

WMSN Report for year 2005

The WMSN has been busy since the last AGM. There continues to be a steady expression of interest from colleagues keen to host a WMSN event. Academics, practitioners and students in Media Studies and related areas have used the space that WMSN provides to exchange ideas, debate pedagogy, theory, representation and practice and to network with colleagues. We aim in 2006 to build on these successes and to encourage others to join in the conversations that are taking place in seminars and via email. We also welcome suggestions as to how we can expand the network or from those who wish to host WMSN events.

Events held in 2005:

- The first event – ‘The Born Gender Supremacy: Challenges in Feminist Pedagogy & Research’ - was held at University of Leeds on Friday 11th March 2005 and organised by Katharine Sarikakis, Institute of Communications Studies.

Approximately 35 scholars from across the country attended the symposium.

- The second event was organised by Natalie Fenton, Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths College on Tuesday 19th April.

The event was very well attended with approximately 45-50 colleagues attending. The invited speakers spoke on a diversity of gender-related theoretical, representational and practice-based issues.

- Tessa Perkins Memorial Event - the event was organised by Rosalind Brunt and Margaret Montgomerie to commemorate the work of Tessa Perkins. It was held at Sheffield Hallam University on Wednesday 14th September. The event had a range of speakers to cover the span of Tessa's interests in gay/lesbian theory and representation; gendered media representations, educational policy, politics and gender.

The event was an excellent tribute to Tessa and her work and a quick headcount revealed 55 people had attended.

MeCCSA conference presence:

- Karen Ross has organised a panel for the conference entitled 'women and news'.
- Vicky Ball of the the Postgraduate Network has collaborated with the WMSN to organise the debate 'Understanding New Femininities in Contemporary Popular Media'.

Forthcoming events:

- 'Just joking? Positioning humour in contemporary life' organised by Margaret Montgomerie, De Montfort University. Held on March 10th 2006 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Publicity:

A postcard flyer has been designed and produced this year by the organising committee to promote the WMSN and encourage new members of the mailing list and potential seminar organisers.

Mailing List:

The WMSN mailing list continues to be successfully used by members. Thanks to Ann Butler at Sheffield Hallam for her support mailing messages.