

E-SOURCES ON WOMEN AND GENDER

The SLOAN WORK AND FAMILY RESEARCH NETWORK at Boston College (<http://wfnetwork.bc.edu>) specializes in the interaction between the workplace and families, and offers resources for audiences that include researching students, academics, policymakers, “workplace practitioners,” journalists, and individuals trying to navigate the give-and-take of family and work in their own lives. Included on the site is a “topic page” called *Gender and Use of Workplace Policies*, compiled by Sarah Morrison and Christina Matz-Costa (<http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/topic.php?id=28>), which focuses on how the use of family-focused workplace policies and programs is affected by gender, parental and household roles, and perceptions of what it means to be a “good worker.” Morrison and Matz-Costa include links to relevant statistics, Sloan-sponsored studies, and written interviews from the Sloan site, as well as resources for teachers and trainers and a list of suggested readings. Audio and video resources are also presented.

With an advisory board made up of women from Africa, India, and South America, the GENDER CC website (<http://www.gendercc.net>) is a “response to the growing public attention to climate change, and the increasing need for information about women’s perspectives and gender aspects in climate change policies and measures.” The site serves as a platform for organizations and experts on gender and climate change worldwide to come together and share knowledge and resources, as well as a place for those who wish to become involved to find information and take action on climate issues such as agriculture, energy, health, migration, tourism, and transport, among others. There are links to case studies and further reading, as well as UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) conferences and statistics.

Those looking for professional women’s organizations in technology should consult the resource-rich WOMENTECHWORLD at <http://www.womentechworld.org>. The site describes itself as “the national on-line home for women technicians to connect with each other” and includes everyone from computer engineers and software designers to tool makers and construction managers, and beyond. There are stories and photos of women technicians listed by occupation, as well as community-building resources and career mentoring. The *Career Center Links* (<http://www.womentechworld.org/links.htm>) include lists of websites for women, minorities, and girls in technology, along with a selection of listservs.

The busy but useful ASKPATTY site (<http://www.askpatty.com/>) provides a wealth of automotive advice directed at women who may find themselves lost in the male-dominated and often intimidating world of car buying and maintenance. The site’s CEO, Patty DeVere, currently the president of the Women’s Automotive Association International, strives to provide a safe environment in which women can ask any questions they may have about their cars. AskPatty includes a “Certified Female Friendly Location Search” for dealers, service centers, and tire centers, as well as ratings and recommendations. There are also podcasts, a blog, and resources about insurance and new car purchases.

At the American Library Association’s 2009 conference in Chicago, the program for the Women’s Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries was on “Gaming, Film, and Ephemera: Women’s Studies and Academic Collections.” A **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WEB SOURCES ON WOMEN AND GAMING**, compiled by Anne Odom, was given out at the program and is available on the Web in both pdf (<http://libr.org/wss/conferences/2009programGamingBibliography.pdf>) and html

(<http://libr.org/wss/conferences/2009programGamingBibliography.html>) formats. This short bibliography includes mainstream sites for women and lesbian gamers, as well as more specialized resources for statistics about gender in gaming and the status of women and minorities in the gaming industry.

The mission of the BRAVE NEW FOUNDATION (<http://www.bravenewfoundation.org>) is “to champion social justice issues by using media to inspire, empower, motivate and teach civic participation that makes a difference.” The foundation has released the fifth part of *Rethink Afghanistan* (<http://rethinkafghanistan.com>), a documentary on the American war in Afghanistan. Part V, “Women of Afghanistan” (available along with Parts I–IV and a new Part VI at <http://rethinkafghanistan.com/videos.php>) focuses on the toll of war on Afghani women, highlighting how the U.S. military efforts and occupation have not “liberated” the burqa-clad women featured in so many pre-war newscasts, but have actually taken a disproportionately negative toll on their lives. The eleven-minute segment describes the history of American involvement in the country and explains how that history has led to oppression that is in many cases worse than that of women under the Taliban. The streaming video includes interviews with Afghani women from the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) and the Afghan Women’s Network. (Also of note: the complete documentary will be available on DVD in October 2009.)

BATTERED WOMEN’S PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES, by Sherry Hambly and contributor Andrea Bible, is a thirteen-page paper that takes “a holistic approach to understand battered women’s protective strategies, reviewing a wide range of strategies used by women to cope with numerous threats posed by battering, not just the threat of bodily harm.” At <http://new.vawnet.org/category/Documents.php?docid=1872>, Hambly writes about the many “invisible” strategies women in abusive situations employ to protect not only their bodies, but their children, their emotional well-being, and their dreams and aspirations. The document is also available in pdf (http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_BWProtStrat.pdf) and html (http://new.vawnet.org/category/Main_Doc.php?docid=1872) formats.

Magazine covers from the tabloids to *Time* force us to ask ourselves, IS SEEING BELIEVING? This site (<http://www.frankwbaker.com/isbmag.htm>) shows that the answer is no, or at least that it should be. It provides examples and explanations of recent airbrushing and digital alteration scandals, from singer Kelly Clarkson’s weight on the cover of *Self Magazine* to the lightening of Beyonce’s skin in L’Oreal ads, and beyond. The site also provides links to a *New York Times* story on the retouching done for magazines, and an ABC photo slideshow of doctored covers.

“The GLOBAL MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT is the largest and longest longitudinal study on the representation of women in the world’s media. It is also the largest advocacy initiative in the world on changing the representation of women in the media. It is unique in involving participants ranging from grassroots community organizations to university students and researchers to media practitioners.” The World Association for Christian Communication’s (WACC) “WHO MAKES THE NEWS?” website at <http://www.whomakesthenews.org> provides a background of the GMMP meetings held in 1995, 2000, and 2005, as well as access to the reports produced from each one. The next meeting will take place in November of 2009.

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