

## Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership Grant Report Template

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**Activity/Program Title:** “Enough is Enough and Now We’ve Said It!”: Young Women’s Feminism in Scandinavia in the Twenty-First Century”  
Faculty Travel Grant to Sweden and Denmark

**Activity/Program Dates:** May 20-June 14, 2004

**Number of Attendants:** One: Astrid Henry, Assistant Professor of English and Women’s Studies

**Which of the following CWIL goals do you think this activity/program met?**

- ▲ Bringing Diverse People Together/Crossing Boundaries**
- ▲ Thinking in New Ways About Women’s Leadership**
- Enriching SMC Environment for the Development of Women Leaders**
- Serving as a National Resource for Change**

**How did this activity/program meet the goals you checked?**

The generous CWIL Travel Grant I was awarded enabled me to travel to Sweden and Denmark and conduct research on the emerging “third wave” of Scandinavian feminism. It was an incredible experience to talk to feminists in both countries about this new “wave” and to conduct research and gather materials. I am currently translating the various books/essays I collected while on my trip, and am in the process of writing a scholarly essay on contemporary Scandinavian feminism that I plan to submit to an academic journal this fall.

This project is explicitly concerned with intercultural engagement on a number of levels, including feminist dialogue and debate across three Scandinavian countries and between these countries and the United States (and to a lesser extent Australia, Canada, and the U.K). More specifically, the feminist texts I am examining address “boundaries that define identities, circumscribe participation, and shape encounters,” such as race, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and national origin. This project will also focus on women, both as the subject of feminist analysis and as the creators of feminist thought and agents of social change. The future of feminism and the next generation of feminist leadership are at the core of what is being discussed in these contemporary texts. Much of the current dialogue between the second and third waves in the U.S., for example, has revolved around whether younger feminists are prepared to take on—and, in some case, take over—leadership roles within the women’s movement. I am currently exploring how women’s leadership, particularly within feminist movements, is addressed within these Scandinavian texts.

**Please describe any new collaborations (on or off campus) that resulted from this activity/program.**

Because of this travel opportunity, I am currently in dialogue with several feminist scholars in Scandinavia; I hope to continue these conversations and, hopefully, return to Scandinavia in the near future to develop these professional relationships and continue our cross-national collaborations and discussions.

In November, I presented my scholarship on Scandinavian feminism at the Notre Dame Gender Studies Faculty Forum where I met a Swedish librarian who works at Notre Dame. She has generously offered her help with translation and other matters. I have also worked with my English Department colleague, Ros Clark, on translating texts from Swedish, a language she knows well.

**What were the highlights of the activity/program?**

There were many highlights during my trip—mainly just letting all that I found, read, and discussed soak in. I am still trying to translate all the reading material I accumulated on my trip (see below).

One of the most exciting things that happened was that on the day that I arrived in Stockholm, Sweden I went to a museum exhibit on the history of feminism in Sweden. This exhibit explicitly framed this history in terms of feminism's "three waves," which was both new and surprising since the use of "third wave" to mark the current period in feminism hadn't been used prior to the last few years. Since I had not known about this exhibit prior to my visit, it was an amazing and wonderful coincidence to literally run into this exhibit by chance. I was able to find a number of books at the museum bookstore, including the catalog for the exhibit, which have proven to be very useful in my research. I was also able to take photographs in the exhibit itself, and I am planning to use these photographs in my upcoming talks on this research.

The other highlight (and surprise) was finding that the term "third wave" is now being used by younger feminists in Scandinavia. While the texts I was familiar with before this trip were similar to U.S. "third wave" texts, the term itself was not being employed to mark this generational difference from feminisms/feminists of the 1960s and 1970s. In both the Stockholm exhibit and two new books I discovered during my travels, I found the term "third wave" to be in use, which is a very exciting development in my research.

**What would you do differently next time?**

Although I have made some contacts with feminist academics and journalists in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, I hope to make further contacts and, in future travel/research, interview these writers about feminism in Scandinavia.

**What are the next steps for this activity/project?**

I am currently working on a scholarly essay on recent Scandinavian anthologies which describe generational shifts in women's experiences of and relationships to feminism since the women's movements of the 1960s and 1970s. This essay will also address the distinct social, political, and economic realities that shape young women's experiences in Scandinavian countries—countries that, at least on paper, have achieved a greater level of gender parity than the United States, particularly in the areas of political representation and economic equality.

The most difficult part of this project has been translating the language. My reading level in Danish is pretty good, but many of the books I am writing about are written in either slang or academic language, which has made the translation process a bit more difficult than I had expected. I am currently studying Danish to help in my translation process, and I am working with two local colleagues in translating the texts that are only published in Swedish.

Last November (2004) I was invited to present some very early finding from this project at the Notre Dame Gender Studies Faculty Forum. I am presenting a more formal version of this talk in mid-June at the 2005 National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, and I will also be presenting this work at the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Feminism(s) & Rhetoric(s) Conference to be held in Michigan this October. I hope to finish a journal-length article on contemporary Scandinavian feminism by this fall and submit it to a peer-reviewed journal in feminist studies.

**Please share any success stories that resulted from this experience:**  
See above.

**If you did a program evaluation please attach a summary of the results.**  
N/A