March, 1984 Newsletter of the Division on Women and Crime

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

Nanci Koser Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/dwctext

Part of the Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons

Recommended Citation

Notes From the Annual Meeting of the Division

This year the Division on Women and Crime jointly sponsored the opening night cocktail party with the Division on International Criminology. A large turnout indicated the continuing popularity of this event, jointly sponsored by the Divisions within the Society for the last two years.

The meeting of the Division on Women and Crime approved a letterhead for our Division, voted on revisions for our constitution, and discussed the establishment of an award for the best work in gender and crime as well as a special journal issue dealing with the topic.

The membership of the Division unanimously decided that we would like to enable paid student registrants at the annual convention to attend the banquet by starting a ticket recycling program. Under this scheme, we would like to advertise in the program and at the registration desk that those who are paid registrants and who will not attend the banquet can return tickets to the banquet to the registration desk by a specified date and time. These tickets will be recycled to students who have paid registration for the convention and who otherwise would not be able to attend the banquet. They would be distributed on a first come-first serve basis.

The Division will hold its first official elections for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary this year. Barbara Price and Freda Adler have been asked to serve as the Nominations Committee.
Participation of Women in ASC

At this year's annual meeting, slightly over 22 percent of the presentations were made by women. The data are not directly comparable to preceeding years in which we were able to tabulate the number of participants in the program. (The 1983 program listed participants only by initials, so we tabulated presentations instead.)

In 1982 24 percent of all participants were women, and in 1981 that figure was 20 percent. Because some participants present more than once; the 22 percent figure for 1983 referring to presentations is slightly higher than the total percent of female participants. However, the percentages are roughly comparable for the three years. The membership of the society is some 40 percent female, but a substantial proportion are student members, who are less likely to be represented on the program. Thus, the figures which indicate that about a quarter of the presentations are made by women are quite encouraging.

About 23 percent of the committee appointments made by Mr. Hirschi last year were women. This year the appointments made by the president, Al Reiss, are 21.28% female. We urge women to continue their activity on committees both to insure female representation per se and to stimulate ASC interest in continuing the trend toward creating a criminology that "brings women in" to our scholarship.

Are women in our society limiting themselves to "feminine" areas? In some disciplines the move toward broadening scholarship to include the perspective of women as well as men meant simply that women scholars studied women subjects. Instead of enriching the discipline through integration, separation was fostered. Is this happening in criminology, as gauged by ASC presentations?

In 1983, of 149 presentations dealing with the issue of gender and crime, 84 presenters were female. Thus 56.38% of the presenters were women, 43.62% were men. Given that the percentage of women in the society is about 40%, there is still some imbalance; but the percentages are positive, indicating male interest in redressing the balance as well as female interest.

How many women presented papers on topics outside the area of women and crime? Of 276 presentations made by women, 84 papers dealt with that topic. Thus, the majority (69%) of female participants did not focus specifically on gender and crime.

*****************************
Progress of the Division

What progress are we making in stimulating interest in the topic area of gender and crime? In 1981 there were 48 papers presented at the annual meeting on this topic. In 1982 there were 73 papers and 3 roundtable discussions, and in 1983 there were 92 presentations on the topic.

The interests of researchers continue to focus on offenders for the most part. In 1983, slightly over 60 percent of the papers dealt with women offenders. The next most popular research area was women as victims (about 24 percent). Theory papers and papers on women as workers, and on teaching issues related to gender comprised less than 6 percent each.

We have no way of knowing whether papers in other sessions or papers which do not explicitly recognize gender in the title have dealt also with the sex variable. This is an important issue because so often in the past, studies purporting to be of a general nature in reality focused solely on males, as a result of an all male sample, for instance. If any of our readers can suggest a way to tabulate the information on this topic for next year's meetings, please let us know.

***************************************************************************

Call for Papers

Please send your suggestions for papers for the 1984 meetings to Phyllis Jo Baunach (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 633 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20531) as soon as possible. While papers on any topic relating to gender and crime are very welcome, it would be nice to have papers on some of the more neglected areas noted above in "Progress of the Division"--for example, on teaching issues and issues related to women as CJS workers.

***************************************************************************
example, perhaps some of the large corporations which make their living primarily from selling women's products—such as cosmetics firms, might be approached for the purpose of providing research funds, and/or fellowships for women graduate or post-graduate students. If anyone is willing to chair a panel or lead a roundtable discussion on funding, you are urged to submit the suggestion to this year's program chair, Israel Barak-Blantz (Dept. of Sociology, Wayne State).

DATA BANK ESTABLISHED

The Division of Women and Crime is attempting to establish a data bank concerning on-going research of interest to those whose speciality areas include the study of women and the criminal justice system. This would include but not be limited to—women offenders, women victims, women as criminal justice professionals. Research projects in which any part of the sample is female would also be included. A form for reporting your current research is attached to this newsletter, so that you may fill it out and send it in.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN WITHIN THE ASC

Meanwhile, on the home front—here are some pieces of information about the progress of women within our own organization.

At this year's meeting, 200 presentations were made by women. This is from a total of some 960 presentations made, so that women were represented in a proportion of about 20%. Over 150 of these presentations were not on the topic of women and crime, demonstrating that women are not being isolated in their own "special topic area," but rather are being integrated into the study of criminology as a whole, which is most encouraging.

Also at this year's meeting, a total of 48 papers were presented which dealt with women's issues. The overwhelming majority of these papers centered on women as offenders. Some 29 papers had this focus, and an additional nine dealt with women as both offenders and victims. Only one paper focused solely on victimology, while six papers dealt with women as professionals in the criminal justice system. There is no way of knowing how many other papers on the program this year included females as a part of the sample, so it may be that the above tally (taken from the program) underrepresents the amount of research on women that is being done.

This year there is a good representation of women on the slate of officers to be presented to the membership. They include: Barbara Roffel Price for President-Elect and Joan Petersilia for Executive Counselor. Remember to vote when the ballots arrive in March!

Committee membership is also increasing. We have 20 women among some 75 committee appointments made by Harry Allen, President, and two of the nine program topic area chairs for the 1982 meetings are women.

It is particularly important that we encourage young women just entering the field to become involved in the committee structure and work of the ASC. Among our women members, we have many students, and this encouraging sign indicates that perhaps we are moving toward a greater representation of women within the discipline of criminology and within our own organization. Please continue to encourage your own women students to become involved in many different capacities.
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DIVISION ON WOMEN AND CRIME

The following letter was sent recently to Harry Allen, President of ASC:

Dear Professor Allen:

The membership of the Division on Women and Crime has directed me to commend you for the number of women appointments you have made to committees and the Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology.

We are pleased not only that women are making progress within the organization, but also that their merit and willingness to serve are being recognized.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Nanci Koser Wilson, Co-Chair
Division on Women and Crime

MAILING LIST

If your address or name is listed incorrectly on this mailing please let us know. If you are not on the mailing list, or know of someone else who would like to be on the list for this newsletter and other Division communications, please let us know this information also.

CALL FOR PAPERS
34th Annual Meeting
Toronto, November 4-6, 1982

The Program Section entitled "Issues in Women and Crime" will be chaired by Phyllis Jo Baunach. She plans about 10 panels to include: Women as Victims, Women as Offenders, Women as Professionals, Delinquent Girls, Historical and Longitudinal Research. Anyone interested in heading up a panel or roundtable or presenting a paper on the areas mentioned above or others related to women should send an abstract to Dr. Baunach by March 1. Her address is:

National Institute of Justice
Room 86F
633 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: (301) 724-2956

We encourage persons to send abstracts on issues related to women to other members of the program committee if you feel it is more appropriate to your topic.
ON-GOING RESEARCH CONCERNING WOMEN
AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Information Form

Name: ____________________________________________

Institutional Affiliation: ______________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ____________________________________________

Short Title of Research Project: ______________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

Description or Abstract: ____________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

(If you have more than one research project in preparation, please
enclose the same above information for each.)

Do you know of others doing research in this area? If so, please
provide a name and address for each.

RETURN FORM TO: Dr. Nanci Koser Wilson
c/o The Division on Women and Crime/ASC
Center for the Study of Crime, Delinquency, and Corrections
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901