

Family, Work, & Welfare in Past and Present: A Transatlantic Workshop

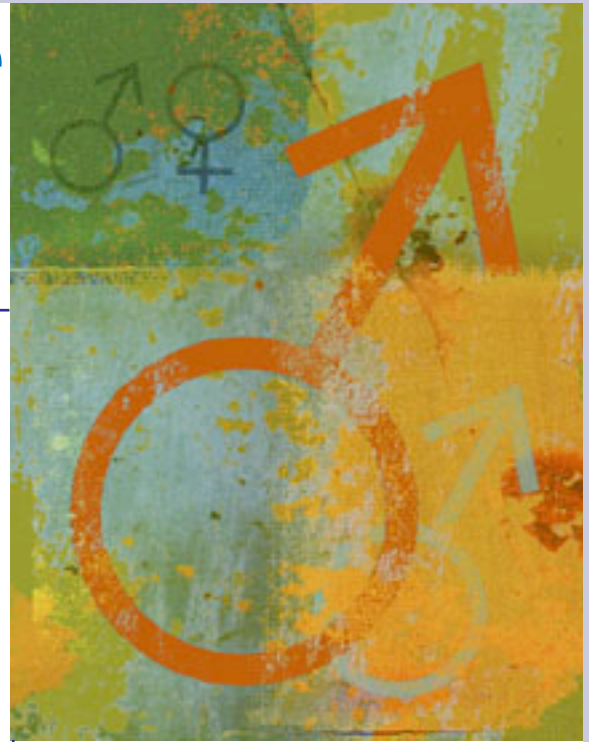
Friday & Saturday,
November 10-11, 2006

Institute for Arts and Humanities

Friday, November 10 | 5:00 - 6:30pm

Public lecture by **Jane Jenson** (University of Montreal)
entitled *States, Markets, & Families: Gender & Welfare in
International Comparison*.

Organizers: Profs. Chad Bryant & Karen Hagemann
(UNC, Hist); Profs. Evelyn Huber & John Stephens (UNC,
PoliSci); and Laurence Hare, Kristen Lacefield, Michael
Mulvey, & Sarah Summers (phil. cand., UNC).



Workshop Series: Gender, Politics & Culture in Europe and Beyond

Sponsored by the Center for European Studies, the Center for
Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, the UNC Dept. of
History, the Carolina Women's Center, and the Curriculum in
Women's Studies, in cooperation with the UNC Dept. of
Political Science and the UNC Graduate School.

Program Description

Juggling work and family commitments is a major challenge for both parents and governments. Balancing work and family is also a highly gendered problem. Despite much rhetoric about equal sharing of parental obligations, today's women are primarily responsible for the children. Women often have more difficulties combining a professional career and caring for children than men. One consequence of this dilemma is that an increasing number of women in post-industrialized Western states on both sides of the Atlantic make the decision to have only one child or no child at all. The birthrates in almost all of these countries are below levels necessary for maintaining current population levels. They are so low in some countries, notably the Mediterranean countries, that a major crisis in their pension systems and welfare states as a whole looms. State welfare, family, population, and gender are therefore closely related. The workshop aims to analyze these issues from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. Historians, political scientists and sociologists will compare historical and contemporary developments in Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and North America and will discuss the possibilities for a future-oriented welfare state policy that helps families balance work and home life.

