

PhebeAnn Marjory Wolframe - The Madwoman in the Academy: Making Space for The Mad Movement in Feminist Scholarship and Interdisciplinary Studies

The second-wave feminist movement and the mad movements, though they share many points of intersection, have not managed to effectively work in tandem, either at grass-roots or academic levels. In the 1960s and 70s second-wave feminism was one of a number of social movements which took Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom by storm, as they worked to dismantle unequal power relations at both institutional and ideological levels. Feminists, students, the working-class, people of colour, gays and lesbians, people with disabilities and psychiatric survivors were also working to end their disenfranchisement (Morrison 67; Nabbali 1). The university became one of the central stages for this work, as those on the margins struggled to have their experiences and voices recognized within academic discourse, and by extension, within the broader social sphere. Despite their differences and conflicts, feminism and the other social movements which managed to eke out a place within academia often engaged one another theoretically (Bird 468-9). Although members of the mad movement were producing creative and scholarly works which participated in this theoretical conversation, they, unlike feminists and other activist groups, remained more-or-less invisible in academia. I argued, however, that writings from the mad movement deserve a place within feminist discourse and interdisciplinary studies because, as I demonstrated, they have both borrowed from and have had an influence on feminist theory and praxis.