Women's Studies Dissertations in Hispanic Literatures

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WOMEN'S STUDIES DISSERTATIONS
IN HISPANIC LITERATURES

Hispania, the journal of the American Association of
Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, annually publishes
listings of completed dissertations and of dissertations in
progress in the fields of Hispanic languages and literatures.
The most recent listing reports the titles of doctoral theses from 135 departments of Spanish and Portuguese and 45
departments of linguistics. A brief survey of these list-
tings indicates a continuing interest in women's studies
topics.

Of the 198 dissertations reported as completed in 1975,
12 are on subjects related to women's studies, either
analyses of works by women authors or analyses of women
characters in fiction. The authors studied include Dolores
Medio, María Zayas de Sotomayer, Marta Lynch, Elena
Quiroga, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Carmen Gandara,
Santa Teresa, and one curious study on "six representative
women novelists." The other four topics are "La mujer
del pueblo en algunas novelas de Benito Pérez Galdós,"
"Juan Luis Vives and women's liberation," "The presence
of women in medieval Spanish poetry" and "The mother
image in selected works of Miguel de Unamuno." Only
one of the 12 completed dissertations was written by a
man.

Among the dissertations reported in preparation, 21 of
258 are obvious women's studies topics, 11 of them about
women writers and the remainder on the image of women.
Almost half (five) of the studies of women authors are
being prepared by men. Rosalía de Castro is the subject
of two theses, while other authors represented are Teresa
de Cartagena, Ana María Matute, Lucía Palacios and
Marta Lynch, Juana de Ibarbourou, Santa Teresa, Carmen
Martín Gaite, Ana María de Lera, Rosario Castellanos,
Alfonso Storni. The other ten topics include studies
of the image of women in the contemporary Puerto Rican
novel, in medieval Spanish lyric poetry, in four of Blasco-
Ibáñez' Valencian novels, in the plays of Juan Bautista
Diamante, in the medieval and golden age Spanish Byzant-
ine novel, in modernist lyric poetry, in the works of
Narcís Oller and in the works of Alfonso Sastre, as well
as of "the beautiful women" in the dramatic school of
Lope de Vega and of the Celestina and other golden age
Celestinesque protagonists.

The women's studies topics, which represent 6.1% of the
completed dissertations for 1975 and 8.1% of those in
progress, include subjects in both Spain and Latin America,
ranging in period from medieval to contemporary.

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ADVICE FROM A CHINESE REVOLUTIONARY

The following comes from a speech made by Ting Ling on
the occasion of International Women's Day in 1942 to the
women of Yenan, then the center of Communist insurgency
in mainland China. It is available in a pamphlet from
Feminist Press, c/o Takagi Sawako, 7-22-18 Nishishinjuku,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

First, don't allow yourself to become ill. Sometimes you
may feel that an unregulated life style is romantic, poetic,
and attractive. But it isn't appropriate for the present
situation. No one cares about you more than you care
about yourself. And nothing can be worse than to lose
your health at this time. Good health is the most essential
thing. Look after it and take tender care of yourself.

Secondly, keep yourself cheerful. Only by remaining
cheerful can you have the strength, vitality and the ability
to lead a full life, the reserve strength to endure the hard-
ships of our situation, to have good future prospects and
to have pleasure. I'm not talking about a mere content-
ment with life, but about the joy of struggling ahead and
progressing. That's why, every day, we must do meaning-
ful work, study, contribute something of ourselves to
others. Loafing only makes our lives empty, weary and
withered.

Thirdly, get into the habit of using your brain. Get rid
of your aversion to deep thinking and your strong inclina-
tion to always follow the crowd. Think well about what
you are about to say or do. Consider whether your action
will actually be effective, whether or not, it goes against
your deepest convictions and whether or not you are will-
ing to accept responsibility for it. If you act in this way,
you will have no regrets; this is what is called a rational
person. You will not be gypped or trapped by sweet
words nor tempted by small gains. You will not fritter
away your passion nor waste your life, and you will avoid
worries.

Fourthly, have the determination to drive ahead to the
end. Women who are fully aware of the present moment
have to know how to shed every rose-colored fantasy. Our
joy is a battle within a storm and not playing the harp
under the moon or reciting poetry in front of a flower.
Without strong determination, you will certainly quit
half-way. You will either be in a continual state of dis-

tress or will become corrupted. The strength of your
endurance is cultivated through "constancy." Without
a great aspiration it is impossible to resist greed and to
avoid becoming a victim of comfort. Only those who
work for all humankind, not just for themselves, have
this kind of aspiration.

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