practice. This book will go some way to doing just that.

The Sparkes book confidently tackles the current issues surrounding research in sport and physical education. Rather than being a research manual, the book explores the influence of theoretical traditions and the personal meanings that researchers bring to the research process. It is refreshing to find articles using a phenomenological approach, discourse analysis and life histories.

Sherry Woods uses phenomenological interviewing technique to explore the experiences of lesbian physical-education teachers. Participants were asked to reflect on their experiences and they commented on issues such as openness, the split between their professional lives as teachers and their personal lives as

lesbians and strategies adopted to avoid disclosing their lesbian identities. This research is located within a critical framework which is concerned to challenge the homophobia and heterosexism within education. As such the article is vital in breaking the traditional silence regarding lesbian lives.

There are also articles on discourse analysis in education by Gill Clarke and on feminist research by Sheila Scraton and Anne Flintoff.

The book is well informed and accessible. Each chapter makes a distinctive contribution to this discussion of research paradigms and methods. As such it is essential reading for anyone interested in sport and physical-education research.

Jackie Davis

Full Circles: Geographies of Women Over the Life Course

Edited by Cindi Katz and Janice Monk

London: Routledge 1993
ISBN 0 415 07562 9 £12.99 Pbk
ISBN 0 415 07552 1 £40.00 Hbk

Different Places, Different Voices: Gender and Development in Africa, Asia and Latin America

Edited by Janet Momsen and Vivian Kinnaird

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Feminist geography: the combination of these two words too often still occasions surprised reactions, among feminists and among geographers, despite the growing body of exciting feminist work being done under the disciplinary auspices of geography. A great deal of this work is, undeservedly, little known beyond the disciplinary boundaries.

However, the establishment of a new series by Routledge under the general heading of *International Studies of Women and Place*, edited by Janice Monk and Janet Townsend, should begin to attract the wider attention that this body of scholarship deserves, not least for the eye-catching stylish covers to the first volumes.

The first two books in the series, *Full Circles* and *Different Places, Different Voices*, are both similar and different in their focus, emphasis and the range of contributors. Both are sets of collected essays that take as their central theme the commonalities and differences in the everyday experiences and coping strategies of women who are widely separated by geographical distance and by socio-economic circumstances – both their own and those of the nation-state in which they live. Each collection has a useful editorial introduction that situates the following chapters in the context of both specifically geographical scholarship and in feminist literature more broadly, thus ensuring that the curious reader from whatever place she

starts has a guide through the text. *Full Circles* also has a welcome editorial conclusion, although attempting to summarize the intervening mass of fascinating detail proved a daunting task. The editors' discussion of the relationship between different geographical scales, from the local to the global, is very helpful and, indeed, might be the place to start for those who have not a clue about what geographers are interested in these days.

The books are also similar in that each individual chapter is based, in the main, on detailed case studies and periods of field work engaged in by the authors. Herein also lies a significant difference between the two texts. *Different Places*, *Different Voices* includes papers by women living and working in the 'Third World', from urban and rural Africa, Asia and Latin America, although the work of Western feminists is also included, whereas the contributors to *Full Circles* are all Western women, working in the US, the UK and (a sole contributor) in France. In the former collection, the focus is specifically on the 'less developed' world; in the latter, case studies from France, Australia and the US provide a vivid contrast to those from the Caribbean, Colombia and the Sudan. Only in the chapter drawing on research in the Sudan, however, are the lives of women in rural areas in that country compared with those of women in US cities. I should have liked to have seen more comparative analyses as they seem to me to be the most successful way of uncovering the particular significance of location and of place in women's daily struggles. I also longed for more self-conscious reflection of what the collision of different worlds in a specific place meant for all the women involved – whether the observed or the observers. How 'out of place' did the women from the West feel in the villages they studied, and

what are the implications for the stories and conclusions reported in these two books?

The main difference between the collections is the particular emphasis on changes over the life course in *Full Circles*. Thus time and space are the twin focuses of this text compared with the singular focus on the difference that place makes in *Different Places*. In the former collection, the chapters reveal the enormous variation of experiences among women of the same chronological age, as well as differences in household and family circumstances, labour-market participation and levels of economic security at different stages in the life cycle. Many of the contributors focus on the 'middle years' – on women with or without children, in and out of the labour market. There are papers about the combination of home and work in the USA, in rural areas in the Caribbean and urban France, as well as the child-care strategies that enable or disallow the combination of paid work and childrearing, whether through state or informal provision of care. While many of these questions have been discussed at some length by feminists the comparisons that are permitted by the juxtaposition of papers dealing with different places are fascinating. There are also interesting chapters about parts of everyday life that have not been written about so frequently, outside biography and autobiography, that is. Thus the consequences of old age in West Virginia and childhood in the US and the Sudan are examined. The editors suggest that the papers were ordered thematically. In fact, I found it difficult to distinguish what the themes were and one or two chapters seemed oddly misplaced to me; for example questions about the journey to work were raised in chapters 2 and 3 as well in 11.

Although *Different Places* does not aim to explicitly address women's changing experiences throughout the life course, turning to

it after *Full Circles* reinforces the point of the editors of the former collection that it is almost axiomatic that it is adult women in their 'prime' who should be the subjects of feminist research. In this collection, the chapters are ordered by continent rather than thematically. In rapid succession the lives of adult women in urban, but mainly rural areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America are examined. Getting by as traders, agricultural labourers, factory workers, wives, daughters and political activists, these women combine stoicism and courage. For most of the women – a snap shot of whose lives is captured here – life is a constant round of drudgery and, in the main, submission to male authority, whether father, husband, boss or village elder.

The parallels and differences between women living in different places, let alone different nations or continents, are left to speak for themselves. Instead of attempting such a task, the editors have chosen to preface each major section of *Different Places* with a short introduction to feminist geographical work in the higher education institutions of that continent. This decision does rather betray the origins of the volume in an international conference but it also provides a fascinating glimpse into the preoccupations of scholars working in different places. Thus, among the African contributors environmental questions loomed largest; in South Asia issues about linking work and home, whereas the impact of modernization in general and of migration in particular was the primary focus of the papers about Latin America. For 'Western' readers it is also a salutary reminder of the specificity of their/our concerns. The impact of these introductory pieces is to make the authors of the papers in *Different Places* seem more anxious than those in *Full Circles* (only one, Janet

Townsend, appears in both) about their disciplinary location. There is something of a tendency to produce papers that conform to a particular model of how to do and present geographical research and the dominance of positivist methodologies within the discipline in many parts of the world is revealed. Greater reflection on the links with other feminist scholarship, in development studies and anthropology most obviously, might have led to more methodological variety and, perhaps, greater theoretical sophistication.

Both these books, however, provide stimulating insights into the variety and diversity of women's lives across the globe, raising important questions about the significance of place and location for women's lives. Thus, they help in beginning to address a set of questions that are increasingly urgent as global capital and nationalist politics are disrupting the interrelationships between place, identity and lifetime opportunities, often with appalling consequences. How does place matter to women? A number of questions might be useful to keep in mind when reading the multiple case studies in both collections. How is a woman's sense of herself, her identity and community membership attached to a particular place, or piece of territory? How is it affected, altered and reconstituted by migration and/or proletarianization? What about women who are 'between' places? Where is 'home' for migrants? It seems to me that unless detailed comparative studies are undertaken of how place, meaning and identity are constructed and reconstructed, the particular significance of place is hard to uncover. Both these texts provide a useful beginning to attempts to answer some of these questions.

Linda McDowell