

## UNIVERSITY

# Speaker urges feminist research

By Cathy Peterson  
Emerald Reporter

By taking a women's standpoint, social science researchers can maximize objectivity, a prominent author and philosophy professor told a Fir Room audience Thursday.

Sandra Harding, author of *The Science Question in Feminism*, said there are distinct features of women's position in a society stratified by gender that are being used by feminist researchers, but not by conventional researchers.

"Women are at this point, new kinds of people in history," Harding said.

She added social values and political agendas might come with the tag of "feminist" researcher, but that these added perspectives produce "empirically and theoretically preferable results of research."

"Objectivity means moving outside science and into politics," Harding said.

"The issue is neither biology or intuition," she said. "Knowledge is socially located." Women are located in an advantageous position in society to provide valuable resources for research because of several factors, Harding said.



Sandra Harding

"Women's different lives have been erroneously devalued and neglected as starting points for scientific research and as the generators of evidence for or against knowledge claims," she said. For too long, women and men have been valued in homogenous ways, whereas women are assigned different kinds of activities in life, activities worthy of study.

However, Harding warned, feminist researchers should be careful to recognize the many different women's lives, and

not take an "essentialist" - one woman's life approach.

"Feminist thought is spoken by all different kinds of women," she said.

In addition, women are outsiders to the social order, Harding said, and able to see patterns in a culture that those immersed in the culture cannot detect.

Because women have been oppressed, they have less interest in maintaining the status quo, and or remaining ignorant of their oppression. "They have less to lose by distancing themselves from the social order," she said.

Traditional researchers have drawn from a history of the winner of the battle of the sexes, usually the men, as opposed to "the other side," Harding said. Women have a tradition of activism in the battle, and their activism helps to reveal the real social order, she added.

Harding stressed she was not referring to biological differences between men and women in any of her accounts, and that the reasons for turning to women's thought as a starting place for knowledge were not competing.

# Administrators need hi-tech teaching

By Peter Cogswell  
Emerald Associate Editor

Educators in the University's school of education have decided to review and update the school's program for educating public school administrators.

The review of the program is a major look at how well it prepares students for administrative positions in public schools, said Robert Gilberts, dean of education.

Gilberts said the review will look at what new expectations parents and students will have for administrators in the future as well as what new challenges administrators will have to face.

"Different demands are going to be made on administrators (in the future), and this requires a careful look at what we are going to be doing," he said.

Part of the review process includes having a panel of 32 educators from throughout the state look over the program and make recommendations on how to strengthen and update it.

The panel review is being headed by David Conley of the college's Division of Educational Policy and Management.

The panel will be comprised of teachers, administrators and higher education officials and will represent a cross section of education throughout the state, Conley said.

Conley believes there are three changing trends that merit the updating of the program. These changes are happening in economics, social and political values and technology, he said.

"The way we do business has changed fundamentally," Conley said of economics. "We used to operate on a factory model. Now we operate on a team model of problem solving."

Because of this change, a team model of problem solving

must be incorporated into public schools as well, Conley said.

"Administrators from this school need to be able to work in teams," he added.

Concerning social and political changes, Conley said in the future it is clear people want to be more involved with the institutions their children will be attending.

Future administrators will need to be more involved with the community rather than just dictating to it, Conley said.

Technologically, administrators have the opportunity to decentralize education. This will

also change the role of schools in the future, Conley said.

Technological advances will cause education to have more of a partnership with businesses. This necessitates that administrators make sure they know how to better use technology, Conley said.

"Administrators need to build these partnerships," he said.

Conley said he hopes to be able to implement some changes in the program soon in order to help people that are currently enrolled in the program become both more knowledgeable and marketable.

## POSSESSED

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Dedicated to Miss Helen Kime of Fredricktown, OH. A tough little old lady, she lived stubbornly alone in her Civil War era shotgun shack (with a garden) refusing even a telephone. As such, all visits had to be arranged in writing and I only saw her two or three times before her death in late 1983 at about age 90.

She never allowed anyone upstairs when she was alive but, after she died, I found there a large, gaily decorated casket of carnival equipment.

And to Matthew Kimes, the youthful 1927 Beggs, Oklahoma bank robber.

Please see my ads in the 3/16/90 Boston Globe, 5/25/90 Stanford Daily, 10/12/90 Duke University Chronicle and also Berkeley Californian.

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## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



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