WOMEN IN THE WORLD:
Maps, Atlases, and Other Cartographic Resources for Women’s Studies Programs
The GIS Research & Map Collection (GRMC) on the second floor of Bracken Library houses over 145,000 maps, atlases, and other resources. Maps from the GRMC may be circulated for two weeks or longer. Arrangements can be made for maps to be used for semester-long projects.
Why use maps?
The Atlas Collection on the second floor of Bracken Library just outside the GRMC has nearly 3,000 atlases from around the world. There are atlases about countries, cities, states, counties, and atlases about specific topics—including women’s issues.
Women in the World: Sex, Marriage, and Family

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The nature of marriage varies widely from place to place and between men and women. The idea that females are the property of their fathers and then husbands still dominates gender relations around the world, and this ideology is often supported by laws of the countries—many limiting the rights of women in marriage.

According to *The Penguin Atlas of Human Sexual Behavior*, 80% of the marriages in China are arranged either by a matchmaker or the couple’s parents. In India, only 50% of 22- to 50-year-olds had met their partners privately before marriage. In Gambia in western Africa, one in three women were neither asked for their consent nor knew they were married until the ceremony had already taken place.

(Still photograph from the *Man Haters Film Collection*, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Polygamous marriages take place in significant numbers elsewhere, including in Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Jordan, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
This map identifies the number of divorced women per 100 married women. The total United States ratio is 21.8 divorced women for every 100 married women.

(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
Most one-parent households in the United States are headed by women. The percentage for the total of female one-parent families in the United States is 21.9 percent, while for males the percentage is 6.3 percent (inset map).

*(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).*
The percentages of one-parent families for Blacks in the United States are even larger. The total percent for the United States is 58.1 percent, and the majority of those families are headed by women.

*(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).*
(Social Atlas of the United States, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
In most countries, rape within marriage is not a crime. Half of the women in Russia believe that sex cannot be refused in marriage.

Rape is often exercised as a privilege of power by men in authority. It is also the most under-reported crime because of the stigma attached to the victim. Criminal convictions on rape charges average less than 10%.

This map shows the fertility rate of women around the world (2002). Women around the world have unequal access to a broad range of medical services, including contraception. The total fertility rate “has important consequences for maternal health.” Pregnancy-related deaths are more common in high-fertility countries.

Contraception is a powerful force in the liberation and autonomy of women.

Female sterilization remains the most common contraceptive method.

Half a million women each year die from complications of childbirth. Fifty million suffer long-term disability or illness. This is the most graphic case of rich versus poor in healthcare.

This map covers a portion of the world where the number of teen births is substantial. “Poorer, non-industrialized nations have the highest birth rates, and the highest number of births to teenage mothers.” Large families provide economic security in many parts of the world, and it is common for women’s social status to be related to the number of children she produces. These factors, coupled with the lack of education and healthcare for young girls and higher infant mortality rates, produce younger mothers.

“A cultural preference for sons over daughters is almost universal,” typically due to economic and inheritance factors. This map identifies countries with “strong demographic evidence of son preference” and the use of prenatal sex selection techniques and selective abortions in order to have male babies. These practices distort the normal gender balance in populations. The blue circles also indicate countries where the infant mortality rates are higher for girls than for boys.

There are currently 34 million more men in China. By 2020, 24 million men in China will not have female mates.

“The global sex trade is sustained by astounding levels of coercion, torture, rape and systemic violence. Women are often lured into the sex trade under false pretenses....Girls are often sold into prostitution by poor families, and, increasingly, girls and women are simply kidnapped, often from poverty-stricken regions, to be traded globally as sex slaves and prostitutes.”

An estimated 50,000 women are trafficked into the United States each year.

Women in the World: Women at Work
More women in the United States are participating in the workforce. The percentage of women in the labor force for the entire United States in 1950 was 28.9 percent. The percentage of women in the labor force for the entire United States in 2000 was 57.5 percent.

(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
“The percentage of the labor force that is composed of women is an intriguing measure of economic development. In general, countries with higher levels of economic development have larger percentages of women in the “formal” labor force (which excludes household and subsistence agricultural workers, among others).”

(Student Atlas of Anthropology, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
This world map shows the countries where women face the most inequality in the related fields of the workforce and in secondary education. Again, women in the Middle East, southern Asia, and Africa face the most challenges.

(Student Atlas of World Politics, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
This map of the United States shows the ratio of women’s earnings to men’s as of 1999. In areas of dark green, women earn less than .45 of what men earned. The pink and red colors indicate areas where women earn equal to or more than men.

(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
The United States median earnings for men is $37,057. The United States median earnings for women is $27,194.

(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
“In a few countries, the amount of paid maternity leave that is available for new mothers approaches the amount of leave they need.” The differences, however, are glaring: In Sweden, women are paid for almost two years after the birth of their baby, while women in the U.S. and many other unlisted countries receive no paid maternity leave. Women also risk losing their position if they elect to take an extended maternity leave, even if it is unpaid.

Around the world women and girls carry a greater responsibility for performing household work than do their counterpart men or boys. “It is women who tend the goats, till the family garden, collect water, shop for food, prepare meals, wash clothes, look after aging parents, and keep the home clean.”

Women in the World: Education
More and more women around the world are participating in tertiary education, including college, universities, and technical schools. This trend seemed impossible even in the late nineteenth century, when women were banned from many schools. According to *The State of Women in the World Atlas*, “at most of the world’s most prestigious universities there were large gaps between when they were founded and when women were admitted: 711 years at Oxford, 589 years at Cambridge, 258 years at Harvard.” Gender differences continue in the subjects studied and degrees taken.

(“1964 Summer Commencement” from the *Ball State Campus Photograph Collection*, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
“Nearly a billion people in the world are illiterate, about two-thirds of whom are women. Generalized illiteracy is mostly a function of poverty and limited educational opportunity. Higher rates of illiteracy for women, however, also suggest entrenched gender discrimination.”

The ratio of girls to boys in school has increased considerably over the past two decades, especially in Latin America and East Asia. But it remains low in much of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 1950 the percentage of women completing college in the United States was 5.2 percent. In 2000 the percentage of women completing college in the United States was 22.8 percent.

(Census Atlas of the United States, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
More women are attending universities worldwide, especially in industrialized countries. “There continue to be significant gender differences in the subjects studied and degrees taken. Women remain dramatically under-represented among students and faculty in the sciences, and in technology and engineering.”

Women in the World: Power and Government
Nowhere in the world are women represented in government in proportion to their population.

“In only 22 countries do women represent 25 percent or more of elected legislators....The ranks of heads of national government...remain resolutely male dominated. Only 35 countries have ever had a woman head of government, and some of those were short-term caretaker positions.” Women who hold ceremonial positions, like Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, are not included in these statistics.

This map shows the proportion of women in government as of 2002. The United States falls in the 15 to 24 percent category of representation. The red arrows show losses of women in government from the late 1980’s. This was “the result of sweeping political changes in Eastern Europe and the former USSR, which resulted in a sharp drop in women’s representation in government in those states.”

The challenge of women gaining equal representation in government is making the most strides at the local level. “Around the world, increasing numbers of women are active in local governance, in city councils and in mayoralties.” Some nations practice quota systems in order to ensure women’s representation in government. In India one-third of all representatives on local village and city councils must be women.

This map reveals the date when universal suffrage for women citizens was granted on equal terms with men in national elections. The yellow-green countries are the newest countries to allow women the vote.

Women in the United States received full suffrage with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Most southern states never ratified the amendment, while some women in the West received the right to vote by 1875.

*(Atlas of American Women, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries)*.
Many of the southern states that were conservative in allowing women the right to vote also did not ratify the Equal Rights Amendment for women in 1972, aimed at ending any remaining discrimination based on gender. The Amendment was given a seven year deadline for passage, and by 1979 many states had not ratified the Amendment while others rescinded their ratification (marked with an asterisk). The proposal has been reintroduced unsuccessfully in every Congress since 1982.

…”By 1980, women were voting more consistently than men. This fact, combined with the larger number of females in the voting-age population, meant that women were now in a position to decide a national election if enough of them voted the same way.”

Women have largely voted Democratic since 1972, and this trend made history in 1996. “Female voters turned out in such numbers for Democrat William Clinton that they carried the election, offsetting men’s Republican and third-party votes...and provided the margin of victory in 14 Senate races and three gubernatorial campaigns.”

The challenge of women gaining power by serving on equal terms as men in the military is still difficult around the world. In most countries, women are not allowed to serve in some combat positions and are confined to support roles. In most countries, the terms of women’s service are unclear or women are not allowed to serve at all.

Women in the World: Women in History
This map highlights women’s participation in the American Revolution. The blue boxes denote the boycotting of British goods; pink boxes denote the use of physical force against the enemy; yellow boxes represent incidents where money, food, supplies, and nursing care were provided; green boxes show when clandestine information or assistance was provided by women.

On several occasions — many never reported because they were never discovered — Revolutionary women fought the British disguised as men.

“For northern women of the leisure classes, the Civil War represented ... an opportunity to participate in the most compelling national effort since the abolition movement.” Women began organizing to provide medical relief for the Union Army, which resulted in the U.S. Sanitary Commission, “which ultimately became the largest voluntary association in the country, with 7,000 branches throughout the North.” Pioneering women like Elizabeth Blackwell, the nation’s first female doctor, and Clara Barton, made advances for women in medicine that continued in the decades following the war.

“At least 22,000 women worked in Europe during World War I, associated with more than 50 American agencies and 45 foreign ones.” Women worked for the Army, Army and Navy nurses, Red Cross relief, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Salvation Army, American Women’s Hospitals, and Quakers.

(The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, Atlas Collection; “Aux Allies Morts Pour La Victoire Du Droit” from the Elisabeth Ball Collection of World War I Posters, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Nearly 400,000 women actively worked for the U.S. in World War II, serving overseas and performing many varied tasks. The Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (later the Women’s Army Corps or WAC) was founded in 1942. The WAC “sent women to every theater of war.” Army nurses comprised another large group of women serving in the war. Nurses “served in hospitals in every war zone, and more than 1,600 were decorated for ‘meritorious service and bravery under fire.’” However, gender discrimination in the military was pervasive. Many women were “ineligible for military benefits or even meals in the officers’ mess.”

(The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, Atlas Collection; Elisabeth Ball Collection of World War I Posters, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Women participated in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the very beginning to the very end.

Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus, and this sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. This event drew national attention to the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1965 in Lowndesboro, Alabama, “Viola Liuzzo, a white housewife from Detroit, is shot and killed by Klansmen while she is driving participants back from the Selma to Montgomery March.”

Women in the World: Healthcare
“In highly developed economies, with advanced medical technologies, sufficient diets, and adequate public sanitation, infant mortality rates tend to be quite low. ... Many regions of the world still experience infant mortality rates above the 10 percent level. Such ... rates not only represent human tragedy at its most basic level, but also are powerful inhibiting factors for the future of human development.”

(Student Atlas of World Politics, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
The map on the left identifies states with poverty rates for children significantly higher than the national rate. The maps on the right identify the states that provide supplemental health care for children and supplemental funds for Head Start in the schools. Unfortunately, of the states with higher poverty rates, only New York and West Virginia receive only supplemental health care for children. Many of the poorest states are left without supplemental aid for children.

(Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
“Perhaps the greatest problem in the women’s health field in the 1990’s was the question of inequality, particularly in terms of access to care. By 1996, more than 15 percent of American women had no health insurance. Others had access problems because the services they needed were located too far away, scheduled at inconvenient times, or were not covered by their health insurance.”

53% of the deaths of women in Africa are caused by unsafe abortions; the figure is 43% in Asia.

*(Penguin Atlas of Women in the World, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
In countries where abortions are legal, it does not necessarily mean they are available.

A surprising number of governments do not allow abortions even when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

*(Penguin Atlas of Women in the World, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
“The highest rates of breast cancer are in western Europe and North America; the lowest are in Asia. Breast cancer is one of two main causes of cancer deaths among women in developed countries (along with lung cancer), and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the developing world.”

This map reveals the countries where over 25 percent of the total deaths are deaths related to tobacco use. These countries are identified in deep red. Cigarette smoking kills 178,000 women in the United States each year, and lung cancer is the fastest growing cancer-causing death in women.

With an increasing market for tobacco products in China and India, these countries’ tobacco-related deaths will also quickly increase. The rate of tobacco-associated deaths in India is increasing at about 3 percent per year, with a million deaths predicted for the year 2010.

(The Tobacco Atlas, General Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
The United States is one of the few countries where more girls than boys age 13-15 smoke cigarettes, 2000-2007. 13.9% of girls smoke; 12.1% of boys smoke in that age group.
AIDS is decimating the workforce in several African countries. It is also reducing life expectancy and leaving many orphans. Women in Africa are overwhelmingly affected by this disease. “The most common measure of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is the percentage of adults living with HIV. Once generalized, the disease has far-reaching consequences to all social sectors and to development itself.”

This map identifies areas of the world where more women than men have AIDS. The map also provides bleak information about other sexually-transmitted diseases that affect women around the world. “Initially incurable sexually-transmitted infections continually emerge, such as syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes and, most recently, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). New infections will emerge in the 21st century.”

Women in the World: Society and Leisure
A rise in religious fundamentalism in many countries is resulting in heightened legal and social restrictions on women. This map of the eastern hemisphere identifies the countries where there is a climate of widespread oppression against women.

Countries where women need permission from a male to travel are identified. Countries with compulsory dress codes are shown. The red symbols reveal where attacks on women for dressing “immodestly” have been reported.

The Girls of Summer:
All-American Girls
Professional Baseball
League Teams, 1943-1954
Women were barred from the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. By 1900, women were invited to compete in tennis, croquet, golf, and yachting. This map shows the percentage of women competing in national teams during the 1996 Summer Olympics. The dark blue countries are represented by 10 percent or fewer women or an all male team, usually due to cultural and religious restrictions. However, women make up more than 50 percent of the television audience viewing the Olympics.

In for the long run

For many years it was considered impossible (or inappropriate) for women to compete in long-distance races. In 1966, Bobbi Gibb ran the Boston Marathon unofficially, setting off from behind bushes and initially wearing a hooded sweatshirt to fool officials. The following year, despite the race director trying to bundle her off the course, Kathrine Switzer completed the course as a registered runner, and prejudice about women’s physiological limitations was proven unfounded.

It was not, however, until 1984 that women were permitted to run a marathon at the Olympics, 88 years after the first men’s event. Joan Benoit Samuelson of the USA, a Boston marathon record-holder, won that breakthrough event. More recently, American women have been eclipsed by Russian, African, and Japanese runners.

The top map shown identifies the countries that compete in the Miss Universe or Miss World beauty pageants. Crowns identify past winners. “Globalization is accelerating the adoption of ...a white, Western standard of beauty....There are now few places in the world untouched by the commerce of beauty.” The bottom left map shows the countries where Avon beauty products are sold.

Gender Empowerment

This map shows how populations rate on the Gender Empowerment Measure. This measure is an indicator of opportunities for women. It takes into account the female share of parliamentary representation; proportions of legislators, senior officials, managers, professional and technical employees who are women; and the ratio of female to male earnings. By this measure no territory has as good opportunities for women as there are for men.

The territories where women have the most opportunities are in Western Europe. The fewest opportunities for women are in the Middle Eastern territories of Yemen and Saudi Arabia. There was no data for any territory in Central Africa.

 Territory size shows the relative degree of gender equality for the people living there (population multiplied by gender empowerment measure).

“In many countries, women own nothing, inherit nothing and earn nothing. Three out of four of the poorest billion people of the world are women.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland, 2006

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Avon’s world

2007

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2000: Singapore, South Korea
2001: Greece, Morocco
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Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina,
Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile,
Georgia, Guyana, Lesotho,
Luxembourg, Macedonia,
Montenegro, Mozambique,
Namibia, Netherlands, Serbia,
Swaziland, Switzerland,
Turkmenistan, Uganda, Vietnam,
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