

Editor's Note



Karissa Haugeberg, Ph.D.

I am pleased to welcome readers to the inaugural issue of *Newcomb College Institute Research on Women and Gender*. The five essays included in this issue consider women's engagement with public policy. Nicole Pelletier, Jason B. Ervin, Anna Gaca and Jessica Klausner drew upon archival collections at the Newcomb Archives, the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University, and Loyola University's Department of Special Collections in order to offer nuanced portraits of Southern women who engaged public policy as activists, professionals, and politicians. Ariel Noffke's study of abortion in the Soviet Union provides an entrée for considering how reproductive health choices are tempered by economics, politics, and culture.

It is easy to assume that the Democratic Party has always championed positions we usually characterize as liberal or progressive, including support for reproductive choice and economic equality, and that the Republican Party has championed conservative positions, including opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment and the subsidization of birth control. But the essays in this issue remind us that this was not always the case. These essays remind us that many of the issues we now identify as "conservative" or "liberal" had complicated origins and engaged diverse constituencies of politicians, celebrities, public intellectuals, and ordinary citizens. I hope this issue offers you a glimpse of how student researchers at Tulane have made use of local, international, and digital archival collections to craft essays that engage questions of women, gender, and public policy.

I am indebted to Richard W. Hébert for curating this publication. Richard, who is an undergraduate at Tulane, took great care to create a template that will prove invaluable for future production editors. We are the beneficiaries of his eye for design and his attention to detail.

And, finally, thank you to our contributors. Newcomb College Institute is pleased to make your scholarship available to the public. We look forward to offering more issues that showcase innovative research and writing on issues related to women and gender.



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