You say you’ll support
a spousal hire.
Present definition: the hire
of a faculty’s spouse for luring
them into the academy
or retaining them.
Couples get privileges,
points for following rules
of convention, like tenure -
the tenured relationship,
gets a chance at tenure track,
two are better than one, 
so they say.

Now what about the ones who are single, or suffer relationship casualties through the academy? Would you find a spouse for them, and could we recons true what “spousal hire” means? The data not the dates reveal that usually the women are single or remain single after divorce. Perhaps there could be a

**job advertisement** for
a spousal-hire for cross-disciplinary purposes.

Spouse required for juicy brilliant attractive academic to accompany tenure-track faculty through the ups and downs of university life. Qualifications include, but not limited to, a person who can be flexible, cope with demanding schedule of partner, and likes solitude when partner leaves for conferences. You have a propensity for handling deep thought, quirky behaviour, continual change, but consistently adore and engage in fabulous lovemaking. Good sensuous cooking is always an asset, and a poetic spirit with a sense of humour will help. Must not be afraid of strong sexy women, or men for that matter. Those who have not yet attended to their inner work need not apply. Preferred candidates will be able to access their own wildness without dependency on another.

Now this would be a model for really looking after new faculty. An ethics of care which sustains a pedagogy of love and simultaneously equally provides for both single and married people. This is an equal opportunity spousal-hire that carries all the ramifications of a transgressive act and contributes to hiring, retention and renewal practices for faculty.

What started as a joke about a single women in leadership in the academy,
now to poetic form - the only strategy
left is to put it into policy,
from poetics to policy.

About the Author

Celeste Snowber is a dancer, writer and educator, as well as an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. She has written numerous essays and poetry for journals and chapters in books in the areas of the arts, holistic education and curriculum studies. She is the author of *Embodied Prayer*, which is in its 2nd edition. She is presently finishing a book entitled, “Sexy from the Inside Out,” which has nothing to do with spousal hire. Celeste lives outside Vancouver and has three sons, all a tribe of artists.