

Notwithstanding these criticisms, this book could be useful for undergraduate social science students as it introduces the reader to part of women's activities in this particular conflict and emphasizes the complexity of women's lives in respect to their social standing and demands for equality.

References

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FULL CIRCLES: GEOGRAPHIES OF WOMEN OVER THE LIFE COURSE by Cindi Katz and Janice Monk (editors). London: Routledge, 1993.

Full Circles: Geographies of Women over the Life Course takes us into an exciting exploration of the various meanings of *space* for women in different stages of life and in different cultural, economic and political contexts. By exploring the different *geographies of women*, the book addresses the experience of *transition* in women's lives, especially the transition between production and reproduction.

This viewpoint adds another and perhaps missing dimension to the already known analysis of time-space in geography: not only the daily, weekly or monthly movements, but also the longer, periodical movements of the life course that actually change the perception and use of space. This spectrum of analysis is also widened by looking at women not only as mothers, wives and workers, but also as daughters, grandmothers, aunts and so on, thereby emphasizing different and sometimes unfamiliar perspectives on women's lives.

The chapters can be read in sequence or, as the authors suggest, the reader may 'hopscotch'. I choose to review the book by using the three main themes that run through it: the different perceptions of space, the nature of transition, and the flexibility required from women in their life course in different parts of the world, depending on cultural, class, economic, and ethnic dimensions.

The journey starts for me with the theme of employment. Hanson and Pratt, Christensen, Fagnani and Rosenblum write about space and the life course as related to employment in the US and Europe, where production and reproduction interact. Hanson and Pratt and Rosenblum argue that spaces for married women are the most constrained, because of family commitments and problems of distance from the workplace, a point which is also highlighted by Fagnani in discussing dual career couples in Paris and its suburbs. Rosenblum also argues that this is more true of married mothers than of single mothers.

Work and its spatial implications are also considered in the Third World. Momsen analyses the multiplicity of economic roles held by women in poor rural areas in three islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Here, working women's flexibility depends on their access to education and the availability of pensions. These components affect women's participation in the economy and influence their future. Looking at other places, both Katz and Pulsipher deal with the different meanings of space in various cultures, and the reader is introduced to the conclusion—somewhat unexpected for Westerners—that women of certain ages in certain areas in Third World countries have greater freedom to roam their environment than women in the Western world. This is Katz's conclusion in her comparative analysis of girls' socialization, and their internalization of fear for their safety in rural Sudan, compared to most places in the United States. The reader is similarly impressed when reading Pulsipher's paper about the socio-spatial dynamics of the Caribbean houseyard, and their liberating implications for women. The communal nature of the yard confers on mothers a certain level of flexibility that seems so opposite to the lack of flexibility emphasized in the papers by Hanson and Pratt, Christensen, and Fagnani and Rosenblum.

The effects of dramatic transitions on women's lives are illustrated in Townsend's paper on the changes in women migrants' everyday lives, and in Sachs' paper on a coal-mining community following closure of the mine. These papers illustrate opposite situations: in the Townsend paper, we are presented with migration for work with its accompanying negative effects on women (deterioration of women's rights, narrowing of work experience and extreme isolation). In the Sachs paper, by contrast, there is a presentation of the plight of remaining in a place without work, because the people have found it too difficult to leave all that is familiar and go live and work elsewhere.

The papers of Rose and Fincher form a useful conclusion to this journey of exploration. Both deal with the effects of state policies on the lives of women of a certain age, status, ethnicity, and class. Rose deals with state policies concerning childcare options in Canada, and the ways women negotiate these options according to their time-space constraints. Fincher looks at the isolation of older women as a result of particular state policies in Australia that favor certain women's roles (e.g., wife and mother of young children), but not those outside these roles. These are the results of imbalances in the relations of production and reproduction, and this reflects how the state dictates women's life stories.

The purpose of the book is to approach the experience of women from a life course perspective. It is a useful reference source for those interested in a comparative look at the different experiences of women around the world. But further examination of legal, political and housing issues might have been useful

Tovi Fenster
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