CAN ALTRUISM BE INSTITUTIONALIZED?

After a careful reading of Elisabeth Hansot's list of publications, which runs on for many pages, and a perusal of her career history, it was necessary to begin this interview by asking, "What are you?" Her unflappable response indicated this was not an unusual question. "Institutionally, I am a political scientist. My Ph.D. was in political science. I teach at the University of Nevada at Reno in the political science department.

If the confusion was institutionally resolved, the fact remains that Hansot's background reflects work and scholarship in philosophy, education, history, public policy, organizational theory, teaching, and government service. "I don't think of myself as having an exclusive or overriding intellectual preoccupation," she explains. "This makes it messy for institutional identification, but it is not intellectually messy."

A visiting scholar at the Institute for this academic year, Elisabeth Hansot (pronounced On-seau—her family is French) holds a joint appointment at the Humanities Center. Her work, that which she is completing and that which is just beginning, reflects her breadth. She is asking complex and interesting questions, such as "Can altruism be institutionalized?" which is the subtitle of her latest study. One way to grapple with this "institutionally messy" background is to follow its development.

Hansot was born in France to a French father and an American mother. At the outbreak of World War II, her father entered the military while she and her mother came to the United States, where she grew up. Following the war, the family continued to live in the U.S. and French remained the spoken language at home. The issue of multiple identities and shifting boundaries, then, is one that originated in the personal experiences of dual citizenship and languages.

For two years as an undergraduate at Radcliffe, Hansot majored in history and literature. By this time, however, her family had returned to France, and she decided to attend the University of Geneva. Because Radcliffe, less flexible in the past than now about encouraging study abroad, was reluctant to accept transfer credits, Hansot completed her degree at Bryn Mawr. After that she earned a Ph.D. from Columbia, where she also began her teaching as the first woman hired in its political science department. The compelling theme that emerges from Hansot's reflections about those years is her intense passion for learning. This passion has translated into her teaching and her scholarship.

Among her numerous academic awards and grants for scholarship, Hansot has steadily been acknowledged for excellence in teaching. Asked to explain what qualities make a good teacher, she responds: "In my experience the most important thing is love of the subject matter and an excitement about it—the ability to convey that love. Students want to know—I think quite legitimately—both what it is you teach and who you are as a teacher. In my experience who you are is best conveyed through the subject matter through the 'what' and it is conveyed over time quite adequately. My notion of a good teacher is someone who is in love with the subject matter, with a set of questions, a set of issues. Obviously, she must listen as well as she talks—by 'well' I mean as effectively as she talks."

Hansot is completing the third book that she has written collaboratively with her husband, David Tyack, of Stanford University's Department of History and School of Education. Entitled Coeducation in American Public Schools: Thinking Institutionally, the book takes as its assumption that the schools are coeducational, and turns it into a puzzle: how is it that Americans came to educate boys and girls in common? Hansot and Tyack begin by reviewing the history of public education in this country, starting with the rural one-room schoolhouse of the early nineteenth century and charting its evolution into the complex bureaucratic institutions that now exist. They observe that the recurrent public debates over coeducation, sometimes arguing that the schools are too masculine, at other times that they are too feminine, have rarely coincided with changes in school practices. In the case of gender, policy talk and policy practices in the schools have rarely meshed.

As they chart how gender practices have changed in the schools, Hansot and Tyack have taken an institutional approach. That is to say, they have tried to look at the school through the lens of gender as well as gender through the lens of the school. Compared with other institutions such as the church, the family, or the workplace, gender is "relatively less salient..."

continued on page 2
in schools." Age and proficiency, more than gender, have been the organizing principles of the classroom. And they argue with Barrie Thorne that more gender distinctions are to be found in the informal student culture of the playground and lunchroom than in the more formal teacher controlled classroom. "This is the most difficult of any of the three books we have written," Hansot admits. "It is the most complex, requiring the most redefinitions as we went along."

 Asked about the challenge of writing a book collaboratively with her husband, Hansot laughs. More seriously she says collaborating is an iterative process. "David has training in history. I tend to pursue more theoretical concerns. At best we make each other's life more complex in interesting ways. At worst we are at loggerheads. It takes the ability to compromise. You don't get it all your own way. It is more time consuming and more enjoyable because there is someone else who is deeply involved in the same project you are simultaneously. We both continue work on our own."

 On her own, Hansot is examining the tension between traditional professional codes of ethics addressed to the autonomous individual that invoke responsibility to act in the client's interest and the increasing number of professionals who now find more attractive work opportunities within organizations. How are individualistic codes transformed when professionals work in organizational settings? Are there organizational equivalents to individual ethical codes, and if so what do they look like? How effective are they in getting professionals to attend to their clients' interest or, in other words, can altruism be institutionalized?

 Her background in government service may be reflected in this current project. Hansot worked for several years in Washington, serving first on the staff of Senator Jacob Javits, and then with the then named Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Institute of Education. She moved on, she says, because seven years was long enough. Moving on is a way of staying fresh, she explains, and she also notes her awareness that moving on is a privilege of class and status. "I've made an effort not to live at a level that's beyond the academic level." That way she did not have to adapt to a different style despite the salary cut involved in returning to teaching.

 As is the case with interviewing an immensely interesting and varied person, this profile touches the surface. To capture the depth, it would note more expansively the sensitivity and compassion that emanated as Elisabeth Hansot spoke about educating children. It would convey the mesmerizing effect of hearing her speak, the thoughtfulness, the pragmatism, the erudition, the modesty and the graciousness of her expression, all those qualities that print does not capture. They are probably better represented when her students acknowledge her for excellence in teaching. Perhaps altruism may be institutionalized through individual behavior. —Edith Gelles

Marilyn Yalom Fund Research Awards

We are pleased to announce the fall 1988 recipients:

Beverly Allen, assistant professor of Italian, is researching the status of women in Italian Studies in the U.S. and how this relates to the teaching of canonical literary history. She is also working on a book, *Years of Lead: The Literature of Italian Terrorism*, in which she looks at gender-specific assumptions about politicized protagonists.

Herlinda Cancino, assistant professor in the Program in Language, Literacy and Culture at the School of Education, and Stan Wanat of the Center for Teaching and Learning, for their study of "Campesinas: Historical Milestones in Learning." They will investigate the factors that shape the identity and the views of learning of women field workers from Mexico.

Visiting scholar Kathleen Jones is a political scientist in the Women's Studies Department at San Diego State University. Her award will help with the translation and transcription of French documents for her work, "Women and the Paris Commune of 1871: A Collection of Documents with Critical Notes."

Professor John Winkler of the Classics Department is writing or revising a series of articles on "Constraints of Desire: The Anthropology of Sex and Gender in Ancient Greece." He is also under contract to Methuen/Routledge as a contributor to their series, *The New Ancient World*. The award will be used for travel in connection with his research.

Research Opportunities

The following scholars would greatly appreciate Stanford undergraduate or graduate student help with their research. If you wish to volunteer, please write to them at the Institute.

Sherri Matteo: For study of physicians' drug prescribing patterns with minority and elderly women.

Elisabeth Hansot: Graduate student to help with research on ethics, professionalism, and women's careers.

Nurturing Choices: Lyman Lectures, Winter 1989

Some call it mid-life squeeze. Some call it the sandwich generation—those (typically women) caught between caring for their parents and caring for their children. The Winter 1989 Jing Lyman Series, "Nurturing Choices," begins with a lecture by Kathleen McConnell, L.C.S.W., on "The Sandwich Generation." McConnell, a therapist in private practice and director of Health and Social Services, Palo Alto Senior Center, comes with fifteen years of experience working with adults in these situations.

The second Jing Lyman lecturer, Donna J. Hitchens, is a private practice attorney who has also worked as staff counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California; directing attorney, Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, and law professor at several colleges. Her lecture, "Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in the Emerging Lesbian and Gay Family," examines our social and legal assumptions about "the family," and the problems encountered by lesbian and gay couples who are raising children.

Miriam M. Johnson, professor of sociology, University of Oregon, continues the series with a look at "Fathers, Mothers, and the Organization of Nurture." In her talk she will examine themes from her book, *Strong Mothers, Weak Wives*. Johnson was recently the recipient of a Rockefeller award for her work on gender differentiation and the family.

The theme of nurturing and choices continues with a lecture by Michael E. Lamb, chief of the Section on Social and Emotional Development, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. His topic, "The Changing Roles of Fathers,", reflects his research interest in the role of the father in child development—an interest which has spanned nearly two decades and been acknowledged by numerous awards. His most recent research grants have been for study of the impact of day care on child development, training programs in developmental psychology, fathers of infants with adolescent mothers, and the project on fatherhood.

Is surrogacy an exploitative or empathetic relationship? Are third parties, often lawyers, beneficial or harmful? Is this new form of reproductive rights covered by the Constitution? The series concludes with a panel discussion, "Surrogate Birth: Pro or Anti Feminism?" asking these kinds of questions of scholars in medicine, law, psychology, and philosophy. Panelists Nancy Reame, Hilary Hanafin, Robert H. Mnookin, and Julian S. Murphy come with a strong expertise regarding surrogacy in the context of their area of interest.

—Linda Jean May
NURTURING CHOICES
JING LYMAN LECTURE SERIES
WINTER 1989

Wednesday, January 25
12 noon-1:00 pm, Tresidder, Cypress Room
The Sandwich Generation
Kathleen McConnell, LCSW,
Director of Health and Social Services,
Palo Alto Senior Center.

Wednesday, February 1
12 noon-1:00 pm, Tresidder, Cypress Room
Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in the
Emerging Lesbian and Gay Family
Donna J. Hitchens, Attorney.
Co-sponsored by
Stanford Law School,
Stanford Law Forum,
Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Stanford.

Wednesday, February 8
12 noon-1:00 pm, Tresidder, Cypress Room
Fathers, Mothers, and the
Organization of Nurturance
Miriam M. Johnson, Professor of Sociology,
University of Oregon.

Wedneday, February 15
7:30-8:30 pm, Tresidder, Oak West
The Changing Roles of Fathers
Michael E. Lamb, Chief, Section on Social
and Emotional Development, National
Institute of Child Health and Human
Development.
Co-sponsored by Psychology Department,
Children's Center of Stanford Community.

Wednesday, February 22
7:30-8:30 pm, Tresidder, Oak West
Surrogate Birth: Pro or Anti-Feminist
Panel Discussion with
Nancy Reame, Assoc. Professor, School of
Nursing & Consortium for Research in
Reproduction, Univ.of Michigan;
Hilary Hanafin, Ctr. for Surrogate Parenting;
Robert H. Mnookin, Adelbert H. Sweet
Professor of Law; Director, Stanford Center
for Research on Conflict & Negotiation;
Julien S. Murphy, Assistant Professor of
Philosophy, University of Southern Maine.
Co-sponsored by Stanford Law Department,
and Stanford Law Forum.

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON
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Saturday, May 6, 1989

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BAY AREA WOMEN'S PHILHARMONIC

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The Bay Area Women's Philharmonic will perform a concert of 17th and 18th century works by women composers, three of which were reconstructed, edited and part-copied by Women's Philharmonic staff. Music Director JoAnn Falletta will be featured on lute in Sinfonia from "Sacrafizio de Abramo" by Camilla di Rossi. "Jonas Contata" by noted composer Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre will receive its U.S. premier in the spring, nearly 300 years after it was composed. Acclaimed early music soprano Judith Nelson performs in this piece. Also presented are Madelena Lombardini-Sirmen's Concerto in B-flat for Violin; Mlle. Duval's (first name unknown) Suite from the Ballet "Les Genies"; and Anna Amalie, Duchess of Saxe-Weimar's Concerto for 12 instruments and cembalo.

The Bay Area Women's Philharmonic was founded in 1980 and is the only professional orchestra in the country dedicated to the promotion of women composers, conductors and performers. Since its founding each year the positive critical acclaim has increased and BAWP is now ranked second to none of the chamber orchestras in the Bay Area. In 1986 and 87 BAWP received first prize from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and the American Symphony Orchestra League for their adventurous programming in contemporary music. Conductor JoAnn Falletta won both the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition and the Toscanini Conductors Award in 1985. And most recently BAWP has received a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge III grant, enabling them to work toward carrying out their dream of releasing two recordings of works by women composers.

FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE IN WINTER
415-725-0369
ISOLDE REVISTED:
ANNETTE LAWSON’S ADULTERY

If I could use only one adjective to describe Annette Lawson’s Adultery: An Analysis of Love and Betrayal (Basic Books, 1988; $19.95), I would choose mature. For this book is, above all, the work of a mature scholar, one who has not merely amassed a body of data, but reflected on it with a mind enriched by experience as well as by study.

If allowed three more adjectives, I would call Lawson’s book solid (based on a well-conceived study), path-breaking (the first scholarly book with Adultery as its title), and significant (studying a fundamental social and human issue at a time of rapid change in both attitudes and behavior surrounding that issue). Moreover—and this is perhaps the rarest—Lawson has amassed a body of data, but reflected that data with a mind enriched by experience as well as by study.

Another significant and perhaps surprising finding of Lawson’s concerns women’s motivations for adultery. Aside from the predictable motives of revenge for a husband’s philandering, the mid-life panic at never having lived, etc., Lawson reminds us that adulterous liaisons may be a way of changing the power relations within marriage. Certainly, the woman has more power in the adulterous liaison than in wedlock. This insight is brilliantly supported by an analysis of the Wife of Bath’s tale.

Important as these findings are, they would be of less use to us without Lawson’s other vital contribution in this book: her setting adultery for us in several larger contexts: historical, cross-cultural, mythical, and psychological. Her care and skill with the first two are rare and commendable, but her mythical insights are most exciting. These operate on two levels, which might be called the everyday and the archetypal. On the everyday level, Lawson posits two scripts or stories or myths-to-live-by, which she calls the Myth of Romantic Marriage and the Myth of Me. Convincingly arguing the life-shaping power of such stories, she shows how the newer Myth of Me arose from the human-potential movement to challenge the older Myth of Romantic Marriage (which had in its turn reversed Courtly Love’s separation of love and marriage)—and that the Myth of Me has become more important to the women in her sample than to the men.

On the archetypal level, Lawson frames her work in the myth of Isolde, beginning with the bloodless and passive Isolde of the myth we know, but ending with an Isolde revisited and revolutionized, whose myth would be called Isolde and Tristan. This modern Isolde, says Lawson, might still marry King Marc and still desire Tristan, but “I suspect she would manage her affair better than her mythical prototype.”

—Autumn Stanley
Special Collections
Stanford University Library

PRINTER NEEDED

The Institute has a Macintosh 512 on long-term loan, but no printer to go with it. Does anyone have a printer they would be willing to donate or loan? Contact Linda at 725-0369.

SCHOLARS’ COLUMN

Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum commented in a session at the American Studies Association conference in October and also presented a paper on “Women and Italian Easter Rituals” for the American Italian Historical Association conference. Her book, liberazione della donna, is now available in paper.

Aletta Biersack received an NEH Fellowship for University Teachers to work on a book concerning gender in Papua New Guinea. She also received a grant from the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon, to edit an autobiography being written by a Maasai (East Africa).


Edith Gelles has received a travel grant from the Center for the National Endowment for Humanities. Her article, “The Abigail Industry,” appeared in the fall issue of the William and Mary Quarterly, XLV (1988).

Sherri Matteo’s article, “The Risk of Multiple Addictions: Guidelines for Assessing a Woman’s Alcohol and Drug Use,” appeared in the special issue, Women and Medicine, of the Western Journal of Medicine, December, 1988, 149. Matteo gave talks on this topic for Stanford’s Counselling and Psychological Services Staff Seminars, and the McGann Women and Health Lecture Series at the Medical School.

In May Karen Offen was awarded the Judith Lee Ridge prize of the Western Association of Women Historians for her article, “Ernest Legouve and the Doctrine of ‘Equality in Difference’ for Women: A Case Study of Male Feminism in Nineteenth-Century French Thought.” Her article, “Defining Feminism: A Comparative Historical Approach,” appeared in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society (14, 1, Autumn 1988). During the fall, Offen gave talks about her work on the history of feminism at the University of Southern California and at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), at a conference inaugurating EU’s Center for Women’s Studies.

Institute director Deborah Rhode participated in a conference, “Equality and Difference: Gender Dimensions of Political Thought, Justice and Morality,” in Florence, Italy, in early December, sponsored by the European University Institute. Rhode was also a panelist, along with several Swedish visitors, at the Stanford one-day conference “Women and Power,” sponsored by the Institute and the Swedish Information Service.

Lillian S. Robinson lectured at Gettysburg College, University of Southern Maine, Barnard College, City College of New York, CUNY Graduate Center and continued on page 6
Scholar's Column—Continued


Elizabeth Roden delivered a paper, "Women's History as Theater," at the American Theater in Higher Education Conference, San Diego, in August. Her most recent play, "Insides Out" (a dark comedy about women and medicine) has been chosen for the Women in Theater Festival and will be presented in Boston in spring, 1989.

Karen Skold's article, "The Interests of Feminists and Children in Child Care," appeared in Feminism, Children and the New Families, edited by Myra Strober (former Institute director) and Sanford Dornbusch (Guilford Press, 1988).

NEW SCHOLARS

Visiting scholar Linda Anderson teaches English Literature at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in England. During her Winter-Spring stay at the Institute, she will examine the work of three poets—Muriel Rukeyser, Denise Levertov, and Adrienne Rich.

Judith Brown is a professor of anthropology at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Her research focus is family violence in a cross-cultural perspective.

Margarita Parreno, an affiliated scholar, is a psychologist and comes from Spain. She is exploring the contextual factors and internal processes affecting health, adjustment, and success in Hispanic women and children.

Lindsay Wilson, on leave from Colby College in Maine, is an historian and will complete her project: "Women, Medicine, and the Enlightenment."

RETRIEVAL OF JING LYMAN ARTISTS

An important part of the success of the Jing Lyman series over the past twelve years has been the graphic designs for publicity announcing each series. Beginning on December 1, 1988, through the summer of 1989, several of the artists will be featured in sequential exhibits at Bechtel International Center—"A Retrospective Look at Jing Lyman Series Artists." Each artist's exhibit will feature work done in many contexts.

Alysanne McGaffey's work, "Woman and Nature: Our Mythic Selves," will be shown from December 1 through February 1. A Bay Area artist since 1953, McGaffey identifies with a historical art movement of the 50's and 60's since known as the Bay Area Figurative Movement. She worked primarily in watercolor and oil and, since moving to the West Coast, her subject matter has changed from the human figure to the flora and fauna of the natural environment.

So far the following artists have agreed to exhibit their work: Margo Davis, noted photographer and former assistant director at the Institute; Becky Fischbach, a graphics artist who has done work for several University departments; and Barbara Mendelsohn, graphic designer for Stanford Publications.

Bechtel International Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., on Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 11:00 p.m. For further information, call (415) 725-0369.

FUNDING FOR LYMAN LECTURES

Funding for the Jing Lyman Lecture Series will come to a close at the end of this academic year. We are currently seeking continued support for this significant lecture series, which touches several hundred people each year. If you would like to make a gift to the Jing Lyman Lecture Series Fund, would consider becoming a primary supporter, or know someone who would be interested in helping to underwrite the series, please contact Sherri Matteo at the Institute (415) 725-0370.

THANKS...

...to Margaret Schink, chair of the Associates, and members of the Associates Board, for their very successful fundraiser, Andrew Wyeth's "Helga Pictures," held at the de Young Memorial Museum.

Thanks also to our Corporate Associates, whose continuing support helps to sustain the Institute in its goals. This past fall corporate donors were:

Pacific Bell $1,000
Pacific Gas & Electric $1,000

CALL FOR READERS

The Institute's NEH sponsored research project on British Women's Autobiographies is looking for readers to take part in reading some 1,800 autobiographies and completing a detailed questionnaire on each book. The works to be read cover British women's memoirs from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries.

Interested persons who would like to read one or more of these books should contact Susan Groag Bell at the Institute, (415) 723-1994.

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