

**The Feminist and Women's Studies Association
(UK and Ireland)**

An international association promoting feminist and women's studies teaching and research.

Annual General Meeting

1:30PM, 20 June 2008

Women's Library, London Metropolitan University
Old Castle Street, London

Meeting Opened at 1:30pm

Present:

*Stacy Gillis (chair)	Katherine Watson	Ruth Swirsky	Louise Livesey
*Amy Hinterberger	Hilary Wilson	Isabel Crowhurst	Allison Assister
*Carolyn Pedwell	Clare Bale	Carina Garland	Lyn Greenwood
Melanie Waters	Lisa Purise	Anne-Lise Feral	(indicates FWSA
*Joanne Kalogeras	Alexa Bater	Jessica Baily	executive committee
*Jane Kilby	Adele James	Niamh Moore	members)
*Jacqui Gabb	Gill Hanscombe	Christina Scharff	
Margaret Shildrick	Heather Mendick	Annette Lawson	

1. Apologies

Stéphanie Genz	Yvette Taylor	Celia Roberts	Jie-yu Liu
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2. Minutes of the previous AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Treasurer Matters

The treasurer's report was submitted for this AGM. The accounts were accepted as a true record. Messers Thurston, Watts & Co., the accountants were re-appointed for the forthcoming year.

CP advised that the FWSA was financially stable although not in a position to invest heavily in new enterprises.

SG thanked CP and previous FWSA treasurers.

5. Membership Matters

Membership in FWSA has risen by 54 people. It was noted that institutional memberships include three free student places at the FWSA biennial conference.

It was pointed out that it may be useful to have undergraduate/graduate distinctions. SG suggested that this is something the FWSA administrative assistant can look into doing.

6. Publicity Matters

JK reported that she is in the process of putting together a membership package for new members who join the FWSA. This pack will include a poster, postcards, FWSA constitution and some FWSA post-it notes and perhaps pens made from recycled materials.

JK also requested that members let her know of any other feminist/women's studies/gender organisations that she can contact in order to build bridges and make connections with other organisations.

7. Newsletter Report

AH informed that newsletters are issued in June and December, with the next issue being the December 2008 issue. AH advised that the FWSA used the LSE design unit and it was agreed that this would continue for future issues.

AH advised that anyone can contribute to the newsletter. She asked for updates to addresses (an ongoing problem is the return of newsletters) to be sent to the FWSA administrative assistant.

SG thanked AH & CP for their work in co-ordinating the newsletter.

8. Postgraduate Seminars

PG seminars tend to cluster around exec member institutions and the FWSA would like to extend the PG seminars to other institutions, including those in Ireland and Scotland.

Annette Lawson enquired what the FWSA does with the funds it receives from PG seminars. CP explained that the FWSA uses the funds to re-invest in membership activities such as the 21st Anniversary event at the Women's Library.

SG explained the three events the FWSA is currently supporting:

- *A Woman's Place: Locating the Feminine in Modern and Contemporary Culture* (Newcastle, June 2008),
- *Welsh Women's Writing in English: Voice, Space and Identity* (Cardiff, July 2008) and
- *Sexuality, Textuality, Image* (Exeter, September 2008).

Full information about the events, including keynote speakers and the CFPs are available on the FWSA website.

Anyone interested in organising an event – or encouraging their postgraduates to organise one – is encouraged to contact the Chair or the administrative assistant.

9. Essay Competition Matters

The essay competition has been a great success and the UG & PG essays are assessed together. The winner and five runners up will all be published in the *Journal of International Women's Studies*.

In her report KT thanked all readers for the time they had given to the competition and to the external examiner Jo Gill (Exeter University) who gave up her time to be the external examiner. KT advised that the competition for this year is underway and requested that students were encouraged to enter the competition.

10. Conference Matters

There will be no large conference this year. Rather the FWSA has moved to biennial conferences, with a smaller symposium held every other year. The next conference will be held in Liverpool in June 2009. Planning and further discussion of this conference is now underway and will be made available to all members shortly.

Anyone interested in discussing possibly hosting the conference is asked to contact the Chair (SG).

11. Chair's Report

SG advised that since Clare Hemmings had stood down as external Chair two years ago there had been no one to come forward and take up the internal chair post and as such, SG had been straddling both positions. It was anticipated that a new member of the exec would take up the Co-Chair position for the coming year.

SG noted that the role of the Chair is to:

- Manage the activities of the executive and to ensure that deadlines are met.
- Manage the duties of the administrative assistant.
- Liaise with external bodies.
- Explore new opportunities for the FWSA.

SG noted that the experiment whereby access to the *Feminist Review* archives was offered on a free trial basis to all FWSA members was not a great success (only 17 members did so) and *FR* were not in a position to repeat the offer.

12. Adult Educations Cuts

Concern was raised over closures to adult education and requested that the FWSA begin to collate data on this. CP pointed out that this was an important area for the FWSA to investigate but also that a wider mapping of the field is needed. The FWSA will further consider undertaking this mapping at the next executive meeting – the administrative assistant, over the coming year, will be given this job to do. It was noted that this would entail paying the administrative assistant more and this comes out of the FWSA's running costs.

13. Women's Liberation Education Network

Attention was drawn to the WLEN –contact Rachel Cohen (rachel.cohen@brunel.ac.uk) for more info.

14. Plans for 2008-09

FWSA announced its new book prize for which information is on the FWSA website. JG explained that the impetus of the book prize is to support early career academics and that if members can think of any other modes of support for early career academics that they contact JG.

15. New Exec Members

New executive members voted on: Jane Kilby and Stéphanie Grenz

CP and MW were voted on for a second term

16. AOB

SG was reappointed as honorary chair for one year.

SG thanked KT for her six years of service on the executive committee.

Meeting Ended, 14:30

More detailed reports follow – any questions, please direct them to the FWSA executive member in question or to the FWSA administrative assistant (fwsa@fsmail.net).

Treasurer's Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

Account balances

Nat West accounts: We currently have £856.83 in the current account and £9,148.57 in the higher interest savings account.

Paypal account: We currently have £61.82 in the Paypal account

The Co-op Bank accounts have now been closed.

Total current funds (as of 19th June 2008): £10, 067.22

Activities funded in 2007/2008

This past financial year, the FWSA has funded the following major activities:

- Postgraduate conference float ('A Woman's Place: Locating the Feminine in Modern Contemporary Culture', University of Newcastle)
- Postgraduate conference float (Welsh Women's Writing in English: Voice, Space, Identity, Cardiff University)
- Postgraduate conference float ('Sexuality, Textuality, Image', University of Exeter)
- Student essay prize 2008 (Katharina Linder)
- Re-vamped newsletters June 2007 and December 2008
- Promotional posters and postcards
- Donation to assist in archiving FWSA material at Women's Library, London.

For additional details please contact the FWSA administrative assistant.

Carolyn Pedwell
Honorary Treasurer

Membership Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

FWSA’s membership has risen by 54 in the last year and is currently at a healthy 314 members. Student membership constitutes approximately half of the organisation, a situation that is in part driven by our sponsorship of student events (at which membership is a requirement of registration). We now have nine institutional members, which is a significant improvement over previous years. Our new offer to institutional members, which includes free student places at FWSA conferences, may well be having a positive effect. We would like to encourage all members working in relevant organisations to promote the benefits of institutional membership.

Membership has been made easier by BPay and direct debit transfers and the more user-friendly website. We have been trying to make sure that we have up-to-date postal addresses of all members, so they all also receive the full benefits of membership (which includes the newsletter).

We decided this year to offer all previous chairs and co-chairs of the FWSA free lifetime membership as recognition of their efforts in establishing and maintaining the organisation. We will make a reasonable effort to contact all the previous chairs, and offer them this membership (only some are currently members).

I would like to thank Helen Fenwick for all her work on membership-related matters.

Celia Roberts
Membership Officer

Member Type	Nov 06	June 07	October 07	At Feb 08	June 08	Comparison June 07-08
Students	109	118	165	154	155	+37
£10,000- £20,000	27	32	33	33	36	+4
£20,000- £30,000	42	48	45	50	47	-1
£30,000- £40,000	44	42	47	51	51	+7
£40,000 +	14	12	11	11	14	+2
Institutional	5	6	9	10	9	+3
Unclassified Member and exec member C Hemmings	2	2	2	2	2	0
Totals	243	260	312	311	314	+54

Publicity Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

Web site Information

Two documents that are currently updated yearly will soon be uploaded to the FWSA website.

1) “Members’ Research Interests” includes member names, academic affiliation, email address, and research interests. Approximately 55 people answered the request from the FWSA mailing list.

Expected date of completion: July 18th, 2008.

2) “Postgraduate Programmes” presently includes 31 institutions; this will change as we follow up on institutions that did not respond to the request from the mailing list. Expected date of completion: August 15th 2008.

Please note: If there are other kinds of information you would like gathered from FWSA members, please email the FWSA admin at fwsa@fsmail.net with your suggestion.

Membership/Publicity

Publicity and membership are working on a membership package that will include useful items like Post-Its, pencils or pens, FWSA postcards, etc. We are looking for more ideas on this package.

Members can give their feedback by emailing fwsa@fsmail.net before July 31st. Expected date of completion: September 1st 2008.

Association with other academic groups

With the goal of organization bridge-building, we are researching other organizations with whom we may want to establish formal or informal links. This is a long term project; the outcomes will depend on who and what these organizations are. It is in the preliminary stages at this point; suggestions are welcome.

Media Contacts

We are working on a list of contacts in the media for the purposes of announcements, press releases, etc. In particular, we are looking for contacts in print, radio, and web media. If you know of someone in those areas who might be useful and willing to work with us, please email us at fwsa@fsmail.net.

Joanne Kalogeras
Publicity Officer

Newsletter Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

Newsletters are published in:

June 2008 (deadline for contributions May 1)- *completed*

December 2008 (deadline for contributions Nov 1)

June 2009 (deadline for contributions May 1)

We encourage members to respond with any feedback, suggestions or thoughts in regards to the newsletter (please email fwsa@fsmail.net or alternatively you can approach Amy Hinterberger after the AGM to discuss)

Current Work:

The newsletter team has finished the June 2008 issue (currently being mailed out) and are now planning for the December 2008 issue.

If anyone would like to be involved in submitting a piece or helping to further organize please send an email to fwsa@fsmail.net- we would encourage and very much welcome this!

Printing, design and formatting:

The newsletters are mailed to every member of the FWSA and 10 are mailed to our institutional members to distribute.

We are happy with the work of the LSE Design Unit in formatting and designing the newsletter. We intend to continue using the LSE Design Unit for the future issues.

**Amy Hinterberger
Newsletter Officer**

Essay Competition Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

The 2007 essay competition was a huge success, with a total of 56 entries. After a long judging process, the winner was:

Katharina Lindner - "Fighting for subjectivity: articulations of physicality in *Girlfight*"

Many congratulations, Katharina. She received a £200 prize, plus a year's free membership of the FWSA. In addition, all of the six shortlisted entries will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of International Women's Studies*. The other shortlisted essays are listed below (in alphabetical order) - many congratulations to them too. This issue will be co-edited by Melanie Waters and Yvette Taylor.

- Alletta Brenner - "Speaking of 'Respect for Women': gender and politics in US foreign policy discourse, 2001-2004"
- Katherine Harrison - "'Sometimes the meaning of the text is unclear': making 'sense' of the SCUM Manifesto in a contemporary Swedish context"
- Frances James - "'A Christal Glasse for Christina Women': meditations on Christ's passion in the devotional literature of renaissance women"
- Katy Pilcher - "Empowering, degrading or a 'mutually exploitative' exchange for women?: characterising the power relations of the strip club"
- Laura Wainwright - "'Doesn't that make you laugh?': modernist comedy in Jean Rhys's *After Leaving Mr Mackenzie* and *Good Morning, Midnight*"

I would like to thank all of the colleagues around the country who have given up their time to read and comment on essays. As always, without this kind of support, the competition would not be possible. In particular, I would like to thank Dr Jo Gill, who acted as the external judge for the final shortlist.

The announcement has gone out for the 2008 essay competition, and I hope that as many of you as possible will either submit entries, or encourage your students to submit entries, in order to continue making the essay competition such a success.

Karen Throsby
Student Essay Officer

Postgraduate Seminar Report – FWSA Annual General Meeting (June 2008)

The student seminars series continues to be very popular, and this year we have received and approved three proposals for FWSA-supported seminars. The first of these is titled *A Woman's Place: Locating the Feminine in Modern and Contemporary Culture*, will be held at Newcastle University on 20th June 2008. The second is entitled *Welsh Women's Writing in English: Voice, Space, Identity*, and will be held at Cardiff University on 7th July, 2008. The third seminar will be held at Exeter University on 12th September, 2008, entitled *Sexuality, Textuality, Image*. They all involve exciting programmes of speakers and discussion, and will provide a valuable opportunity to network with fellow postgraduates. Details of all of the seminars, and the associated calls for papers, can be found on the FWSA website. We are very grateful to the organisers for their hard work and for putting in such interesting proposals; we wish them every success with the events.

We would also like to encourage anyone who has an idea for an interesting seminar to think about applying to the student seminar scheme. The application process is very simple, the success rate is extremely high, and there is a lot of guidance available to support you in this – both on the website and from members of the executive committee. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Karen Throsby
Postgraduate Seminar Officer