

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

NEWSLETTER

Issue 68 • June 2017



Membership

The FWSA provides exciting opportunities for academics and students involved in women's, feminist and gender studies, including the FWSA Book Prize and the FWSA Student Essay Competition.

Additionally, the FWSA offers members the following benefits:

- Use of our extensive distribution and discussion email list
- Discounted registration at our annual FWSA Conference
- The biannual FWSA Newsletter
- Entry to the FWSA Small Grants Scheme
- Attendance at the AGM
- Opportunity to be elected onto the Executive Committee
- Opportunity to bid for and hold the biennial FWSA conference

We also offer additional student and institutional membership benefits.

For further information on joining, go to <http://fwsablog.org.uk>

Membership Fees

Income	Annual Rate
Students and Retired members	£15
Students Special Discounted Rate	£40 for 3 year membership
£10,000-£20,000	£20
£20,000-£30,000	£30
£30,000-£40,000	£45
£40,000-£50,000	£65
£50,000+	£75
Institutions	£200

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Contents

Please note that the views expressed in the newsletter and any enclosures or advertisements are not necessarily those of the FWSA.

- 2 Editorial
- 2 Chair's Report
- 4 Small Grants Scheme 2016
- 7 Conference Reports
- 10 News from ATGENDER
- 11 The 'In Two Places at Once' Research Project
- 13 Launch of the International Writing with Impact Network
- 16 Members' News

Citing FWSA newsletter articles

Articles in the newsletter should be cited as follows:

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Editorial

The theme for this issue is one of creativity, and the capacity of feminists to come together to make and build across subject and geographical boundaries. I'm delighted to be able to present an issue filled with contributions from so many corners of the academy, from Art to Education to Computer Science.

We begin with a wealth of reports on exciting events, starting with the winners of our 2016 Small Grants Scheme on their day of collaborative and interdisciplinary feminist creative activity. Other reports come to us from the Transnational Portuguese Women Artists conference and the Women's History Association of Northern Ireland, as well as from the ATGENDER spring conference.

Emily Henderson follows these reports with an important perspective on the cost of conference attendance for academics with caring responsibilities, picking up a thread from past editions of this newsletter. Anyone who would like to take part in research on this topic is encouraged to contact Emily. Continuing the theme of making and building comes the news of the launch of I-WIN at Sheffield Hallam. This new interdisciplinary network provides support for doctoral and early career researchers working on gender and education to write with impact, an issue that is familiar to many of us.

We close with Members' News, which in this issue is filled with new books created by FWSA members. I look forward to receiving word of your creative endeavours over the next six months!

Alison Wheatley, Newcastle University
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Chair's Report

Welcome to the June 2017 issue of the FWSA newsletter.

In this latest issue of the newsletter it is encouraging to see reports on some dynamic feminist events that have taken place in recent months, including the FWSA Small Grants Scheme awardees' "Double Dabble: A Day of Feminist Making" which took place in February 2017. The event looked to be not only a lot of fun – something that perhaps needs to be reignited into the traditional conference format! – but also stimulating in its innovative use of a diverse range of creative mediums to engage discussion across disciplines and between feminist theory and practice.

Facilitating feminist conversation in new ways is the FWSA's focus over the summer months as we prepare for our biennial conference in September. "Making space for feminism in the neo-liberal academy", taking place from 6-8th September at the University of Strathclyde, promises to be an invigorating 3 days of discussion about the future of academia and the place of feminist research in impacting practice and policy. With

keynote presentations by Professor Kalwant Bhopal (University of Birmingham) and Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen (Australian National University), the conference also includes panels by the Res-Sisters, a feminist collective of nine early career academics, a special panel on “Precarity and Risk Within Contemporary Academia”, and a Performance Talk on Feminist Spoken Word Practice by Katie Ailes. We will also hold the FWSA AGM, and encourage all members to attend and contribute to this. Full details of registration are on the FWSA website and the programme will be announced soon.

Continuing the theme of conferences, Emily Henderson’s piece in this issue of the Newsletter on “Caring while Conferencing: the ‘In Two Places at Once’ Research Project” raises important issues about the pressures of attending conferences for those with caring responsibilities. The challenges of mobility posed by conferences is something that has been brought to the fore of the FWSA’s concerns this year, due to the travel restrictions introduced by the United States and the ensuing academic boycotts of several conferences. In support of those affected the FWSA is hosting its first virtual conference which will run in parallel with the biennial conference in September. We are inviting feminist scholars who find themselves unable to attend feminist conferences as a result of mobility restrictions to submit work which can be on any feminist themes, and in written, audio/visual, or other online formats. We hope that

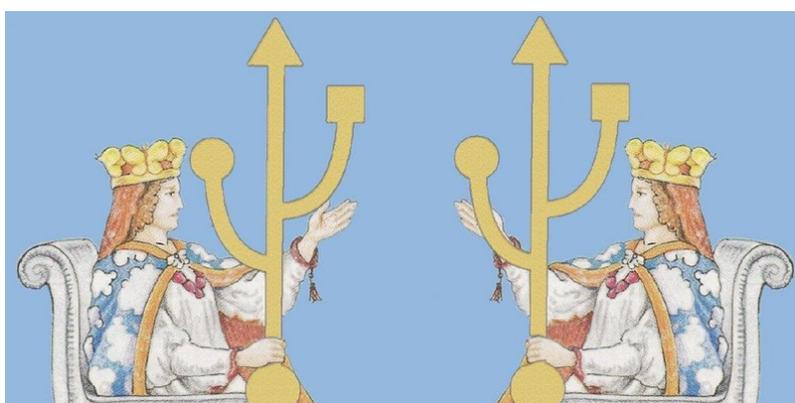
this will provide a productive space to encourage engagement and dialogue across borders, and anyone interested can find full details of how to submit via the website.

I look forward to seeing those of you who can attend in Glasgow this September, and hope that others will join in the discussion online.

Charlotte Mathieson, University of Surrey
FWSA Chair

Small Grants Scheme 2016: A Feminist Day of Making

Last year's FWSA Small Grants Scheme funding was awarded to a group of PhD students from Open Lab, a research group based in the School of Computing Science at Newcastle University. Here is what they did with it!



On the 4th of February 2017, we hosted [Double Dabble: A Feminist Day of Making](#) at the [Shingley Art Gallery](#) in Gateshead where around 30 students, researchers, makers, and other feminists came together to engage in feminist discussion and making.

Double Dabble was an attempt to actively bridge the gap between feminist theory and practice. We wanted to engage in discussions around these topics and reflect on how social sciences and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) can collaborate to build a more comprehensive understanding of each others' expertise. To show how social sciences and a more nuanced understanding of theory could influence the practical work that is done in HCI; and how the pragmatic work of HCI could inform feminist theory in the social sciences. By engaging in a hands-on day of making, we hoped to create a comfortable, open, engaging, and friendly environment for exchange, negotiation, and reflection.

Throughout the day, nine feminists came together to organise six activities that were spread out across the gallery for attendants to engage in. None of the organisers knew each other before the event, and all came from different disciplines.

Sam, a computer scientist and sustainability researcher, and Ellie, a crafter and physicist, came together to organise an activity that they called [Textiles Plus Data](#) where they created an interactive digital quilt that represented world data.



Maria, a researcher in English literature created a variety of activities for her stall: **A female epic and/or a pre-internet fanfiction: Emily Brontë's Gondal Saga**



Sam, an avid and passionate knitter and crafter, and Ana, a lecturer in resource management, hosted a crafting stall where they discussed **Women's Work**



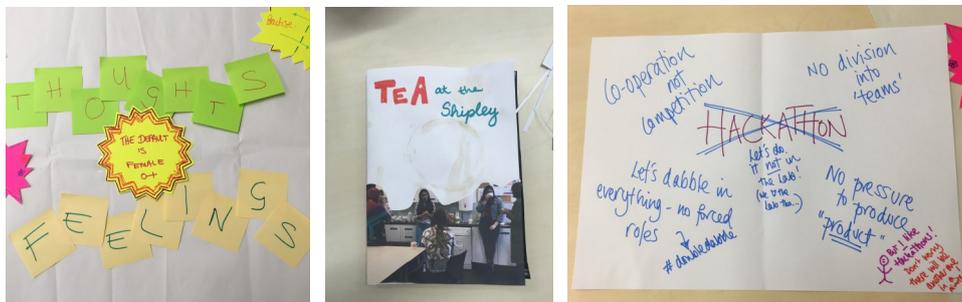
Becky, an electronics engineer, and Charlotte, a criminologist hosted a stall where participants were able to embroider a sensor that would test their muscle activity while discussing hyper-masculinity and embroidery craft in prisons at their stall titled **Crafting Strength**.



Raksha, a geographer, and Kirsten, a spoken word artist, worked together to create a stage where participants were able to learn about the importance of **Taking Up Space**.



Throughout the day, Rosie, a philosopher come computing scientist, facilitated the documentation of many of the conversations, debates, and crafting endeavours that took place throughout the day at her [Zine Machine](#).



As the organising team, we want to extend a massive thank you to the FWSA for awarding us with the Small Grant Scheme 2016. This grant, as well as match-funding granted by the Digital Economy Network and the invaluable support from Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, made it possible for us to provide the stall hosts with the materials needed for their activities. It allowed us to bring together people across disciplines to engage in cross-, inter-, and post-disciplinary discussions on feminisms, making, digital technologies, and craft.



This event was organised by [Angelika](#), [Helen](#), [Ko-Le](#), [Janis](#), and [Tag](#) (not in the picture), a group of PhD students based at [Open Lab](#), Newcastle University, and was supported by Rosie and Vidya and others at [fempower.tech](#) in Open Lab, Newcastle University.

Keep an eye on the FWSA website (<http://fwsablog.org.uk>) for announcements about the next round of Small Grants Scheme funding.

Conference Reports

Transnational Portuguese Women Artists Conference, Wadham College, University of Oxford, 16-18 March 2017

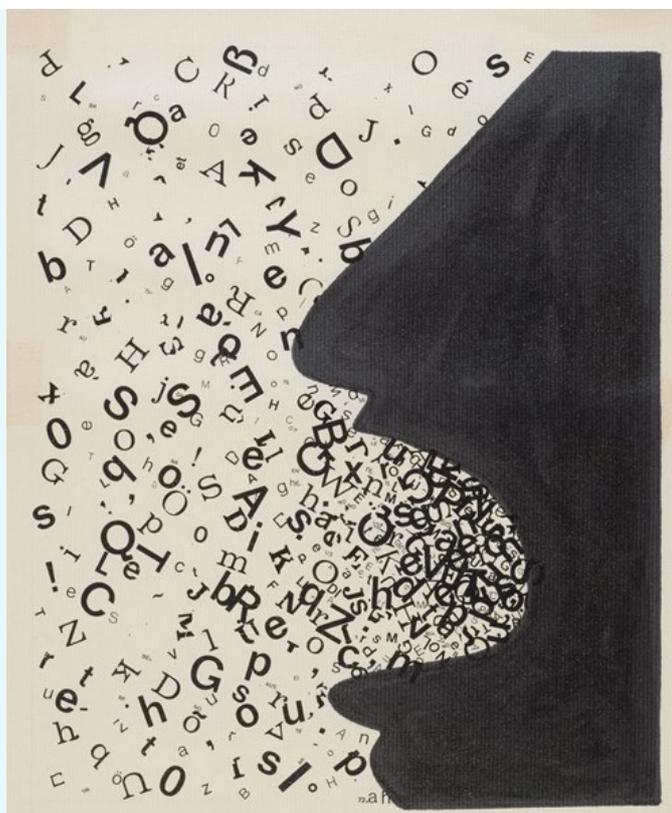
Between 16 and 18 March 2017, Wadham College, at the University of Oxford, welcomed the conference *Transnational Portuguese Women Artists* (organised by Claudia Pazos-Alonso, Hilary Owen and myself, with the kind support of Wadham College, MHRA and the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian), in what proved to be a really exciting and thought-provoking event. The aim of the conference was to address transnational women's contribution to Portuguese culture (and vice versa) and to interrogate the nature of their impact in Portugal and beyond, while fostering an interdisciplinary and transcultural perspective.

Over three intensive days, invited speakers at different career stages and from a range of institutions and countries, which included Portugal, the US and Sweden, explored a wide scope of issues, not only in historical terms (from transnational mediators of the First Wave to transnational women artists in the new millennium), but also in relation to geopolitical location (for example, artists at the Anglophone interface, writers with nomadic existences and those working in the context of racial/imperial transnationalisms), and preferred medium (literature, cinema, visual art, as well as hybrid aesthetic forms).

The conference was enriched by an engaging and illuminating series of outreach events, which were also of general interest. An exhibition at the Taylorian Institution - 'Identities in Transit: Portuguese Women Artists since 1950' (10-31

March) - proposed a reflection on the significant contribution of Portuguese women artists to Portuguese culture and beyond, from the perspective of their experiences, works, contacts, and ultimately impact in a transnational context. It focused on a group of women (Ana Hatherly, Lourdes Castro, Maria Velho da Costa, Menez and Paula Rego) who have created a wide-ranging body of work since the 1950s, whilst living for extended periods of time in countries such as Germany, France and the United Kingdom. While abroad, these women established relationships and collaborations not only with other expatriate Portuguese writers and artists but also with an international artistic community. The material on display showcased the production of identities in transit.

In addition, there were two film screenings on or by transnational Portuguese women artists. These





were *Revolução* (1975), by Ana Hatherly, who documented, through highly experimental processes learnt while pursuing film studies in London, the enthusiasm she found in the streets of Lisbon shortly after the Carnation Revolution; and *Paula Rego: Secrets and Stories* (2016), a revealing, personal, at times rather emotional, documentary on one of the greatest contemporary Portuguese artists, who has been

living in London since the 1950s. Rego's son – Nicholas Willing–, who was present at the preview and kindly introduced the work and answered questions from the audience, directed the film.

As a result of the interdisciplinary, transcultural dialogue, originating not only from the enthusiastically discussed conference topics but also from the way the works and artists seemed to converse with each other, conference participants were able to examine how the meaning of being a transnational/diasporic artist has shifted across time and focus on negotiations of creative influence and multiple identifications through the lens of gender. They were also able to consider 'language' and representation more broadly; issues around translatability and cultural difference; inter-artistic dialogues; the politics of reception; (national) identity and belonging; and the transnational nature of culture industries.

On a more personal level, the event was a fantastic opportunity to get a wonderful group of people together: these are remarkable academics, who share the same passion for Portuguese culture and, in particular, for exploring such rich culture from a gendered perspective.



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The Women's History Association of Ireland Annual Conference, NUI Galway, 21-22 April 2017

Outgoing president of the WHAI, Dr Jennifer Redmond (Maynooth University) and Incoming president, Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (NUI Galway)



The Women's History Association of Ireland annual conference took place at NUI Galway on 21-22 April, 2017. This year the conference was organised by Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley in association with the Irish Centre for the Histories of Labour and Class. The theme of the conference was 'Gender and class in Ireland' and thirty-two papers and five keynote talks explored a variety of themes across a wide range of time periods. Keynote speakers included Professor Carolyn Steedman, Professor Marie-Louise Coolahan, Dr Caitriona Clear, Dr Lindsey Earner-Byrne and Dr Sean Brady. A lively History Ireland hedge school on the theme of "Now you see them...now you don't": women in the national movement post-1916' also

took place on the evening of the 21st as part of the conference with panellists Dr Mary McAuliffe, Prof Linda Connolly, Dr Conor McNamara and Dr Elaine Sisson. The conference was a huge success and we look forward to next year's event!

For more details on WHAI activities or to become a member, please see our website www.womenshistoryassociation.com or follow us on Facebook.

Laura Kelly, University of Strathclyde
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Professor Carolyn Steedman delivers her keynote address on the theme of 'Never married'.

News from ATGENDER:

The European Association for Gender Research, Education and Documentation

[ATGENDER](#) has been busy over the last few months! We just returned from Vilnius, Lithuania where we hosted the 2017 Spring Conference with support from EIGE (European Institute for Gender Studies) and Vilnius University. The conference, “Bridging gender research and policy making: missing links, good practices, future scenarios,” attempted to bridge the gap between academics and policy makers on current issues, such as “anti-genderism” and homophobia, reproductive rights, diversity policies, education to gender equality, intersectional, and gender methods. Alongside the panels, roundtables, and workshops, the conference also provided social activities for participants, such as a city walk, pub night, feminist museum tour, and an art exhibition. The ATGENDER Spring conference had over 150 attendees of European feminist scholars, activists, and policy makers who were able to connect!



At the General Assembly held during the conference, ATGENDER was also able to welcome five newly elected members to the board: Aggeliki Sifaki from Utrecht University (Netherlands), Katarina Lončarević from University of Belgrade (Serbia), Stefanie Boulila from University of Goettingen (Germany), Sabrina Marchetti from Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy), and Sibel Yardimici from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Turkey). We look forward to the upcoming years with our new board! We also want to say goodbye to the ATGENDER interns Sierra Kane from University of Utrecht and Tarah Paul from Ca' Foscari University of Venice who helped plan the Spring conference. With their departure, ATGENDER now welcomes applications for summer internships for gender studies students. You can receive more information and apply by sending an email to the office manager, Adriano Habel (info@atgender.eu).



If you want to receive the weekly newsletter of the Association, send an email to info@atgender.eu, or you can simply join our interactive [list serv](#) to share your own feminist news. Please also follow ATGENDER on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

Caring while Conferencing: the ‘In Two Places at Once’ Research Project

Unlike regular commuting, with its established patterns and routines, conferences are interruptions, perhaps disruptions, to academic lives. This means that, while strategies may be developed over time as to ‘what happens to x when I attend a conference’, the types of strategies that have been studied by mobile work researchers do not apply in the same way (Ralph, 2015). When I was doing my doctoral research on the knowledge production of gender at Women’s Studies conferences (Henderson, 2016), including FWSA, conference delegates’ caring responsibilities came up several times in interviews with participants. The backstory of different participants’ trajectories towards attending the conferences that I was researching often involved negotiations about how childcare could cover the extra day or so, versus how much of the conference could be missed in order to not upset the balance at home. Some delegates had travelled with their children - some with no option than to do so, others to give their children an opportunity to see a new place. While children were the more evident caring responsibilities to manage, as I progressed in my research and began to deliberately notice how conference delegates manage their caring responsibilities when away, I noticed how partners also featured, and pets too. A keynote speaker at a conference I attended had her dog with her in the hotel, and a graduate student looked after the dog during the keynote itself.

Academic spaces are not known for their friendly, welcoming nature when it comes to caring responsibilities (Hook, 2016). The

traditional model of the unfettered don is difficult to shake, and conferences are no exception. Some conferences include childcare facilities, and some institutions offer childcare bursaries for academics attending conferences, but these are solutions to the practical level of a structural issue. The fact is that conferences (and I am referring particularly to in-person conferences as opposed to virtual conferences) are designed in a way that precludes caring while at the conference. As a phenomenon it is difficult to see how they could be designed otherwise and still be conferences, as the short, intense, concentrated burst of intellectual-social engagement is what defines conferences as such. As I have written elsewhere (Henderson, 2017), there are many factors which prevent people from attending conferences, and from fully participating in conferences once there, including funding, work restrictions, border politics, dis/ability, and of course caring responsibilities (as noted by Gaia Charis in the February 2015 edition of the FWSA newsletter). However, formal and informal engagement in this research field so far has shown me that, while many people struggle to extract themselves from their everyday routines and locations to attend conferences, they do nonetheless engage in this struggle, and do place value in attending conferences. At times the fact of being at a conference is presented as a triumph, an escape, evidence that the individual’s intellectual and social development can at times be put first. But for people with caring responsibilities, walling off that day or those few days completely is rarely an option - and is not necessarily a desirable

option either. So what actually happens during the conference?

I have recently embarked on a new research project to explore this area of academic life and practice. It is a small-scale, exploratory study, funded by the University of Warwick's Research Development Fund, and I have called it '[In Two Places at Once: The Impact of Caring Responsibilities on Academics' Conference Participation](#)'. The study adopts a broad definition of care, which include children, parents and other relatives, pets, friends and kin - and I also try to capture the ways in which some caring responsibilities also provide support for other caring responsibilities (as in the case of a child also feeding the cat, for example). In the study, I am exploring how caring responsibilities impact on academics' (including students, researchers, teachers in higher education...) attendance of conferences - but I am particularly interested in how the experience of the conference unfolds while an academic is there - and if this differs for international travel. The project asks about strategies that people with caring responsibilities use to manage the practical and emotional challenges of attending conferences, the support that is available to them, and actually what managing care while at a conference involves. As such the project participants each focus on one conference (defined as at least a whole-day event) that they are attending, and they complete a questionnaire about their preparations for attending the conference, and a time-log which records the moments they communicate with or about their caring responsibilities, and when they think about them or talk about them while at the conference. This enables a focus on the idea of being 'in two places at once', and the lived experience of that phenomenon. I then conduct interviews with participants which use that one conference as a means of discussing their

conference attendance in general. Since releasing the call for participants to a select few mailing lists and contacts, I have received emails from 60 people volunteering to take part, when I was hoping for 20. My funding does not allow me to interview more than 20 people (because of transcription costs), but I have decided to release the questionnaire and time-log to anyone who volunteers to take part, as a way of understanding as many people's experiences as possible.

If you would like to take part, and you are an academic (as defined above) have caring responsibilities (as defined above), and attending a conference before 17th July 2017, please email me. There is also a '[Reactions' page on the project website](#), so if you would like to write a short reaction about the project instead of participating, do get in touch. There will be an early findings event in London in July, and I will be facilitating a workshop on the project at the FWSA conference in September; if you would like to hear more about project events and findings, please email me to join the project mailing list. The project has been - and will be - developed with the input of a [stakeholder group](#) comprising representatives from academic associations (including FWSA) and researchers of academia and care.

Emily F. Henderson, University of Warwick
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Launch of the International Writing with Impact Network (I-WIN)

This event held at the Sheffield Institute of Education, Sheffield Hallam University, on 10th March 2017, marked the official launch of the international writing with impact development network for doctoral students and emerging researchers. The network was set up in October 2016 by Professor Carol Taylor and Rachel Handforth, a PhD student, both of whom work in the Sheffield Institute of Education at Sheffield Hallam University. The network has been funded by the Gender and Education Association. To find out more about the I-WIN network please go to our [website](#).

Carol and Rachel wanted to set up a network which would focus on writing development for emerging researchers, addressing the pressures that newer researchers face in trying to 'establish' themselves in their field. The network provides web-based support on writing with impact, offering advice, support and resources on writing with impact across a range of different writing genres.

The aims of the network are:

1. To develop an international, interdisciplinary network of doctoral and emerging researchers working on gender and education with a focus on writing with impact;
2. To provide structured support in skills development across a range of writing formats, through providing advice and expertise from researchers;
3. To empower doctoral students and emerging researchers to develop their confidence and academic writing skills;
4. To provide a platform for participants' skills sharing and support.



Professor Carol Taylor and Rachel Handforth welcome delegates to the launch event

Delegates from institutions across the country, as well as researchers based at Sheffield Hallam University, attended the launch. We were fortunate enough to be joined by two external guest speakers, Dr Victoria Showunmi from the UCL Institute of Education and Dr Emily Henderson from the University of Warwick, both of whom are also members of the Gender and Education Association.

After a brief welcome from Carol and Rachel, Dr Victoria Showunmi gave a presentation entitled "*The personal is still political! Writing with impact about intersectionality and troubling the 'gender' in gender and education*". She discussed some of her narrative research about young black women and their experi-

ences of education, and reflected on being asked to present her research to the House of Commons. In doing so, she highlighted the different ways that we can consider the impact that our writing has, and the importance of sharing research outside of the academic community.

Professor Carol Taylor then offered practical advice on writing journal articles with impact. Drawing on her experience as co-editor of the journal *Gender and Education*, she discussed the increasing

necessity of academic writing beyond the thesis for both doctoral students and emerging researchers. Professor Taylor conveyed the difficulties many academics face in balancing the demands of academic performativity with the love of writing. She emphasised the importance of setting aside time to write, getting the opinion of critical friends on first drafts, and crucially, not stopping work on an article until it is finished, by which she meant that it is in the best and most developed state you can get it in before you submit it to a journal!

In the afternoon, three emerging researchers discussed their approaches to writing with impact within a showcase of newer researchers' work. Rachel Handforth discussed her use of blogs as a platform for reflecting on her doctoral research on the career aspirations of women PhD students, highlighting how her personal blog had enabled her to connect with other researchers and make links with relevant organisations. She also discussed the importance of using media outlets to promote research, and the impact of this beyond the academy.

Dr Joan Healey, Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Sheffield Hallam University, reflected on her writing since completing her doctorate. She discussed writing her first single-authored article from her thesis, she talked about how she dealt with reviewer feedback, and detailed her plans for a co-authored article with her doctoral supervisor, Professor Carol Taylor. Joan finished by reflecting on the challenges of balancing full-time work with her desire to write papers from her thesis.

Dr Emily Henderson, Assistant Professor in the Centre for Education Studies at the University of Warwick, presented some of the writing she had done since finishing her PhD. She drew on post-structural theory to reflect on the way in which different forms of writing are ascribed different levels of value within the academy, and how this distinction can be seen as gendered. Dr Henderson made the important distinction between writing (which is administrative and managerial) and *writing* (which is about writing with passion about one's research) to argue that the way in which certain forms of writing are valued over others is not helpful.

So far, the network has hosted online events with key academics in the field of gender and education and discussed strategies for writing with impact in a range of different forms, such as collaborative writing with impact, blog writing with impact and using social media with impact. We have collaborated with academics such as Yvette Taylor from the University of Strathclyde and Deborah Gabriel from Bournemouth University.

There are a number of upcoming online events that the I-WIN network will be hosting, including writing book reviews with impact, writing peer reviews and writing book chapters.

We are also looking to develop the network further in the future. We would like to hear from you if you are interested in contributing to the future of the network. If you have ideas for future events, if you would like to collaborate in running one of the upcoming events, or if you have ideas about how to make the network more international, please get in touch with **Professor Carol Taylor** (C.A.Taylor@shu.ac.uk).



Dr Emily Henderson discusses the work she has done after completing her doctorate

Members' News

Shahd Alshammari, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait
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Shahd Alshammari holds a PhD in English from the University of Kent, UK. Her research interests vary and are interdisciplinary in nature. She is interested in women's studies, illness narratives, disability in global and local contexts, and postcolonial literature. Her work has appeared both in academic, peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, and creative writing journals such as *The Pomona Valley Review*, *The Barefoot Review*, and others. She is currently working on a novel.

She has published a collection of short stories, a biomythography (Audre Lorde's term) entitled *Notes on the Flesh*. The book deals with disability, love, and loss. Set in Kuwait, the collection aims to shed light on marginalized voices. As illness narratives are gaining academic and public interest, there remains hardly any illness narratives that are non-Western. The book is invested in drawing connections between West/East, women/men, able-bodiedness/disability, and exploring the body and love through the borders between fiction and nonfiction. The book is available on [Amazon](#). Members who are interested in reviewing this work should contact Shahd directly.

Sara de Jong, The Open University
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Sara's new book *Complicit Sisters: Gender and women's issues across North-South divides* has been published by Oxford University Press and is

available [online](#). Order with the promotion code ASFLYQ6 to save 30%.

Complicit Sisters untangles and analyzes the complex tensions women NGO workers face and explores the ways in which they negotiate potential complicities in their work. Weighing the women NGO workers' first-hand accounts against critiques arising from feminist theory, postcolonial theory, global civil society theory and critical development literature, de Jong brings to life the dilemmas of "doing good." She considers these workers' ideas about "sisterhood," privilege, gender stereotypes, feminism, and the private/public divide, and she suggests avenues for productive engagement between these and the inevitable tensions and complexities in NGO work.

Aristea Fotopoulou, University of Brighton
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Dr Aristeia Fotopoulou is Senior Lecturer in Media and Communications, School of Media, University of Brighton, UK. She researches critical aspects of digital culture, emerging technologies and social change. Currently she writes about cultures, practices and subjectivities that relate to self-tracking and big data, from a feminist perspective. Aristeia's book *Feminist Activism and Digital Networks: Between Empowerment and Vulnerability* has been published by Palgrave Macmillan and is available [online](#).

This book sheds new light on the way that, in the last decade, digital technologies have become inextricably linked to culture, economy and politics and how they have transformed feminist and queer activism. This exciting text critically

analyses the contradictions, tensions and often-paradoxical aspects that characterize such politics, both in relation to identity and to activist practice. Aristeia Fotopoulou examines how activists make claims about rights online, and how they negotiate access, connectivity, openness and visibility in digital networks. Through a triple focus on embodied media practices, labour and imaginaries, and across the themes of bodily autonomy, pornography, reproduction, and queer social life, she advocates a move away from understandings of digital media technologies as intrinsically exploitative or empowering. By reinstating the media as constant material agents in the process of politicization, Fotopoulou creates a powerful text that appeals to students and scholars of digital media, gender and sexuality, and readers interested in the role of media technologies in activism.

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Lena's book *Gender, Technology and the New Woman* was published on the 12th May by Edinburgh University Press. It can be ordered [online](#) at a discount using the promotion code New20.

The book examines the ways in which late nineteenth-century women engaged with modern technologies in order to navigate this period of 'sexual anarchy' (as Elaine Showalter termed the *fin de siècle*). As the book demonstrates, twenty-first-century feminists' use of new technologies to campaign for gender justice is not a new phenomenon, but in Britain can be seen already in early feminists' uses of technologies such as the typewriter, the bicycle, and medical technologies, through which they questioned gender configurations of the time and entered new areas of society.



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