

Stimpson, Catharine Rosalind (1936 –) (also spelled Roslyn) was sharing an office with Kate Millett at Barnard College in the 1960s when Millett said, “Stimps, there’s this civil rights movement for women. We should check it out.” They did and were among the first to meet in a church basement with the NY chapter of NOW. An early action was a visit to *The New York Times* with Betty Friedan to protest sex-segregated help-wanted ads. Stimpson was also one of the first chairs of the image committee, which was concerned about the negative representation of women in the media and in product advertising. By the late 1960s, Stimpson had refined her feminist focus to two primary areas—education and her own writing. In achieving the former, Stimpson taught the first women and literature course at Barnard College (also one of the first in the world), and with others helped create a women’s studies program there. In the early 1970s, she became the founding director and chair of the executive committee of the Barnard Women’s Center, one of the earliest centers devoted to women’s issues within higher education. Stimpson later chaired its international body, the National Council for Research on Women (1985–1989). Also, in the early 1970s, Stimpson began her pro bono work with the Modern Language Association, starting with membership in the division of women’s studies, then serving as its chair in 1976 and president in 1990. Stimpson was also founding editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, a position she held from 1974 – 1980. That achievement was “perhaps my most salient contribution to the transformation of scholarship,” says Stimpson. Stimpson published her first feminist piece, “Thy

Neighbor's Wife, Thy Neighbor's Manservant," in 1971. A study of historical and contemporary relations between black movements and women's movements, it appeared in *Women in Sexist Society*, edited by Vivian Gornick and B.K. Moran. In her writing, Stimpson focused on fiction, women's studies as a field, and feminist criticism, publishing in a variety of outlets. She was also a reviewer for *Ms.* magazine, which led to the establishment of the magazine's board of scholars (which Stimpson chaired). In conjunction with her work over the years to transform education and to write in a feminist mode, she has served on numerous committees and made many public appearances. Stimpson holds an A.B. from Bryn Mawr College; a B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge University; and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Archives: Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA. (ABS)