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HECATE prints material relating to women, particularly contributions which employ feminist, Marxist, antiracist or other radical approaches. We also print creative work and graphics.

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Editorial Preface

This issue and the next one will publish articles that had their genesis as papers presented at the July 2003 conference of the Australian Women’s Studies Association held at Women’s College at the University of Queensland. The conference, 'Other Feminisms', was both national and international and offered a wide range of perspectives on the current state of theory and practice in relation to feminism and women’s and gender studies now. For women from different parts of the world, or for women positioned differently in a particular place on account of race, ethnicity, sexual preference or economics that produce differential treatment, feminism means different things at different times, and exists in interaction with particular economic systems, state regimes and ideologies including religious ones which can become very powerful when enforced by the state.

Women in Australasia obtained the vote around the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. The Federal vote in Australia was obtained in 1903. In Queensland, from where we work, the State vote was achieved in 1905. The second issue of Hecate for next year will have a series of papers on the struggles for women’s suffrage and around other issues one hundred years ago. There will also be a conference and other activities in 2005.

The first article that follows surveys some of the history of what feminism has meant and been through the twentieth century, and stands in for the usual editorial, and as a prefatory piece for the articles that follow. (CF)