



Attendees at the April 7th, 2014 meeting of the Hive for Feminist Research (from left): Donna Trembinski, Jonathan Langdon, Claudia Schaler, Susan Vincent, Rachel Hurst, Clare Fawcett, Eileen Alma, Nancy Forestell, Laura-Lee Kearns, Charmaine MacPherson, and Rhonda Semple.

Building a Hive for Feminist Research

On April 7th, 2014, the Hive for Feminist Research completed its activities for the 2013-2014 academic year. The metaphor of the Hive is one that has been fruitful for groups and generations of feminist scholars, activists, artists, and performers – evoking images, smells, and sounds of disciplined work on a collective, sweet, and viscous project. Constructed in the summer of 2013 by Rachel Hurst, the Hive offers a space for researchers at StFX to share and discuss feminist research. The Hive defines “feminist research” broadly as a type of inquiry concerned with understanding relations of power, particularly those based on gender as it intersects with race, sexuality, class, and ability. The Hive is the only interdisciplinary research group on campus that brings together members of all four faculties (Arts, Business, Education, and Science), the Library, the Coady International Institute, Service Learning, and the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health. While the initial response to the call for members was impressive, by the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, our membership swelled to 45 members.

The Hive for Feminist Research met eight times during the academic year, and featured presentations by 14 members representing 13 departments and interdisciplinary programmes: Jonathan Langdon (Development Studies), Sheena Cameron (Service Learning), Rachel Garbary and Lisa Gunn (students, Development Studies and Women's and Gender Studies); Laura-Lee Kearns (Education); Susan Vincent (Anthropology); Paula Cameron (Adult Education); Réjeanne Leblanc (Modern Languages); Donna Trembinski (History); Rachel Hurst (Women's and Gender Studies); Kailin Wright (English); Rhonda Semple (History); Charlene Weaving (Human Kinetics); Margaret MacDonald (Religious Studies); Charmaine MacPherson (Nursing); Nancy Forestell (History and Women's and Gender Studies); and Claudia Schaler (Political Science). The topics of study were diverse, and demonstrated the breadth of feminist research at StFX, including policy issues in education and health; women's activism historically in mid-twentieth century Canada and in contemporary Ghana; elder care in Peru; narratives of depression and anxiety; Francis of Assisi; women in early Christianity; Jean-Jacques Rousseau; settler photography of Indigenous women in *The Beaver* magazine; Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*; masculinities and missionary history in India; the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue; and Acadian women!

The momentum and interest in the Hive for Feminist Research is strong. Eileen Alma (Coady) and Nancy Forestell (History and Women's and Gender Studies) will take over organizing responsibilities from Rachel Hurst, and are looking forward to an exciting year of activities for 2014-2015. At the final meeting of the year, the group discussed possible activities for next year, such as an event featuring the work of participants in the Coady Global Change Leaders programme (September), a workshop on regional Aboriginal issues (October), a PechaKucha event on feminist research for students, a feminist theory reading group, and the construction of a virtual Hive. These activities will contribute to a central objective of the Hive, which is to increase the visibility and understanding of feminist research at StFX, in all its diversity.

All are welcome to join the Hive for Feminist Research. Watch for announcements in the fall, or send an email to rahurst@stfx.ca.

Submitted by Rachel Hurst on behalf of the Hive for Feminist Research, 8 April 2014.