

Peggy Powell Dobbins

Sociologist, artist, activist, and author, Dobbins co-taught (with Cathy Cade) Sociology of Women at New Orleans Free University in 1966. In New York City in 1967, she was a co-founder of NYRW and delivered their “Litany for Martyred Motherhood” at the Jeanette Rankin Brigade. In 1968, Dobbins was arrested at the Miss America protest; on the trip back from the trial, WITCH was born. With Florika Remetier, Dobbins led the Halloween hexing of Wall Street, and with Naomi Jaffe, the Wall Street work-ins of WITCH women in typing pools in corporate headquarters at Travelers’ and AT&T (1968–1969). In 1970, as a member of the Upper West Side Women’s Center, Dobbins organized CR groups, a childcare co-op and a sliding scale food co-op. In 1972, she returned to New Orleans and wrote her dissertation, “Unionism, Professionalism and Feminism Among Registered Nurses.” In 1974, Dobbins began teaching as an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and introduced Sex, Race and Class as an academic course. She and Walda Fishman presented their findings on the sources of the “Right Wing Attack on the Women’s Movement” to the women’s caucus of the ASA in 1980. After Dobbins was arrested while performing a skit based on her research with Fishman, the university fired her. Dobbins then joined the Communist Party and worked until 1993 as a full-time volunteer to unite the civil rights, labor and women’s movements in Alabama, then in Oakland, CA. Dobbins is the author of *From Kin to Class, Speculations on the Origins and Development of Family, Class Society, and Female Subordination* (1981). In Atlanta since 1996, Dobbins concentrates on art forms that continue concepts central to the ideas of women’s CR. Dobbins, who has two children, graduated from Wellesley in 1960 and the University of Madrid in 1961. She earned her Ph.D. from Tulane in 1974.