

*File Canadian Psychological Association* ←

# NEWSLETTER

## OF THE CPA/SCP



SECTION ON WOMEN & PSYCHOLOGY  
SECTION : FEMMES ET PSYCHOLOGIE

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SECTION ON WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY  
1988-89 Executive

**Past Coordinator:** Dr. Rhona H. Steinberg  
McGill University  
3637 Peel Street  
Montreal, PQ  
H3A 1X1  
(514) 392-5111

**Coordinator:** Dr. Janet Stoppard  
Psychology Department  
University of New Brunswick  
Bag Service #45444  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 6E4  
(506) 453-4708

**Coordinator-Elect:** Dr. Julie Brickman  
290 St. Clair West  
Suite #7  
Toronto, ON  
M4V 1S3

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Dr. Mona Abbondanza  
Dept. d'Administration d'Economique  
Université du Québec à Trois Rivières  
C.P. 500  
Trois Rivières, Québec G9A 5H7  
Pavillon Ringuet, poste 3158  
(819)376-5080 Local 3028

**Newsletter Editors:** Dr. Lorette Woolsey and  
Ms. Carol Wilson  
Dept. of Counselling Psychology  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, BC  
V6T 1Y7  
(604) 228-3985 or 228-1038

**Associate Editor:** Ms. Geraldine Brooks  
403-2616 Broadway  
Vancouver, BC  
(604)734-5694

**Graduate Student Representative:** Ms. Marsha Runtz  
50 Woodrow Place  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3J 1J3  
(204) 772-3171

SECTION ON WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY  
COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

As I begin my year as SWAP Coordinator, I would like to highlight some of the Section-related activities which took place in conjunction with the Annual Convention in Montreal.

In what has now become a tradition, a very successful Institute was held prior to the main convention. Reina Juarez and her committee deserve our congratulations for the splendid job they did in planning and arranging the Institute. The final budget statement indicates that the Institute was a financial success and those of you who attended will know that it was also a success in terms of the quality and diversity of the papers presented. Keynote speaker Marissa Zavalloni began the proceedings with her thought-provoking paper entitled "Women's Identity: An Ego-Ecological Perspective" and Ester Greenglass stimulated and entertained us with her luncheon address on "Interpersonal Relationships and Identity in Women".

The SWAP Institute provides an important forum for psychologists to share our work for, by, and about women. The continued need to hold a meeting of this kind, which is separate from the main CPA convention, is evidenced by the fact that recent Institute (in Halifax) is already underway. Joanne Gallivan, who is at the University College of Cape Breton in Sydney, NS, has agreed to coordinate the next Institute with the assistance of Susan Hyde and Heather Davey, also in Sydney, and Toni Laidlaw in Halifax.

Congratulations are also in order to Tracy L. Bennett, the winner of this year's SWAP Student Paper Award. Tracy's paper, entitled "Coping with an Abusive Relationship: How and Why do Women Stay?", was judged by the Award Committee as making a significant contribution to psychological knowledge about an issue of particular concern to women. Thanks are due to Beth Percival who served as Coordinator for the SWAP Paper Award and also for the Student Travel Bursaries.

In her report to the Business Meeting, Beth proposed some changes to procedures for submission of entries for the Student Paper Award. After discussion, it was agreed to adopt a modified version of Beth's proposal. Specifically, applicants for the 1989 SWAP Student Paper Award will now be requested to submit two copies of a summary or abridged version of their paper (not exceeding 1,500 words) that includes a description of the aims, methodology, results and discussion of findings of their study.

It was decided to ask for summaries rather than full papers because some students who would otherwise consider entering for the full award might be

deterred by the requirement for a full paper at a time when there are other, academic deadlines to meet.

Deadline for submissions will be May 15, 1989. Potential applicants are reminded that papers (or posters) accepted for presentation at either the Institute or the main CPA convention are eligible for consideration.

Christine Storm (Mount Allison University) has agreed to act as coordinator for the Student Paper Award and the Student Travel Bursaries for 1988-89.

Last year, former Coordinator Tannis MacBeth Williams, along with myself, took on the responsibility of ensuring that more women were nominated to be CPA Fellows. I am glad to report that our efforts appear to have been somewhat successful. Seven of the 26 new "Fellows" (I would welcome suggestions for an alternative, nonsexist term) are women, and all except one of these women are current members of SWAP. Congratulations to the following on achieving the well-deserved status of CPA Fellow: Meredith Kimball; Carolyn Larsen; Beth Percival; Frances Ricks; Christine Storm; and Tannis MacBeth Williams.

If your reaction on reading the list of names at the end of the previous paragraph was one of surprise that these women are only now being made Fellows, then it serves to underscore the continued need to ensure that the achievements of women psychologists gain appropriate recognition within CPA. Rhona Steinberg (past-Coordinator) and Julie Brickman (Coordinator-elect) will be monitoring nominations of CPA Fellows this year. When the call for nominations is announced later in the Fall, please give consideration to nominating women who, in your judgement, has made a contribution to the science or profession of psychology (and send their names to Rhona or Julie).

Past-coordinator Rhona Steinberg also made a special effort last year to ensure that there were women's names among those considered to be invited speakers at the CPA Convention in Montreal. I will be following up on Rhona's efforts and I would welcome suggestions of names of women (especially those in Eastern Canada) you would like to have as invited speakers at the Convention in Halifax. Write to me an UNB or if you have access to electronic mail, my address is STOPPARD@UNBMVSI.BITNET.

Janet M. Stoppard  
SWAP Coordinator, 1988-89

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SECTION OF WOMEN & PSYCHOLOGY (S.W.A.P.)

CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

JUNE 11, 1988 - MONTREAL

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rhona Steinberg	Julie Brickman
Kathy Ingraham	Janet Stoppard
Susan Hyde	Doris Ellerker Leland
Reina Juarez	Ellen Duscall
Brenda Bettridge	Danielle Papineau
Eleni Skodra	Eva Szekely
Elinor Ames	Victoria La Crosse
Charlene Y. Senn	H. Lorraine Radtke
Mary J. Wright	Connie Stark-Adamec
Esther Greenglass	Lorna Sandler
Sarah Korenberg	

1. The agenda, presented by Rhona Steinberg, Co-ordinator of SWAP, was unanimously approved.
2. The minutes from the last meeting were adopted as moved by Eva Szekely and seconded by Esther Greenglass. Unanimous.
3. The slate for the 1988-89 Executive was read by Rhona Steinberg. Those present were introduced. The slate was:

Co-ordinator	- Janet Stoppard (New Brunswick)
Past Co-ordinator	- Rhona Steinberg (Montreal)
Co-ordinator Elect	- Julie Brickman (Toronto)
Secretary-Treasurer	- Mona Abbondanza (Montreal)
Newsletter Co-editors	- Lorette Woolsey, Carol Wilson
Graduate Student Representative	- Marcia Runtz (Winnipeg)

The slate was unanimously adopted.

In addition, Rhona Steinberg (Montreal) will become Past Co-ordinator and Janet Stoppard (New Brunswick) will be the Co-ordinator.

4. The Treasurer's report was read for Mona Abbondanza by Janet Stoppard. Cathy Grim moved the adoption of the report and Susan Hyde seconded. Approved unanimously.

5. Co-ordinator's Report - given by Rhona Steinberg:

a) The lack of women Fellows in CPA has been partly redressed. This was done by submitting many names.

b) The number of women who were invited speakers at CPA was up to three this year from one last year. This was because Rhona Steinberg, the Co-ordinator, submitted fifteen names, setting a good precedent. Continuation of this push was recommended.

She also wrote to the Convention Co-ordinator and the President of the CPA about these issues. Lorna Cammaert raised the issue to CPA as well. All these strategies helped.

c) DSM III (revised) issues raised in the newsletter received little response.

d) The SWAP Institute this year was on Women's Identity - An exploration of self, and featured keynote speaker Marisela Zavalloni. Workshop presenters included Jeri Dawn Wine, Eleni Skodra and Eva Szekely, Celine Mercier, Nikki Gerrard, Liz Woonton, Janice Ristock, Margo Rivera, Patricia Neilson, Sheollagh Fitzgerald, Gerry Stearns, Belinda Crawford and Cannie Stark-Adamec. The luncheon keynote was given by Esther Greenglass. The organizing was done by the Montreal group, coordinated by Reina Juarez and overseen by Rhona Steinberg.

e) Women did not fare well this year in the election for the Board of Directors of CPA. Six out of seven candidates on the slate were men. However, this is because the Board is gender proportionate according to Bylaw, and the slate took this into consideration.

f) It is to be noted that the restructuring option for CPA was defeated at AGM. Speakers against restructuring (which seemed to take power away from the sections) included Rhona Steinberg and Lorna Cammaert. Both were eloquent.

g) The SWAP institute and CPA convention will be held in Halifax next year. Two people in Cape Breton have agreed to co-ordinate the Institute if they can have the assistance of someone in Halifax. At this point Janet Stoppard asked for a report on this year's institute.

The report was given by Reina Juarez. There were 115 in attendance, which was less than in Vancouver in 1987. Reina speculated that the lower attendance was due to the francophone population. Rhona suggested that the conflict with McGill's convocation also reduced local attendance. Reina said that the profits were not yet tabulated, but are in the black.

It was mentioned that next year is the 50th anniversary of CPA and the 12th of SWAP, and some note might be taken of these events in the programming.

On site co-ordinators from Halifax were sought. Reina has prepared folders which describe the co-ordination process. Reina also mentioned that knowledge of the local community is a great boon in publicising SWAP.

Esther Greenglass suggested getting students involved in identifying key people in Halifax.

The co-ordinators will be Joanne Gallivan and Susan Hyde.

The push for invited female speakers for CPA and nominations of women for Fellows was again raised.

The criteria to qualify for Fellows are contributions to CPA or to psychology. Contributions can be in the community and in teaching as well as scholarship. A wide variety of achievements are considered.

The nomination process was discussed. To nominate someone, you first contact her to ask if she is interested. If yes, send a copy of her C.V. with a supporting statement from the nominator to the Chair of the Committee. Nominations go in before Christmas.

Esther Greenglass suggested that every single woman in this room should be nominated.

H) Rhona raised the idea of whether or not SWAP should endorse the idea of speciality designations. The issues around speciality designations are:

- follows a medical model, which has not been helpful to women
- should jurisdiction be provincial or federal?

- protection of the public
- protection of titles, such as "psychologist"
- builds up another hierarchical structure
- follows the American model (although keeps the American market viable)

Debate on these issues should be in the newsletters.

i) Rhona raised the broad topic of the identification of the needs of women psychologists which can be addressed by SWAP. Various areas were discussed:

- One of these is mid-career training.
- A second is the hiring of more women in academe. The status of Women Committee will report on this (Cannie Stark-Adamec and Meredith Kimball).
- The recognition of women who were founding members of SWAP (next year at anniversary conference). This could be the history of women in Psychology in Canada.
- Reina mentioned that there was very low attendance at the addresses of the invited women speakers, and suggested that we should support them if we invite them.

7. From a letter sent by Cheryl Malmo to Lorna Cammaert, the issue of assessing knowledge of the psychology of women was raised. One procedure developed in Alberta is to have at least one woman (feminist woman?) on the Oral Examination Committee, which at least gives us some impact.

It was noted that in the licensing exams there is an entire section devoted to I-0, but there are no questions on the psychology of women, although 50% of all clients are women.

The related issue of sexism in text books was raised. Rhona suggested that we tell publishers we will not buy any text which lacks a section on women. Cannie suggested that more than a section was required. Criteria she uses include:

- (1) featuring women
- (2) up to date on research, especially research with implications for women
- (3) nonsexist research
- (4) cites women psychologists.

Lorna Sandler suggested that this content be part of each section, not just a chapter, which seems too ghettoized. She asks whether the issues relevant to women are included.

8. Susan Hyde reported on the DSM III - revised.

There is a debate between Lazarus (behavioural) and Messer (analytic) about the "self-deficiency personality syndrome" that is crucial to read. See the Psychotherapy journal article on "masochistic personality." These diagnoses are supposed to be used for research only. It was suggested that we deluge the editor with letters, and send copies of these letters to APA, Division 35, Bonnie Strickland and anyone else you think is important. A copy of the article should be included in the next mailing.

9. Janet Stoppard read the Report on Awards and Bursaries for Beth Percival.

Six entries were received from students. The top-rated one was significantly better than the others. The award went to Tracy C. Bennett for her paper on "Coping with an abusive relationship: How and why do women stay." This paper is a significant addition to our knowledge of women.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to change the review process to one step. Abstracts are not enough to judge and a completed paper cannot be done on time.

Discussion followed. There was concern that students presenting posters could be at a disadvantage in applying, so that 3 page submissions (by May 15) might be best.

It also should be clear that students presenting at SWAP are eligible.

The amended motion was made by Janet Stoppard and seconded by Cannie Stark-Ademec. It was carried with one abstention.

It also mentioned that nine out of 15 student applications received travel bursaries this year.

10. The report on the SWAP newsletter was presented. Lorette Woolsey and Carol Wilson have agreed to continue as co-editors if Geraldine Brooks is

appointed as associate editor, a motion which was moved by Rhona Steinberg, seconded by Janet Stoppard and passed unanimously.

Timing of submissions has been a problem, especially the reports from the provincial representatives. The idea that the newsletter will begin to publish substantive articles on a journal model was presented.

11. The CPA status of women report by Chris Storm will be published in the newsletter.
12. Susan Hyde gave the NAC report. NAC is in transition. Psychology is not well represented. SWAP is a member organization, so any SWAP member can sit on a committee.

The designation of a SWAP voting delegate for next year was discussed.

13. A motion for adjournment was made, seconded and carried, so the 1988 SWAP meeting was closed.

#### SWAP Student Paper Award Report

Prepared by by Beth Percival

Six entries were received for the Student Paper Award. Two judges rank ordered the short entries and produced identical rank orders. While there were several interesting and worthwhile entries, both judges considered the number one ranked entry to be significantly better than the others. Because of some confusion about the two step process because of the time constraints, and because of the unanimity about the best entry, it was decided (in consultation with the SWAP Coordinator) to give the award on the basis of the initial evaluation rather than going through a two step process.

This year's award went to Tracy L. Bennett whose paper, "Coping with an abusive relationship: How and why do women stay?" was judged to be an important advancement of psychological knowledge about an issue of particular concern to women. The research was theoretically grounded, it was well done (with a particularly noteworthy sample), the results were clearly analyzed and presented, and it is a significant contribution to the field.

**SWAP FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987

**Revenue**

Previous balance (Dec. 31/86)	\$1,853.74
Dues	2,375.00
Newsletter subscriptions	12.00
Profit from SWAP Institute (1987)	1,000.00
Interest	84.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,325.73</b>

**Expenditures**

Newsletters	\$ 914.16
Telephone, stamps, etc.	1,007.83
Scholarships and bursaries	1,135.75
Institute (1987)	120.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,177.74</b>

**BALANCE** (Dec. 31/87) \$2,147.99

**SWAP FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

January 1, 1988 to May 31, 1988

**Revenue**

Previous balance (Dec. 31/87)	\$2,147.99
Dues	2,180.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,327.99</b>

**Expenditures**

Telephone, stamps, etc.	\$ 294.66
Institute (1988)	243.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 537.68</b>

**BALANCE** (May 31/88) \$3,790.31

Mona Abondanza  
Secretary Treasurer

# SWAP TRAVEL BURSARY REPORT - Annual Business Meeting 1988

Prepared by Beth Percival

Fifteen applications were received for the \$750 allotted for student travel bursaries. Although it was recognized that all students have legitimate financial need, bursaries were granted on the basis of relative need. Relative need was defined by two criteria: (1) distance to travel and/or (2) the extra expenses incurred by attending the SWAP Institute (an extra night's accommodation and an additional registration fee). On this basis, the following awards were made:

Barbara Braun	Vancouver	\$ 100
Belinda Crawford	Regina	\$ 100
Sheollagh Fitzgerald	Regina	\$ 100
Beverly Frizzell	Calgary	\$ 100
Lesley Graff	Winnipeg	\$ 50
Patricia Nielson	Regina	\$ 100
Susan Snelling	Toronto	\$ 50
Geraldine Stearns	Regina	\$ 100
Colleen Wilkie	Saskatoon	\$ 50

I recommend that in the future, the SWAP Winter Newsletter contain an application form for Student Travel Bursaries. This would standardize the information provided to the person doing the awards and facilitate fair and reasonable decision making.

**Editors' Note:** The next issue of the Newsletter will contain the application form for Student Travel Bursaries.

Prepared by Beth Percival

Fifteen applications were received for the \$750 allotted for student travel bursaries. Although it was recognized that all students have legitimate financial need, bursaries were granted on the basis of relative need. Relative need was defined by two criteria: (1) distance to travel and/or (2) the extra expenses incurred by attending the SWAP Institute (an extra night's accommodation and an extra night's meals). The following awards were made:

SWAP STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNER - 1988

The following is a paper by Tracy L. Bennett which won the SWAP Student Paper Award in 1988. The paper was presented at the CPA Annual Meeting in Montreal, June, 1988.

COPING WITH ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS: HOW AND WHY DO WOMEN STAY?

Tracy L. Bennett

University of California, Los Angeles

The study investigated, as the title suggests, how and why women stay in abusive relationships. This is an issue that continually frustrates those who counsel, provide emergency shelter for, or otherwise work with abused women. It is frustrating for a number of different reasons. For example, women often refuse to press charges against the men who abuse them, and those women who do press charges often drop the charges before their partner goes to court. Those who work in transition houses often see that an abused women will give every indication that she will not return to the abusive situation after she leaves; however, many eventually do. Finally, the issue of women staying with abusive partners is frustrating because we have no idea how many women never get any kind of help at all.

For these and other reasons then, researchers have tried to investigate empirically the kinds of things that keep women with their abusive partners. The general characterization of abused women that we have as a result of these studies is that they become 'trapped' in their relationships by a variety of factors (Freize, 1987; MacLeod, 1980). For example, learned helplessness (Walker, 1979), depression, and lack of access to economic or social resources (Gelles, 1976; Strube & Barbour, 1983) are all hypothesized to keep women in abusive relationships. Other factors that have been investigated include a woman's prior experience with violent relationships and the frequency and severity of abuse she experiences (Gayford, 1975; Gelles, 1976; Levine, 1975). As a social psychologist being trained in a stress and coping paradigm though, I took a slightly different focus and decided to address the question of how women stay with abusive partners.

The stress and coping literature suggests that in the face of threatening events, individuals engage in complex cognitive manoeuvres that change the meaning of their situation in order to cope with the stress (cf. Janoff-Bulman & Freize, 1987; Lazarus & Folkman, 1984; Taylor, 1983). The success of these manoeuvres appears to rest on a person's ability to look at their circumstances in a particular light, because a different slant would yield a less positive picture. So it's possible that women who remain with abusive partners are able to appraise their relationships in a way that minimizes the salience of their abuse. That is, a woman may appraise her relationships as a whole in a positive light because she is focusing on the positive rather than the negative features of it.

There are a number of ways for abused women to engage in positive relationship appraisal. For example, they may perceive many positive aspects associated with their relationships. Second, they may engage in the process of downward comparison--that is, favorably compare their relationships or situations to other possible relationships or situations. Third, they may attribute the positive behaviour their partner displays to be genuine rather than manipulative (or trying to 'make-up' for the abuse). In sum then, we took

a slightly different theoretical slant than has been taken in past research, and attempted to investigate how abused women adapt to their situations rather than what keeps them there.

We also opted to take a slightly different methodological approach than past research has used. In the past, the research has primarily sampled from women who were seeking help because of the abuse experienced. So most women have been recruited from transition houses, although many have also come from hospital emergency rooms, lawyers, legal aid offices, and counselling units or mental health centers. This means that we really don't know anything about women who don't seek help, and we know next to nothing about women currently involved with their abusive partners.

So the methodology that was adopted utilized public service announcements that were made throughout Southern and Central Ontario. These announcements appeared in many different newspapers in addition to being aired on some radio and cable television stations. The announcements requested "women who have experienced conflict and/or violence in an intimate relationship" to call the researcher collect. We worded the announcements this way because we wanted women who had experienced psychological and physical abuse, so the definition of each was left up to the reader.

One hundred and sixty-eight women responded to the recruitment efforts and 132 completed questionnaires were returned. Two questionnaires were excluded (in one case it was the woman who was the violent partner, while in the other case conflict arose as a result of being in a relationship with a married man who wouldn't leave his wife). Therefore, the sample was comprised of 130 abused women, which represents a response rate of 78%.

The questionnaire was 44 pages long and included three standardized measures of psychological adjustment (the SCL-90-R, Weisman's Social Adjustment Scale-Self Report, and Rosenberg's Self Esteem scale). The remainder of the questionnaire was comprised of open-ended and fixed response items that were designed for the study and assessed factors such as characteristics of the abuse, attributions for the abuse, attributions for positive behaviours, positive aspects of the relationship, and downward comparison.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to assess how representative the sample of abused women as a whole was, but the women did represent a wide range on a number of demographic characteristics. About one-third of the women were still involved with their abusive partners while two-thirds were no longer involved. In most cases the abusive partner was a legal or common-law husband, and the range of the length of the abusive relationship was from 4 months to 45 years.

As Table 1 shows, ages of the women ranged from 20 to 75 with a mean of about 40 years old. Annual household income ranged from less than \$5,000 to over \$50,000 per year. Over 60% of the sample was employed at the time the questionnaire was completed and of the remaining women, all had been employed previously. Finally, almost 60% of the sample had had some education past high school. (See Table 1, p. 18).

The women's experiences with abuse were also varied, but generally conformed with previous literature. Almost 80% of the women had experienced both psychological and physical abuse. Of these, 80% again, found psychological abuse either just as difficult or more difficult to deal with than physical abuse. The modal response for frequency of abuse was once a month or less, although as can be seen in Table 2, frequency ranged from daily to a single incident only. The types of abuse experienced by these women included being yelled at, being embarrassed, being ridiculed, having personal possessions damaged, having things thrown at the woman, being slapped, being kicked, being bruised, having bones broken, having blood drawn, sustaining permanent injuries, and having sex forced on the woman. Perhaps surprisingly, these women had not really sought help from any professional or community services as a result of the abuse they had experienced. In fact, fully 96% of the women had never or rarely sought help from transition houses, and the comparable figures are 80% for police, 88% for crisis lines, and 70% for medical doctors. (See Table 2, p. 19)

As mentioned previously, the primary question of importance in this study was how women remain in their abusive relationships. We decided to use the multivariate technique, discriminant analysis, that would be useful for simultaneously identifying the features that differentiated women who remained with their abusive partners from women who had left their relationships. Fifteen variables were included in the analysis. These variables represented those which are thought to trap women in their abusive relationships as well as those investigating positive relationship appraisal. It was expected that the factors related to appraising their relationships positively would most strongly differentiate the two groups of women, and in fact, the results supported this expectation.

As Table 3 shows, eight of the variables discriminated the two groups of women, and four of the top five represent positive relationship appraisal. The variables that discriminate the two groups are listed in Table 3 in descending order with respect to their discriminating power. Therefore, positive aspects of the relationship was a much better discriminator between the two groups than frequency of verbal abuse was. (See Table 3, p. 20)

The first discriminating variable suggests that women still involved with their abusive partners were more likely to report positive aspects associated with their relationships. So they were more likely to report things like mutual trust and respect, lots of love and affection expressed, and satisfaction with sex. Second, women no longer involved with their abusive partners reported greater negative relationship changes (e.g., increases in the frequency or severity of abuse and decreases in the amount of love and affection expressed). Third, women still in the relationship tended to employ more downward comparisons. Therefore, they were more likely to endorse items such as "I believe that our relationship is as pleasant as that of most people I know." Next, women no longer in the relationship were more likely to both blame their partner for the abuse and believe that any positive behaviours exhibited by him were used to manipulate her in some way. In addition women still involved with their abusive partners were more likely to make self-blaming attributions for abuse, although they were primarily unstable in nature. For example, women still 'in' endorsed items such as "My partner is likely to abuse me in response to something I have done," or "I haven't done enough to help him handle the pressure in his life."

Because of the way our items were worded, we were able to develop three scales assessing frequency of abuse (i.e., frequency of verbal, moderate physical, and severe physical abuse). Two of these scales significantly discriminate the two groups while the third does not. The frequency of severe physical abuse discriminates between the two groups of women. Therefore, women no longer involved in the relationship were more likely to report things like blood being drawn, bones being broken, or permanent injuries being sustained. Women no longer involved in the relationship also reported experiencing a higher frequency of verbal abuse (e.g., being yelled at, being embarrassed, being ridiculed). The third frequency of abuse variable, the frequency of moderate physical abuse, did not discriminate between the two groups of women. Therefore, women were not differentiated in terms of the frequency of things like being slapped, having personal possessions damaged, or having objects thrown at her.

The remaining variables in the discriminant function also did not differentiate women no longer involved from those still involved with their abusive partner. Therefore, women were not distinguished in terms of making genuine attributions for positive behaviour displayed by their partner (e.g., the degree to which they felt it was intrinsic to his nature), making situational attributions for the abusive behaviour, the length of the abusive relationship, whether or not the woman was currently employed, the level of psychosocial adjustment, or the women's past experience with violent relationships. I would like to emphasize the lack of difference between the two groups of women in terms of psychosocial adjustment. While this finding has important substantive value, it also permits interpretation of the remainder of the variables.

The results suggest then, that women in our sample who have remained with their abusive partners may have been able to do so because they engage in cognitive manouevres that help them to appraise their relationships positively. By focusing on the positive features associated with their relationship, these women appear to have been successful in minimizing the salience of the abuse they experience.

Viewing women as cognitively adapting to their abusive situations is an approach very different from characterizing them as exhibiting learned helplessness or as being trapped in their relationships. Admittedly, this cognitive adaptation model might not apply to all abused women who remain with their abusive partners. Some probably do stay because they feel trapped in their relationships. What is exciting about these results though, is that they suggest that both by sampling from abused women in a slightly different way and by asking slightly different questions, we have obtained data that suggests that a modification or reinterpretation of some of the current battered women lore is needed.

	<u>Total Family Income</u>
32	\$2,000
18	\$2,000 - \$10,000
24	\$10,000 - \$20,000
22	\$20,000 - \$30,000
8	\$30,000 - \$50,000
	<u>Highest Level of Education</u>
28	Grade 8 or less
13	some high school
18	graduated high school
7	vocational/technical
20	some university
18	graduated university
12	advanced degree

Table 1

Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

Age

21 - 30	23%
31 - 40	33
41 - 50	21
51 - 60	14
61 - 73	9

Total Family Income

\$5,000	3%
\$ 5,000 - \$10,000	18
\$10,000 - \$20,000	24
\$20,000 - \$30,000	25
\$30,000 - \$50,000	8

Highest Level of Education

grade 8 or less	5%
some high school	13
graduated high school	18
vocational/technical	7
some university	20
graduated university	16
advanced degree	15

Table 2

Table 3

Characteristics of the Abuse Experienced

Frequency of Abuse

single incident only	3%
once a month or less	33
once a week or less	22
once a week or more	29
daily	13

Kinds of Abuse Experienced

yelling	99%
embarrassing	89
ridiculing	96
possessions damaged	62
things thrown	56
being slapped	72
being kicked	50
being bruised	74
having bones broken	13
having blood drawn	50
permanent injury	16
sex being forced	52

Variables Entered in the Discriminant Analysis

Variables That Discriminate the Two Groups

- positive aspects of the relationship
- negative relationship changes
- the use of downward comparison
- partner-blaming attributions for abuse
- 'manipulatory' attributions for positive behaviour
- self-blaming attributions for abuse
- frequency of severe physical abuse
- frequency verbal abuse

Variables That Do Not Discriminate the Two Groups

- frequency of moderate physical abuse
- genuine attributions for positive behaviour
- situational attributions for abuse
- length of relationship
- current employment status
- psychosocial adjustment
- past experience with violent relationships

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## REPORT ON THE CPA STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE: 1987-1988

Prepared by Christine Storm

The Status of Women Committee, chaired by Lorna Cammaert, has been active on a number of fronts during the past year.

One of the primary roles of the Committee during this year has been to respond to several government initiatives - the national strategy on child care, a Statistics Canada questionnaire about women, and the review of the current guidelines, policies, and standards concerning counselling initiated by the provincial ministers of education. Our role as a consultant on these important matters demonstrates that we have established ourselves as a group that must be consulted on matters relevant to women.

The Committee has also responded to policy matters within CPA. It reviewed drafts for the CPA Minimum Practice Standards for Providers of Psychological Services and the CPA Accreditation Criteria and Procedures for Doctoral Programmes and Internships in Clinical Psychology. In addition, the Committee was active in monitoring the representation of women on all CPA Committees and on the CPA annual program. Women now comprise 44% of the committee membership and our representation at the convention is appreciably greater than last year. In addition, a number of women were nominated as fellows. However, our vigilance did not extend to the nominations for the positions of President and Directors. Only one woman was a candidate for these positions.

The Guidelines for Women Consumers of Therapy and Counselling developed by the Committee have been reviewed by the Ethics Committee of the CPA Board. These guidelines are now being reworked in the light of the comments from this group.

During the year, the Committee began work on two major projects which it will be continuing over the coming months. One project is concerned with women and mood-altering drugs; a second one involves a review of available information on women in psychology departments. This latter project will collect data on the numbers of female student applications and acceptances, the number of female faculty applications for positions and the number of female appointments, the number of female faculty at different ranks, and other information on women in psychology departments relevant to their careers.

SWAP CALL FOR PAPERS

BLIND REVIEW

1989 INSTITUTE of the  
Canadian Psychological Association's  
SECTION ON WOMEN AND PSYCHOLOGY

Proposals for the ninth Institute of the Section on Women and Psychology (SWAP) of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) are now being solicited. The Institute will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 1989, the day immediately preceding the CPA annual meeting, at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme will be Feminist Psychology in Canada: Retrospect and Prospects.

The Institute will focus on feminist approaches to psychological theory and research, therapy, teaching and our professional lives and professional development. Proposals presenting original research, reviews of theory or research, clinical issues, theoretical perspectives and therapeutic methods are welcome. The format can be a paper presentation, workshop or symposium. Workshops and symposia are especially welcome, but must be limited to one and one-half hours in length.

FORMAT

TRAVEL FUNDS

Please submit, for proposals of all types, the following:

1. A cover sheet which lists the title of the proposal, the authors' names, professional affiliations, addresses and phone numbers and the approximate amount of time required for the presentation.
2. Three (3) copies of a 200-300 word abstract/summary.
3. Two (2) stamped, self-addressed envelopes.

Proposals should be mailed to:

Dr. Joanne Gallivan  
Department of Psychology  
University College of Cape Breton  
Sydney, NS V1P 6L2

BLIND REVIEW

All submissions will be subject to blind review. To ensure unbiased selection of proposals, please include the requested cover sheet. Do not include that information, except for the title, on any other sheet of your proposal. Take care to avoid giving clues to your identity within the abstract/summary.

WHO MAY SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Anyone may submit a proposal regardless of sex or membership (or lack thereof) in SWAP or CPA. Submissions may be made by people in disciplines other than Psychology.

DEADLINE

Proposals must be received by January 31, 1989. Notification of decisions about proposals will be made as soon as possible.

TRAVEL FUNDS

Unfortunately, SWAP does not have travel funds for presenters. However, anyone who also presents a paper at the CPA meeting is eligible for SSHRC travel funds distributed by CPA.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions about a proposal you may wish to submit, please contact Joanne Gallivan at (902) 539-5300.

Dr. Joanne Gallivan  
Department of Psychology  
University College of Cape Breton  
Sydney, NS V1P 6L2

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS/MESSAGE DES EDITEURS

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

"WOMEN AND MENTAL HEALTH: A SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE"

A conference sponsored by the Alberta Division of the  
Canadian Mental Health Association

MAY 11 - 14, 1989

Banff, Alberta

Speakers will include: Jean Baker Miller  
Paula Caplan  
Phyllis Chesler  
Jeffrey Masson

Location: Banff Springs Hotel  
(\$80.00 per day for accommodation + 3 meals)

For more information contact:

Renee Cochard  
Suite 402  
10240 - 124th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T2N 3W4

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS/MESSAGE DES EDITEURS

We would like to remind all non-SWAP subscribers to the Newsletter to please send in \$5.00 if you wish to remain on the mailing list. Those interested in joining SWAP may write to the Canadian Psychological Association, 558 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7N6, for information.

Please note that the deadline for reports, announcements, news, etc., for the January Newsletter is December 28, 1988. We welcome information and articles which would be of interest to our readers. This includes submissions in French.

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On aimerait rappeler à tous les abonnés non-SWAP du bulletin de bien vouloir envoyer \$5.00 si vous voulez continuer à recevoir le bulletin. Ceux qui désirent devenir membre de SWAP peuvent écrire à: Canadian Psychological Association, 558 King Edward Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7N6, pour des renseignements.

Remarquez s'il vous plait la date limite pour les rapports, les annonces, les nouvelles, etc. Pour le bulletin de janvier la date limite est le 29 décembre, 1988. On invite de l'information et des articles qui seraient d'un intérêt à nos lecteurs. Ceci comprend des soumissions en français.