

Abstracts

MASSON, D., and P.-A. TREMBLAY: "Mouvement des femmes et développement local [Women's Organizations and Local Development]". Despite their noticeable absence from regional development's traditional arenas of policy-making, women's movement organizations play a significant role in the constitution of development practices. The authors argue that, in order to understand the localized, "by and for women" actions of women's movement organizations as development, this very notion needs to be reconceptualized. They propose that we view "development" as a conflictual social process, embedded in social relations of power - thus the importance to take gender relations into account. In this perspective, the contribution of the "Gender and Development" approach is underlined. The authors then draw on this strand of theorizing to analyse, in the second part of the article, the production of organizations and services by Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean's (Québec) women groups as self-development practices, geared to meet women's practical needs and to advance their strategic interests.

NEIS, B.: "From "Shipped Girls" to "Brides of the State": The Transition from Familial to Social Patriarchy in the Newfoundland Fishing Industry". Throughout the history of the Newfoundland fishery, women's access to the fishery resource and to the wealth it produces has been constrained by patriarchal ideologies and practices. This paper uses the concepts "familial patriarchy" and "social patriarchy" to examine the gendered history of this fishery. The analysis concentrates on the most marginalized groups of women within this fishery economy as the groups whose experiences provide the clearest illustration of the effects of patriarchy. Social patriarchal institutions both eroded and perpetuated familial patriarchy in the post World War II Newfoundland inshore fishery. Current initiatives could bring about its demise in many fishing households while reinforcing it in others.

GILBERT, A.: "Emploi féminin et milieu géographique: tendances hors Québec [Women Employment and Regions: Tendencies Outside Quebec]". After reviewing provincial data illustrating barriers to the employment of Francophone women and the inequalities affecting their employment income, this paper analyses women employment at the regional scale in selected

provinces. Differences between regions according to the size and relative importance of the French population and between metropolitan areas and other will be highlighted. These differences suggest specific problems associated with the low participation of Francophone women in the labor market in the different types of French environment under study.

PRESTON, V., and S. MCLAFFERTY: "Gender Differences in Commuting at Suburban and Central Locations". In general, men commute longer distances and for longer times than women. However, the extent and nature of the gender differential in commuting is influenced by the local contexts in which men and women live. To understand how local context affects the gender differential in commuting, this paper compares the commuting times of men and women in suburban and central locations. Using information from New York and Toronto, gender differences are first described for each location, then the effects of economic and transportation factors on commuting time are compared. Among service workers, we find the expected gender differential in suburban areas, but not for residents of central areas. Men and women living at the centre of each urban area commute approximately the same amount of time, once the effects of income, occupation, and transportation mode are controlled. In the suburbs, gender differences are strongly related to household characteristics, with married men and women having the greatest disparity in average commuting time. Our results suggest important differences in the social construction of gender relations within contemporary cities.

SEGUIN, A.-M.: "Luttes urbaines et nouvelles formes de solidarité sociale: le quartier Saint-Jean-Baptiste à Québec [Urban Struggles and New Forms of Social Solidarity: The Saint-Jean-Baptiste Neighbourhood in Québec City]". The examination of urban struggles in the Saint-Jean-Baptiste neighbourhood in Québec City reveals the dynamism of the civil society in a neighbourhood in which the majority of households are single persons and 'precarious' workers. Through these struggles, young university graduates, women and men, try not only to improve their residential milieu but also to reconstruct their identity and to weave the social relations necessary for community solidarity. Contrary to observations reported in other analyses on other urban settings, we observe no gender divisions in the struggles and the existence of egalitarian gender relations. We interpret this situation as an outcome of the shared social conditions that women and men of the neighbourhood face which bring them to develop the same discourses and practices in urban struggles. The examination of past episodes of social development sheds new light on the current episode of urban struggles and raises questions as to the newness character of what is called the 'new partnership' between State and civil society. Despite the fact that community solidarity, as a mode of social regulation, has many positive qualities, we also refer to its limitations.

MANNETTE, J., and M. MEAGHER: "Struggling and Juggling: Research on, by, and for Cape Breton Women". What does it mean, methodologically and practically, to use applied social science research as a mechanism for social change and empowerment in the lives of women who live in poverty? This paper seeks to address that question by retracing the steps in one regional case study, the 1990/91 "struggling and juggling" project in Cape Breton. It is suggested that social action research enables these marginalized persons to reclaim their experience; to document that experience in their voice; and to develop strategies for change which are rooted in their lives and their conceptualizations of those lives. Thus, the research process becomes one which is authentically on, by and for women. From this process, the "struggling and juggling" women have designed interventions into systemic, regionally-constituted poverty. These interventions promote women's personal and collective transformations as they draw strength from one another and from advocates/facilitators without recourse to the welfare state.

TREMBLAY, M.: "Les pratiques de mise en réseau des groupes de femmes du Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean: un élément dynamisant d'un développement "rose" [Networking by Women's Organizations in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region: A Dynamic Element of Feminine Development]". A holistic conception of regional development implies not only a reconceptualization of the relations between the spheres of production and reproduction but also necessitates the recognition of women's groups as definers of priorities and producers of development practices. Following this approach, we analyze in this article, one of the self-development practices of women's organizations, that of the rooting of women's groups in their environment through the expansion and activities of their networks. We note, based on the results of a research project involving 33 women's groups in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, the factors that influence the creation of networks of women's groups, the actors involved in these networks, the nature of the links created as well as the resources involved.