

Feminism(s): Strengthening the Ties Conference
Held at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC
May 24-26, 2007.



Report for WPSE Margaret Fulton Award

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Vancouver Feminist Action Project

Values:

- We work to foster feminism as part of everyday experience. Yet, we realize that feminism is a concept in constant change and with many definitions. We also recognize that not everyone identifies with the term but that we can unite toward acts of anti-oppression.
- We acknowledge our own oppression and privilege. Our intention is to use our differing sites of experience to advocate for social justice. We promote the awareness that a theoretical understanding of power dynamics does not speak higher than experience.
- We continue the struggle against all oppressions; in particular, but not limited to, those related to class, race, gender, and sex.
- We contend that gender is not restricted to a binary and that it exists separately from sex.

Goals:

- To facilitate political action
- To create tools for feminist networking

Most, but not all, of the members of VFAP are undergrad students at colleges and universities in BC. We are committed to building a strong community of people who will continue the struggle for equality and justice. We hope to learn from past mistakes in the women's movement, to be inclusive, and to be open to growth and change.

Herstory

The first members of the **Vancouver Feminist Action Project** met at a conference on feminism(s) in Edmonton, Alberta in May of 2006. We saw the conference as important and timely since many people we knew, including ourselves, were feeling isolated from others who shared our perspectives. We left wanting to create more opportunities for like-minded individuals and groups to meet and organize.

From that May until the next, we met on a weekly (or more) basis. Our main project at that point was hosting the second annual conference. This conference was titled Feminism(s): Strengthening the Ties and was held at the SFU Harbour Centre in Vancouver, BC from May 24-26, 2007.

Since the completion of the conference, VFAP has been working on follow-up from the conference, plus documenting processes and providing support and information to the organizers the future annual feminist conferences.

The second major project of VFAP is **The F Word** radio show on Vancouver's Co-op Radio CFRO 102.7 FM. The hosts are Alana Higgins and Nicole Deagan. Ongoing times and dates will be posted on our website.

Funding

VFAP is a grassroots feminist organization with no external source of ongoing funding. We hold regular fundraisers to meet the financial needs of our organization and rely on the generous support of other organizations in the form of grants. All members work entirely on a volunteer basis.

Conference

The Feminism(s): Strengthening the Ties Conference was held at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, from May 24-26, 2007.

Conference Organizers

Alana Higgins
Alexis Baker
Azin Mirsayah
Beth Henderson
Chelsea Werrun
Elsa Kamerling
Jenna MacKay
Kelly Morrison
Kiersten Ballard
Nicole Deagan
Nita Palmer
Saida Osman
Shannon Bundock

1	Item	detail	cost	
2				
3	Food/Beverage	during conference		
4		food / snacks	Included (line 24)	
5	Signing	for hearing impaired		
6		as needed	Donated	
7				
8	Transportation	during the conference		
9		gas and parking	\$ 80.00	
10	Website	domain name	\$ 97.00	
11		design	Donated	
12		maintenance	Donated	
13	Printing	150 conference itineraries	\$ 400.00	
14				
15	Folders for attendee package	150 folders / \$3.66 per 10 pack	\$ 58.75	
16	Labels	Name tags / Folder		
17		pack of 750	\$ 20.00	
18	pens	pens	\$ 20.00	
19		markers for easel writing	\$ 20.00	
20	paper	get old newspaper rolls (free)		
21		handouts (in kind)		
22		leaflets (in kind)		
23		SFU harbour centre rental	\$ 413.40	
24	Harbour Centre	Room and foyer rental	\$ 2,354.00	
25		TOTAL	\$ 3,463.15	
26				

VFAP and its projects are run entirely on a volunteer basis. All money and in-kind donations have gone toward expenses above. The amount received from WPSE, the Margaret Fulton Award, went directly toward the venue rental for the conference.

Summary of Presentations

Keynote Speakers

Gladys Radek
Bernie Williams
Kira Koshelanyk, Justice For Women
Marion McAdam
Krista Davis, Atlantic Waves Network
Rosalie Hawrylko

Presentations

1. Suzie Dunn "Womyn with a Y: Activism through Everyday Language"
2. Christine Grimes "Internal Narrative and Identity"
3. Sarah Mundy "Instead of Sexperts"
4. Jasmine Yen "Changing Our Attitudes about Sexwork:
A Question and Answer with Former Sexworker Jasmine Yen"
5. Alana Higgins, Vancouver Feminist Action Project
"Feminist Perspectives on Criminalization of Women's Poverty"
6. Saida Osman, Vancouver Feminist Action Project
"Feminist Resistance in the Global South"
7. Tamara Hansen, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba
"The Cuban Revolution and Women's Liberation"
8. Negar Azmudeh
"How can we in the West help the Iranian Women's Movement?"
9. Joanie Bolduc, Anne Létourneau, and Catherine St-Germain Lefebvre
"Feminism and Religions: Results and Perspectives from a Montréal Field Study"
10. Esther Shannon & Raven Bowen
"Decriminalization of the Sex Trade"
11. Kira Koshelanyk, Justice For Women
"The Struggle for a Better World Today
and the Importance of Women's Leadership"

12. Diana Ainsworth, Janni Aragon, Mel Castillo, Linley Faulkner, and Kelsey Wrightson
“Feminisms: Discourse, Praxis and Activist Projects”
13. Nicole Deagan, Vancouver Feminist Action Project
“Taking Another Look: Sexual Objectification and ‘Sex-Positive’ Feminism”
14. Janet Nowatzki
“Acceptance of Pornographic Behaviour among Young Women:
The Role of Sexuality”
15. Mandip Kharod, Helenka Jedrzejowski, AIDS Vancouver
“Female-Controlled HIV/STI Prevention Technologies:
A Global Necessity for Women”
16. Shannon Bundock, VFAP, Mobilization Against War & Occupation
“Women, War, and Resistance”
17. Wendy Judith Cutler, Lynda Monk, and Ahava Shira
“Writing Alone Together:
Journal Writing towards Community, Activism and Transformation”
18. Nina Varsava
“Sex Borders”
19. Lauren Power
“Reporting Assault to Police: A Tentative Analysis of Barriers for Women”
20. Jennifer Kirkey
Wenlido Self-defense
21. Robin Toszczak, Coordinator at the Anti-Violence Project, UVIC
“Incorporating Healthy Sexuality into Sexual Assault Prevention Programming”
22. Orith Fogel - TBA
23. Canela Michelle Meyers “Menstruation - Letting go of Shame to Claim the Power”
24. Krista Davis, Atlantic Waves Network
“Writing Our Herstories:
Issues and strategies for documentation and archiving in a digital culture”

25. Connie Linder
"The Role of Feminism, Spirit & Self-Interest in our Market Economy"
26. Amanda Reaume, Editor – Antigone Magazine
"Venus in a Business Suit: The Creation of Antigone Magazine"
27. Jenna MacKay
"Academia vs Activism"
28. Beth Henderson
"Defining feminism: Empowerment through Diversity"
29. Mercédès Baillargoen
"Re-thinking Feminist Action After Female Identity"
30. Jennifer Landels & Stephanie Ondrack,
Lower Mainland Childbearing Society
"Breast vs Bottle: Re-examining the Paradigm of Choice"
31. Diandra Oliver and Jeremy Stewart
"We Don't Need Utopia for This to Happen:
Using Art and Lifestyle as a Means of Resistance"