

Summaries

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—● **The Division of Domestic Labour
and Depression : an Analysis of the
Recent Mothers in Québec**

CATHERINE DES RIVIÈRES-PIGEON, FRANCINE
DESCARRIES, LISE GOULET ET LOUISE SÉGUIN

The aim of this paper is to describe the division of domestic labour among mothers of six months old children, and to explore the possibility that this division has an impact on the psychological health of women. Results indicate that an unequal division of labour is associated with the presence of depressive symptoms among new mothers, even after adjustment for many risk factors, such as the quality of the couple relationship. This relationship was found among all women, whether or not they are employed outside home.

—● **Unequal Relationships in the Practice
of Mail-order Brides**

MARIE-CLAIRE BELLEAU

The article deals with the mail-order bride practice and the inequalities that characterize the relationship between the men and the women who participate in it. Through mail-order bride agencies, operating primarily on the Internet, consumer-husbands meet women who will become their fiancées and eventually their wives. These meetings result in marital relationships often characterized by subordination and dependence, which keep the brides under the yoke of their consumer-husbands and sometimes lead to spousal violence. Moreover, the multiple forms of inequality interact to place the brides in an inferior position within the economic, sexual, ethnic and cultural hierarchical dichotomies. Finally, the very great age difference that typically exists between brides and their consumer-husbands only serves to increase the control the consumer-husbands exercise over them.

—● **Telework : its Impact on the Organization
of Women's Work and of the Work-family
Balance**

DIANE-GABRIELLE TREMBLAY

Our article is centered on the differentiation according to gender of various dimensions of telework : tasks done by teleworkers, work organization, working conditions, degree of satisfaction. Since there has been little research in Québec on this issue, we evaluated the importance of telework in Québec and identified the sectors and professional categories concerned, as well as the best

management practices. We also wanted to know if men and women see in telework the same advantages or if, as some studies indicate, work-family balancing is women's motive, while men see other advantages in teleworking. These objectives and the hypothesis of differentiation according to gender are covered in this article.

—● **How Can we Configure Competences for Women's Profession ? The Case of "assistantes maternelles"**

LIANE MOZÈRE

This paper handles about family day-care in France. Child minders must be registered by the Maternal and Infant Protection Agency. There is no training to enter this type of job and it is supposed all women who do so possess so called "feminine" and/or "maternal" competences generally thought to be sufficient to mind for children. The field work of this research enabled us to discover that in a situation of unemployment in a poor suburb of Paris, it is necessary to mobilize other competences such as social (to be at ease in the public space, serendipity) and subjective competences (to commit one self completely to looking for a job) to get access to work.

—● **The Liberalization of Contraception and Male Control in Subsaharian Africa**

ARLETTE GAUTIER

This article compares the evolution of reproductive freedom from the point of view of access to contraception and abortion (liberalism). It also takes into account marital consent (autonomy), at three different levels: legislation, institutional protocols and the practice of health care workers. Overall, liberalism increased but new constraints limited women's autonomy. This trend increases when considering those who effectively dispense contraceptive services.

—● **A Literature Review of Recent Writings on Empowerment or when the Experience of Domestic Violence among Women Fosters Constructive Concepts**

DOMINIQUE DAMANT, JUDITH PAQUET ET JO BÉLANGER

The goals of this article are to display conceptual data on *empowerment* found in literature and to draw some usefull guidelines for the observation of the *experiences of women who are victims of violence*. First, four elements recurrent throughout the reference material are presented : Empowerment is the act of taking control over one's own life, the initiation of this process is self-determined, empowerment is intrinsically related to the actions themsleves and includes many dimensions. The literature also states three implicit paradigms that influence the

definition of empowerment : technocratic, ecologic and structural. The authors, further on, present data on empowerment related to women. The structural perspective seems to be the most coherent perspective on a feminist analysis of violence. Finally, the authors propose a multidimensional diagram of the process of *empowerment*, used in the analysis of the testimonials of women who are victims of domestic violence. This analysis was made in the context of a study on the experience of those women going through judiciary processes. The dimensions which have been used to build the diagram include feelings, cognitions and behaviors. Those dimensions take into account both the personal and collective levels and are presented through three main thrusts: power deficit, violence awareness and power gain.