**FMRG15 Representation of Women in the French Press.**

**Newcastle upon Tyne.**

**Conference organisers: M A Allison and M F Cross**

In her paper: **‘Victors and Victims: Politicising the female form in the Boer War cartoons of Punch and L’Assiette au Beurre 1901’**, Kate Allison (Lincoln) compared the portrayal of the Boer War in two satirical newspapers, one from each side of the English Channel. It turns out that they had very polarised positions but both used the female form extensively in illustrations to convey their very different political outlooks. Punch in existence since 1841 was supportive of the British cause and *L’Assiette au Beurre* critical.

Masculine representation of the female form was also the subject of Louise Lyle’s paper (Sheffield): **‘*La Femme de l’Avenir*. A Creation of the Male Medical Scientific and Literary Imagination’** where she outlined views of women in the present, as opposed to the ideal of the future, by journalists who contributed to this neglected late nineteenth-century newspaper.

The contribution to journalism of two pioneer feminists in psychiatry was the subject of the third paper by Felicia Gordon (Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge): **‘Publicity and Professionalism: Madeleine Pelletier (1874–1939) and Constance Pascal (1877–1937)’** where she sketched out the professional determination of both women, but contrasted their approach to self-publicity ranging from self effacement and conventional positions on motherhood expressed by Pascal in women’s magazines to the radical socialist feminism of Pelletier.

Armelle Le Bras-Chopard completed the survey of the press by explaining the basis of the hostile treatment of Ségolène Royal in the recent presidential campaign by the historical misogyny of the French political system.