

Denise Riley and Barbara Taylor
'British Feminism in the 1970s'

Abstract: The British women's movement of the late twentieth century had its roots in leftwing and trade union politics. Its campaigns developed in dialogue with the welfarist traditions of British social democracy. This background gave British feminism a different flavour from the 1970s North American women's movement. The rise of women's studies in Britain reflected this also, with the strongest initiatives coming not from well-known writers and academics, as in North America, but from women teachers in the leftwing adult education sector. In this session two veteran British feminists discuss the distinctive features of the 1970s British WLM, and consider its legacies for twenty-first century feminism.