

No Limits 2002

“I am that I am: Women Challenging 21st Century Boundaries.”
University of Nebraska at Kearney
Conference Schedule

Friday, March 8, 2002 Ockinga on the UNK campus

9:00-9:15 Introductions and Welcome by Diane Kholos Wysocki Director of Women's Studies UNK

9:15-10:15

Room A

“A Legacy of Love”

Introduction:

Nola J. Jeanpierre and Carole Jeanpierre-Finch, University of Nebraska Omaha

Nola and Carole, mother and daughter, accompanied by Johnice Orduna on the piano, have found five generations of rich oral history has been handed down through their family. Through a dramatic retelling, they will present the story of their great-great-great grandmother Easter and her brave journey from slavery to freedom. This presentation is a love offering to honor her and each of the other women in their family who have left a legacy of survival, pride, faith, and love to the generations that followed. Easter Clemmons was born into slavery and sold on the auction block in rural Georgia as a young woman, with one child at her side. Nola and Carole's program will tell of Easter's voyage from rural Georgia to the Indian territories across the trail of tears, and into Arkansas, as it was told to them, and as they mix family facts and legends with music appropriate to the telling of the story.

10:30-11:30

Room A Moderator:

“College Students Hooking Up: A Look at Attachment Styles and Gender”

Stacy Rutar, Jeff Lange, Paul Christensen, University of Nebraska Kearney

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between attachment styles of college men and women and their willingness to “hook-up.” Hooking up, in this study, is defined as a sexual encounter which may or may not include sexual intercourse that usually occurs on one occasion between two people who are strangers or brief acquaintances. They hypothesized that men who have secure attachment styles will be more likely to hook up whereas women who have insecure attachment styles will be more likely to hook up. The findings of their research support their hypothesis.

“Romance Novels and Love Play Initiation: A Case Study Content Analysis”

Dianne Keiter, University of Nebraska Kearney

Romance novels have alternately been viewed as trash or literature. The

concept of romance novels as a liberating source for women continues to be controversial. This content analysis examined the relationships, specifically sexual coercion, between the main characters in three select sub-genres of romance novels, written by the same author, which represented different time periods. The study also compared the differences in the relationships as depicted in the novels, which represented historical, contemporary and futuristic romance. This study found that the relationships did not change as much as was expected. In the historical romance, the male character initiated all love scenes, but initiation in the contemporary and futuristic romances was roughly equal. The research showed that romance novels tended to portray sexual coercion unrealistically when compared to cultural expectations.

Room B Moderator:

“Women in Russia: Role of Women in Russian History, Women’s Movement and Present-Day Situation”

Natalya Sidorovskaya, Kansas State University

This presentation will analyze women’s roles in the history of Russia and examine how they have changed under certain circumstances and events. This presentation provides a historical overview of women in Russia, as well as examining the present day situation in Russian women’s lives. Women’s lives have vastly improved based on the fact that the country has become more aware of gender issues and giving more power to the feminist movement than ever before.

“Overlooked Religious Roles of Teton and Crow Women”

Beth Moore, University of Nebraska Omaha

Native women’s religious roles have been neglected in much of the scholarship on Native American religion because, until recently the majority of the researchers were white, Christian men who had strong biases that relegated women to auxiliary religious positions. This study of Teton and Crow society from a woman’s perspective reveals the major religious responsibilities women had in these two societies before the disappearance of the buffalo. Women’s roles were easier to overlook because they were less ceremonious. By using a feminist perspective one can better recognize and appreciate women’s religious functions as they were recognized by these Native American societies. Women created and owned religious objects, received extensive religious instruction, initiated ceremonies, were the children’s main religious instructors, and some even had considerable healing abilities. Women’s indispensable roles were complementary and equal to men’s.

“French and Spanish Women in North Africa”

Erin Roark, University of Nebraska at Kearney

In the Colonial era, women were viewed and inaccurately stereotyped by their colonizers. This presentation will talk about how women in North Africa viewed themselves based on various woman writers and important female political and social figures of the time. Furthermore, this presentation will show the more modern day “western” stereotypes of North African and of Muslim women.

11:45-1:00 Luncheon and Speaker

11:45 Introduction and Welcome of the VCAA Dr. Kate Benzel
A few words by Dr. James Roark VCAA of UNK

Introduction to Speaker Dr. Carol Lilly – Department of History Chair

12:00 Speaker Elisabeth Kopp Women in Politics – What Women Can Contribute

1:15-2:15

Room A

Introduction:

“Women of the Civil Rights Movement”

Mary Gruber, University of Nebraska Omaha

This illustrated presentation begins with an introduction that emphasizes the huge contributions of women to the Civil Rights movement in this country, followed by a brief background on the movement itself. The eight women presented in detail who played a part in the Civil Rights Movement are: Diane Nash, a student from Fisk University in Nashville who was very active in sit-ins and other protests; Ella Baker, who helped found SNCC; Daisy Bates, who was the president of the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP when Little Rock's Central High was integrated; Marian Wright-Edelman, who took part in many protests and was a civil rights attorney, as well as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi state bar; Jo Ann Robinson, who organized the Montgomery bus boycott; Anne Moody, who wrote "Coming of Age in Mississippi," an autobiography that portrays the movement very well; Angela Davis, who was a member of the Black Panther Party; and Fannie Lou Hamer, who was a sharecropper and the granddaughter of slaves, and who co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

2:30- 3:30

Room A Moderator:

“Kate Chopin and Charlotte Perkins Gilman Give Birth to ‘The Ideal Woman’?”

Gina Burkart, University of Northern Iowa

This presentation explores how both Kate Chopin and Charlotte Perkins Gilman present women in the books, *The Awakening* and *The Yellow Wallpaper*, who are struggling with the many roles they typically find themselves in. Edna in *The Awakening* and Jane in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, feel imprisoned by their expected duties as the domesticated woman and struggle with their roles as mother, wife, and mother. This struggle ironically passes through the three trimesters of pregnancy and finalizes with the birth of a new woman. In forcing the emergence of the new woman through the three trimesters of pregnancy, Gilman and Chopin show that a woman does not have to divorce herself from her natural role of mother to bring about the transformation of woman. Rather woman must strive to give birth to the “new ideal woman” and free herself from the social constraints of domesticity, thus fusing motherhood with literary freedom.

“Pre and Post War Attitudes in *To the Lighthouse*: Struggles to Move Beyond Patriarchal Tyranny”

Heather Wood, University of Nebraska Lincoln

This presentation will illustrate the ways that author Virginia Woolf uses both form and theme to sort out the causes and effects of the World War I as found in *To the Lighthouse*. Woolf works to show how war in general is linked to the politics of the family unit and grounded in patriarchal oppression. Wood discusses how the pre-war

idealization of men and the roles that they play in society is potentially and actively destructive as in this literary work.

“Defining an Educated Woman in Society: Does Education Create a Writer?”

Kathi Remminga, University of Nebraska Kearney

Remmenga discusses the following thought in her presentation: If you educate women and men the same will this structure their gender role equally? Her presentation is based on an examination of Virginia Woolf’s informal education as reflected in her work, *The Voyage Out*.

Room B Moderator:

“Creating a Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance on the UNO Campus”

Angie Robertson and Sabrina Denney, University of Nebraska Omaha

This presentation focuses on how the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance began at UNO, how they came up with the mission, developed bold new strategies and programs to advance woman’s equality, non-violence, economic development and empowering women and girls in all sectors of society and the benefits and resources available through the Leadership Alliances.

“The Importance of Gender Specific Treatment for Women”

Kim Carpenter and Mary Barry-Magsamen, Nebraska Coalition for Women’s Treatment

Women make up the fastest growing population for substance abuse in the United States, yet women face barriers when they attempt to recover from alcoholism or drug addiction. This presentation will discuss the history of women and substance abuse, the issues women face in recovery, and the current treatment components used today that offer gender competent treatment.

3:45- 4:45 pm

Room A Moderator:

“The Power of Man”

Molly Lopatofsky, Bethany College

Women share equal rights in our country and have made much progress to get to this point. However, there is still one area where women are not treated equally. Lopatofsky, along with thousands of other women, have been a victim to various types of mistreatment. In her poetry, she attempts to enlighten others to this situation by sharing her own personal experiences through poetry.

“Coloring Outside the Lines”

Lori Gonzales, Hastings Community College

This creative writing presentation is based on Gonzales’ personal multi-cultural experiences as an Anglo woman, who was born and lived in the Los Angeles area. After graduating from high school, she married a Latino and she and her husband are currently raising three sons in an environment of many traditions. This presentation will be poetry and short readings on how society interprets her role as a white woman/proxy Latina and how her life changed after moving into the predominantly white Mid-West.

"Connecting Women's Voices Across the Eras: a Poetic Interpretation"

JC Reilly, University of Nebraska Lincoln

This poetry takes the listener through several poems related to women's "assigned" gender roles, identities, or images in society. The women are especially fascinating, in that, they have somehow rebuked the roles, or thwarted them, through their actions. This poetry takes on the lives of six specific women including Mary Magdalene, Na Prous Boneta, a medieval mystic, Sylvia and Christabel Pankhurst of the suffrage movement, and Dr. Maria Stokes of World War II labor movement.

Room B Moderator:

"Cultural Syndromes as Potential Indicators for the 'What is Beautiful is Good' Stereotype"

Stephanie Anderson, University of Nebraska Kearney

Anderson will present her findings in her study that analyzed the "what is beautiful is good" stereotype. In this study, Anderson examines this stereotype across five cultures: the United States, the Bahamas, Japan and Nepal and finds, that despite previous research, differences between cultures do exist.

"Attribution of Guilt and Sentencing in a Murder Trial: Does Gender Matter?"

Sarah Buhr, University of Nebraska Kearney

Several studies have investigated the different factors in a trial that influence juror decision, such as sex of defendant, age, and the presence or absence of sexual abuse. This study was a two by two between subject design that investigated differences between the sex of the participant and verdict and sentencing when the defendant was either sexually or physically abused. The results showed that female mock jurors tended to sentence defendants more harshly than mock male jurors.

"Female's Concerns About Attending a College or University"

Emily Malendorf and Emily McCollom, University of Nebraska Kearney

This study was done to determine the amount of stress, type of stress and type of motivations that female students feel about attending a college or university. A questionnaire, administered to local high school students indicated that females consistently feel more stress about attending a college or university than males do.

4-7 Alumni House for faculty to Honor Adilah Barnes or free time for dinner

7:00 pm Performance by Adilah Barnes in the UNK Recital Hall

Saturday, March 9th, 2002

8:30-9:00 Registration and coffee

9:25-10:15 Conference Presentations

Room A Moderator:

Dyke Poetry

Kris Gandra, University of Nebraska Lincoln

"Poetic Windows on Women's Lives"

Myrna Sandvik, University of Northern Iowa

A series of short poems that consist of a glimpse of some aspect of an individual woman's life or philosophy will be read. These poems focus traditional themes, such as, wanting to share more in the lives of grown children, enjoying nature, remembering loved one's from the past, to non traditional themes that comment on our fast food type of life, and overdone lawn ornaments.

"Electra Isn't Always As She Seems"

Melissa Nosal, University of Nebraska Lincoln

In this presentation, Nosal argues that Freud's Oedipal complex develops in a clear, dominant patriarchal society. She explores the following question: Did Freud conceive of an environment in which males and females work together, rule together, and love one another? Using *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, by Audre Lorde, Nosal examines the female counterpart to the Oedipal complex, the Electra complex. It is maintained that these theories have enormous significance and implications for women's literature.

Room B Moderator:

"International Female Student's Academic Success: A Phenomenological Study"

Rachida Faid- Douglas, Lincoln Public Schools

The purpose of this presentation is to describe the essence of academic success of international female students. This study gives a voice to international female students, and advancement to the understanding of international woman's needs and possibilities for support. Phenomenological methodology is used to describe the essence of the lived academic experience.

"Florence Kelley: Sociology, Feminism, and Anti-Marxism"

Andrew Timming, University of Nebraska Lincoln

This presentation will shed light on Florence Kelley, an American sociologist who is widely neglected because of, as Timming argues, the sexist and anti-Marxist tendencies within the American discipline. Kelley's views on women's rights, the right to childhood and the condition and rights of immigrants and workers place her as an influential militant feminist socialist whose thoughts must not be excluded from the history of sociology.

"Reflections... A Textile Collage of Feelings and Memories"

Janie York, University of Nebraska Omaha

Women have been creating textiles for thousands of years, often in groups to make the work easier. Many examples have been seen such as that of an Egyptian funerary model dated during the 11th Dynasty that showed female textile workers at ground looms. Creating textiles was the uncontested domain of women in ancient times which shows that women have been the strongest when they were working and creating together as they challenge the boundaries that have been shaped by society or created by the women themselves through self-doubt, caring for everyone but themselves and shelving the memories and events that could have helped future generations grow. This presentation display quilts as the presenter talks about the workshops she holds to help people examine events in their lives while creating quilts

10:30-11:30

Room A Moderator: Janice Fronczak

“Of All the Parts She Plays”

Jean Duffy, University of Nebraska Kearney

This is a one-act play that takes place in a doctor’s office. The main character, Miriam, is being diagnosed with breast cancer. Each role that Miriam plays- the mother, the feminine, and the professional role- are represented as the doctor discusses treatment options with her.

“I am Becoming: A Feminist Perspective”

Melissa Raabe and Jamie Stock, University of Nebraska Lincoln

Through a series of letters, quotes and commentary, two young women share a unique perspective in a performance that address feminist issues including women’s body image, media, politics feminism, male and female relationships, and women’s friendship.

Luncheon Speaker

11:45-1:00

Introduction by:

Room B

Speaker Barbara Lounsberry Nancy Drew: Midwestern Heroine to the World, The Iowa Legacy.