

Women, Health, and Representation

Conference Directors

Jennifer Tuttle, Dorothy M. Healy Chair of Literature and Health and Assistant Professor of English, University of New England

Elizabeth De Wolfe, Eleanor DeWolfe Ludcke ('26) Honorary Chair of Liberal Studies and Associate Professor of American Studies, University of New England

Candace Kanos, Project Historian, Maine Memory Network and Associate Professor of History, Maine College of Art

Susan McHugh, Assistant Professor of English, University of New England

Conference Planning Committee

Janice Beal, Library/Public Services

Roberta (Bobby) Gray, Library/Public Services

Cally Gurley, Curator, Maine Women Writers Collection

Pat Milligan, Library/Technical Services

Danielle Vayenas, University Relations

The Directors and Planning Committee gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of many people, including all of our panel chairs as well as:

- ★ Sandra Featherman (President, University of New England)
- ★ Lemuel Berry (Vice President for Academic Affairs)
- ★ Jacque Carter (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences)
- ★ Jim Cyr (Copy Center)
- ★ Sandy DeLuca & Ellen Parsons Croninger (Dean's Office, College of Arts & Sciences)
- ★ Diane Foster (Student Accounts)
- ★ Denise Gendron (Administrative Assistant, Humanities)
- ★ Andrew Golub (Vice President, Information Resources)
- ★ John Gurley, Karen Mason, and Carlos Cuellar (opening reception entertainment)
- ★ Sandy Haas and UNE Security Staff
- ★ Katie Hanson, Katy Phetteplace, and Kristie Worster (student volunteers)
- ★ Holly Haywood, Kari Wagner, Mike Vickery, and Andrew Horvat (Media Services)
- ★ Cathy Herbert & Karen Garrison (Holiday Inn)
- ★ Mark High (Casco Bay Books)
- ★ Polly Welts Kaufman (University of Southern Maine)
- ★ David Kuchta (conference program design)
- ★ Anouar Majid (Chair, Department of English)
- ★ Michael Morrissey (conference logo, program, and website design)
- ★ Nancy Noble & Stephanie Philbrick (Maine Historical Society)
- ★ Ray Ross & Karen Rice (Sodexo)
- ★ Paulette St. Ours (Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences)
- ★ Victoria Smith (Secretary to Dr. Alvord)
- ★ Lisa Southwick (Physician Assistant Program, for graciously lending library display memorabilia)
- ★ Tom's of Maine
- ★ UNE Facilities & Housekeeping Staff
- ★ Sue Walker (MWWC)
- ★ Anne Zill & Kevin Callahan (Art Gallery)

Credits

Vitruvian Woman conference logo by Michael Morrissey

I Make Books

18:00 minutes, 2004

A documentary short. Martha Hall, a Maine woman artist living with cancer, makes artists books to communicate with her family and her doctors. Directed by Hollis Haywood and Kari Wagner. Original music by Moby. Produced by The University of New England Media Services and the Maine Women Writers Collection.

Women, Health, and Representation

University of New England/Westbrook College Campus

June 17-19, 2004

Program of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Registration at the Holiday Inn West, 81 Riverside Street, Portland, 5-8 p.m.

Reception, pool-side at the Holiday Inn, 5-7 p.m.

ONGOING DISPLAYS

MWWC Tours

Maine Women Writers Collection, Abplanalp Library

The Maine Women Writers Collection facility will be open for tours by the Curator, Cally Gurley, on Friday, June 18th, 12:45-1:30, and Saturday, June 19th, 12:30-1:15, and by appointment during the conference. Please stop in and bring your research questions!

Throughout the conference, the following displays will be available for viewing:

Artist's books by Martha A. Hall

Maine Women Writers Collection, Abplanalp Library

Tour the MWWC facility to view a series of powerfully moving pieces crafted by Martha Hall (1949-2004, a book artist most recently from Orr's Island, Maine), in which she explores multiple aspects of her experience with breast cancer. A documentary short featuring Hall and her work, entitled *I Make Books*, accompanies the display and will be played upon request. Hours are listed above.

Gyn Talk: Collaborative Paintings on Women's Health

Art Gallery

Visit the UNE Art Gallery to see a series of collaborative paintings by Keith Fox and Mary Louise Dick. These acrylic works incorporate dialogues about women's gynecologic and obstetric healthcare. The artists will be giving a presentation about their work in Session V (on Saturday, June 19th, at 10:30 a.m.)

Art Gallery hours during the conference: Fri., June 18th: noon - 5 p.m.
Sat., June 19th: 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Library Displays on the History of Women's Health

Abplanalp Library

Throughout the Abplanalp Library you will find the following displays created by UNE's Reference Librarian Bobby Gray: "Modesty Forbids": The Age of the Womb"; "Pure Water, Good Health: 19th-Century Women and the Water Cure"; "OH - H - H, we'll sing of Lydia Pinkham"; "In the Bloom of Youth: Adolescent Girlhood, 1840-1950"; and "Freak Show! Women as Marvels." Take a walk through the Library and enjoy!

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Registration and coffee 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Hersey Hall–Cahner’s Lounge

Session I 9:00-10:30 a.m.

(A) Representing Mental Illness

Blewett 107

Chair: Kirsten Potter, University of New England

Debra Beilke, Concordia University-St. Paul, “The Language of Madness: Representing Bipolar Disorder in Kay Redfield Jamison’s *An Unquiet Mind* and Kate Millet’s *The Loony-Bin Trip*”

Mary Goldschmidt, Ramapo College, “‘Autobiology’: Self-Representations of Depression in Black and White Women”

Lisabeth Hock, Wayne State University, “Gabriele Reuter’s *From a Good Family* (1895) in the Context of Late-Nineteenth-Century German Psychiatry”

(B) Representing Maternity

Proctor 202

Chair: Lorraine Carroll, University of Southern Maine

Marcia Smith, University of Arkansas, “Imaging the Pregnant Body: The Cultural and Rhetorical Impact of Fetal Ultrasound as Female Representation”

JaneMaree Maher, Monash University, Australia, “Technical Talk: What Birthing Women Hear in the Delivery Suite”

Motoko Nakada, University of Tsukuba, Japan, “The Borrowed Breast: The Representation of Wet Nurses in Victorian England”

(C) Medical Narratives: New Voices in Fiction and Memoir

Blewett 021

Chair: Allison L. Hepler, University of Maine at Farmington

Erika Dreifus, writer and editor, “When the Main Character is a Caregiver: A Short Story Reading”

Ellen Kirschner, Queens University, “A Fictional Rendering of the Medical Milieu”

Andrea L. Volpe, Harvard University, Selections from *Trousseau’s Sign: Reflections on Marriage, Cancer, and Memory*

This panel explores the diversity of women’s experience in medicine, health, and illness through readings from novels, short stories, and literary nonfiction by three women writers.

Break 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Hersey Hall–Cahner’s Lounge

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 11:00-noon

Ludcke Auditorium

Welcoming Remarks:

Conference Directors

Welcome to UNE:

Dr. Sandra Featherman, UNE President

Keynote Address:

“Changing the Face of Medicine: Healing from a Woman’s Perspective”

Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., Dartmouth Medical School

Lunch 12:15-1:30 p.m.

Alexander Hall

Friday, June 18

Session II 1:45-3:15 p.m.

(A) Narratives of Breast Cancer

Blewett 021

Chair: Susan Nesbit, University of Manitoba, Canada

Gwynne A. Gertz, University of Illinois at Chicago, "Breast Cancer Treatment and Dueling Discourses"

Chris Leary, University of Sheffield, UK, "Empowering the Docile Body: Audre Lorde, Mastectomy, and Gender Performance"

Judith Rosenbaum, Brown University, "'Writing to Save My Life': The Politics of Breast Cancer Narratives"

(B) Health and Femininity in Literature

Blewett 107

Chair: Carol Farley Kessler, Emerita, Penn State Delaware County Campus

Ann Henley, North Carolina State University, "Defaced, Deflowered: Smallpox and Images of Women"

Jennifer-Ann DiGregorio Kightlinger, SUNY Stony Brook, "*Mangiando, ricordo*": Italian American Women and Food in Josephine Gattuso Hendin's *The Right Thing to Do*"

Margaret Murray, Western Connecticut State University, "Tough Donuts and a Mess of Greens: Mary Wilkins Freeman's Therapeutic Fictions of New England"

Break 3:15-3:30 p.m.

Parker Pavilion

Session III 3:30-5:00 p.m.

(A) Representing Women in Qualitative Health Research:

Mental Health, Embodiment, and Disability

Blewett 107

Chair: Regi Robnett, University of New England

Carla Rice, University of Toronto, Canada, "Imagining the Other: Researching and Representing Diverse Women's Narratives of Embodiment" (paper to be read in absentia)

Jennifer M. Poole, University of Toronto, Canada, "'Do I Say I Had One Too?' Subjectivity in Social Work Research on Eating Disorders"

Esther Ignagni, University of Toronto, Canada, "Not a Pretty Picture: 'Seeing' and Representing Gender and Race Through the Lens of Disability"

(B) Normativity and Desire

Proctor 202

Chair: Alexandra Campbell, University of New England

Caroline Fusco, University of Toronto, Canada, "Re-Presenting the 'Healthified' Woman: Governance, Discipline, and Systems of Domination in Public Space"

Jenny Higgins, Emory University, "Representations (or Lack Thereof) of Women's Desire in the Family Planning Field"

(C) Reading/Screening: "Spin" (from *The Summer of Her Baldness: A Cancer Improvisation*)

Catherine Lord, University of California, Irvine

CHP Classroom

Introduced by Kathie Garbe, University of New England

In this reading from her book, The Summer of Her Baldness, which the author describes as "a documentation of the involuntary performance piece occasioned by the diagnosis of breast cancer," Lord explores the social construction of illness, and baldness, in terms of gender and queerness.

Book Signing and Reception 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Parker Pavilion

Join the keynote speaker and conference participant authors for wine and cheese in the Parker Pavilion. Books will be available for purchase (a complete list of participating authors and their books follows on page 6). Our thanks go to Casco Bay Books for handling the book sale.

Shuttle Bus to Old Port restaurant district

Departs 6:30 p.m., circular drive at library steps

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Registration and coffee 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Parker Pavilion

Session IV 8:30-10:00 a.m.

(A) Bodies in Public: Text and Context

Blewett 021

Chair: Matthew Anderson, University of New England
Barbara Baumgartner, Washington University, "Genderless Anatomies: The Body in Nineteenth-Century Anatomy and Physiology Texts"
Jen Koslow, The Newberry Library, "'Aside from Imbibing a Bit She Was a Respectable Woman': Resisting Venereal Disease Programs in Los Angeles in the Era of World War I"
Nancy E. Hansen, University of Manitoba, Canada, "Women with Disabilities: Redefining Bodyspace On Our Own Terms"

(B) Women Practitioners in Fact and Fiction

Proctor 202

Chair: Jaime Hylton, University of New England
Helen Bailie, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, "To Be a Doctress: The Calling of Mary Seacole"
Frederick Wegener, California State University, Long Beach, "'The Need of a Woman by Women': Representations of Medical Women's Rural Practice in Late-Nineteenth-Century New England"
Mary Cameron, Florida Atlantic University, "Women Ayurvedic Doctors in Nepal: Transnational Ayurveda, Global Biomedicalization, and the Gender Politics of Medicine"

(C) Gender & Pathology in Science and Media

Blewett 107

Chair: Lisa Botshon, University of Maine, Augusta
Kylo-Patrick R. Hart, Plymouth State University, "Representing Women With HIV/AIDS in American Movies"
Jaime A. Lockwood, Sarah Lawrence College, "Feminist Science, Congressional Hearings, and the Human Genome Project"
Jessica P. Miller, University of Maine, "Representations of Women in the 'Other' Drug War"

Break 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Parker Pavilion

Session V 10:30-noon

(A) Race and Health

Blewett 021

Chair: Nancy Rankin, University of New England
Christine Leiren Mower, University of Washington, "'Sound Citizenship,' Democratic Bodies: Global New Women as the 'Microbes of Civilization'"
Terry Novak, Johnson & Wales University, "'For the Betterment of the Race': Frances E.W. Harper's Health Agenda"
Vanita Sharma, University of California, San Diego, "The Negotiation of Colonial Spaces in the *Wonderful Adventures of Mary Seacole in Many Lands*"

(B) Illness as Resistance

Blewett 107

Chair: Lori Power, University of New England
Robin L. Cadwallader, St. Francis University, "The Politics of Illness: Mary Rankin's Success or The Story of a True 'Daughter of Affliction'"
Sarah K. Lanius, Lehigh University, "Writing on the Brain: The Subversive Madness of Women Writers"

Session V continued on next page

Saturday, June 19

(C) Art, Women's Empowerment, and the Modern Health Care System Art Gallery

Chair: Dominica Lord-Wood, Maine College of Art

Marie Louise Dick, St. Cloud State University, "Doctoring Through Dialogue and Art: An Artistic Representation of Ethnographic Data Pertaining to Women's Conversations about Their Healthcare"

Keith Fox, Rhode Island School of Design, "How Artistic Style Might Promote Women's Self-Empowerment in the Modern Healthcare System"

In this panel, the presenters discuss their collaboration and their individual contributions to a series of acrylic paintings that include fictional dialogues dealing with women's gynecologic and obstetric healthcare. The paintings are on display at the Art Gallery for viewing during the conference.

Lunch noon-1:00 p.m.

Alexander Hall

Session VI 1:15-2:45 p.m.

(A) Mental Illness: Diagnosis and Treatment

Proctor 202

Chair: Linda Morrison, University of New England

Bett Daley, Social Worker, "Secrets to Keep: The Stigma of Mental Illness and the Involuntary Commitment of Women"

Amy Rutstein-Riley, Lesley University, "Shifting Views of Self: The Impact of Illness Diagnosis on Young Adult Women"

(B) Play: "Cookin' With Typhoid Mary: A Culinary Monologue"

Ludcke Auditorium

Carolyn Gage, Playwright

Gage is a lesbian-feminist playwright, performer, director, and activist. She is the author of more than forty plays, musicals, and one-woman shows, many of which highlight non-traditional roles for women and reclaim famous lesbians whose stories have been distorted or erased from history.

Performed by Cathy Plourde

A playwright, actor, and executive director of Add Verb Productions Arts & Education (dedicated to using theatre as a means of dialogue and change), Plourde's own plays address eating disorders and relationship violence. She is Adjunct Artist in Residence at the University of Southern Maine.

Mary Mallon, dubbed "Typhoid Mary" by a hostile press, never admitted that she was a typhoid carrier. Her persistent refusal to defer to medical experts infuriated George Soper, a sanitation engineer for New York City, who was bent on incarcerating her. In this monologue, Mary speaks for herself. An Irish emigrant, she traces the story of her persecution back to the Potato Famine, all the while eyeing and chopping potatoes for the stew pot in the kitchen of the mysterious institution where she cooks. Carolyn Gage will attend and participate in Q & A.

Session VII: Local Tour 3:15-5:00 p.m.

Please sign up for the tour at the registration table by 5:15 p.m. Friday

Portland Women's History Walking Trail

Guide: Polly Welts Kaufman, University of Southern Maine

A guided walking tour in downtown Portland exploring sites of importance in women's history, with a particular emphasis on women and health care. Participants will carpool to the starting point.

Book Sale and Signing
Hosted by Casco Bay Books
Friday, June 18, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Parker Pavilion

Book List

By the keynote speaker:

Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., and Elizabeth Cohen Van Pelt, The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: The First Navajo Woman Surgeon Combines Western Medicine and Traditional Healing (Bantam, 2000)

By conference participants:

Botshon, Lisa and Meredith Goldsmith, eds., Middlebrow Moderns: Popular American Women Writers of the 1920s (Northeastern University Press, 2003)

Cameron, Mary, On the Edge of the Auspicious: Gender and Caste in Nepal (University of Illinois Press, 1998)

De Wolfe, Elizabeth A. , Shaking the Faith: Women, Family, and Mary Marshall Dyer's Anti-Shaker Campaign, 1815-1867 (Palgrave, 2002)

Dreifus, Erika, Free Expression: 101 Fee-Free Contests, Competitions, and Other Opportunities for Resourceful Writers (www.booklocker.com)

Edwards, Thomas and Elizabeth A. De Wolfe, eds., Such News of the Land: U.S. Women Nature Writers (University Press of New England, 2001)

Gage, Carolyn, Like There's No Tomorrow: Meditations for Women Leaving Patriarchy (Common Courage Press, 1997)

- - -. Monologues and Scenes for Lesbian Actors (Odd Girls Press, 1999)

- - -. The Second Coming of Joan of Arc and Other Plays (HerBooks, 1995)

- - -. Take Stage! How to Produce and Direct a Lesbian Play (Scarecrow Press, 1997)

Henley, Ann, ed., Southern Souvenirs: Selected Stories and Essays of Sara Haardt (University of Alabama Press, 1999)

Hepler, Allison L., Women in Labor: Mothers, Medicine, and Occupational Health in the United States, 1890-1980 (Ohio State University Press, 2000)

Kessler, Carol Farley, Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Her Progress Toward Utopia, with Selected Writings (Syracuse University Press, 1995)

- - -, ed. Daring to Dream: Utopian Fiction by United States Women Before 1950, 2nd ed. (Syracuse University Press, 1995)

- - -, ed. The Story of Avis (1877) by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps (Rutgers University Press, 1992)

Lord, Catherine. The Summer of Her Baldness: A Cancer Improvisation (University of Texas Press, 2004)

Maher, JaneMaree and Maggie Kirkman, The Fertile Imagination: Narratives of Reproduction (La Trobe Publishers, 2002)

Tuttle, Jennifer S., ed. The Crux (1911) by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (University of Delaware Press, 2002)