electorate or in many electorates

be represented in Parliament? The way to major party status is to convince electorates to support the candidates of your party. My own party, Labour, rose to that status over a period of nineteen years. The way is open to others to attempt the same feat.

The problem with proportional representation is that it would take us from a situation where minor parties have little say in the political process, reflecting their minor status, to one where they have a disproportionately large say.

Under the proposed MMP system, it is likely that no single party would win a majority of the seats in parliament. Small parties for whom few voted would determine who governed. I cannot accept that that is fair.

Other claims made for the alleged advantages of MMP over the existing system are spurious. There is no evidence to support the contention that it would produce more consensus in politics. Parliament would still divide between those who support a government measure and those who oppose it.

The accountability of parties and of individual parliamentarians to the electorate would be likely to be weakened, not strengthened. Members of Parliament elected on party lists would be primarily accountable to their parties. Parties which participate in coalition governments would be unable to be held to account for electoral promises for which they later cannot secure support from coalition partners. Promises could be made to be broken.

Some may support electoral systems which facilitate the representation of small parties in

parliament on the grounds that a women's political party could secure such representation.

Personally I have never believed that women should be ghettoised in a gender-based party.

Women's interests are most likely to be advanced by women having clout in the major parties.

Certainly without such clout autonomy for midwives, employment equity legislation, the national cervical screening programme, the establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and a host of other measures implemented by the Fourth Labour Government would not have seen the light of day.

Women might or might not enter Parliament in greater numbers through party lists. The point is that we should strive for equal representation whatever the electoral system is. The numbers of women in Parliament have increased steadily in recent years and in my view will continue to do so regardless of the form of the electoral system.

I accept the need for continuing improvements in the processes of government and of parliament, and have advocated elsewhere ways in which that might be achieved. I cannot see that changing the electoral system addresses any of the grievances people have about the governmental process. By producing inherently weaker governments cobbled together by negotiations after elections conducted on proportional representation rules, it would become even harder to address successfully the many problems our country faces.

NEW ZEALAND'S CONSTITUTION IN CRISIS

Reforming Our Political System

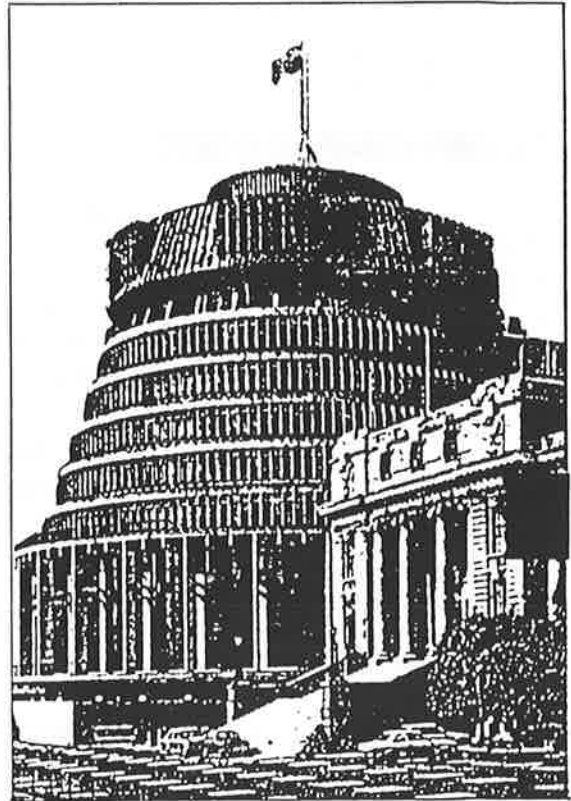
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- Entrenchment of the Bill of Rights

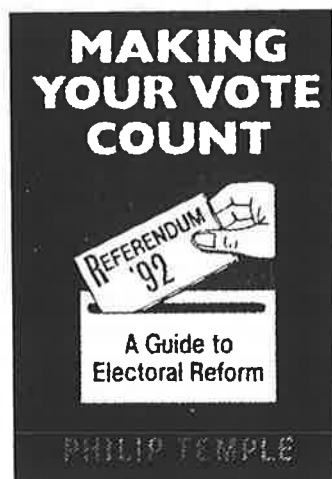
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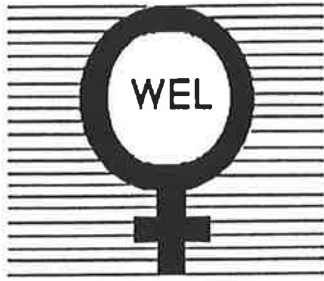
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National Conference Hamilton 10-12 July

Di Yates Women's Electoral Lobby

The National Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) Conference in Hamilton began with an official opening by Margaret Evans, Mayor of Hamilton and one of the founding members of WEL. Margaret spoke of the need for WEL to adhere to the advice given in a Maori proverb, and to "walk backwards into the future, to recognise and acknowledge our past and utilise those experiences in facing new challenges".

Margaret Evans spoke of the distinct qualities and experiences women could bring to local and national government and of the continuing need for society to be a caring and positively "mothering" society.

Electoral Reform and women

A keynote speaker at the conference, Helena Catt from the Department of Political studies at the University of Auckland, spoke about electoral reform and the options which are being included in the national referendum on 19 September, 1992.

Advocating electoral reform and the adoption of a form of proportional representation by the New Zealand people has been part of Women's Electoral Lobby policy since 1970.

"New Zealand is very rare in actually having a referendum to choose its voting system, In very few countries, when the government want to change the system do they ask the people" said Dr. Catt. Dr. Catt then walked the conference through the referendum questions and the four options: Supplementary member, Single Transferable Vote, Mixed Member proportional, and Preferential Voting.

It was pointed out that although the choice made in the 1992 referendum would decide the electoral system offered in 1993, in the present 1992 referendum we are voting on basic ideas only. Such things as the details of how votes would be counted, or what's going to happen to Maori seats are still vague or broadly outlined.

In summing up on the Supplementary Member option Dr. Catt said that those who prefer it do so because it doesn't change very much, it keeps the electorate boundaries as they are now, it would let the minor parties have some members of parliament, but there would still be one party government and critics argue it doesn't go far enough in answering the problems of FPP.

The main idea behind the Single Transferable Vote is that "you vote for people not parties". while it is not clear what type of ballot paper will be used in the referendum, the Australian voting papers have been used as a

model in the Electoral Reform Panel publicity, ie the choice of voting for a party or a list of candidates. Electorates would be bigger and each electorate would have several members of parliament.. "Donkey" votes are common with this option. **Single Transferable Vote often resulted in intraparty rivalry as members of parliament struggle to retain their seats.** There tends to be a predominance of local vision and demands over national policies and needs.

The advantages seen in the Mixed Member Proportional System are that it retains approximately 50% of parliament as electorate representatives, it is proportional and each person can have two votes, one for the party and the other for a person to represent the local electorate. Critics of MMP have been concerned that list members of parliament may not have a local electorate, that electorates would be too big and that the system is too complicated.

Dr. Catt pointed out that the fourth choice, Preferential Voting was not a system of proportional representation but a different way of counting votes. The Royal Commission on Electoral Reform suggested that this system along with the Supplementary Member option would lead to little change and that major parties would still dominate.

Dr. Catt was critical of the publicity materials that were being distributed on electoral reform. The material explains how the various systems operate but does not give the public any criteria upon which to evaluate them.

The issues she considered of most importance to women were:

1. How to get more women members of parliament, (and more women selected as candidates). Helena Catt suggested that the fact that New Zealand had 16% women in parliament was something of an accident. She mentioned that when one party put up a woman candidate in an electorate other parties tended to put up a woman against her.

2. How to get more people to have a say, to increase participation, as well as representation.

3. To consider what is the value of your vote? Helena argued that under first past the post we have: one person = one vote but, one vote = one value, doesn't exist.

Dr. Catt went on to argue that some votes are virtually wasted in safe seat electorates at present. She also explained how a candidate could become a member of parliament with 33% or less of the votes in an electorate and that this is hardly a "majority" system.

In reply to a question about the necessary action to bring about political change, Catt stressed the need for women to publicise the issues, increase women's knowledge and talk, in public and privately about the referendum.

Family and Social Policy

Dr. Janet Sceats, from Health Services Research, Waikato-Waikato area Health Board talked on

the "**Intergenerational Squeeze; Demographic Implications for Social and Economic Policy**".

Janet Sceats outlined the changes in the age of New Zealand's population, the construction of the 'social family', and the implications of these changes to governmental decision making.

Surveying changing family patterns in New Zealand, the change in size of families is an interesting historical trend but child spacing is more important in terms of modern economic demands on family finance. Dr. Sceats' outlook for middle aged women was not optimistic as they would be under pressure to provide care and support for both their parents and their children without having planned for these additional financial burdens. Dr. Sceats was critical of government policies which had ignored predictable problems such as youth unemployment, and increased numbers of older people.

Women and Economy

Prue Hyman from the Faculty of Commerce and Administration (Economics Dept. Victoria University) was the third guest speaker at the WEL conference.

In an overview of women in the political economy in New Zealand in the last 100 years, Prue referred to the increase in the language that constantly mentions "self reliance" and "incentives". She regretted the current emphasis on narrow individualism and competitiveness which leaves people

with little option but to blame the victim. Hyman deplored the increasing gap between rich and the "new poor" - women and children.

While we have achieved greater independence for some women - from spouses or the state and had some chances in the labour force, no marriage bars in employment etc., we have lost pay equity, the concept of skill and have problems over the recognition of unpaid work.

Prue Hyman saw the major economic problem as one of distribution of wealth and not one of creation of wealth. She also argued that "worthwhile" activity was more important than full-employment, and that New Zealand needs to develop its talent for finding niche areas in world markets. While women need to learn conventional economics they also need to look for alternatives such as those presented at the Other Economy Summit in Auckland, 1992.

Soap box Session

In an afternoon session members of WEL and visitors discussed and lobbied concerns such as: green dollars, basic incomes, rent increases, information services, violence, bulk funding and education, pay equity.

Judy Pickard was re-elected as the National Co-ordinator of WEL in the Annual General Meeting that followed the Conference.

**New research:
OUT Of The
CHORUS LINE:
Progress of Women in
New Zealand Unions
by Patricia Sarr
NZ Council of Trade Unions
Wgtn, 1992.**

NZPSA Conference 1992

Feminist Research Workshop

Heather Devere
Auckland University

Fourteen women and one man attended the workshop on feminist research during the New Zealand Political Studies Association Conference held at Auckland University in May. Most of the participants were from Auckland, but other universities represented were: Victoria (NZ), Melbourne (Aust.), Lincoln (NZ), Otago (NZ), Sydney (Aust.), and Macquarie (Aust.).

The group discussed what feminist research was. It was agreed that there was no one acceptable feminist methodology, but for research to be feminist it was necessary that there should be an awareness of the position of women and that women as research subjects should be treated sensitively by the researcher.

Other elements which were desirable for feminist research were that it should be collaborative, collective consultative and eclectic.

There was some discussion as to whether feminist research should directly or indirectly "empower" women. It was also thought that men could do feminist

research although there were limits to this, as in some cases it could be argued to be insensitive for a man to be undertaking certain kinds of research.

The problems of doing feminist research in the discipline of political science were discussed. The lack of 'women and politics' papers and a small number of women academics and staff with expertise in feminist theory mean that it is difficult for students to undertake feminist research with adequate preparation and supervision. For the same reason, there are also problems with evaluation of feminist research.

Institutional constraints too, pose problems - particularly in terms of the collaborative and consultative nature of feminist research.

Discussion then centred on how to improve the situation of feminist research in politics. It was agreed that we needed to use cross disciplinary supervision, although it was acknowledged that this can cause other problems of interdepartmental wrangles.

Working with women's studies departments was also discussed. The relationship between political studies research and women's studies was seen to be variable depending in part on the structure and type of women's studies department. Where there were well resourced women's studies departments, these departments would be able to give assistance in terms of supervision, lecturing to courses and support for women staff and students. Where women's studies departments were under-resourced and courses cobbled

together from papers in other departments then the resources of all involved can become drained. But it was thought that as feminism was concerned with breaking down barriers contact between departments and interdisciplinary research was essential.

In terms of what should be done immediately, discussion centred around trying to promote the work that was being done on women and politics through the **NZPSA Aotearoa/NZ Women and Politics Network**, the **New Zealand Politics Research Group** and through the *Political Science Journal*. A suggestion of a 'women and politics' prize was discussed as one way of encouraging students to write in the area. It was also noted that as 1993 marks the anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand, it was an appropriate time for a focus on this area of politics.

Reports on the proportion of women doing political studies in each department should be forwarded to Bronwyn Hayward, Lincoln University for inclusion in the Network newsletter. **Information for the New Zealand Politics Research Group and enquiries about Political Science** should be addressed to Elizabeth McLeay, Dept. of Politics, Victoria University, PO Box 600 Wellington NZ.



TATOU TATOU
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WĀHINE MO TE MĀTAURANGA

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Teaching News

Women & Politics at Victoria

Elizabeth McLeay
Department of Politics
Victoria University

A new third year course on "Women and Politics" (Pols 357) was introduced in 1991. This course explores the relationship between gender, political participation and public policy formulation in liberal-democratic societies. The representation of women is also one of the themes of a fourth year course which at present examines the topic of political representation in New Zealand (Pols 419).

Gender issues are discussed in other (but not all) courses in the Department of Politics at Victoria.

Aspects of women and politics are also taught in the introductory courses for the Department of Womens Studies at Victoria and in the feminism courses of that department. Anthropology, Economics, Education, History, and Philosophy departments at Victoria all teach courses on women, some of these touch upon political aspects of women's' reality.

Biomedical Policy at Canterbury

Bob Blank
Political Science
Canterbury University

This new course at Canterbury analyses the major social policy problems and political issues emerging from rapid advances in the life sciences. It summarises recent developments in

biotechnology and biomedicine as well as emerging knowledge of the biological dimensions of human behaviour. Emphasis is on the public policy issues.

New developments in biology and medicine challenge long held assumptions regarding the individual and society. In order to cope with the increasingly complex set of policy issues in the life sciences, it is critical that students be aware of the vast social implications of these technological developments. This course should be useful to social science students who are interested in the political and technical aspects of emerging technologies and knowledge in biomedicine.

Although all aspects of the course have special relevance for women, in part because of the male dominance of the medical community, several areas are of critical concern. This course analyses the implications of emerging capabilities to intervene in human genetics, conception, and gestation with an emphasis on the changing notions of women's rights and responsibilities.

Some of the specific topics covered are: the impact of reproductive-aiding techniques such as in vitro fertilization on society's perceptions of women and children, the increasing empathy for the fetus that accompanies an array of prenatal diagnostic techniques such as ultrasound which gives "pictures" of the fetus as a humanform, the pressures on pregnant women to conform to responsible standards of behaviour during gestation, and the use of preselection techniques and other methods used to design "perfect" children.

Also discussed are legal issues surrounding pregnant women including fetal "protection" policies that exclude women of child bearing age from workplaces that may be hazardous to their potential offspring; criminal prosecution of pregnant women for behaviour such as cocaine use that might be harmful to the fetus; and coerced medical treatment including caesarean sections and fetal surgery.

Other relevant topics include policy issues in the treatment of severely ill or premature infants; transplantation of organs, including new issues surrounding use of fetal tissues and organs; behaviour control and modification; and human experimentation. The course also examines as a special case study the AIDS epidemic and looks at a range of death related issues such as euthanasia and the difficult questions of how best to allocate increasingly scarce medical resources.

Women & Politics at Auckland

Heather Devere
Auckland University

In the Department of Political Studies at Auckland University the following research topics specifically related to women are being looked at this year:

Jennifer Curtin is studying "Feminist Politics", (Ph.D.)

Heather Devere is examining "Women's Political Attitudes", (Ph.D.)

John McCrystal is researching "17th Century feminism", (Ph.D.)

"Women Candidates" is the topic of **Tonya**

Greenaway's MA. thesis,

"The Women's Weekly" is the focus of **Rosemary North's** research (M.A.)

Percentage of women students

These are the percentages of women students enrolled in the department compared to the situation in 1986.

	1986	1992
Stage 1	50%	46%
Stage 2	43%	46%
Stage 3	44%	42%
M.A.	40%	41%

Women Focus Committee

A committee has been set up in the Department at Auckland to monitor the women-focus content in papers taught. A questionnaire was sent to all the lecturing staff asking for information about the number of lectures on women; whether these were given by a woman; the number of essays, tutorial topics etc. relating to women; the number of books on the reading lists written by women etc.

Staffing

The Department of Political Studies at Auckland has a policy that at least 50% of the tutoring staff should be

women. The Department is also in the process of making an appointment for someone to teach women and politics/ feminist politics.

News from Canterbury

Anna Broome
Canterbury University

The Political Science Department at Canterbury University is hardly a haven for feminist women studying political science. There aren't any women currently on the staff (there have only ever been three), and there aren't any courses specific to women, (you have to go down the hall to Feminist Studies to find them).

Despite that, the staff are generally understanding and fair, encourage women to continue into postgraduate studies, and are supportive of our projects. This year there are 4 women in the Masters programme (out of about a dozen), but we make up the majority of the honours class with 9 out of 16. **Linda Wheeler** is writing her thesis on the under representation of women in New Zealand parliament, and **Anna Broome** is researching the politics of women's health collectives in New Zealand for an honours reading paper.

While these are the only two projects specific to women there is a lot going on in our 'Survey Methods' paper. Women enrolled in that course include; **Fiona McNab**, **Amanda Wilkinson**, **Vanessa Mansfield** and **Claire Baker**. Their research topic for this paper covers the strength of party identification of women, the political efficacy of women, attitudes to pornography and public perceptions of women MPs. We are all doing our best to make the courses relevant to our lives.

New Book on Women in Power

To mark suffrage year, New Womens press and WEL got \$8000 from the Suffrage Centennial fund. Due Mar 1993

Women and work: Directions and strategies For the 1990s

1991 conference proceedings avail: Nicola Armstrong, Womens' Studies (Sociology), Massey University, Palmerston North, NZ (NZ\$16.00).

Women's Studies At Massey

Nicola Armstrong
Co-ordinator, Women's Studies
Massey University

Massey University currently offers a post graduate Women's Studies programme in the form of a Diploma and Masters in women's studies. The diploma gathers together a flexible programme comprised of either a combination of graduate and undergraduate papers or a full postgraduate course of papers from the faculties of social sciences, Humanities, Education and Business Studies.

In total there are twenty four courses offered in the broad area of Women's Studies at Massey including for example, 50.203 *Mana Wahine: Maori Women* (Maori Studies), 79.569 *Women and Social Services* (Social Policy and Social Work), 14.330 *Equal Employment Opportunity: Policy and Procedures* (Human Resource Management).

In addition in 1993 a new 300 level paper *Women and Social Policy* will be offered from the department of Social Policy and Social Work.

At its heart, the Women's Studies programme has two core papers at post graduate level 70.401 *Theoretical Perspectives in Women's Studies* and 70.401 *Research Methods in Women's Studies*.

One of the strengths of the Massey programme is its availability in extramural form, interested students should write to Nicola Armstrong, Women's studies (Sociology), Massey University, Palmerston North for details.



CHANGING RESPONSIBILITIES

The Association of Social Science Researchers and Sociological Association of Aotearoa (New Zealand) announce a **SOCIAL POLICY CONFERENCE** on **Changing Responsibilities**

on 4 - 6 December 1992

Victoria University, Wellington

Contact Marg Gilling, Private Bag 21
Postal Centre, Wellington, NZ

Return of the
Violet Pages
An update of this directory of women's studies researchers, in Australia and NZ is underway.

Send your:

Name, Address, Phone and post code, Place of employment, Research Areas, Qualifications Recent Published and Unpublished papers. Courses taught (and where), Comments and \$10.00 To: "The Violet Pages"

Research Centre for Women's Studies, University of Adelaide
Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia.

CALL FOR PAPERS

POWER, POLITICS AND PERFORMANCE

Community Management in the 90's
Sydney 14 - 16 April 1993

First National Conference on Community Management presented by The Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management, (CACOM) University of Technology, Sydney.

For

Researchers and practitioners involved with community organisations and their management in the diverse fields of:

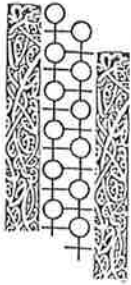
- welfare and health
- arts and heritage
- environment and social action
- leisure, sport and recreation
- education
- religion
- voluntary service
- clubs and societies

The conference will be streamed, catering for those with an academic/research focus as well as covering issues for field practitioners.



Proposed topic areas

State as Market; Working Together (Community Research); Gender; Inter-generational Responsibilities; Treaty of Waitangi; Monitoring Government Policy and Social Trends; Finding Resources for Social Research



Networking *Women and Politics*

Jean Sharfe.

97A Brynley St,
Christchurch. NZ

Jean is setting up WEA women's events for 1993 Suffrage in Canterbury, contact her if you'd like to be involved.

Kathie Gibson,

Department of Geography, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia.

Kathie edited the most recent Gender and Geography Newsletter

Marilyn Waring

Department of Politics
University of Waikato
Hamilton NZ

Marilyn's research and teaching includes political economy, public administration, women and politics and ecological politics.

Heather Lunn

303 Hoon Hay Rd
Christchurch, NZ

Heather is studying Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Lincoln University, she's interested in feminist theory and recreation policy

Clare Simpson

Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism, Lincoln University
PO Box 84 Canterbury, NZ.

Clare teaches courses in community development and women and recreation, she has strong interest in feminist theory and is writing her PhD on the history of women's cycling.

Di Yates

Continuing Education Officer,
University of Waikato,
Private bag 3105 Hamilton NZ.

Di is a member of WEL, involved in co ordinating their publication of a book in centennial year focusing on women who have been in political power in New Zealand.

Liz Brooks

Department of Conservation,
PO Box 10420 Wellington. NZ Liz runs community advocacy for DOC and would like to hear from people considering developing 'women and environment' related projects for 1993.

Judy Pickard

10055 River Rd
Hamilton NZ

Judy is the national co-ordinator for the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL)

Christine Dann

PO box 46
Diamond Harbour
(Christchurch), NZ.

As a speaker for the NZ Green Party Christine's wide range of interests include feminism, history, environment

Kristine Potter

LUSA President
PO Box 7
Lincoln University
Canterbury 8150, NZ

Kristine is interested in women's participation in education policy

Lynn Middleton

NZEI
PO Box 466
Wellington, NZ

Lynn is the Women's Officer for the NZ Educational Institute.

Deidre Shaw

2 Newall St,
Hamilton. NZ

Deidre is finishing her Masters thesis at Waikato (Politics Dept) on farming women and their attitudes to work, she has funding from MAF.

Gabrielle Turner

41 Coleman Ave,
Christchurch, NZ.

Gabrielle studied international relations and Japanese language at Canterbury and is now finishing a post graduate diploma in tourism at Lincoln.

Linda Wheeler

69 Hinau St,

Christchurch, New Zealand,

Linda is looking at the under-representation of women in the New Zealand parliamentary system as her research project at Canterbury University (Politics Dept).

Jane Scott

100 Exmouth Rd,

Northcote Auckland

Jane is interested in socialism/feminism and social theory.

Suzie Carson

Stn Cameron, Ellesmere Rd, RD4,
Ladbrooks, Christchurch, NZ.

Suzie is writing an honours dissertation on women and housing policy (Lincoln), she is also interested in environmental policy.

Laurel Hepburn

19 Te Ra Tce,
Dunedin.

Laurel is teaching legal and political studies at Logan Park High School in Dunedin. She is interested in women and the law, women's rights, feminism and marxism.

Tara Werner

258 Piha Rd, Piha, NZ.

Tara is interested in feminist issues.

Bridget McPhail

Political studies Department,
University of Auckland,

Private Bag, Auckland NZ

Bridget is interested in the history of ideas and the history of women and socialism.

Kim B. Smith
Flat 2 Windsor Towers,
Parliament St, Auckland NZ.
Kim is interested in public policy and health issues.

Heather Devere
Political Studies Department,
Auckland University,
Private Bag, Auckland, NZ.
Heather teaches New Zealand politics, she is writing her PhD on women and political behaviour using a feminist research methodology.

Elizabeth McLeay
Department of Politics
Victoria University,
PO Box 600 Wellington, NZ
Elizabeth lectures in NZ politics and "women and politics" her research interests include political representation, and political agendas.

Helena Catt
Auckland University
Private Bag' Auckland NZ .
Helena lectures in politics and her particular research interests are elections and voting.

Katey Boanas
35 Rata St
Christchurch , NZ
Katey lectures in peace studies at Canterbury. She also has interests in feminism and environmentalism.

Bronwyn Hayward
Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism .Lincoln University,
PO Box 84 ,Canterbury, NZ
Bronwyn lectures in public policy at Lincoln. Her research interests include environmental policy, public participation and communication techniques.

Chan Dixon
2/12 Telford Ave Mt Eden
Auckland NZ.
Chan's researching Marxism and the crisis in social democratic thought..

Diana Gardner
12 Mont le Grand Rd, Mt Eden, NZ.
Diana is studying international relations and political philosophy.

Sonya Van de Geer,
20 Bollard Ave Avondale
Auckland NZ
Sonya is interested in public policy and voting behaviour.

Kate McMillan
31 Peel St
GreyLynn, Auckland NZ.
Kate is interested in International and environmental literature/ politics

Edwina Watson
130 Taikata Rd
Onehunga, Auckland, NZ.
Edwina's research interest is the reduction of the welfare state and beneficiary politics.

Jane Kelsey.
Faculty of Law University of
Auckland Private Bag Auckland NZ
Jane lectures in law and is currently researching Fletcher Challenge International Forestry operations and has recently written on Treaty issues .

Ruth Butterworth
Department of Political Studies
University of Auckland, Private Bag
Auckland NZ
Ruth lectures at Auckland in Politics and her research interests include Media Studies, conflict resolution, and the international anti apartheid movement.

Margaret Clark
Department of Politics, Victoria
University , PO Box 600 Wellington
NZ. Margaret's research focus includes South East Asian politics, women and politics, human rights

Elaine McCoy
Centre for Australian Public Sector
Management , Griffith University
Nathan Queensland 411 Australia

Jindra Tichy
Department of Political Studies
University of Otago
PO Box 56 Dunedin NZ
Jindra is on sabbatical at the moment but she teaches political philosophy and is interested in feminist theory

Gisela Purcell
34 Warden St
Dunedin NZ, Gisela is researching government policy on tourism development (Politics Dept ,Otago)

Anna Broome
62 Balrudry St
Christchurch 4
Anna's particular interests are NZ politics and health policy. Currently researching health collectives and family planning clinics, Anna worked with Robyn Munford and Mary Nash on an annotated **bibliography of Women and the Social Services, available from the Dept of Social Policy and Social Work, Massey University PalmerstonNorth for \$20.00 (GST incl.)**

Jane Jennings
"Canta" (Student Paper)
University of Canterbury
Private Bag ChristchurchNZ
Jane is completing her politics degree with an interest in journalism

Charlotte Fitzgerald
Association of University Staff of NZ,
PO Box 11767, Wellington ,NZ
Charlotte is the research officer for AUS and would like to remind members of the Education Sector Women's conference Jan 1993, Wellington

Jean Drage
12 Reading St, Kaori
Wellington NZ.
For her MA in politics Jean is researching women's political representation on health and hospital boards. She is also interested in the

process of candidate selection

Phillida Bunkle

Womens studies
Victoria University
PO Box 600 Wellington, NZ
Phillida is senior lecturer in Women's Studies and has been a member of the People's Commission, investigating the social and economic condition of New Zealanders

Sharn Riggs

ASTE
PO Box 27141 Upper Willis St
Wellington, NZ
Sharn is Assistant Secretary (women) for the Association of Staff in Tertiary Education

Nardia el Maaroufi

17 Hansons Lane
Christchurch 4, NZ
Nardia is studying politics and is particularly interested in the political situation in the Middle East and international student links.

Elizabeth Tennet

MP for Island Bay
Parliament House Wellington 1, NZ
Elizabeth is Labour's spokesperson for employment and Associate Spokesperson for women.

Ruth Zanker

Media Studies
Christchurch Polytech
PO Box 22 905 Christchurch
Ruth teaches media studies, works as a journalist and promotes the NZ Children's Television Foundation.

Marg Gilling

Social Policy Agency
Department of Social Welfare
Private Bag Wellington. Marg is the contact for the social policy conference this year in Dec.

Delle Small

175 Fitzgerald Ave
Christchurch NZ
Del has worked and lectured

extensively in women and development, and politics

Lianne Dalziel

Parliament House
Wellington 1, NZ
Lianne is MP for Christchurch Central (Labour).

Helen Leahy

27 Mornington Rd
Vogelmom, Wellington NZ
Helen is a policy analyst in the Women and Girls section of the Ministry of education her personal focus : Gender Equity, critical literacy and assessment in the context of gender. She has information about the Australian Women's Education Coalition conference held in Brisbane in July this year if you would like to contact her.

Trish Sarr

NZ Council of Trade Unions
PO Box 6645, Te Aro, Wellington.
Trish is a journalist and the women's officer with the council . She has researched the progress of Women in NZ unions.

Bev James

Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
Manners St. Wellington, NZ
Bev is organising the gender stream of the Changing Responsibilities conference and would particularly like to hear from anyone who is interested in that stream.

Saira Ismail

39A Clarendon St
Dunedin
Saira is attending an Environment and Development workshop held in Malaysia . Saira is seeking an additional \$600 funding for the trip as a black woman student, does anyone have funding suggestions?

Other Networks

New Zealand Politics Research Group

This group is organised out of Victoria University and the Stout Research Centre. The main aim of the group is to encourage research in the area of New Zealand politics, including work with a comparative and theoretical emphasis, and foreign relations. Their 1992 conference theme is Women and Politics. For more information contact Elizabeth McLeay, Department of Politics, Victoria University Wellington, NZ.

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Gender and Geography Study Group

This is a network of women geographers in Australia and New Zealand. Contact Kathie Gibson, Department of Geography, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria 3168, Australia.

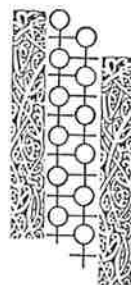
Green Politics

This network was set up after the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) at Essex University in Britain. Bringing together over 200 university researchers by newsletter to the UK, Australasia and North America. Contact Stephen C Young, Editor, Green Politics Newsletter European Policy Research Unit (EPRU) Department of Government, Manchester University M13 9 PL, UK.

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Unwin, We Win

This a new New Zealand University Women's Information Network", between feminist university students in N Z, Contact Jolisa Gracewood, USCA, University of Canterbury, 90 Ilam Rd, Christchurch NZ





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