Celebrating our Past, Harnessing our Future

Exploring gendered journeys in outdoor education as a collective voice

Tonia Gray   Sandy Allen-Craig   Val Nicholls
Overview

20 min
30 min
20-30 min
10 min
Awakening Awareness: We invite you to place both hands on your head

Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards
Rachel Carson
Becky Mason
Marina Ewald
Megan Hine
Thistle Yolette Harris
Susan Webb
Phyllis Ford

Marina Ewald – Hahn’s cofounder of Salem and the instigator of the expeditionary concept

Hahn (1968, p 1) said: Marina Ewald was “cofounder of Salem. She was a partner in all major decisions – an educator in her own right."
Who are we?
Collective Voices – 100 years+

We offer the opportunity to;

share
collect
elevate
illuminate

male, female, agendered and gender fluid narratives in OE.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frozen</th>
<th>Was I paralyzed by shock and as a result became mute?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guilt</td>
<td>By not speaking up, would I be lending a hand to this ongoing male-dominated discourse?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>If I were encouraged to speak up, would I be labelled a “precious petal” or “butch lesbian” or “feminazi”?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silent lurker</td>
<td>Is it better to just sit back and let this wash over me, observe, rather than inject my voice?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misrepresented</td>
<td>If I did challenge the status quo, what would the men think? Most probably, “What’s your problem? Suck it up, princess.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed messages</td>
<td>Concerned about my public image, how would I be perceived (by men and women) if I did speak up? A nutty, left-wing radical or whacko disgruntled feminist. Or would I be seen as a brave hero?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misconceptions</td>
<td>Are men unaware of their blind spot and not cognizant that they have overlooked or bypassed women in their genderwashed dialogue?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admonished</td>
<td>Is she just an agitator and a man hater, trying to put men in their place?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feminist fatigue</td>
<td>Been there, done that, and paid the price, so I don’t want to do it again. What am I prepared to die on the hill for? I’ve learnt to pick my fights carefully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bite my tongue</td>
<td>Getting recognition may not be the most important fight right now.</td>
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In June 2016, a Wikipedia search for “Outdoor Education Significant People…” identified 17 people on a list, all of whom were male.

#WikiFontOfAllKnowledge
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notability</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell</td>
<td>Founder of the Scout Movement and The Scout Association[26][27]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Luther Halsey Gulick</td>
<td>Proponent of Playground Education. Co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America and the Camp Fire Girls.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kurt Hahn / Kurt Matthias Robert Martin Hahn</td>
<td>Experiential educator. Founder of Schule Schloss Salem, Gordonstoun, and United World Colleges system. Founded Outward Bound with Lawrence Durning Holt and Jim Hogan. Originator of the Moray Badge[31]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Hillcourt</td>
<td>Boy Scout; Scoutmaster; Scouting professional. Authored many books and articles on Scouting, outdoor activities, and Scout skills, including the first Scout Fieldbook and three editions of the Boy Scout Handbook[32] of the BSA. Endeavored to maintain the outdoor orientation of US Boy Scouting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Kliemel</td>
<td>Outward Bound Instructor. Proponent of experiential education and service learning. Founder of the National Youth Leadership Council and the Center for Experiential Education and Service-Learning (University of Minnesota).</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernst Klander</td>
<td>Soldier; Boy Scout leader; propagator of orienteering.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Louv</td>
<td>Journalist. Proponent of nature awareness and opponent of what he termed &quot;nature-deficit disorder.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>John P. Milton</td>
<td>Conducted life transformation journeys in wilderness areas of Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. Founder of Sacred Passage and The Way of Nature Fellowship.</td>
<td>[33][34]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Lewis Miner, III</td>
<td>Worked at Gordonstoun; took Kurt Hahn's ideas to the USA. Co-founder of Colorado Outward Bound School with Charles Froelicher. Founder of Outward Bound USA. Inspired use of outdoor education in the Peace Corps.</td>
<td>[35][36]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohlyessa / Charles Alexander Eastman</td>
<td>North American Indian of the Isayiatyi tribe of the Dakota nation; physician; author; worked closely with YMCA, Woodcraft Indians, and YMCA Indian Guides; co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America and Camp Fire Girls.</td>
<td>[37][38]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Parnell</td>
<td>Canoeing instructor. Co-founder and CEO of the Outdoor Education Group.</td>
<td>[39]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Piel</td>
<td>Outward Bound Instructor and school principal who pioneered the introduction of Outward Bound methods into the mainstream school system; father of Project Adventure (founded with Mary Ladd Smith, Robert Lentz, Karl Rohnke, Jim Schoel and others), which gave impetus to Adventure-Based Counseling.</td>
<td>[40]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar Munroe Robinson</td>
<td>YMCA summer camp director. Set up the fledgling Boy Scouts of America organization.</td>
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See also List of 20th-century outdoor proponents and outdoor educators

Mitten, Gray, Allen-Craig, Loeffler, Carpenter, 2018
Gender Erasing

Women in Outdoor Experiential Education
Collective Voices

We ask whose voices;

are most often heard?

are missing?
Collective Voices

We aim to;

redress the **imbalance** in voice.

move towards a more **collegial system** in

contemporary outdoor education leadership

spaces.
Collective Voices

**NOEC 2016:** Identified the need to share, learn and move forward

*Selective Hearing:* The unrecognised contribution of women in OE

**Challenged** the long held assumption that OE profession was a level playing field.

**Resulted** in an outpouring of willingness to contribute and reflect on the issue in greater depth.
Collective Voices

Willingness to;

Engage and respond to this contemporary debate.

Explore positive outcomes emerging from identified threats and misconceptions.

#bebrave
Collective Voices

Changing moments to momentum;


“As a male in a profession perfused with male hegemony, this book has opened my eyes to the many profound – yet often unnoticed – thoughts, feelings and contributions of female colleagues.”

“It is a waymark along the path towards further maturation that all involved in our profession will continue to journey.”

(John Quay, Associate Professor, The University of Melbourne)
“This book has challenged my good intentions and helped to expose my misconceptions of gender issues. ”

“It has moved me closer toward a much-needed understanding of the issues and challenges women face.”

“It’s an absolute must read for those who wish to better understand the gender bias that favours men in outdoor education.”

(Associate Professor Tom Potter, Lakehead University 2016)
Playfully creative: A narrative journey

- Explore gendered journeys in the outdoor profession.
- Explore your personal narratives through creative facilitation approaches, mutual sharing and sense-making experiences.
Journey Mapping

Creating visual map of your lived experiences working in the Outdoor Education field.

Sharing a narrative that reflects on your creative piece (audio-recorded with permission).
Autoethnography examines aspects of life within particular social, cultural, situational and ideological contexts (Sparkes & Smith, 2014).

Reflexive self-narratives can contribute to further developments of knowledge and greater understanding of specific topics or issues (Chang, 2008).
Information and consent

Challenge by Choice

#createbravespaces

Participant Information Sheet – General (Extended)
Consent Form
Narratives, Stories, Sharing - Recoding
Creative work
Your Journey: Using a metaphor

Represent your journey as a river

Identify, illuminate and reflect on the eddies, whirlpool’s, stoppers, rapids, pull out points and watershed moments of our gendered journey experiences as an outdoor professional.

Represent your experiences in either a drawing, clay model or sculpture. Reflect on the practice, protocols and cultures of your organization and or program respectfully and honestly.
Guiding Questions

Has gender played a role in the way you were perceived in your allocated positions or tasks?

For those who have experienced gender marginalisation or oppression, tell us how it felt?

If you’ve never experienced gender inequity, we also need to hear your story. Who was surrounding you? Who was supporting you? What transpired?

How do you feel upon hearing the stories of your colleagues which relate to a different worldview to yours?

Music
Where to from here?

For OEA as a field that prides itself on inclusivity, do we really believe in meritocracy?

The results will be used to generate practical solutions and strategies to address any identified gaps, and to illuminate unrecognized contributions, galvanizing these to enable the OE to move forward as a more gender inclusive profession.
CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE: A male dominated narrative prevails within the profession.

INTENT: Serve as a starting point for critical analysis and discourse about the status and invisibility of women in OE.
Questions and Contacts

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venicholls@gmail.com