

1999 Hans Sigrist Prize



Joan Wallach Scott

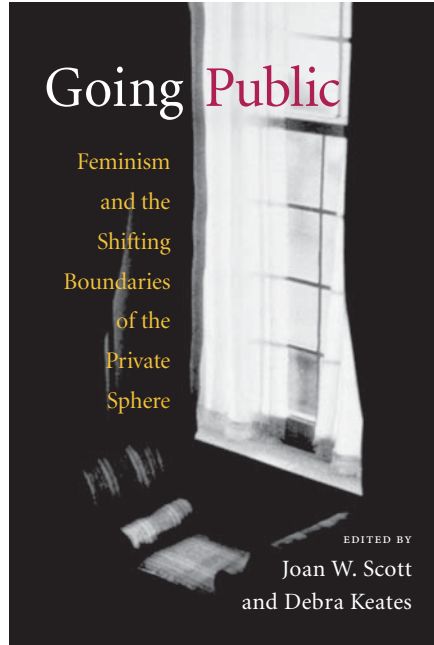
The Hans Sigrist Prize enabled me to pursue research I've been doing on Gender and Feminism in several different ways. First, I organized an international conference at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Conference Center on «Feminism and the Shifting Boundaries of Public and Private.» The participants in the conference wrote on the ways in the which ideas of private and public, and so ideas about appropriate roles and places for women and men, have changed since the nineteenth century. They asked what counts as «private» in different cultural contexts and what factors influence changes in that idea. They wrote from the perspectives of political theory, anthropology, philosophy, history and literature and their materials came from Thailand, China, Iran, India, Sudan, France, Germany and Eastern Europe. The papers from the conference are coming out in a volume of essays entitled *Going Public: Feminism and the Shifting*

Boundaries of the Private Sphere. [I have attached a copy of the cover design for the book.]

Second, the prize enabled me to conduct my own research on the parity movement in France, the movement that won passage of a law in June, 2000, that requires equal numbers of women and men on ballots in all elections. This book continues my work on the history of feminism and on the paradoxes feminists face when they demand equal rights within a republican framework that requires sameness as a prerequisite for equality. A book I wrote on that subject: *Parité: the French Movement for Sexual Equality in Politics* will be published next year. I am now working on a series of essays on «The Crisis of French Universalism.» One of the essays deals with the controversy over the wearing of Islamic head scarves in French public schools.

The prize recognized the importance of research on women and gender not only

for me, but as an area of legitimate scholarly concern. It provided visibility and credibility for what is a relatively new academic field. For me, personally, the prize let me organize a conference I had long wanted to have and it gave me greater freedom to travel and conduct my research. I also used some of the money to support a research assistant and to help underwrite publication of several important books in my field.



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