



Canadian Political Science Association  
**BULLETIN**  
Association canadienne de science politique

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Report on the Status of Women in the Discipline/ Rapport sur la condition féminine dans la discipline

La pratique de la science politique/ The Practice of Political Science

The state of the field/ L'état de la discipline

Research Grants / Subventions de recherche

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## FROM THE EDITORS / UN MOT DE LA RÉDACTION

Another year is winding down, and this issue of the *Bulletin* reflects the extent to which it has been an exciting and yet contentious one. As Editors, our task is made much easier by the cooperation of countless colleagues across the country who respond so quickly to our e-mail messages, the expertise and patience of Michelle Hopkins at the CPSA office, and the efficiency and care of Marc Doucet, our graduate assistant. Marc, a PhD candidate in International Relations in the Department of Political Science at the University of Ottawa, worked tirelessly on the production of this issue *Bulletin* and we, on behalf of the Association, owe him our thanks. We are also thankful to our Department for the financial support which has made it possible to compensate Marc for his work.

This issue of the *Bulletin* includes the Report on the Status of Women in the discipline of Political Science by Diane Lamoureux (Laval), Linda Trimble (Alberta) and Miriam Koene (Alberta). The Report's message, which raises serious questions about the experience of women -- our colleagues -- in our field, should give us all pause, and then should move us to action. Equally, we include a thought-provoking article by Don Desserud of the University of New Brunswick (Saint John) on the downsizing -- and upsizing -- of a small department. Don's piece speaks to the challenges we all too often must face.

Careful readers of the *Bulletin* will notice that we too have been the victims of downsizing -- literally. Yes, indeed, the font in this issue is slightly smaller, as we remain ever vigilant of the cost of producing the *Bulletin*. Si jamais nous devons réduire davantage le texte, nous vous promettons de vous envoyer une loupe!

À signaler également dans ce numéro: un rapport de Stephen Tomblin, de l'Université Memorial, concernant le congrès des Sociétés savantes en 1997 à St. John's. Par ailleurs, Claire aimerait aussi attirer votre attention sur l'article de son co-directeur, Gilles Labelle, sur l'étude de la pensée politique. Gilles nous fait part de ses réflexions personnelles à l'égard de l'état de sa discipline.

Nous apprécions vos commentaires et suggestions sur tout aspect du *Bulletin* de notre Association. Nous cherchons toujours à publier des articles à l'intérêt des membres de l'ACSP, alors n'hésitez surtout pas à nous faire parvenir vos textes et vos idées.

Claire Turenne Sjolander  
Gilles Labelle  
Université d'Ottawa

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT /  
LE MOT DU PRÉSIDENT**

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Approximately 430 people registered for the CPSA section of the Learned's in St. John's. We are grateful to Stephen Tomblin, the programme chair, his committee, Christopher Dunn, responsible for local arrangements and all the student volunteers for a most successful conference at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Professor François Houle, as chair, has assembled a most impressive programme committee for the 1998 meeting in Ottawa, May 31, June 1 and 2. Our thanks to all of them for their willingness to serve.

Organization of the IPSA World Congress is proceeding well. It will be held in Quebec City on July 30 - August 4, 2000. The CPSA will hold its annual conference jointly with the SQSP during the IPSA Congress. A programme chair for the CPSA/SQSP conference will be announced soon.

At the 1997 Annual General Meeting a constitutional amendment was approved to add a graduate student position to the Board of Directors. Please keep in mind the importance of this position when you receive your ballot.

When you vote, please bear in mind Nietzsche's famous remark about the need for proactive transparent governance in the world community as we approach the new millennium.

We owe thanks to Diane Lamoureux (Laval) and Linda Trimble and Miriam Koene (Alberta), for the report of their survey on the status of women in the discipline. This report has been given full consideration by the Board of Directors and will be considered further at the Chairs meeting, January 31 -February 1, 1998.

The response rate to the questionnaires I sent to department chairs has been most gratifying. The responses are currently being analyzed, and a useful profile of Canadian political science departments will be available for the 1998 Chairs meeting and for the May edition of the Bulletin.

The deadline is December 10, 1997 for submission of books for two prizes administered by the CPSA:

1) the C.B. Macpherson Prize is awarded biennially to the author (who must be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant who resides in Canada) of the best book published in English or French in political theory;

2) the Smiley Prize is awarded biennially to the author or authors of the best book published in English or French in a field relating to the study of government and politics in Canada. Books should be submitted to the Macpherson Prize Jury or the Smiley Prize Jury. Please contact the CPSA secretariat at 613-564-4026 or at cpsa@csse.ca for further information. The winners will be announced at the 1998 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors, at its June 1997 meeting, established the Lemieux Prize for the

best Ph.D. thesis, to be determined through a biennial competition. The criteria for awarding the prize, as established by the Board, are the following: that the thesis is judged eminently worthy of publication in the form of a book or articles; that the thesis was completed and defended at a Canadian university during the previous two years. Theses in any subfield of political science and written in either English or French are eligible. The prize will be awarded for the first time in June 1999, for theses defended in 1997 and 1998. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Presses de l'Université de Montréal for its financial contribution toward this prize and Professor Alain-G. Gagnon who, with Professor Jane Jensen, formed the ad-hoc committee to establish this prize.

\*\*\*\*\*

Environ 430 personnes se sont inscrites à la section ACSP du Congrès des Sociétés savantes à St. John's. Nous remercions Stephen Tomblin, président du comité du programme; son comité; Christopher Dunn, le responsable des arrangements locaux; et tous les étudiants bénévoles pour la conférence couronnée de succès à la Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Le professeur François Houle, à titre de président, a mis sur pied un comité du programme fort impressionnant pour la réunion qui se tiendra à Ottawa le 31 mai et les 1er et 2 juin 1998. Nous remercions toutes ces personnes de leur empressement à servir.

L'organisation du Congrès mondial de l'Association internationale de science politique (AISP) va bon train. Le congrès aura lieu dans la ville de Québec du 30 juillet au 4 août 2000. L'ACSP tiendra sa conférence annuelle conjointement avec la Société québécoise de science politique pendant le Congrès de l'AISP. On annoncera bientôt le nom du président du programme pour le congrès ACSP-SQSP.

À la réunion générale annuelle de 1997, on a approuvé une modification constitutionnelle consistant à ajouter un poste d'étudiant du deuxième ou troisième cycle au conseil d'administration. Veuillez garder à l'esprit l'importance de ce poste quand vous recevrez votre bulletin de vote.

Quand vous voterez, n'oubliez pas la célèbre remarque de Nietzsche au sujet de la nécessité de gérer les affaires publiques de façon proactive et transparente dans la communauté mondiale, alors que nous nous rapprochons du nouveau millénaire.

Nous remercions Diane Lamoureux (Laval) ainsi que Linda Trimble et Miriam Koene (Alberta) de leur rapport relatif au sondage sur la situation de la femme dans la discipline. Ce rapport a été examiné de près par le conseil d'administration, et il sera étudié pendant la réunion des directeurs, qui se tiendra les 31 janvier et 1er février 1998.

Le taux de réponse aux questionnaires que j'ai envoyés aux directeurs de département a été très satisfaisant. Les réponses sont en cours d'analyse, et un profil utile des départements de science politique au Canada sera disponible pour la réunion des directeurs en 1998, ainsi que pour l'édition de mai du Bulletin.

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Un ancien stagiaire

La date limite est le 10 décembre 1997 pour la présentation des livres en ce qui concerne les deux prix administrés par l'ACSP

1.) le prix C.B. Macpherson, décerné à chaque deux ans à l'auteur ou l'auteure (qui doit être citoyen canadien /citoyenne canadienne ou résidant permanent/résidente permanente au Canada) du meilleur livre publié en anglais ou en français dans le domaine de la théorie politique;

2.) le prix Smiley, décerné à l'auteur, l'auteure ou aux auteurs du meilleur livre publié en anglais ou en français sur un sujet traitant de la politique ou du gouvernement au Canada. Les livres doivent être présentés au jury du prix Macpherson ou au jury du prix Smiley. Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le secrétariat de l'ACSP au (613) 564-4026 ou à l'adresse électronique cpsa@csse.ca. Les lauréats seront annoncés à la réunion générale annuelle de 1998, à Ottawa.

Enfin, j'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que le conseil d'administration, lors de la réunion de juin 1997, a créé le prix Lemieux pour la meilleure thèse de doctorat. Celle-ci sera déterminée par un concours tous les deux ans. Voici les critères établis pour décerner le prix :

- La thèse doit être jugée comme éminemment méritant d'être publiée sous forme de livre ou d'articles;

- La thèse doit avoir été rédigée et soutenue à une université canadienne pendant les deux années précédentes.

Les thèses dans n'importe quel sous-domaine des sciences politiques, rédigées en anglais ou en français sont admissibles. Le prix sera décerné pour la première fois en juin 1999 à l'une des thèses soutenues en 1997 et 1998. Au nom du conseil d'administration, je voudrais remercier les Presses de l'Université de Montréal pour leur contribution financière à ce prix, ainsi que le professeur Alain-G. Gagnon qui, de concert avec la professeure Jane Jenson, a formé le comité spécial pour établir ce prix.

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**MEMO FROM THE CPSA  
PRESIDENT/  
NOTE DE SERVICE DU  
PRÉSIDENT DE L'ACSP**

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**CPSA 1998 Elections/ élections 1998, ACSP**

I write to ask your help in convincing colleagues whom you think would be good candidates for the 1998 election to agree to allow you, or other members of your department, to place their names in nomination: five places on the Board of Directors, as well as the post of President-Elect, must be filled. Also, as the result of a recent constitutional amendment, there is now an additional place on the Board for a graduate student member.

The composition of the Board of Directors should of course reflect the Association's concerns for electing both men and women, and for encouraging representation from the various regions of Canada and the different sectors of the discipline.

Could I ask you to refresh your memory about the process by referring to the "Call for Nominations" found in the June issue of the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*?

\*\*\*\*\*

Je vous écris dans le but d'obtenir votre collaboration pour convaincre, s'il y a lieu, l'un ou l'une de vos collègues d'être candidat ou candidate aux cinq postes à combler au Conseil d'administration de l'Association ou encore au poste de président-élu. De plus, suite à une récente modification constitutionnelle, il y a maintenant une place supplémentaire au sein du Conseil pour un étudiant de deuxième ou troisième cycle.

La composition du Conseil devrait bien sûr refléter la préoccupation de l'Association d'élire des hommes et des femmes et de représenter les diverses régions du Canada ainsi que les diverses facettes de la discipline. Pour proposer le nom d'un candidat ou d'une candidate, il suffit que la personne proposée rencontre les exigences décrites dans le numéro de juin de la *Revue canadienne de science politique*.

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**REPORT ON THE 1997 CPSA PROGRAMME AT  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY JUNE 8-10**

---

**Stephen Tomblin (Memorial)  
Chair Program Committee**

This year the CPSA annual meetings were held at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's as part of the Learned Societies Conference. One of the most remarkable things about the conference was that the weather cleared up for the three days. Instead of fog and cold, the 429 registered CPSA delegates enjoyed three days of sunshine. The primary objective of this report is to review and discuss the 1997 conference.

**The 1997 Organizing Committee**

A few months before the CPSA 1996 meetings at Brock, I put together a distinguished group of scholars who were willing to take on the job of organizing the conference. It made my job easier having such a dedicated group to work with. The members of the committee included:

Vice-Chair	François Houle (Ottawa)
Local Representative	Christopher Dunn (Memorial)
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Local and Urban Politics	Peter Boswell (Memorial)



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Public Administration	Susan McCorquodale (Memorial)
Law and Public Policy	Katherine Fierbeck (Dalhousie)
Plenary Sessions	Herman Bavis (Dalhousie) Stephen Tomblin (Memorial)

### Format

At its first meeting at Brock, the 1997 committee agreed that the new format would again be used at Memorial. It seemed to work well in 1996, and we agreed to plan for four morning sessions that lasted fifty minutes each. These single-paper sessions provide more variety and even though there were some problems, it is clear that the new format is working well. We also continued the practice of holding two longer afternoon sessions that either featured multi-paper presentations, round tables, or workshops. These sessions were scheduled for 90 minutes on Sunday and Tuesday. Monday afternoon featured the Presidential Address and the Plenary session: *Federalism and Social Policy in an Era of Decentralization*.

What was the experience in 1997 and how did people feel about the new format? There was a clear consensus that the new format is working well. We were very pleased that so many people felt this way. Indeed, most of the comments received were very positive and there is strong support for keeping the new format. However, in order to prepare for the 1998 conference, it is important that we focus on problems and things that can be improved.

One major problem was the early morning session. There were not very many people attending these sessions and it might be a good idea to make a change. Another problem was that the sessions were far apart. Given the number of sections and requirements of the new format, it is not easy getting all the rooms we wanted (especially on the first day). This scheduling problem came about because a number of societies were here at the same time. This may or may not be a problem in the future, but it is something that future conference organizers need to think about.

### Attendance

Over the three days, 429 registered delegates of whom 99 were students discussed and debated a wide variety of topics. There was also evidence that a number of people attending the conference did so without registering.

### Plenaries and other sessions

This year the CPSA annual conference featured two plenary sessions. The panels on Cross-Border Regionalism and

Federalism and Social Policy in an Era of Decentralization were well attended and a number of people stated that they found these sessions to be interesting and beneficial. There were also a number of joint sessions co-sponsored by the Canadian Historical Association, European Community Studies, the Canadian Society for the Study of Greek Political Thought, the Canadian Association of Slavists, the Society for Socialist Studies, and the Canadian Study of Parliament Group. These sessions were lively and presenters and audience members alike gained much from the experience.

These Joint and Special sessions were supported by the Humanities Social Science Federation of Canada, and New/Tel. We were also fortunate to receive financial support from the Canadian Foundation for the Americas and this made it possible to organize special sessions in the Comparative (developing) section of the programme. These partnerships added a great deal to the programme and we were grateful for all of the support and encouragement offered by these various outside agencies and organizations.

### Student Monitors

Having graduate students and undergraduate volunteers on hand to help delegates get around was a big help. A number of people indicated that having people stationed in different locations was a good idea. Indeed, we were very proud of our students and how hard they worked to make sure that people did not get lost. They contributed in a number of different ways and this added much to the conference.

### Cabot Scuff and the CPSA Dinner

The organizers also put a lot of effort into organizing other events that would give delegates an opportunity to sample some of the Newfoundland local culture. With the financial support of New/Tel Communications, we were able to sponsor other events and to hire some local talent. The "Cabot Scuff" featured local performers and we used the opportunity to raise money for our graduate students. In addition, 125 people journeyed out by bus to the Woodstock Inn for the CPSA dinner. It was a beautiful clear night and people enjoyed seeing Bell Island and Ice-bergs on the way out. Greg Malone, a well known comedian and one of the original members of CODCO appeared at the dinner. From all accounts it was one of the highlights of the conference.

As Programme Chair, I thoroughly enjoyed working with the other members of the committee. They were a great team of professionals that served the CPSA well. Chris Dunn was an outstanding local organizer and I greatly appreciated his diligent work. Michelle Hopkins from the start made sure everything was done and she has excellent organizational skills. I am glad it is over but look forward to the 1998 conference in Ottawa.



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**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
IN THE DISCIPLINE/  
RAPPORT SUR LA CONDITION FÉMININE  
DANS LA DISCIPLINE**

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May, 1997

### Introduction

In March 1996, the Canadian Political Science Association mailed a questionnaire to all female members of the association, including graduate students, sessional instructors and faculty members. Approximately 250 questionnaires were mailed and 135 were returned, for a response rate of 54%, which is a very high response rate for a mail survey. The questionnaire asked female members of the CPSA a variety of demographic questions as well as questions about their education, career paths, and gender-related experiences within the discipline. The results are summarized in Part I of this document. Part II analyzes the findings.

As well, in March 1996, Chairs of all of the Political Science/Political Studies departments received a questionnaire which asked for information about the gender distribution of male and female staff and students, the availability of gender politics/women and politics courses, research and thesis work conducted on gender-related topics, and the existence of equity committees or equity plans within the department. Only eighteen departments responded, out of approximately 50 departments which are members of the Canadian Political Science Association. Results from this questionnaire are, therefore, partial and potentially misleading, and as a result have not been analyzed.

## PART I

### RESULTS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE CPSA

#### Demographic Profile

##### Language

Most of the respondents (105, or 78%) are English-speaking. Thirty (22%) identify French as their language of usage. English was the first language learned for 71% of the sample, and French was the first language learned for 20% of the sample; the remainder (9%) learned another language.

##### Residency/Citizenship status

Seventy percent were born in Canada and 92% are Canadian citizens. Most of the non-citizens have been residents of Canada for 11 or more years (30, or 75%). Respondents who were not born in Canada moved here for a variety of reasons: because their parents moved here (40%); to study (25%); because their husbands re-located in Canada (12.5%); to work (12.5%); and for political or other reasons (7.5%).

#### Age

Forty percent of the respondents range from age 26 to 35; 32% from age 36 to 45; and 26% are 46 years old or older. Only 2 percent of the respondents are under age 25.

#### Family Status

The majority of the respondents (57%) do not have children. Of those who do have children (43%), the vast majority have one (43%) or two (47%); 8.5% have three children, and 1.5% have four. Most of these children are older than six. Nineteen percent are between the ages of 1 and 6; 29.5% are between 7 and 12; 22% are between 13 and 17; and 29.5% are eighteen and older.

The fact that many female members have grown children or no children is reflected in living arrangements; 22% live alone, and 42% live with other adults. Four percent are single parents, and 32% live with children and adults. Of those who have children living with them, the majority (54%) have one child, 36% live with two children, and 10% live with three.

#### Education

##### Degrees Granted

Most respondents have a Ph.D. (59%); 37% have Master's degrees; and 4% have BA's. Most (63%) reported that their studies had not been interrupted for any reason. Of the 37% who did have to interrupt their studies, 82% did so for a short period of time (1-5 years). Seventy percent of the interruptions were due to work responsibilities. Only 15% resulted from child care responsibilities or family matters. Thirteen percent were for other reasons.

##### Scholarships

Eighty four percent of respondents have been granted scholarships. Eighteen percent of those who received scholarships were granted a post-doctoral scholarship (15% of the total sample).

##### Gender and Education

One quarter of the respondents attended single-sex schools, but most (61%) attended the single-sex educational institution for five or fewer years. As well, the vast majority (75%) who attended a single-sex school did so at the high school level.

The majority (64%) did not attend any classes on women or gender issues at any level. Of the 45 respondents (35%) who did attend such classes, more took gender-related courses at the graduate level (35) than at the undergraduate level (29). Most had only one women-related course at either level.

Thirty four respondents (27%) completed a dissertation on women or gender issues. Twenty one wrote their MA thesis on women/gender (15.5% of the total sample), and 25 completed a gender-related Ph.D. dissertation (18.5% of sample).

### Discrimination

One fifth of the sample (20%) reported that they experienced discrimination in Teaching Assistant appointments. Close to half of the sample (45%) said they had been discriminated against as students.

English-speaking respondents were slightly more likely than French-speaking respondents to report that they experienced discrimination in TA appointments, or discriminatory treatment when they were students. However, this result may reflect the small number of French-speaking respondents.

Respondents over the age of 35 were significantly more likely to say they were discriminated against in TA appointments than respondents under the age of 35. However, this was not the case with overall experiences of discrimination as a student. The age groups most likely to say they had been discriminated against were: 20-25 (67%); 51+ (61%); and 36-40 (55%).

***"Do you think that you have ever been the object of discrimination in appointments (TA or RA) because of your gender?"***

Many of those who reported discrimination in TA/RA appointments said that they had been denied appointments or given less suitable appointments because of their gender. The most prevalent reason for this was the attitude of particular male professors toward women.

One respondent reported: "My first Ph.D. supervisor began by telling me jokes about rape. Given this attitude to women, it was not surprising that none were hired as research assistants." Another woman noted that she was not assigned to a professor in her area of specialty because the professor "had a problem with a female TA before I arrived." It was also reported that a "male professor with a history of sexual misconduct was allowed to only hire male RAs despite their having no background in the area of politics the professor was researching." Yet another respondent noted that a "male professor preferred a male TA for a statistics course."

One woman stated that she received an unsuitable appointment as a consequence of the fact that the department was being charged with systemic gender discrimination and: "...I was asked to TA a course which I was not comfortable TAing (stats course) because the department needed a female TA and all other possibilities were male."

Other comments regarding discrimination in appointments included the fact that fewer courses are offered in the area of women and politics therefore there are fewer TA/RA opportunities, as well as the complaint that a woman TA was paid at a lower rate than a less qualified male TA.

A few respondents thought gender may have worked in their favour in TA/RA appointments.

***"Do you think that you have ever been the object of discrimination while a student because of your gender?"***

The most common forms of discrimination noted by the respondents included: sexual harassment; devaluation of gender

scholarship; a hostile climate and attitude toward women; and differential treatment due to gender. Other comments included concerns about how seminars are conducted and issues surrounding maternity leave. Many of the respondents cited more than one instance of discrimination. One woman noted that the instances of discriminatory treatment were "too many to specify". A few respondents noted that racism and age discrimination are problems as well.

**Sexual harassment:** Respondents noted they had experienced sexual harassment both from professors and graduate students. One woman stated; "A professor agreed to sponsor a post-doctoral fellowship at his university *only* if I slept with him". A respondent wrote that "a professor tried to arrange a date when I was taking his course - I politely declined and he gave me a lower mark than many of my equally competent male colleagues." Others reported "unwelcome advances from a professor" and sexual harassment by fellow graduate students. One respondent noted "I was asked out a lot by profs at the MA level, called at home (calls were not regarding academic endeavors), and comments [were made] about how I looked." Another stated that she had "lost marks because I refused to date the TA."

**Gender scholarship devalued:** Many respondents indicated that they have experienced a general hostility toward gender-related scholarship and noted that such scholarship is often belittled in courses both by male professors and male graduate students. One respondent said, "I believe that my focus on gender has been dismissed more than I have been discriminated against as a woman." Other comments pointed to the general "lack of interest" in feminist scholarship. "The lack of theoretical knowledge of feminism by many professors" was remarked on by one respondent. Others reported difficulty in getting together a competent committee when pursuing non-mainstream topics. As well, "feminism or women in politics was not considered a legitimate subfield for comprehensive Ph.D. exams at our department." Another woman commented on "marginalization in seminars by male students and faculty as a consequence of analytical/ideological differences concerning gender" and "racism in the classroom". She said, "It's okay so long as one's analysis doesn't challenge or irritate the proponents of a gender-race neutral mythology."

**Attitudes toward women:** Respondents also found the attitude of some male professors toward women to be discriminatory. One woman reported, "it was once suggested to me by a professor that women who undertook academic careers wouldn't have a 'full' life." Another student noted that "a professor agreed to support my application to graduate school, then destroyed my credibility in his letter of recommendation; he later commented to a male colleague that women have no place in political science." A respondent also wrote of a time when "a professor refused to provide a letter of recommendation for graduate school and suggested that I would be happier in a career as a mother." One woman recalled this: "I was told by a professor I was working with in an independent study [using quantitative methods] that I was 'quite clever for a woman'." Another stated that "the reason for a grade and the only comment on a paper was 'because I wrote like a woman'." Yet another reported that she was "told women have less deliberative faculties than men. Told I should use my education to teach my male children." One woman reported having



