

Department of Fisheries and Oceans. A male representative of a druggers' association objected to the presentation by the women from FishNet and suggested that, if women were speaking, Martians should be invited to speak as well. Titling her essay "Are Women Martians?" Pahlke highlights how decision-making about Canadian fisheries in the current context of globalization is a "closed circuit" that valorizes the knowledge of scientific experts, professionals and corporations and increasingly silences the views of residents who live their everyday lives in the environments and communities that are really affected by changing policies. Her contribution is a clear example of the reflexive, dialogic feminist approach taken in this volume that seeks to place the experiences of the global north on the same critical plane as those of the global south. As she finds, patriarchal cultures continue to thrive in the global north.

The essay by Power and Harrison is another interesting reflection and a deliberate attempt at anti-imperialist feminist research that applies the conceptual framework of South Asian feminist theorist Bina Agarwal to the global north through an analysis of the gendered effects of the collapse of the Newfoundland cod fishery. Following Agarwal's argument that resource degradation and privatization in commons-dependent rural communities promotes "revivalist" male-dominated hierarchical gender relations, Power and Harrison document the agentic role Newfoundland women play in re-trenching the gender division of labour within households by trivializing the attempts by un(der)employed male members to develop skills to contribute to domestic tasks and by supporting the personal consumption and leisure activities of husbands.

One topic that could have received more elaboration in the volume is tourism. The impact of privatization of coastal commons through tourism and the destruction of sensitive intertidal ecologies are briefly mentioned as are new sources of income through house rentals, food vending or cultural heritage tourism, but the global expansion of mass sex tourism in beach communities is a gendered impact of globalization in maritime communities that requires immediate and urgent attention.

The conclusion of *Changing Tides* is a valuable reflexion and auto-critique by two of the editors, Neis and Maneschy, who point to the potential

for collaborative research and networks to "challenge the negative tendencies within neo-liberal globalization." Certainly the diverse cases, methodologies and perspectives grounded in microlevel observation and analysis that are presented in both of these books take readers inside globalization and connect us to actors with alternative views and experiences of new opportunities and constraints and help us avoid the McDonaldization of contemporary research on globalization.

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*Mothers of the Municipality: Women, Work, and Social Policy in Post-1945 Halifax.* Judith Fingard and Janet Guildford, eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2005; illustrations; 318 pages; ISBN 0-8020-8693-4; \$35.00 (paper).

As the second wave of feminism swept into Canada, women historians began searching for the hidden history of their foremothers. One of their discoveries was something, beginning in the nineteenth century, that has come to be known as "social feminism." As contrasted with the more familiar feminism that seeks equality for women because they are like men, social feminism grew out of a valorization of women distinctiveness. Initially, it focused on women's unique capacity for reproduction. Having children, raising children - these were noble roles that implied both a capability and an obligation to take into public life the virtues that women exemplified in private life. So women organized clubs and service groups and gradually moved on to influence and participate in public policy, especially around the social issues that most obviously affected women and children. From this grew a wider mission to play a significant role as citizens.

The new historians were a bit dubious about this sort of feminism. Regrettably, these early activists shared many of their society prejudices. Perceptive about the exclusionary consequences of gender, they were not always as enlightened in their responses to differences of race and class and sexual orientation. Most seriously, the social feminists were thought to accept and thereby to reinforce the gender distinctions that feminist historians of the second wave wanted to abolish.

But that was more than an academic generation ago. Revision has followed revision, and those of us who study women history and feminism have come to a more balanced judgment. We see how our foremothers changed gender relations while modestly disclaiming any such intention. By 2005 the University of Toronto Press felt able to publish a book whose title reflects the rhetoric of the nineteenth-century "woman movement": *Mothers of the Municipality: Women, Work and Social Policy in Post-1945 Halifax*.

This collection of original essays, edited by Judith Fingard and Janet Guildford, is the product of a five-year research project. It presents material concerning a time and a population that are still under-researched: the immediate post-war period and the urban women of eastern Canada. The Maritime provinces are often thought of as conservative, even backward, in respect to women's situation, even though E. R. Forbes effectively debunked the first disparaging accounts of their suffrage movement and recent survey research has shown that this is not an anti-feminist region (see O'Neill and Erickson in *Atlantis* 27.2, spring 2003). What *Mothers of the Municipality* supplies, hearteningly, is a picture of the lively ferment of Halifax women activism post-1945, as well as their solid, continuing involvement in social policy around issues including child and maternal welfare, childcare, and home nursing. Most innovatively, Judith Fingard presents the range of women's organizations in Halifax in this period, Frances Early outlines the founding of the Halifax branch of Voice of Women, and Janet Guildford gives a description and analysis of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women. There is also an exceptionally interesting article, by Wanda Thomas Bernard and Judith Fingard, on the work and lives of African-Nova Scotian women in Greater Halifax in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

*Mothers of the Municipality* documents the energy and diversity of women and the women's movement at a time when feminism had not yet been re-admitted to the news. It is a solid contribution to the history of women in Canada.

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*Telling Tales: Living the Effects of Public Policy*, Sheila Neysmith, Kate Bezanson, and Anne O'Connell. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2005; 231 pages; ISBN 1-55266-161-X; \$24.95 (paper).

*Telling Tales: Living the Effects of Public Policy* explores the lived experiences of forty participants within the context of broad-based policy changes in Ontario. A primary focus of the book is to grasp the multiple and diverse ways in which government cuts to social programs between 1997 and 2000 have affected people's lives, particularly the lives of people living with low incomes.

The methodological challenges of the study were immense. However, in their concluding chapter, "Developing Methodology That Can Deal with Complexity," Neysmith et al. demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of these challenges and offer an accessible and convincing approach to a complex research question. This chapter will be useful to scholars seeking to move beyond mainstream policy research approaches focused on quantitative data and macro-level variables, toward analyses that draw upon qualitative data and situated knowledge. Neysmith et al. explain not only the theoretical and practical importance of qualitative techniques to policy research, but also offer sound research steps that other researchers can draw upon and expand.

One of the distinctive qualities of this book is that, rather than focusing on a single policy field, the authors explore the intersectional and cross-cutting policy processes that have shaped the lives of research participants with a wide-range of social and economic backgrounds. The data was enriched by tracking changes over time, which involved interviewing each participant four times over a three-year period, and by grounding the interview data in analyses of wider policy shifts.

The findings revealed that many of the research participants felt their quality of life had significantly eroded, despite the official rhetoric of policy changes, such as claims that government reforms would harness individual, community, and family competencies and promote greater freedom and choice. Moreover, the findings showed how policy changes shaped and were shaped by social divisions such as race, gender, class, and so on.

In analyzing these findings, the authors conclude that "[m]arginal social location and attendant