

account of the patterns of thought, motives, and self-conception that enable the child to adapt to the abuse. This book will help professionals understand how patterns that are learned at an early age tend to be enduring and must be taken into account when working with survivors of childhood sexual abuse, both children and adults.

Norway, as well as the United States, has norms defining acceptable sexual behavior. Deviance from these norms is regarded as immoral or abnormal. In both countries, sexual abuse of children is considered immoral, but it happens. Because the sexual exploitation of children by adults transcends geographic boundaries, the lesson learned from this story of a little girl in northern Norway is relevant to the United States.

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**The Impact of Feminist Research in the Academy.** Edited by Christine Farnham. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1987, 228 pp., \$12.95 (paperback).

Central to the burgeoning women's movement of the 1960s and 1970s was the formation and growth of women's studies courses and programs. This development brought the feminist movement to university campuses and altered the academic landscape. In the nearly 20 years since then, these programs have generated a vast array of pedagogical and scholarly products. This volume, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Women's Studies Program at Indiana University, focuses on the influence of feminist scholarship in the larger academy. The contributors are well-known feminist scholars in their respective fields. Their task, as editor Christine Farnham notes, was to provide

an interpretive analysis of women's studies scholarship from the vantage point of their years of involvement in the movement. Thus, these essays are not meant to be comprehensive but rather insightful, reflecting their authors' experiences working in this new interdisciplinary field. (p. 1)

As a collection, the book largely succeeds in meeting this goal. The chapters are clustered effectively under four headings: "The Articulation of Gender as an Analytical Category," "Methodological Moves from Margin to Center," "The Sticking Power of Stereotypes," and "Paradigmatic Implications." What is apparent in all the contributions is that feminist studies had initiated an often threatening shift in paradigms

across the disciplines and that a feminist framework leads the researcher to discover different phenomena. As Farnham discusses in her introduction, there is a running debate throughout this collection as to the nature of gender inequality: Are women the same as men but blocked from opportunity, or are women inherently different from men and does their oppression stem from differential and devalued treatment? A less explicit theme concerns the current and future role of women's studies programs vis-à-vis the rest of the university: integrated or segregated.

As is true of most collections of essays, the quality of the chapters in this book varies. Nonetheless, several authors deserve particular mention for their rigor, insights, and accessibility. Anthropologist Louise Lamphere critiques the too-common and simplistic dichotomy between the public (male) and private (female) spheres, arguing that this Western construct does not apply necessarily to gender asymmetry in the Third World. Carol Christ provides a superb analysis of the androcentric notion of "objectivity" in research. She suggests that feminism has brought a new method of scholarship to the academy, one based on the ethos of eros ("the passion to connect") and empathy ("the desire to understand the world from a different point of view"). In her highly readable review of research on biological sex differences, Ruth Bleier places the renewed interest in this area within the sociopolitical context of the late 1970s and early 1980s. She asserts that this climate, which is hostile to the feminist movement, provides a supportive environment for arguments about sexual differences in which "innate differences" mask sexist conceptualizations and conclusions. In a beautifully crafted essay, Nellie McKay traces the development of black women writers and their works from the era of slavery to the present. These four contributions represent the best in feminist scholarship.

There are two significant problems, however, in this book. The first drawback is the lack of attention to racial, sexual preference, or class issues. Only McKay directly addresses race, and only Lamphere makes the problem of Western bias central to her presentation. The importance of diversity, of recognizing how gender alone does not explain the different forms of female oppression, are central themes in current feminist scholarship. Critiques of a white, middle-class feminist framework abound, as do more recent works that integrate multiple forms of oppression. Therefore, I was disturbed that such valuable work, which has contributed substantially to the excitement and intellectual growth of the field, is not reflected in this book.

A second drawback, more directly relevant to social work, is that the applied sciences (nursing, social work, and education) are not represented. Writers from these female-dominated arenas could offer different insights into the impact of feminist scholarship on their respective

disciplines. Given the lively debate about the nature of feminist social work, writers in this field could certainly make some timely contributions. Current discussions include the importance of a social work-feminist alliance, the particular problems and needs of women as clients and consumers, the dynamics of a feminist research process, new women-centered organizing models, and gender issues in group and organizational processes. To be truly interdisciplinary, women's studies needs to incorporate applied fields and issues as well as the traditional humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

This is not to suggest, however, that social workers could not benefit from reading this book. A number of contributions relate to various areas of social work practice. These chapters include those by Carol Gilligan (gender differences and moral development), Barbara Bergmann (feminist economics), and Virginia Sapiro (political socialization). More directly, Jessie Bernard's article addresses the historical roles of women in sociology, which included substantial contact with social work (for example, Jane Addams was on the sociology faculty at the University of Chicago). The book provides a solid overview of feminist scholarship and, in doing so, suggests possible points of cross-fertilization with other disciplines.

Despite my reservations, I recommend this book. It is a good, multidisciplinary introduction to women's studies, recalling the major breakthroughs in feminist scholarship and suggesting fruitful areas for current and future inquiries. It affirms the transformative power of feminist thought; specifically, it reminds us that feminist scholarship is simultaneously an intellectual and political endeavor. As a collection, it does not provide us with an answer to the obvious question, What is feminist scholarship? However, it serves as a catalyst for research that moves away from the descriptive to the more difficult tasks of formulating analytical frameworks and constructing theory. I hope that when Indiana University's Women's Studies Program celebrates its twentieth anniversary, it will publish a well-synthesized volume that answers this question, and that contains a collection that is rich in diversity and within which social work has a voice.

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**Vietnam Wives.** By Aphrodite Matsakis. Kensington, MD: Woodbine House, 1988, 423 pp., \$16.95 (hardbound).