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## The 1980's: Interviews with Carroll's Women on Gender Politics

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The background features abstract, overlapping purple geometric shapes in various shades, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some solid and some semi-transparent, set against a white background.

# The 1980's: Interviews with Carroll's Women on Gender Politics

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# Purpose

## ▶ The Historical Record

- ▶ Swartout - *Bold Minds and Blessed Hearts: The First Century of Montana's Carroll College*
- ▶ Bingham - *It All Began with Nurses: A Case Study of Coeducation at Carroll College, 1943-1961*
- ▶ Oliverio - “The Dominican Sisters of Carroll College (1925-1961)”

## ▶ Social Justice

- ▶ Faludi - *Backlash: The Undeclared War Against American Women*
- ▶ Do Faludi’s observations hold true for women at Carroll?

# Methodology

- ▶ 6 interviews total
- ▶ Participants contacted via phone or email
- ▶ Script of questions
- ▶ Non-anonymous
- ▶ Location of participant's choosing
- ▶ 1.5 - 3 hour interviews

# Opportunistic Discrimination

- ▶ Threats from students happen in private
- ▶ Sexism takes advantage of already-existing hierarchies
  - ▶ Seniors → frosh
  - ▶ High-ranking administration → new hires
  - ▶ Established faculty → newer faculty
- ▶ Sexism was less likely
  - ▶ In public settings
  - ▶ Where women are equal to or rank above men

# Fighting Back, Knuckling Down, and Watching Each Others' Backs

- ▶ Most sexist behavior is thwarted with stern rebukes.
  - ▶ Bonus: public resistance
- ▶ When sexism cannot be directly challenged, it becomes an endurance run.
- ▶ Other women are moralizing and insulating factors against sexism.

# Hindsight isn't 20-20

- ▶ Difficult to remember things that happened almost 40 years ago when they didn't seem noteworthy at the time
  - ▶ Many participants frustrated with their memories
- ▶ Self-identification as a “feminist” not ubiquitous at the time
- ▶ According to Faludi, media was running interference at the time

# Future Directions

- ▶ Other time frames
- ▶ Other axes of marginalization
- ▶ Narrow focus to specific departments
- ▶ Non-traditional or transfer students
- ▶ Adopt more neutral language



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