

As I said in the beginning of this review, *In Subordination: Professional Women, 1870–1970*, does not tell me anything new about professional women's work experience. *In Subordination* delivers exactly what its title promises: documented evidence that, within the limits of Kinnear's study, "[p]rofessional women were among the most favoured women in the paid labour force, yet individually they were almost all in subordination to men." Has the situation changed since then? Not according to one respondent, Canadian jurist Mary Jane Mossman. She "argues that professional men's deep suspicion of women remains in the 1990s."

SEEDS 2

Ann Leonard, ed. New York: The Feminist Press, 1995.

by Pamela McDermid

Seeds 2 provides an interesting combination of celebrations of women's achievements in economic development with a critical analysis of strengths and weaknesses and clearly delineated lessons gained from experience. These lessons and the recommendations of knowledgeable workers, is one of the most valuable parts of the book.

The introduction discusses the changes in thinking and approaches that have come about since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women (1975–85). At that time, it was thought that "... women's economic conditions and perceptions of women would have changed to such an extent [by the end of the decade] that documentation such as *Seeds* would no longer be necessary."

Regrettably, *Seeds 2* is definitely necessary and Martha Chen's synopsis of world trends and their effect on women's work and social, physical,

and economic well-being, sets the context for the entire volume. I found the discussion of the shift from women in development to gender and development interesting and consistent with other work on the issue of the critical effect of gender in societies. The change in approach following from this shift, from fitting women into existing frameworks and programs to involving women in setting agendas, goals, and priorities, seems to be a factor crucial to successful projects.

In total there are nine cases studies. The projects described include ones from Africa (four), Asia (three), North America (one), and South America (one). The contributing authors have slightly different approaches to describing the projects. However, all include extensive information about the situations of the women in the specific area, give administrative and operational details of the projects, and provide a summary of the related learning. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on child care for working mothers as it presented three strategies employed in three different countries.

Overall, this is an excellent reference book. It is generally "readable" with only a few slightly tedious or "dry" sections. It contains both historical and contemporary information and gives a social and political context for each endeavour. For people entering the field, it is a useful introduction. For those developing new initiatives, its recommendations would be very helpful, and for funders assessing proposals, the lessons would be of great value. The credibility of the information is enhanced by the involvement of the authors in the actual operation of the projects; their expertise goes beyond the theoretical.

The pervasiveness and persistence of women's disadvantage, poverty, and oppression come through very clearly; not surprisingly there is no "quick fix." However, the hopefulness generated by the successes experienced by women involved in the work was evident and left an extremely positive impression.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

Anita Hill. New York: Doubleday, 1997.

by Rebecca Murdock

We know the basic plot of Hill's two-year stint as Clarence Thomas' personal assistant at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and her revelation eight years later that she was sexually harassed by Thomas. Thomas' Republican backers knew that their political fortunes would rise and fall with his. And so began the vilification of Professor Hill and a political lobby made the more nasty by its charade as an impartial inquiry into Thomas' fitness for a life-time appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Were its heroine a male, it would be the stuff of Hollywood legend. Small-town professor takes on Washington including a platoon of power-hungry senators. Thus far tinsel-town studios have only dredged up Michael Douglas as the subordinate rejecting the sexual come-ons of Demi Moore in *Indecent Proposal*. Apparently, female victims don't make good box office unless they're thinly clad and fleeing through the midnight woods.

In the surreal world of American politics, *Speaking Truth to Power* contains some surprising details: that two other women complained of similar treatment by Thomas—Angela Wright and Kaye Savage—but neither was called to give evidence before the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, Wright's subpoena was withdrawn by Chairman Biden at the last minute amid claims of time constraints by Committee members. Meanwhile, the panel heard from numerous Thomas supporters claiming he had never harassed them.

But for the Senate Judiciary Committee's routine investigation into nominee Thomas, their solicitation of a written statement from Hill, the leak of that statement to the press, and her subpoena to give evidence